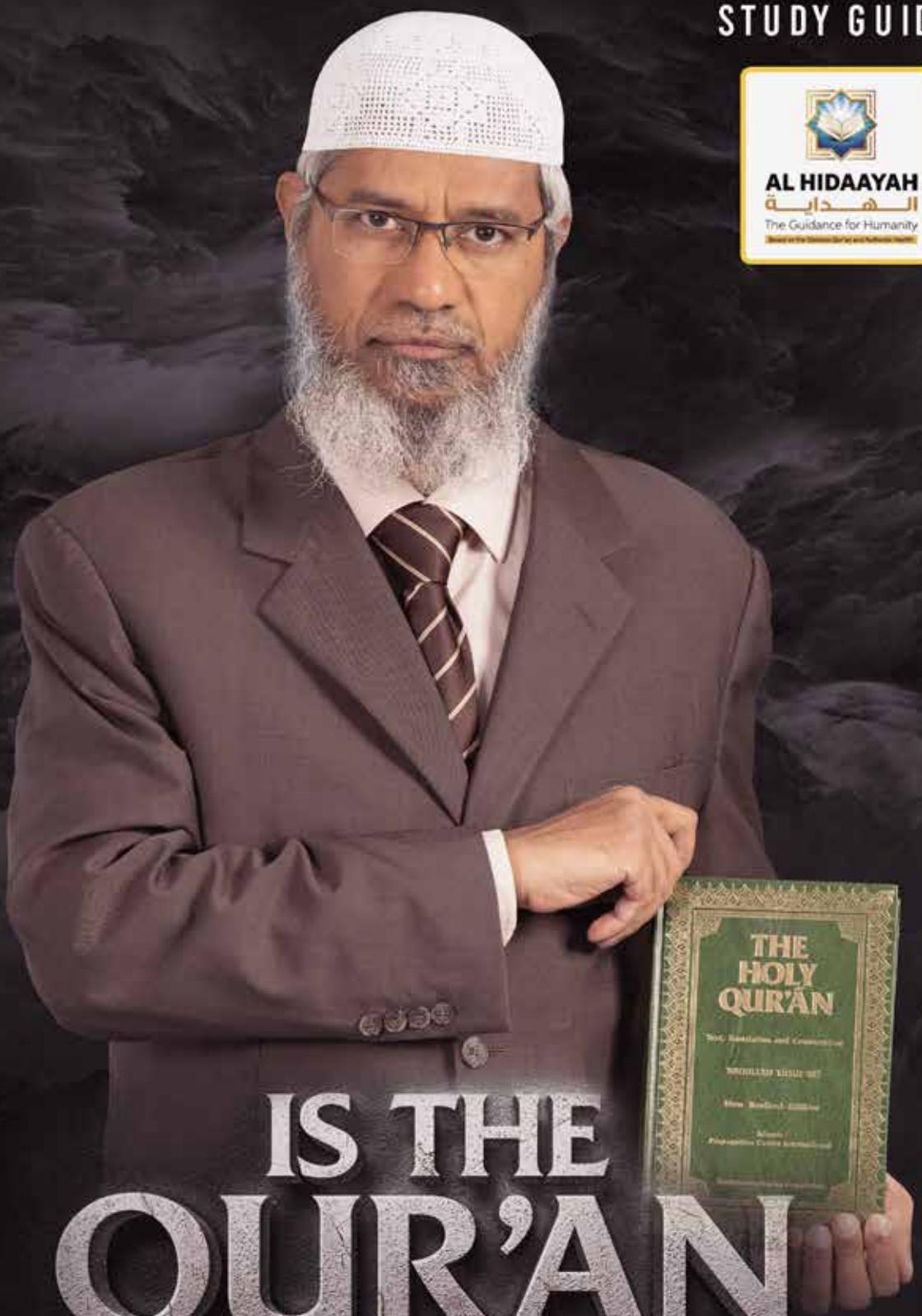


LONG COURSE

STUDY GUIDE



# IS THE QUR'AN GOD'S WORD?

PART 1

BY DR ZAKIR NAIK

From the series: Is the Qur'an God's word?

# COURSE OUTLINE



## Course Topics

**1**

### INTRODUCTION

1. Islam is in existence since time immemorial
2. Miracle of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) - The Qur'an is for all times
3. Three options regarding the authorship of the Qur'an

**2**

### CAN MUHAMMAD (PBUH) BE THE AUTHOR OF THE QUR'AN?

1. Muhammad (pbuh) never claimed the authorship of the Qur'an
2. Material gain as the motive
3. Desire for status, power, glory, and leadership
4. Unity and liberation of the Arabs
5. Moral reformation
6. Epileptic theory
7. Religious illusion theory

# COURSE OUTLINE



## Course Topics

8. Muhammad (pbuh) cannot be a liar and a crazy person at the same time
9. Muhammad (pbuh) cannot be deluded and a forger at the same time
10. Muhammad (pbuh) suffered from Mythomania

## 3 — WAS THE QUR'AN PLAGIARIZED FROM THE BIBLE?

1. Muhammad (pbuh) learnt the Qur'an from a Roman blacksmith who was a Christian
2. Muhammad (pbuh) learnt from Waraqah, the relative of Khadijah (ra)
3. Prophet's religious discussions with the Jews and Christians
4. Prophet (pbuh) learnt Qur'an from Jews and Christians, he met outside Arabia
5. Logical grounds to prove Prophet (pbuh) did not learn the Qur'an from Jews or Christians
6. Muhammad (pbuh) was an illiterate
7. Arabic version of the Bible was not present

# COURSE OUTLINE



## Course Topics

8. Similarities in the Qur'an and the Bible due to common source
9. Muslims believe in the Taurah, Zaboor, Injeel and Qur'an
10. Scientific comparison between Qur'an and Bible
11. Conclusion

## 4 — **QUR'AN IS THE WORD OF GOD**

1. Qur'an is not like a story book
2. Unknown information in the Qur'an
3. Qur'an is a deception?
4. We make false decisions and fool ourselves by sticking to them
5. Revelation is complemented by reason
6. Qur'an encourages discussion
7. Exhausting the alternatives
8. Falsification test

# COURSE OUTLINE



## Course Topics

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the 3 possible options regarding the authorship of the Qur'an
2. To negate the possibility of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) being the author of the Qur'an
3. To demonstrate that the Qur'an was not copied from the Bible or any other sources
4. To undeniably prove that the Qur'an is the Word of God

## QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

## TRANSCRIPTS

## GRAPHIC POSTERS

Facebook Posts

# COURSE OUTLINE



## ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

## COURSE DURATION

Video Duration	- 1 hour 30 min
Study Guide	- 1 hour 20 min
Graphic Posts	- 15 min
Assessment	- 10 min
Total Duration	- 3 hours 15 min



# CAN MUHAMMAD (PBUH) BE THE AUTHOR OF THE QUR'AN?

PART 1

1  
**LESSON**



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**Dr Zakir Naik**



I

## INTRODUCTION

1

### ISLAM IS IN EXISTENCE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL

Many people have a misconception that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the founder of the religion of Islam. In fact, Islam is in existence since man first set foot on earth. God Almighty has sent several Prophets and revelations.



# 2

## MIRACLE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) - THE QUR'AN IS FOR ALL TIMES

All the previous Prophets of God were sent only to their people and their nation, and their complete message was meant for a particular time period. Therefore, the miracles they performed like parting of the sea, giving life to the dead etc., convinced the people of that time but it cannot be analysed and verified by us today.





Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger of God who is sent for the whole of humankind and the message he delivered is till eternity.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."

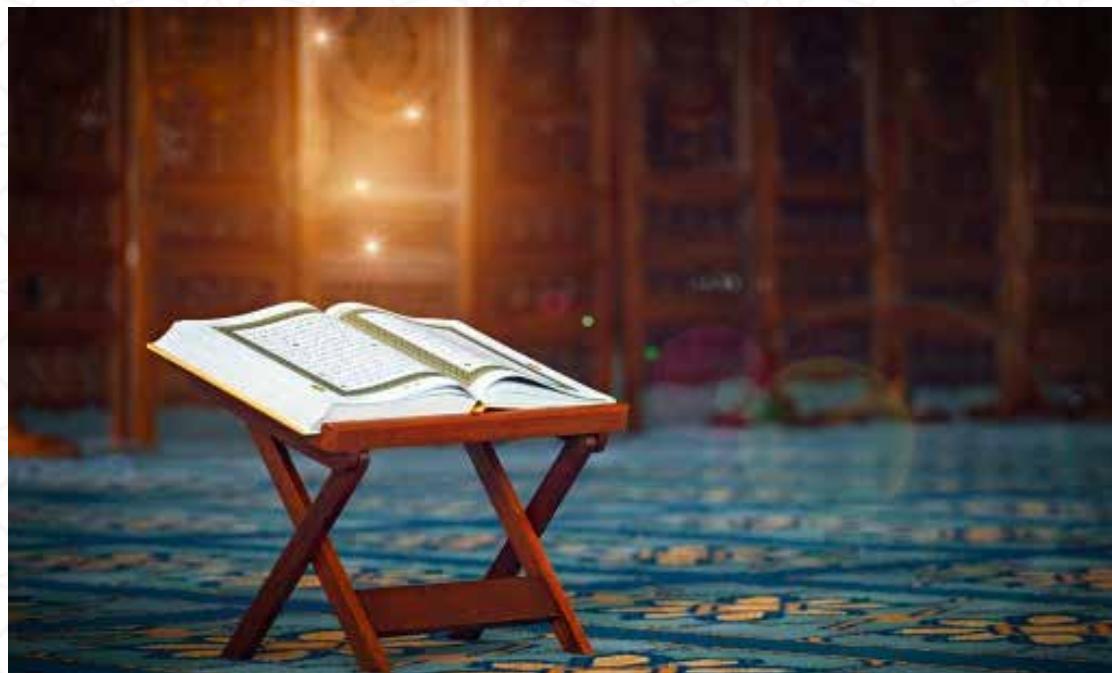
Al Qur'an 21:107





Therefore, the miracle of the last and final messenger should also be everlasting and examinable and verifiable by all the people at all the times. Though Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has performed several miracles which are mentioned in the Hadith, that is, traditions of the Prophet (pbuh), he never emphasised them. Though we Muslims believe in these miracles, but we only boast of the ultimate miracle given to him by God Almighty, which is the Qur'an.

Al Qur'an is the miracle of all times which proved itself to be a miracle 1400 years ago, and times, which can be reconfirmed today and forever. In short, it is the miracle of miracles.





# 3

## THREE OPTIONS REGARDING THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE QUR'AN

Probably, the only point of agreement amongst those who have the slightest knowledge of the Qur'an irrespective of whether the person is a Muslim, or a Non-Muslim is that the Qur'an was recited for the first time by a man who was born in Makkah, in the city of Arabia in the 6th century by the name of Muhammad (pbuh).





Regarding the sources of the Qur'an, there can be three basic assumptions:

A

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself was the author of the Qur'an; consciously sub-consciously or unconsciously



B

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) learnt it from other human sources or copied or adopted from previous scriptures or revelations



C

Qur'an has no human author, but it is a word for word revelation from God





مُحَمَّد

II

CAN  
MUHAMMAD  
(PBUH) BE THE  
AUTHOR OF THE  
QUR'AN?

1

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) NEVER  
CLAIMED THE AUTHORSHIP OF  
THE QUR'AN

It is highly abnormal to challenge the testimony of someone who disclaims responsibility for producing a great work, whether literary, scientific or others. Yet this is precisely what orientalists and others who are suspicious about the origins of the Qur'an do, when they claim that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the author of the Glorious Qur'an.



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) never ever claimed responsibility for originating it. He honestly said that it was Allah who revealed the scripture to him. To say otherwise is illogical because it would mean that he was telling a lie. From history we learn that between his youth and Prophetic mission at the age of 40, he had never been known to lie. He was so well known for his truthfulness, honesty, and chastity that he was given the title "Al Ameen" i.e., "The Trustworthy" by friends and foes alike. Then why should he lie now.

It is interesting to note however, that although many of the Makkan pagans rejected Islam and regarded the Prophet as a liar, they nevertheless trusted him and deposited their valuables with him for safe keeping. This is apparent from the fact that when the Prophet decided to leave Makkah to foil an assassination attempt on him, he left the valuables with Ali (ra) to distribute it to the rightful owners.





Once when Abu Sufyan, one of the pagan chiefs of Makkah, was summoned by Emperor Heraclius, on being Heraclius, questioned whether the Prophet (pbuh) had been accused of lying, prior to his claim to be a Prophet or whether he had betrayed his trust, Abu Sufyan the archenemy of the Prophet (pbuh) had to answer "No". Thus, even his opponents acknowledged his sincerity, truthfulness, and honesty.

What logical reasons can a person think of for Muhammad's (pbuh) lying that he was a Prophet and not the author of the Qur'an.





## 2 — MATERIAL GAIN AS THE MOTIVE

Some may argue that Muhammad (pbuh) falsely attributed the Qur'an to God and called himself a Prophet for material gain. I do agree that there are several people who falsely claim to be Prophets, Saints and Preachers for material benefits and thus become rich and lead a luxurious life.

Muhammad's (pbuh) financial position was better off before than after his Prophethood. He married Khadijah (ra), who was a very rich and wealthy businesswoman at the age of 25, 15 years before he claimed Prophethood. His financial position and life standard after claiming Prophethood was unenviable.





A

According to a collection of Hadith by An Nawawi, Riyad As Saliheen, Hadith No. 492, one of the Prophet's wife Aa'ishah (ra) narrates that a month or two would go by without fire being lit in their house because there was nothing to cook. They survived on dates and water. Sometimes this diet was supplemented with some goat meat and milk from the people of Madinah.



**B**

This was not just a temporary sacrifice but a way of life. This was at a time when Muhammad (pbuh) could have lived like a king if he wanted. In fact, there was a sort of discontent and protest as to why should they live in poor conditions when they could avail of all the luxuries. The Prophet (pbuh) was disturbed, and a revelation came commanding him to tell his wives,

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ جَلَّ جَلَّ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُرِدُنَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتُهَا  
فَتَعَالَيْنَ أَمْتَغِكُنَّ وَأَسْرِخُكُنَّ سَرَاحًا جَمِيلًا  
وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُرِدُنَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَالْدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَعْدَ  
لِلْمُحْسِنِينَ مِنْكُنَّ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا



"O Prophet! say to your consorts: "If it be that you desire the life of this world, and its glitter, then come! I will provide for your enjoyment and set you free in a handsome manner."

"But if you seek Allah and His messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, Verily Allah has prepared for the well-doers amongst you a great reward."

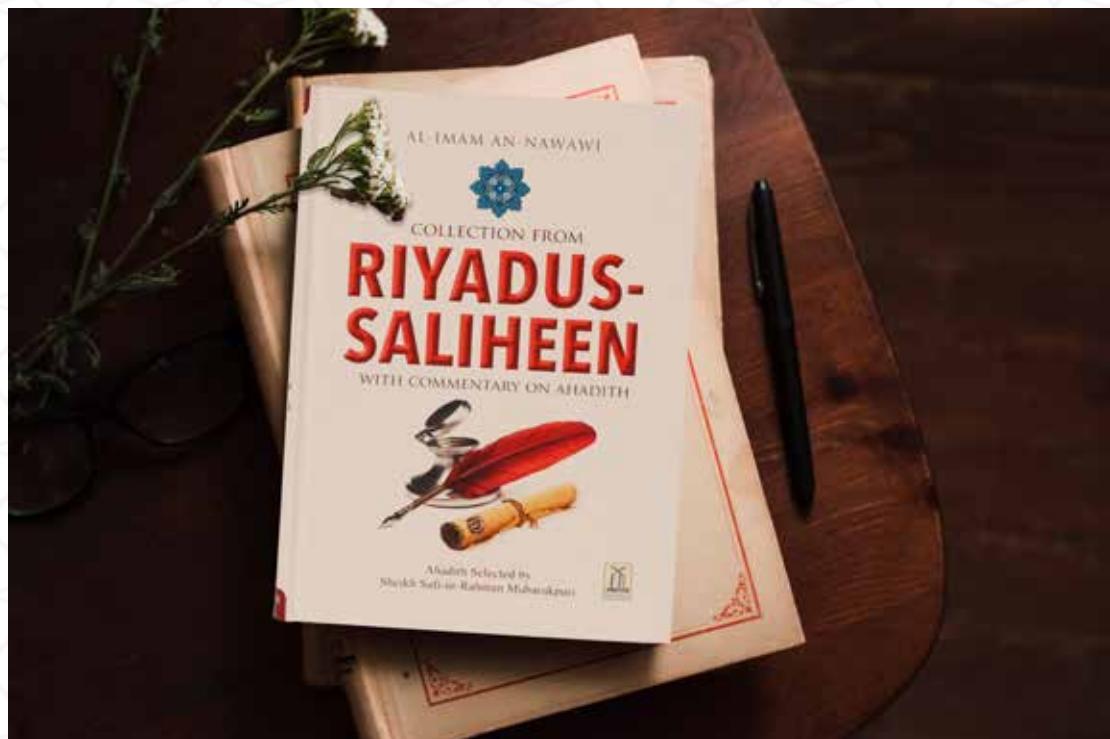
Al Qur'an 33: 28-29

This incidence is also recorded in Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 6 Hadith 4785 and Sahih – Muslim Vol 4 Hadith 3690.



**C** According to Riyad As Saliheen, Hadith No. 465 & 466, Bilal (ra) said that Muhammad (pbuh) never kept back any gifts and provisions received for future use but spent what he had on the poor and needy.

**D** According to Riyad As Saliheen, Hadith No. 504, Inspite of the victories and achievements of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), at the time of his death, he was in debt, and his shield was in the hands of a Jewish citizen of Madinah as a collateral for his debt.





**E**If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had been the author of the Qur'an and had lied for material gains that it is a book of God, he would have never mentioned in the same Qur'an,

فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَكْتُبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ  
عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا ۝ فَوَيْلٌ لَّهُمْ مِّمَّا كَتَبْتُ  
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَّهُمْ مِّمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ



"Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands and then say: This is from Allah to traffic with it for a miserable price, Woe to them for what their hands do write and for the gain they make thereby."

Al Qur'an 2:79





This verse is rebuking those people who changed the previous scriptures or wrote books with their own hands and said “this is from God” for material benefits. If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself actually wrote the Qur'an, there were chances that at some point of time he would be exposed then he would be the biggest hypocrite (God forbid) and would be cursing himself in his own book, which is illogical.





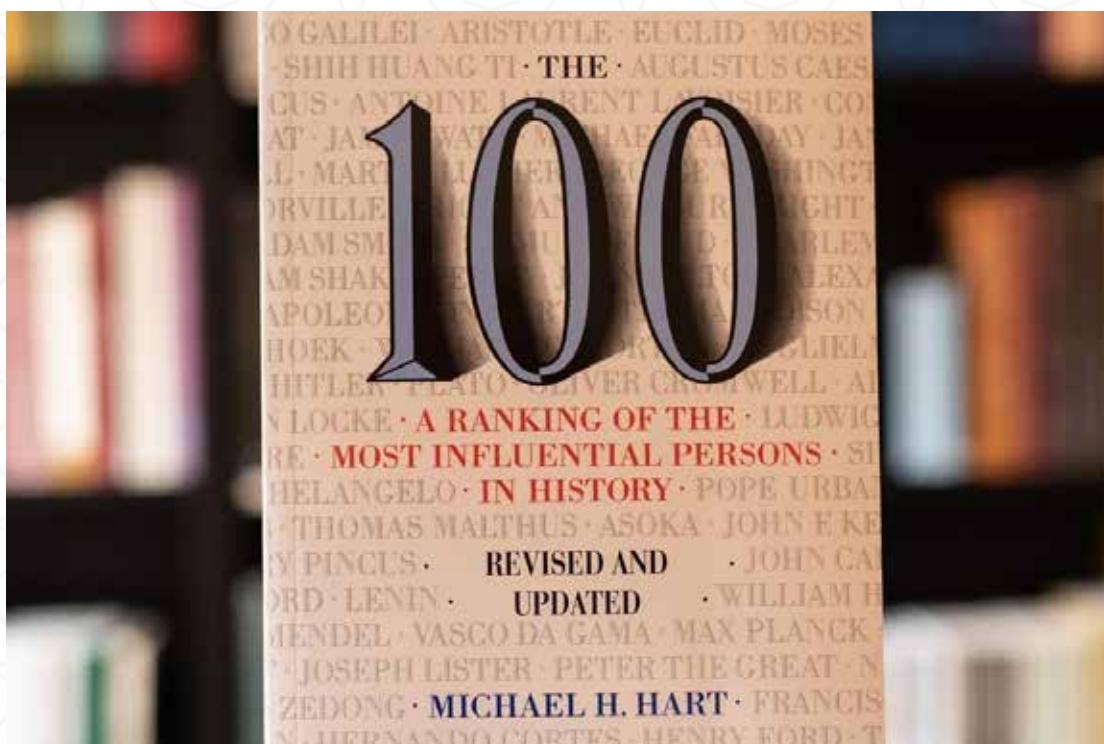
# 3

## DESIRE FOR STATUS, POWER, GLORY AND LEADERSHIP

Is it possible that Muhammad (pbuh) might have claimed Prophethood in order to attain status, power, glory and leadership?

A

Muhammad (pbuh) has universally been acknowledged as one of the most successful leaders in human history. In his book, "The Hundred - A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History" the Jewish scholar Michael H. Hart has given a list of the hundred most influential men in history from Adam to the present time along with a list of reasons for his ranking. This unbiased Jewish scholar placed the beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) on top of his list as No.1. He concluded the biography with the words, "It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential figure in human history."





**B** A man with his qualities could claim leadership and assume power even without claiming Prophethood. Moreover, his character suggests that he was neither a powermonger, nor a glory seeker. The desire to enjoy status and power is usually associated with good food, fancy clothing, magnificent palaces, monumental places, colour guards and indisputable authority. Despite his social standing as a Prophet and heavy responsibility as a statesman, Muhammad (pbuh) used to milk his goat, mend his clothes, repair his shoes, and help with the household work. His life was an amazing model of simplicity and humbleness. He sat on the floor; he went to the market to shop with no guards or procession and accepted an invitation to dine with the poor and ate graciously whatever was served.





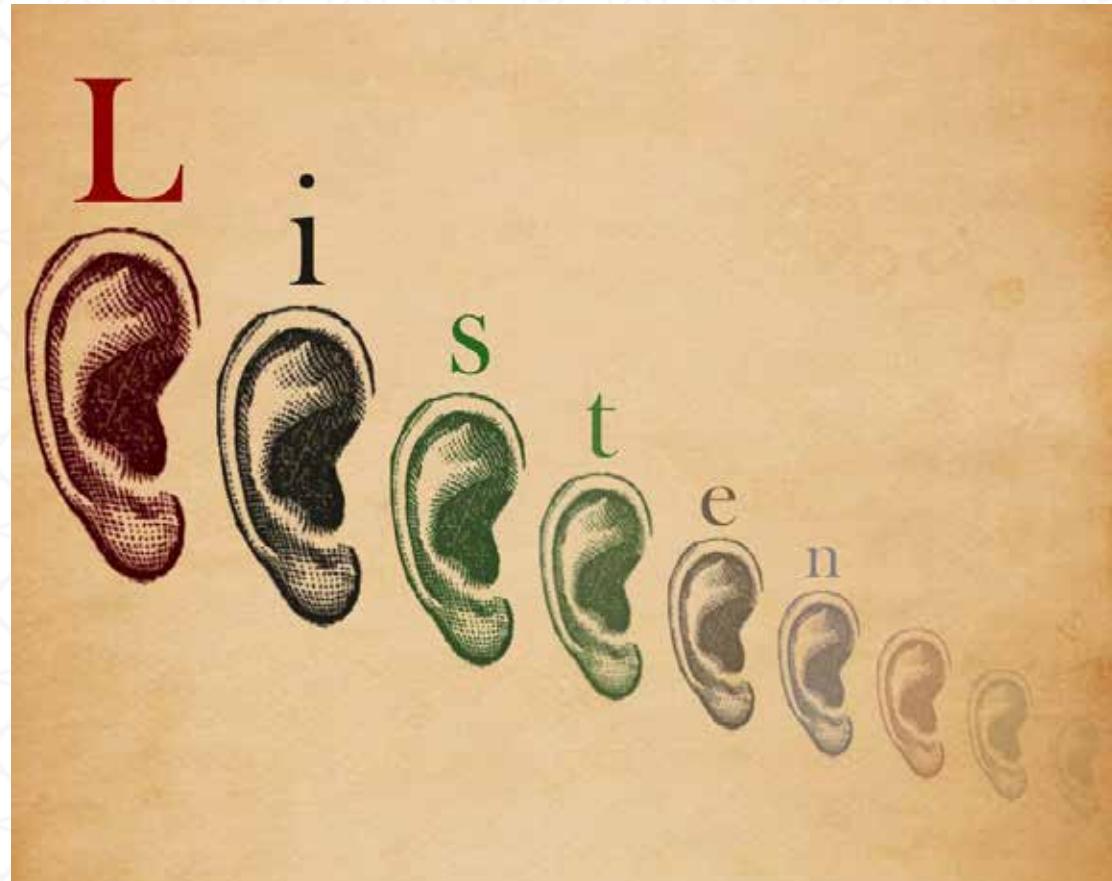
**C** He talked and listened patiently to anyone who approached him, so much so that the Qur'an says that his detractors complain saying,

هُوَ أَذِنْ



"O! He listens to everybody."

Al Qur'an 9:61





**D** Once a representative of the pagans named Utbah came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said that if he gave up preaching the message of the Qur'an, they would make him the wealthiest man in the community and their leader with absolute power or even crown him as the King if he wanted. The only one concession they wanted from Muhammad (pbuh) in return was to stop dividing the people and give up the new claim that there is no gods but one universal God of all. If the Prophet (pbuh) was a seeker after power, glory, and wealth, he would have not missed this golden opportunity, but he rejected the proposition using the verses of the Qur'an that were revealed to him i.e., from Surah Fussilat, Chapter 41.





**E** Later, another approach was made to the Prophet (pbuh) from a delegation of the Pagan nobles. The Prophet (pbuh) refused to compromise on the divinely inspired message which he had been sent to deliver, saying; “I did not bring this message on my own, nor in pursuit of your money or respect or leadership, God has sent me as a messenger to you and has given me a book, the Qur'an.”

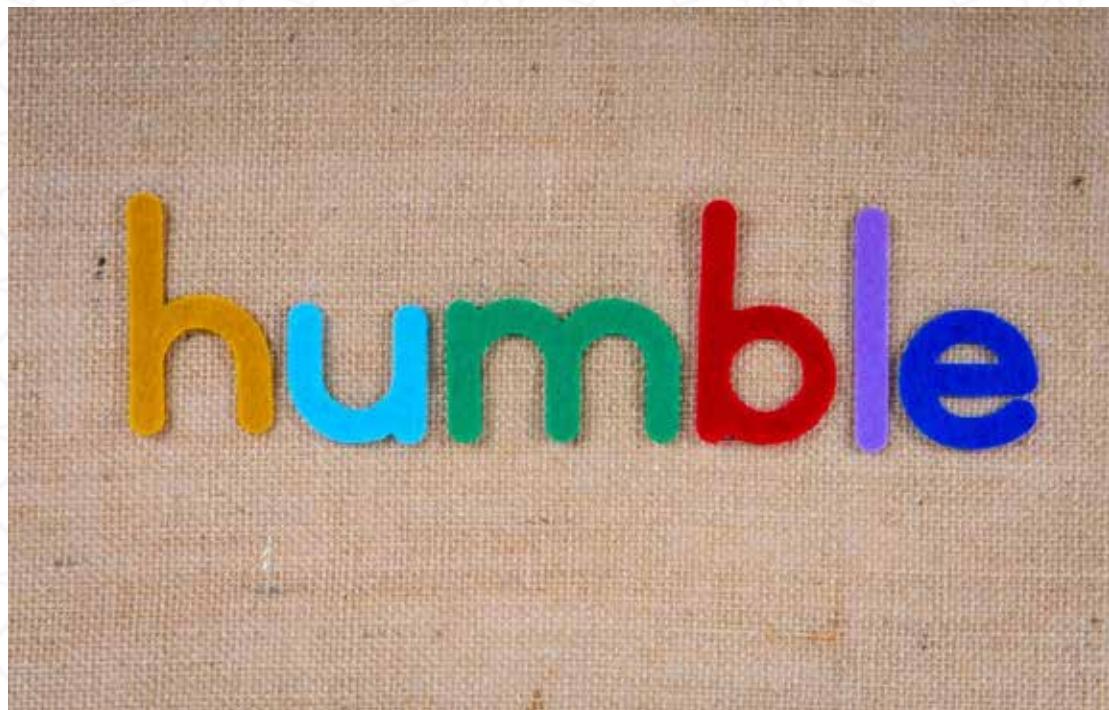
**F** On another occasion, they tried to persuade him through his beloved uncle Abu Talib to accept worldly power and prestige in return for giving up his Prophetic mission. He said, “Oh! my uncle, if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand in order that I should give up this mission of mine, I will never do it until I die in defense of that truth, or God decides whatever He pleases.”





**G** The death of Muhammad's (pbuh) most beloved son Ibrahim coincided with the eclipse of the sun and people regarded it as a miracle from God that heavens and earth were mourning the death of Ibrahim. Muhammad (pbuh) was very angry with them and said, "The sun and the moon are two signs out of God's signs, which are not eclipsed because of the death or birth of any human being."

**H** Are these the characteristics of a power-hungry or a self-centered man? What could justify such a life of suffering and sacrifice, even after he was fully triumphant over his adversaries? What could explain the humbleness and nobility which he demonstrated in his most glorious moments when he insisted that success is due only to God's help and not to his own genius?





# 4

## UNITY AND LIBERATION OF THE ARABS

The theory that Muhammad (pbuh) had authored the Qur'an in order to unite and liberate the Arabs is very difficult to defend.

A

There is not a single verse in the Qur'an calling for the unity or liberation specifically of the Arab nations. In fact, the Qur'anic concept of Ummah i.e., nation, is against ideological and any manifestations of Nationalist tendencies. Qur'an says the unity of the whole humankind is based on the criteria of truth.

يَأَيُّهَا الْنَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُم مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَى وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا  
وَقَبَاءِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْنَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِمْ خَيْرٌ



"O Mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other) Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

Al Qur'an 49:13

The criteria for judgement in the sight of Allah and for unity is not based on caste, colour, sex, wealth, or blood ties but on "Taqwa" i.e., God-consciousness, piety, and righteousness.



**B** In practice this sometimes meant the separation of father and son, brother and brother, husband, and wife etc.

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ ءَابَاءُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاءُكُمْ وَإِخْوَنُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ  
وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالُ أَقْرَبِهَا وَتَجْرِةٌ تَحْشُونَ كَسَادَهَا  
وَمَسَكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي  
سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ قَوْالَلَهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ  
**الْفَسِيقِينَ**



"Say: If it be your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your mates, or your kindred; the wealth that you have gained; the commerce in which you fear a decline; or the dwellings in which you delight are dearer to you than Allah or His messenger, or the striving in His cause, then wait until Allah brings about His decision and Allah guides not the rebellious."

Al Qur'an 9:24



**C** The unity that prevailed in Arabia after the triumph of Islam was ideological and meant for the whole world, and unity is strongly encouraged by the Qur'an.

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا



"And hold fast, all together by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves."

Al Qur'an 3:103

**D** If the unity of the Arabs was Muhammad's main consideration, he would have gladly accepted the offer to be the King of Arabia and use his power and influence to build a unified Arabia.





E

In fact, there are several verses in the Qur'an which seem to contradict the idea that Muhammad's (pbuh) motive was to build Arab Nationalism.

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَمْرِيْمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَصْطَفَنَا وَطَهَّرَنَا  
وَأَصْطَفَنَا عَلَىٰ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ



"Behold! the angels said: O Mary! Allah has chosen you and purified you, chosen you above the women of all nations."

Al Qur'an 3:42

Why should Muhammad (pbuh), an Arab say that Mary, the mother of Jesus (pbuh) who is a Jewess be chosen as above the women of all nations. Such an honour is not to be found even in the Christian Bible. There is a complete chapter, Surah Maryam, Chapter 19, which is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus (pbuh). There is no book or chapter named Mary in the whole Bible.



Why should Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) instigate the Arabs by praising the Jews who were hostile to the Arabs by saying that a Jewess was chosen above the woman of all nations. If he wanted to foster Arab Nationalism, he would have preached the superiority of the Arab nations and chosen any other Arab woman i.e., his own mother, his wife or his own daughter as above the women of all nations.

The answer is given in the following verses of Surah Aali Imran,

ذَلِكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوَجِّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَنِيمِهِمْ إِذْ يُلْقُونَ  
أَقْلَمَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ يَكْفُلُ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَنِيمِهِمْ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ



"This is part of the tidings of the things unseen which We reveal unto you (O Prophet!) by inspiration."

Al Qur'an 3:44



The Prophet had no choice, whether to praise the Jewess or not, since it was an inspiration – a revelation from Almighty God. The Arab unity theory is also incapable of a satisfactory explanation due to the following type of verses which are repeated several times in the Qur'an.

يَبْنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَدْكُرُو أَنْعَمْتَنِي الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَنِّي  
فَضَّلْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ



"O Children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favour which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all others (for My message)."

Al Qur'an 2:47





# 5 — MORAL REFORMATION

Some may put forward moral reformation as a probable motive for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to compose the Qur'an.



A

Moral reformation is a noble objective which could be achieved without resorting to immoral means like deceit and lies. The reason for choosing immoral means to build a moral society is not logical.



**B** The Qur'an designates lying against God as wicked in the sight of Allah (swt). One of the objectives of the Qur'an and of Prophet Muhammad was indeed moral reformation but not just to Arabia but to the whole world. If the Prophet had invented a lie that the Qur'an is from God, when he himself was its author, he would have not mentioned all these verses in the Qur'an, and instead, he would have written somewhat similar to what Saint Paul had mentioned in the Bible in New Testament which says,



"If my lie glorifies the truth of God, then I am not a sinner"

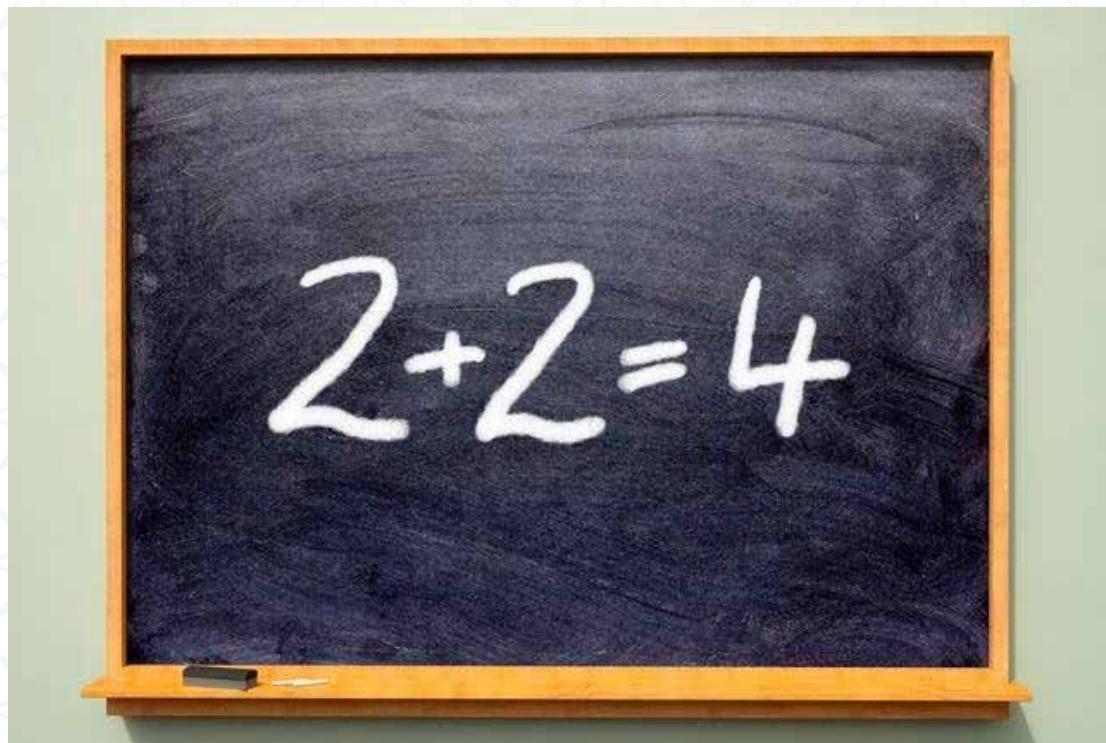
The Bible – Romans 3:7

This proves that God requires falsehood to prove he is great. In Islam, God is truly great; therefore He does not require any support of falsehood to prove He is Great.





Unlike some other religions, in Islam, the means is not separated from the ends. If you want justice, you get it by being just; if you want truth, you get it by being truthful. Therefore, the means (i.e., the path taken) has to fit with the end result. Many people only consider the end result and not the explanation. Sometimes a person may have the truth but to prove that truth, he uses a false argument. For example, if a person says  $2+2=4$  though if asked for an explanation for his answer, he says because my teacher had taught me. The answer is correct but the means i.e., the explanation is wrong. Suppose the teacher taught  $2+2=5$  then the person would have been wrong. The explanation should be true on its own merit, irrespective of who has said it. For example take 2 coins and another 2 coins to it and if you count the total number of coins, it is four. Therefore  $2+2=4$ .





If you use a false argument for the truth, the other person may use the same false argument to prove his untruth. He may argue that because your teacher said  $2+2=4$  and you believe in it, my teacher said that a person in order to lead a luxurious life is entitled to rob. Therefore, I am justified if I rob. Similarly, it is illogical to say, I refuse to use the telephone as it was invented by Alexander Graham Bell who was a liar.





Lying is the most abominable sin.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ أَفْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ قَالَ أُوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ  
وَلَمْ يُوْحَ إِلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ وَمَنْ قَالَ سَأَنْزِلُ مِثْلَ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ



"Who can be more wicked than one who invents a lie against Allah, or says, "I have received inspiration" when he has received none, or (again) who says, "I can reveal the like of what Allah has revealed."

Al Qur'an 6:93

The above verse also describes the most humiliating punishment for such liars. If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the author of the Qur'an, he was deceitfully ascribing unto God and was thus describing himself as the most wicked man, there would be every possibility that his fabrication might one day be uncovered and thus incite trouble for himself.





C A similar warning is given in the Qur'an in Surah Al Haqqah,

وَلَوْ تَقَوَّلْ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضَ الْأَقَوِيلِ  
لَاَخْذُنَا مِنْهُ بِالْيَمِينِ  
ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ  
فَمَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ عَنْهُ حَاجِزِينَ



"And if the messenger were to invent any sayings in Our name, We should certainly seize him by his right hand, And we should certainly then cut off the artery of his heart; Nor could any of you withhold him (from Our wrath)."

Al Qur'an 69:44-47

There are several such verses in the Qur'an e.g., Surah Ash Shu'ara, Chapter 42, Verse 24; Surah An Nahl, Chapter 16, Verse 105.





D Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not deliver the whole Qur'an at one sitting. He recited it piecemeal over a period of about 23 years during which any questions would be answered.

وَإِنْ تَسْأَلُوا عَمَّا حِينَ يُنَزَّلُ الْقُرْءَانُ تُبَدَّلْ لَكُمْ عَفَا اللَّهُ عَمَّا



"If you ask about things when the Qur'an is revealed they will be made plain to you."

Al Qur'an 5:101





People took this opportunity to ask a wide range of questions covering subjects like intoxicants, gambling, charity, new moon, menstruation, spoils of war or even historical figures like Zul Qarnain. Therefore, in the Qur'an, it is mentioned in several places, "They ask thee concerning such and such matter, Say: it is so and so." In no way could Muhammad (pbuh) have known in advance the questions he would be asked, thus perfectly matching his reformation purposes for which he had set out to write the Qur'an. It would be foolish for a Prime Minister who wants to talk about the transportation facility in his country to call a press conference and invite the press to ask any question. They may choose to inquire about food situations or even political prisoners.



**E**

There is sufficient proof in the Qur'an against this moral reformation theory because Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself is corrected by the Qur'an in several places. Once while Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was deeply engrossed, trying to convince the leaders of the Pagan Quraish of Makkah who were non-Muslims about the Islamic teachings, a Muslim poor blind man by the name of Abdullah Ibn Umm Makhtoum interrupted this union; he wanted to learn the Qur'an. The Prophet (pbuh) did not appreciate this interruption which was evident by his frowning. Even though the Prophet did not say a word, because of this act of his, a revelation was sent which is preserved forever in the Qur'an in Surah 'Abasa.

عَبَسَ وَتَوَلََّ  
أَنْ جَاءَهُ الْأَعْمَمُ  
وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّهُ وَيَزَّكَّ  
أَوْ يَذَّكَّرُ فَتَنَفَعَهُ الْذِكْرُ<sup>ي</sup>



"(The Prophet) frowned and turned away because there came to him a blind man (interrupting). But what could tell you but that perchance he might grow (in spiritual understanding)? Or that he might receive Admonition, and the teaching Might profit him?"

Al Qur'an 80:1-4



CAN  
MUHAMMAD (PBUH)  
BE THE AUTHOR OF  
THE QUR'AN?

PART 2

## 2 LESSON



---

Dr Zakir Naik



# 6 — EPILEPTIC THEORY

Some of the people agree that the Prophet (pbuh) was sincere and truthful but allege that he was suffering from epilepsy and during his epileptic seizures recited what later became the Qur'an. Some writers have compared the description of the Prophet (pbuh) when he received revelations with that of epileptic seizures. In actual fact they were far from similar. From the Hadith i.e., tradition, we learn that the Prophet (pbuh) received the revelation in one of the following conditions.





i

In the form of  
a ringing bell



ii

Sometimes when the  
revelation came, even  
though it was very cold,  
his brow would be  
streaming with  
perspiration



iii

Sometimes he would  
look perturbed



iv

Sometimes he would  
become very heavy  
while receiving  
revelations





These descriptions in no way bear resemblance to the medical symptoms of epilepsy. Epilepsy is a sudden and recurrent disturbance in the mental function or movement of the body, or both. Its symptoms include complete or partial loss of consciousness, accompanied by muscular spasms or convulsions or by more complex behaviour. 70% of patients suffer their first attack before the age of 20 and in some types of epilepsy attacks diminish as the patient enters adulthood.

**There are 4 main types of Epilepsy:**

**A**

Grand Mal Epilepsy or  
**“THE BIG SICKNESS”**

**B**

Petit Mal Epilepsy or  
**“THE LITTLE SICKNESS”**

**C**

**FOCAL  
SEIZURES**

**D**

**PSYCHO-MOTOR  
SEIZURES**

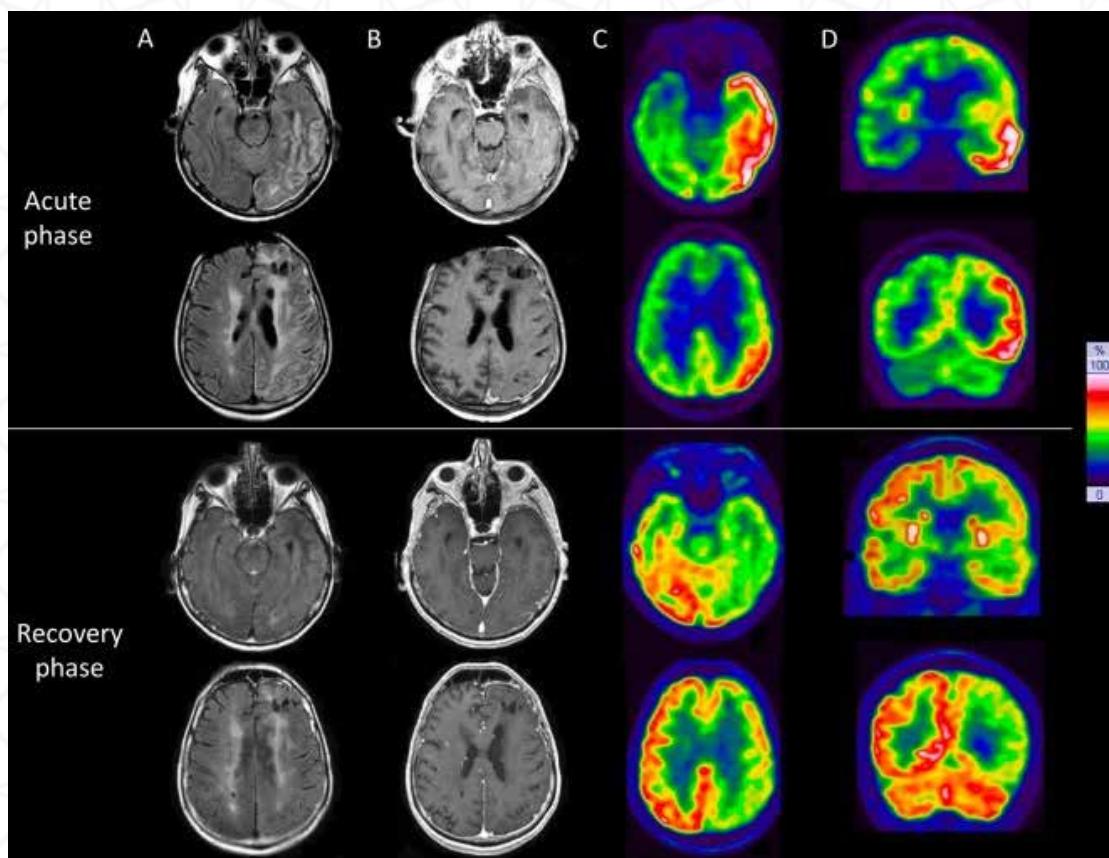
The Prophet's (pbuh) description when he received the revelation clearly indicates that he did not suffer from the epilepsy of any form.



# A Grand Mal Epilepsy

This form of epilepsy shows the following symptoms:

- i Generalized convulsions preceded by a complete loss of consciousness, a loud scream and falling to the ground.
- ii A stiffening of the body (including the respiratory system sometimes) and jerking movements in all four extremities of the body. In some cases, the tongue can get bitten because of a tightening in the muscles of the face.





- iii At the end of the attack, the patient is totally disorientated, confused, sleepy and sick.
- iv The patient will have no recollection of what happened during the seizure or immediately afterwards.

The Prophet (pbuh) did not suffer from any of these symptoms during his life, and most importantly, he remembered everything that had happened to him during the time when the revelation was given to him and recited what he had been commanded to memorise.





# B

## Petit Mal Epilepsy



Petit Mal epilepsy occurs in children and dies out during early adulthood. An attack consists of a very brief episode of unresponsiveness lasting no more than 15 seconds usually. Since the Prophet (pbuh) first received revelation at the age of 40, and each period of revelation lasted a few minutes, it is impossible that the Prophet (pbuh) suffered from this malady.



# C

## Focal and Psycho-Motor Seizures

Focal seizures originate in a particular area of the brain and the seizure affects those parts of the body controlled by that part of the brain. An attack may show symptoms of jerking in particular extremities or as numbness and trembling in those extremities; the seizure can spread throughout the brain resulting in generalised convulsions. Psycho-motor seizures are set off by an emotional, sensory, or physical aura - that is an unpleasant odour, taste or illusion about size and distance which causes intense fear. The patient becomes unresponsive and can do strange things such as suddenly walking off. The seizure lasts 1-3 minutes and after recovery, the patient will have no memory of the attack itself or the aura which caused it in the first place. Again, these symptoms are totally dissimilar to what the Prophet (pbuh) experienced and was seen to experience by his family and companions when receiving the Qur'an.



Generalized seizure



Focal seizure



# D

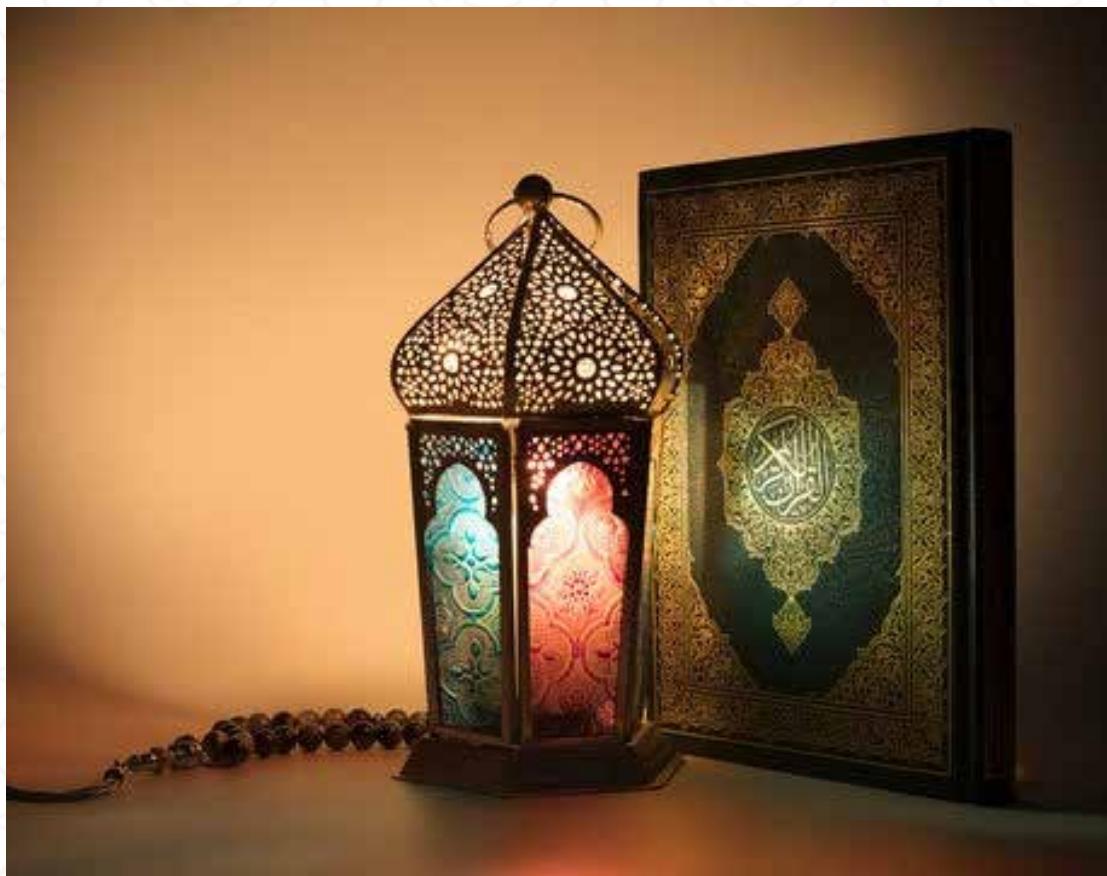
## The Causes of Epilepsy

Epilepsy is not a disease; it is a syndrome and therefore there is not usually one specific cause behind it. The actual syndrome is created through the malfunction of nerve cells in the brain where the neurons release or discharge excessive electrical energy causing thereby intense excitability in the cells - resulting in a loss of consciousness and convulsions. The reason for this abnormal behaviour in the nerve cells of an individual epileptic can be complex, as there is no single cause normally. However, in 50% of cases, a primary or contributing factor for the syndrome can be identified. Such factors include injury at birth or later; congenital defects (e.g., Cerebral Palsy); infectious diseases such as Meningitis which attack the nerve tissue; parasitic infections, brain tumors, shock etc. An attack can also be brought on as a result of withdrawal from alcohol or barbiturates; extreme emotional distress, or fatigue.





The Prophet (pbuh) had none of these problems and therefore did not have epilepsy either. He was known to be in perfect physical and mental health. Although he went through extremely exhausting and stressful times, he displayed a great deal of fortitude. The Qur'an is such an amazing, unchallengeable and glorious book, that one Muslim psychiatrist has said that if it was indeed the work of an epileptic, "I'd like to see more of these epileptic people!"



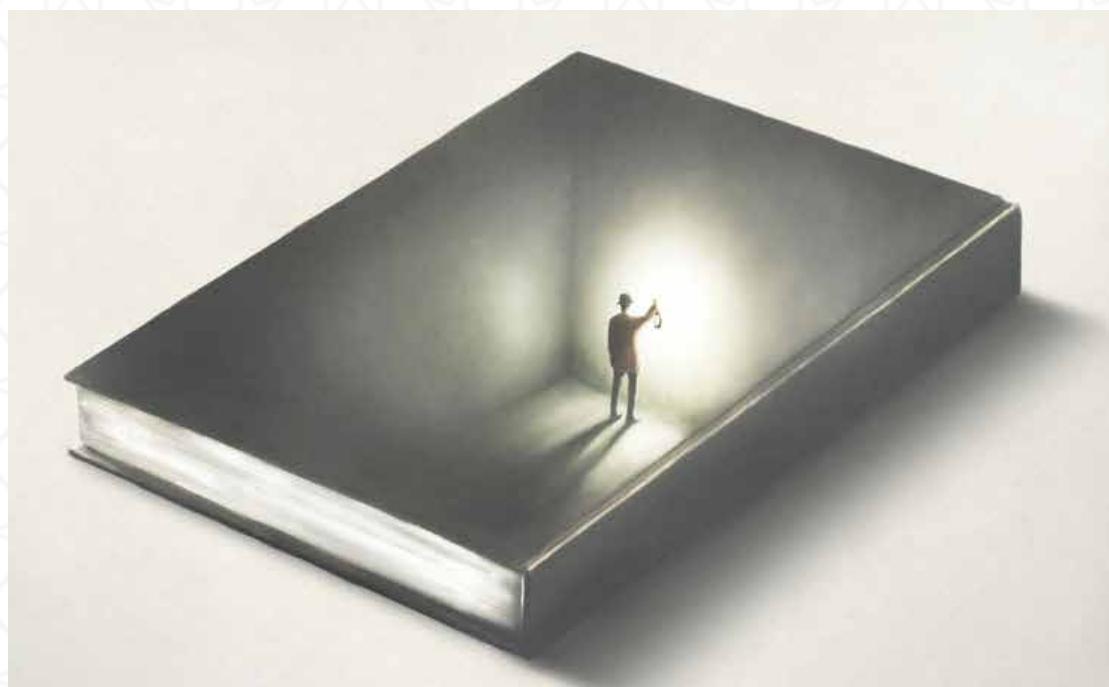


# 7

## RELIGIOUS ILLUSION THEORY

The religious illusion theory and the subconscious theory assume that the Qur'an had actually originated from Muhammad's (pbuh) knowledge, imagination, experiences and environment, although he himself was not aware of this fact. Some may even say that he was crazy (God forbid).

The Prophet (pbuh) preached a consistent message for about 23 years. It is unlikely that a crazy person or a visionary feeding of his own subconscious, would be able to be so consistent. Secondly, a visionary would not be able to falsely convince himself for 23 years that he was receiving a scripture from divine sources when it actually originated within himself.





The Qur'an contains so much information which could not have originated from a human beings' mind, whether the conscious or the subconscious part.

One such example is Surah Al Kahf, Chapter 18 of the Qur'an which was revealed in reply to the questions posed by the Mushriks of Makkah, in consultation with the people of the Book in order to test him. These questions were:

i

Who were the sleepers  
of the cave?



ii

What is the real story  
of Khidr?



iii

What do you know  
about Zul Qarnain?





As these three questions concerned the history of the Jews and Christians and were unknown in Hijaz, a choice of these were made to test whether the Prophet (pbuh) possessed any source of knowledge of the hidden and unseen things. The Prophet (pbuh) replied, "tomorrow I will tell you" but when they came for the answers, he had to put them off day by day until 15 nights had passed and still he had received no revelation of any kind. The people of Makkah taunted him, and he was disturbed and sad that he did not receive the help he longed for, then Archangel Gabriel brought him a revelation giving him the answers to their questions. The long wait he had to endure was explained in Surah Al Kahf.

وَلَا تَقُولَنَّ لِشَأْنٍ إِنِّي فَاعِلُ ذَلِكَ غَدًا  
إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ



"Nor say of anything, I shall be sure to do so and so tomorrow."

"Without (adding), If Allah wills."

Al Qur'an 18:23-24



The delay of this revelation although painful to the Prophet (pbuh) was in reality an added strength. Those pagans of Quraish who were in two minds were convinced that if the Prophet (pbuh) had invented the earlier revelations, why did he delay this latest one, especially when so much was at stake. It is difficult to conceive how religious illusion could have helped him to make the correct replies which silenced his critics.

Besides these types of information, there are several other information in the Qur'an which no human minds could produce at that time whether consciously, sub-consciously, or unconsciously. In Sha Allah, we will discuss these later.





For instance, the Qur'an contains:

i

Historical facts and events which were not known to the Prophet or his contemporaries e.g., about Zul Qarnain, city of Iram



ii

Several scientific facts which were unknown and only discovered 100's of years after the revelation of the Qur'an



iii

Several prophecies about the future which have come true





# 8

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) CANNOT BE A LIAR AND A CRAZY PERSON AT THE SAME TIME

A large group of people after doing a lot of research say that “One thing we know for sure, that Muhammad thought he was a Prophet, he was crazy!” they are convinced that he was somehow fooled. And in the end the same group will tell you “Because of this evidence, one thing we know for sure, that Muhammad (pbuh), was a liar!” (God forbid). They start by telling you the man was crazy or deranged and conclude by saying he was a liar. They never seem to realise that a person can never be both, you can either be one of them, crazy or a liar or none of them, never be both crazy and liar at the same time.





If a person is crazy, he is of unsound mind and he actually believes that he is a prophet, therefore he need not lie and all his actions and words are unintentional. If a person is a liar, he is usually of sound mind and lies intentionally for certain benefits. Even if a crazy person says something incorrect, you cannot call him a liar because he himself is unaware of the fact. Thus a person cannot be both.



أَوْلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا أَقَمَا بِصَاحِبِهِمْ مِنْ جِنَّةٍ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ



“Do they not reflect? Their companion is not seized with madness: he is but a perspicuous warner.”

Al Qur'an 7:184



مَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِمَجْنُونٍ



"You are not, by the grace of your Lord,  
mad or possessed."

Al Qur'an 68:2

وَمَا صَاحِبُكُمْ بِمَجْنُونٍ



"And (O people)! your companion is not  
one possessed."

Al Qur'an 81:22





# 9

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) CANNOT BE DELUDED AND A FORGER AT THE SAME TIME

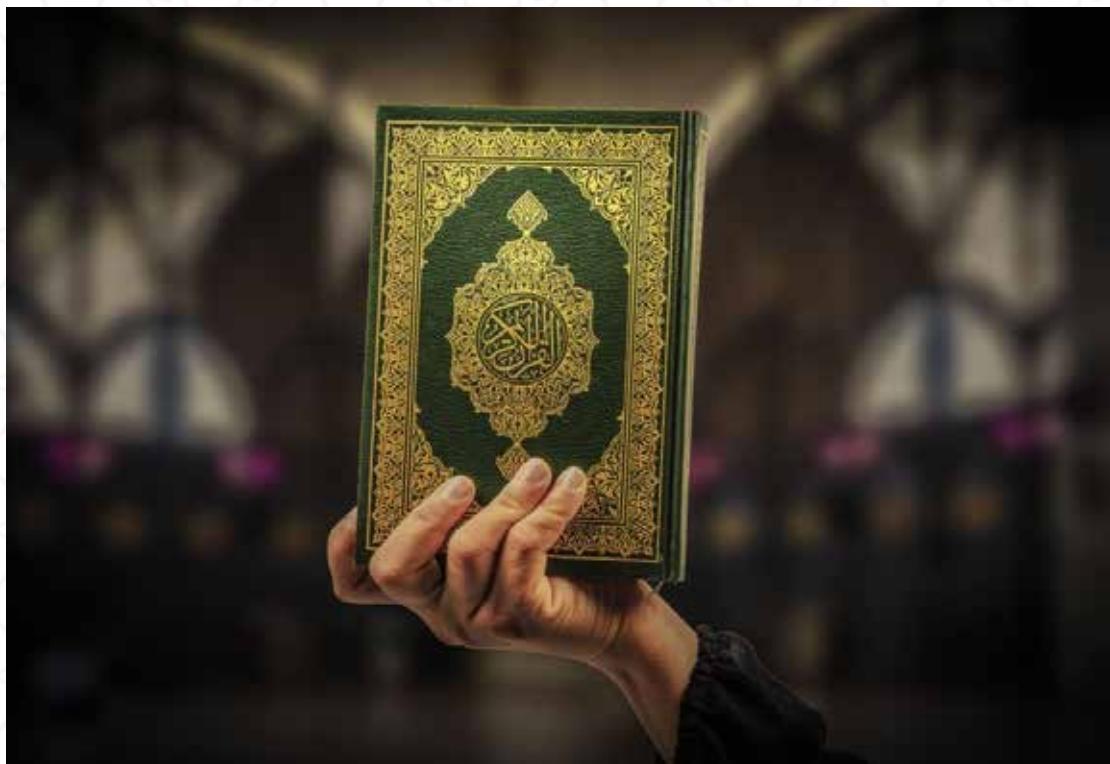
Similarly, another group of people say that the Prophet (pbuh) was deluded. Whenever somebody asked him a question, he thought that an angel put words in his ears. Later the same group of people would gather enough evidence to explain that he was a forger. These people fail to realize that a person can either be deluded or a forger or none of the two but he can surely never be both at the same time.

A person who is deluded and thinks he is a Prophet, whenever asked a question will never hunt for the answer or enquire with other people. He will think that an angel will put words in his ears and thus reply immediately irrespective of whether the answer is right or wrong. A forger on the other hand will search for the best possible answer or even copy from other sources to prove that he is not a fake Prophet. These people fail to realise that they are going in circles.





If you ask what is the origin of the Qur'an? They will tell you it came from the imagination of mind. If you further ask that how can a man get this information which no one knew before? Some foreigner may have given him the information and he lied that he was the Prophet; or further, an inquiry may be posed that how can a liar have so much confidence, when he mentions things which were unknown with so much accuracy then again they would reply that he was crazy, thus they go in circles.

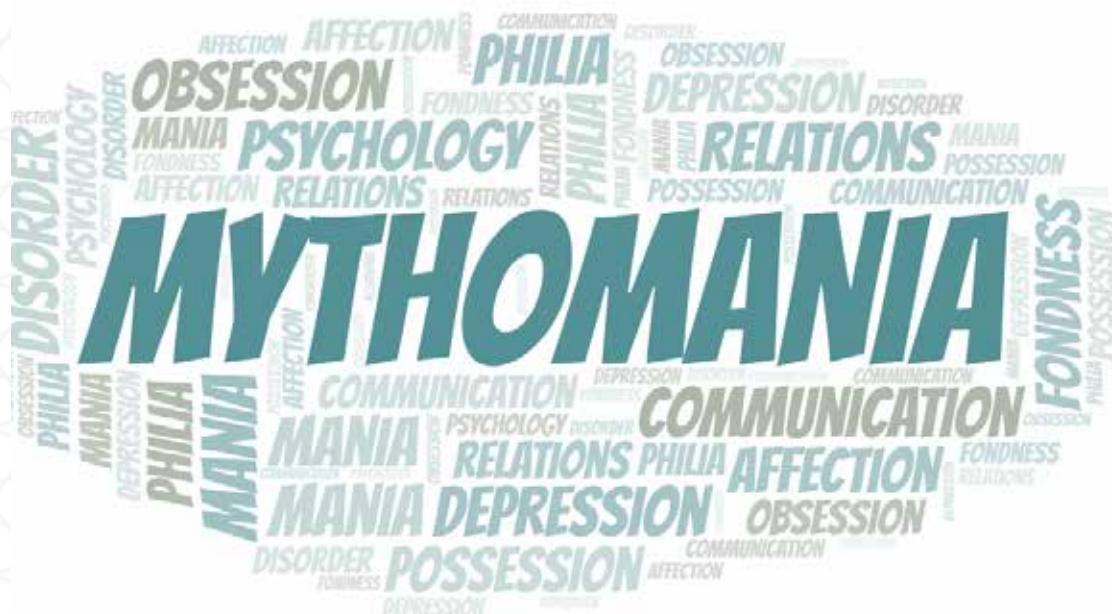




# 10

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SUFFERED FROM MYTHOMANIA

Another group of people may come up with a theory that Muhammad (pbuh) was suffering from Mythomania. This is a psychological disorder in which a person tells lies and then believes in it. The Qur'an gives facts, things you can go, look, and see that they are true, things you can verify. The Mythomaniac cannot do this. Facts are a problem for him. Therefore, a psychologist treats a man suffering from Mythomania by confronting him with facts. If a man is mentally ill and says, "I am the king of England" the psychologist does not say to him "you are crazy" He confronts him with facts. "You say you are the king of England, tell me where is your queen?"





The mythomaniac tries to make excuses, "The queen has gone to her mother's house". "Where is your prime minister? He died". "Where are your guards? The mythomaniac because he cannot deal with facts, is eventually cured. If you keep putting enough facts in front of him, finally he faces the reality and says, "I guess I am not the king of England."

Similarly, the Qur'an approaches its readers by confronting them with facts and thus healing of their delusion. The Qur'an poses questions, "Oh man, do you say so and so but what about such and such? Do you say this when you know that?" It forces you to face reality and thus heals your delusions.





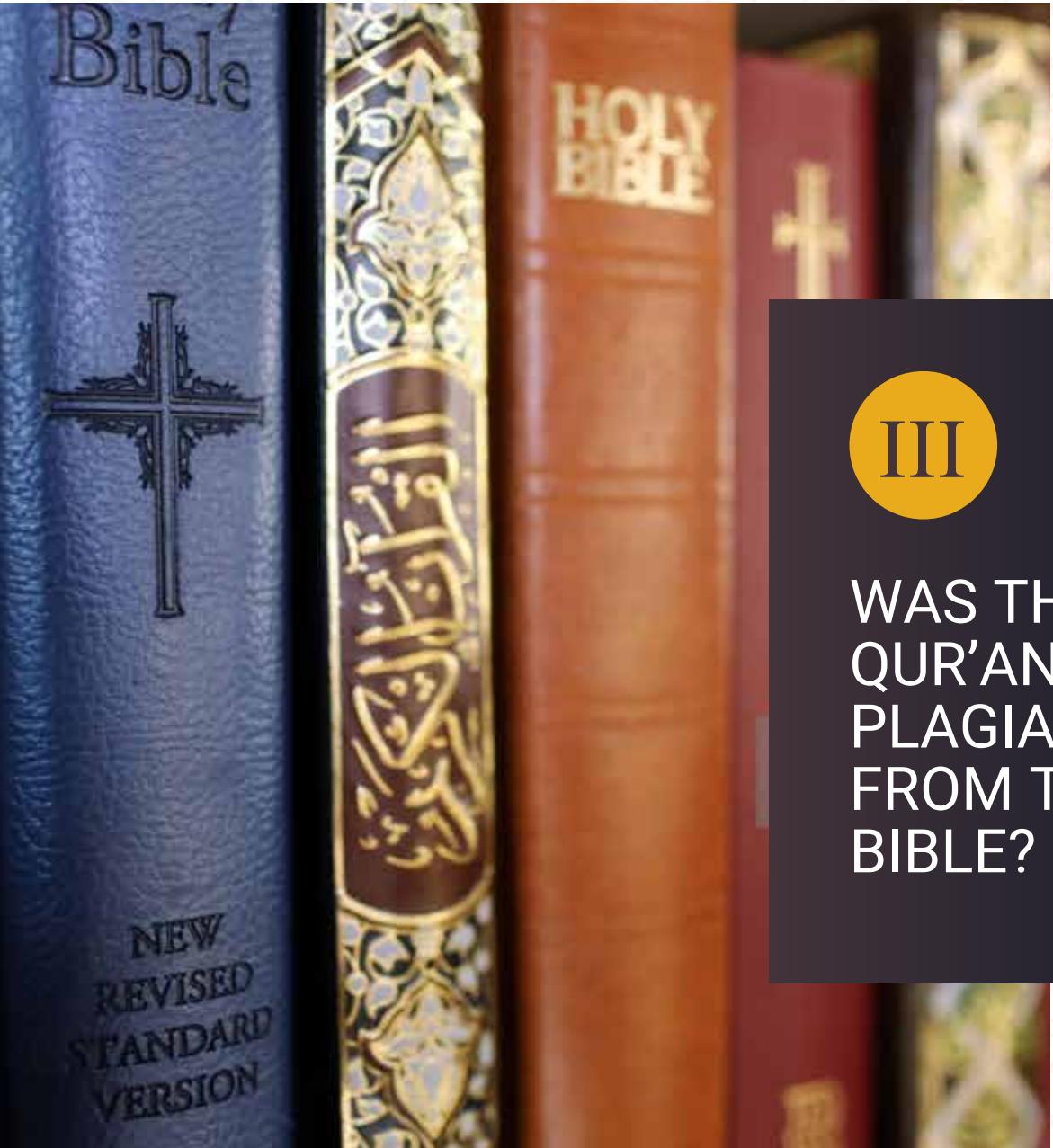
**WAS THE  
QUR'AN  
PLAGIARIZED  
FROM THE BIBLE?**

**3**  
**LESSON**



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**Dr Zakir Naik**



III

## WAS THE QUR'AN PLAGIARIZED FROM THE BIBLE?

Many critics agree that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself was not the author of the Qur'an, but he learnt it from other human sources or plagiarized... that is copied or adapted from previous scriptures or revelations.



# 1

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) LEARNT THE QUR'AN FROM A ROMAN BLACKSMITH WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN

Some Pagans accused the Prophet (pbuh) of learning the Qur'an from a Roman blacksmith, who was a Christian and lived in the outskirts of Makkah. The Prophet (pbuh) very often used to go and watch him do his work. A revelation of the Qur'an was sufficient to dismiss this charge,



وَلَقَدْ نَعَمْ أَتَهُمْ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّمَا يُعَلِّمُهُ بَشَرٌ لِسَانُ الَّذِي  
يُلْحِدُونَ إِلَيْهِ أَجْعَمِيٌّ وَهَذَا لِسَانٌ عَرَبِيٌّ مُّبِينٌ



"We know indeed that they say, it is a man that teaches him, the tongue of him they wickedly point to is notably foreign while this is Arabic, pure and clear."

Al Qur'an 16:103

How could a person whose mother tongue was foreign and could hardly speak a little bit of poor broken Arabic be the source of the Qur'an, which is pure, eloquent, fine Arabic. To believe that the blacksmith taught the Prophet (pbuh) the Qur'an, is somewhat like a Chinese immigrant to England who did not know proper English teaching Shakespeare.

你好 = Hello  
nǐ hǎo

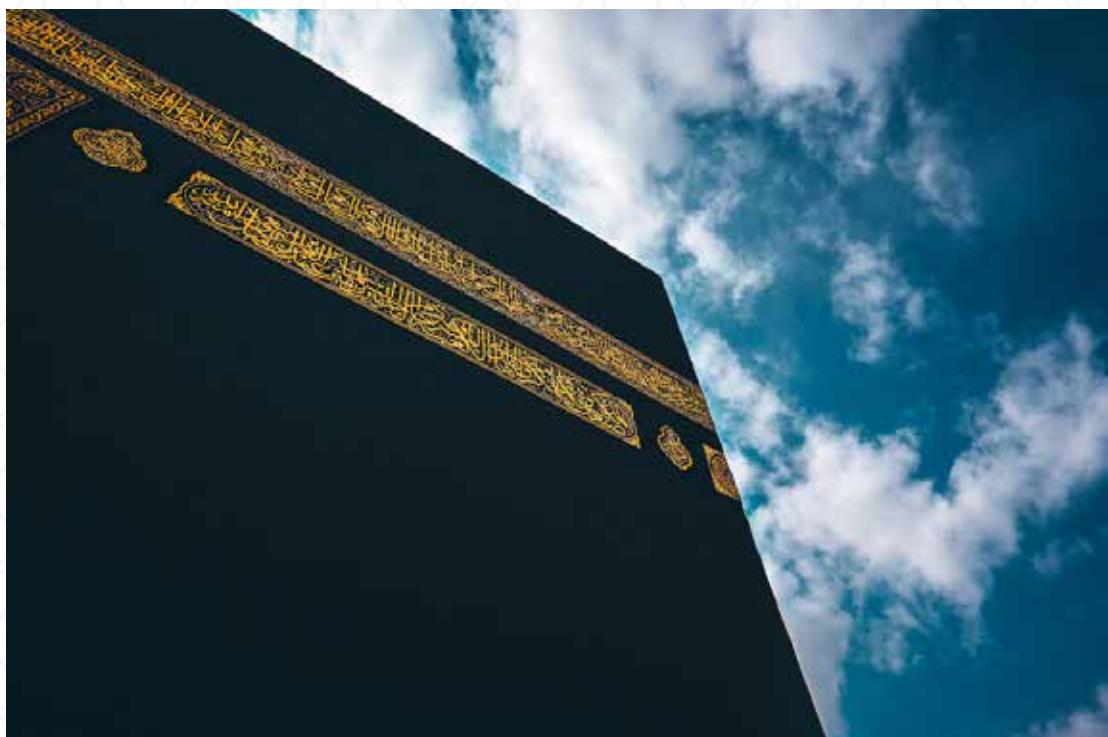
你好吗 = How are you  
nǐ hǎo ma



# 2

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) LEARNT FROM WARAQA, THE RELATIVE OF KHADIJAH (RA)

Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) contact with the Jewish or Christian scholars was very limited. The most prominent Christian was an old blind man called Waraqah ibn Naufal who was a relative of the Prophet's first wife Khadijah (ra). He, although of Arab descent, was a convert to Christianity and was very well-versed with the New Testament. The Prophet (pbuh) only met him twice, first when Waraqah was worshipping at the Ka'bah (before the prophetic mission) and he kissed the Prophet's forehead affectionately. The second was when the Prophet (pbuh) went to meet Waraqah after receiving the first revelation. Waraqah died 3 years later, and the revelation continued for about 23 years.





# 3 —

## PROPHET'S RELIGIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

It is true that the Prophet (pbuh) did have religious discussions with the Jews and Christians, but they took place in Madinah more than 13 years after the revelation of the Qur'an had started. The allegation that these Jews and Christians were the source is the reverse, since in these discussions, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the teacher inviting them to embrace Islam and pointing out that they deviated away from their true teachings of Monotheism. Several of them later embraced Islam.



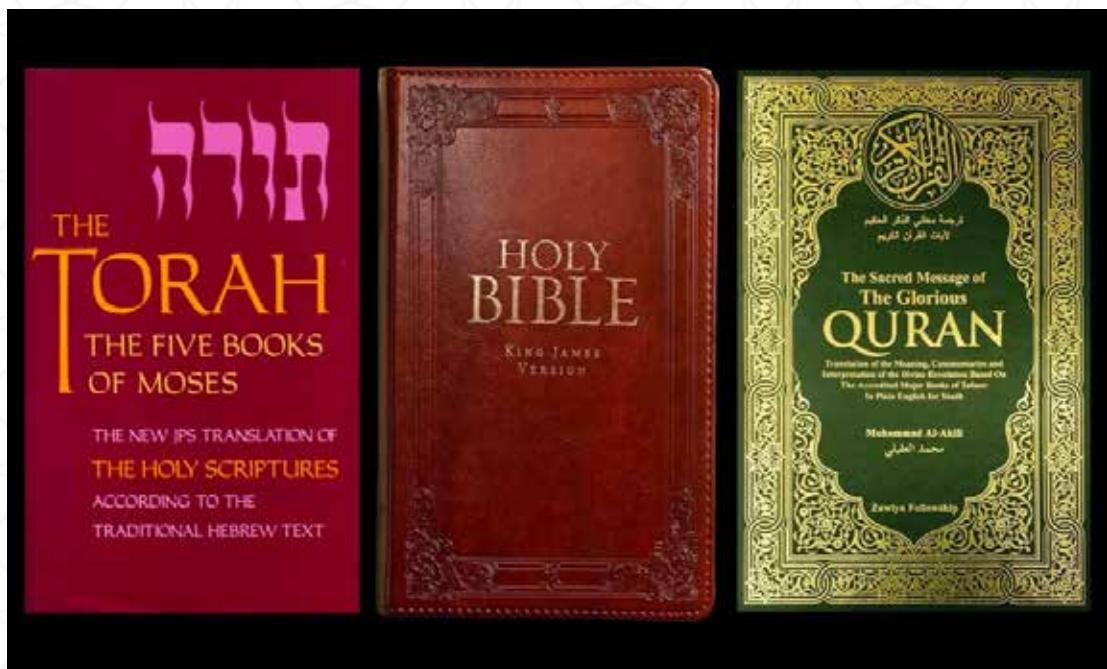


# 4

## PROPHET (PBUH) LEARNT QUR'AN FROM JEWS & CHRISTIANS, HE MET OUTSIDE ARABIA

All historical records available show that Muhammad (pbuh) had made only 3 trips outside Makkah before his Prophethood.

- i At the age of 6 he accompanied his mother to Madinah.
  - ii Between the age of 9 and 12, he accompanied his uncle Abu Talib on a business trip to Syria.
  - iii At the age of 25, he led Khadijah's (ra) caravan to Syria.
- It is highly imaginary to assume that the Qur'an resulted from the occasional chats and meetings with the Christians or Jews from any of the above three trips.





# 5

## LOGICAL GROUNDS TO PROVE PROPHET (PBUH) DID NOT LEARN THE QUR'AN FROM JEWS OR CHRISTIANS

- A** The day-to-day life of the Prophet (pbuh) was an open book for all to see, in fact a revelation came asking people to give the Prophet (pbuh) some privacy in his own home. If the Prophet (pbuh) had been meeting people who told him what to say as a revelation from God, this could not have been hidden for very long.
- B** The extremely prominent Quraish nobles who followed the Prophet (pbuh) and accepted Islam were wise men who would have easily noticed anything suspicious about the way in which the Prophet (pbuh) brought the revelation to them - especially as the Prophet's mission lasted 23 years.





**C** The enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) kept a close watch on him in order to find proof that their claim that he was a liar was true - they were never able to prove that the Prophet (pbuh) had a secret rendezvous with particular Jews and Christians.



**D** It is inconceivable that any human author of the Qur'an would have accepted a situation in which he received no credit whatsoever for originating the Qur'an. Thus, historically and logically it cannot be established that there was a human source for the Qur'an.



# 6

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WAS AN ILLITERATE

The theory that Muhammad (pbuh) authored the Qur'an or copied from other sources can be disproved by the single historical fact that he was illiterate. Allah, Himself testifies in the Qur'an,

وَمَا كُنْتَ تَشْلُوْا مِنْ قَبْلِهِ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَلَا تَخْطُطُهُ بِيَمِينِكَ إِذَا  
لَأَرْتَابَ الْمُبْطَلُونَ



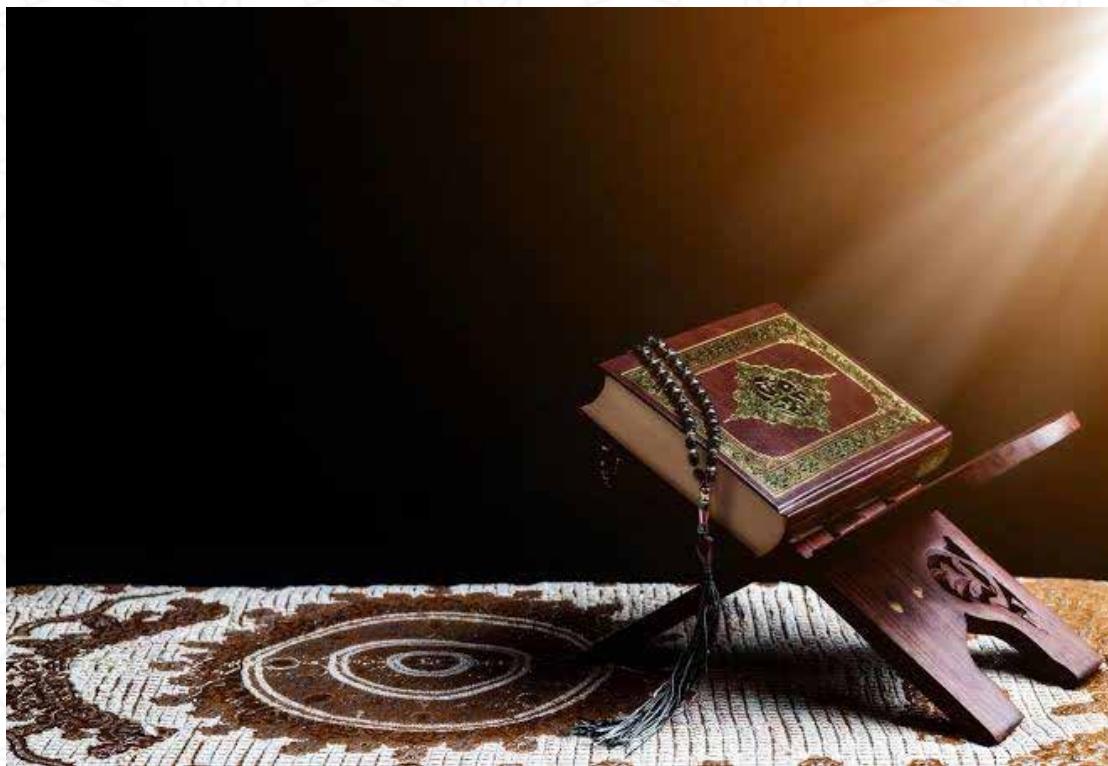
"And you were not (able) to recite a book before this (book came), nor are you (able) to transcribe it, with your right hand; In that case, indeed, would the talkers of vanities have doubted."

Al Qur'an 29:48





Allah (swt) knew that many would doubt the authenticity of the Qur'an and would ascribe it to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Therefore, Allah in His divine wisdom chose the last and final messenger to be an 'Ummi' i.e., unlettered so that the talkers of vanity would not even have the slightest justification to doubt the Prophet's (pbuh) claim that the Qur'an is God's word. If the Prophet (pbuh) was a literate person, the accusation of his enemies that he had copied the Qur'an from other sources and rehashed it all in a beautiful language, might have carried some weight, but even this flimsy pretence has been denied to the unbeliever and the cynic. A point hardly big enough to hang a fly upon.





Allah reconfirms in the Qur'an,

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ الْنَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجْدُونَهُ، مَكْتُوبًا  
عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنجِيلِ



"Those who follow the messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures) in the law and the Gospel."

Al Qur'an 7:157



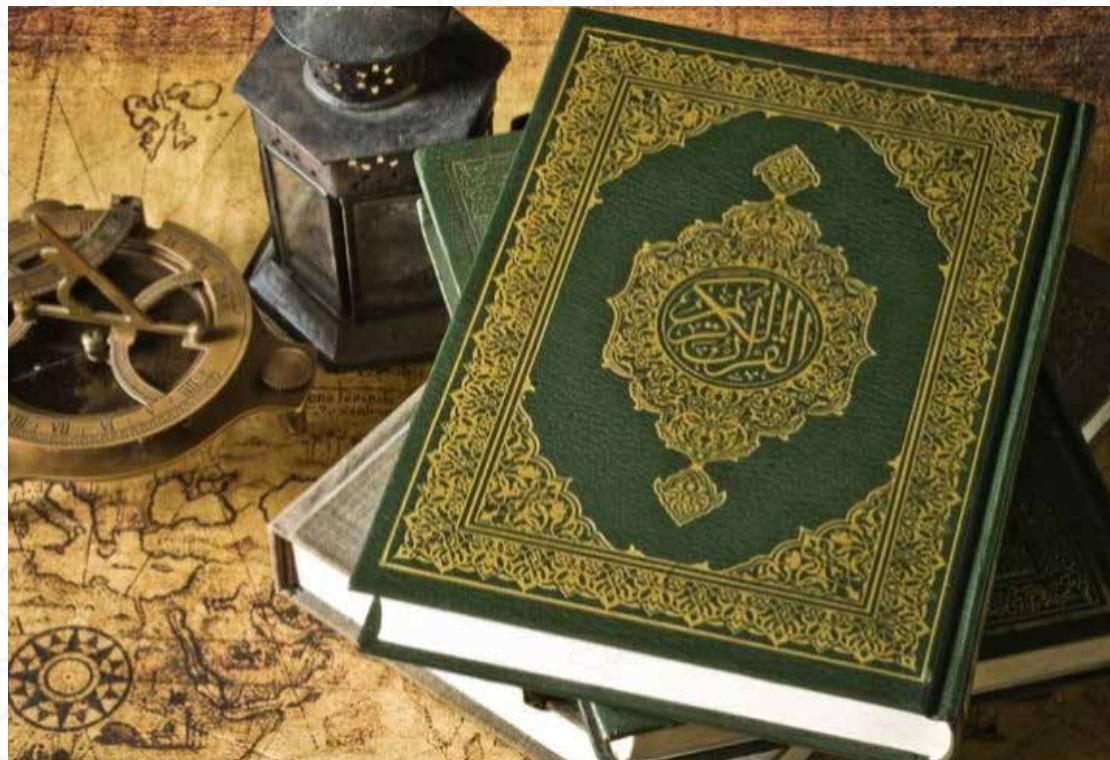


The prophecy of coming of the unlettered Prophet is also mentioned in the Bible.



"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned."

The Bible - Isaiah 29:12



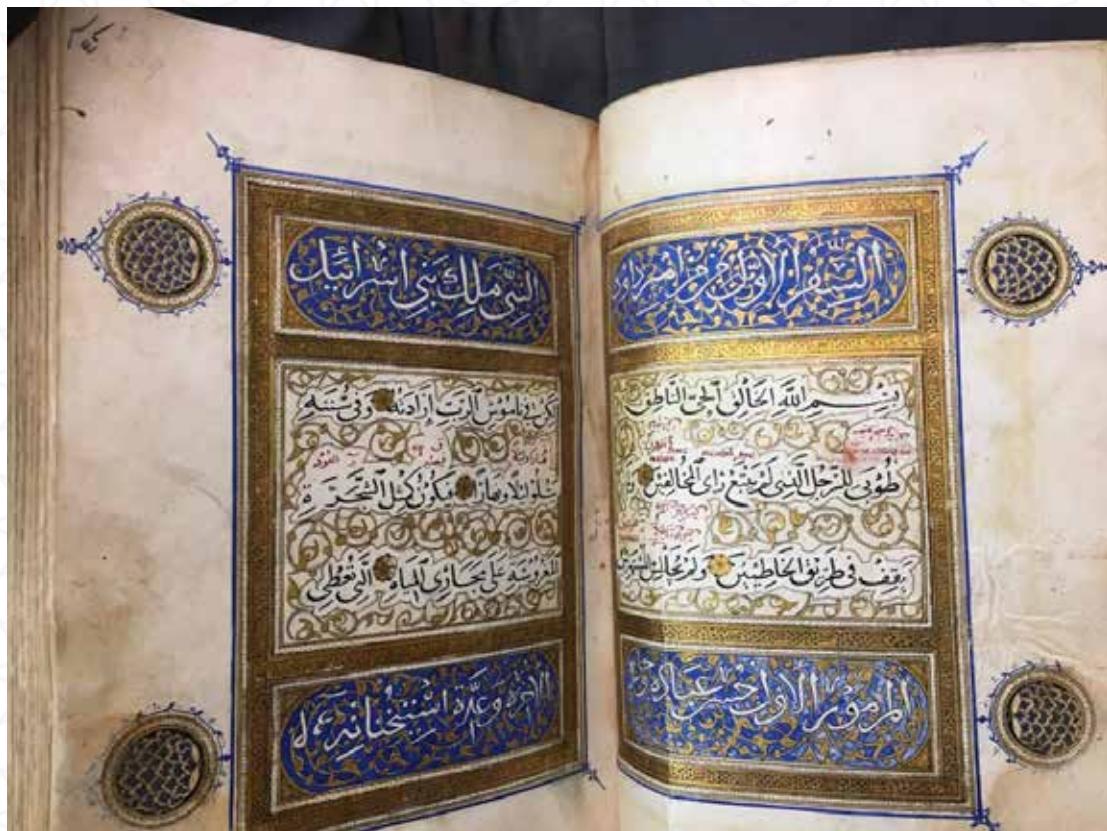
The Qur'an testifies in no less than 4 different places that the Prophet (pbuh) was illiterate. It is also mentioned in Surah Al A'raaf, Chapter 7, Verse 158 and Surah Al Jumu'ah, Chapter 62, Verse 2.



# 7

## ARABIC VERSION OF THE BIBLE WAS NOT PRESENT

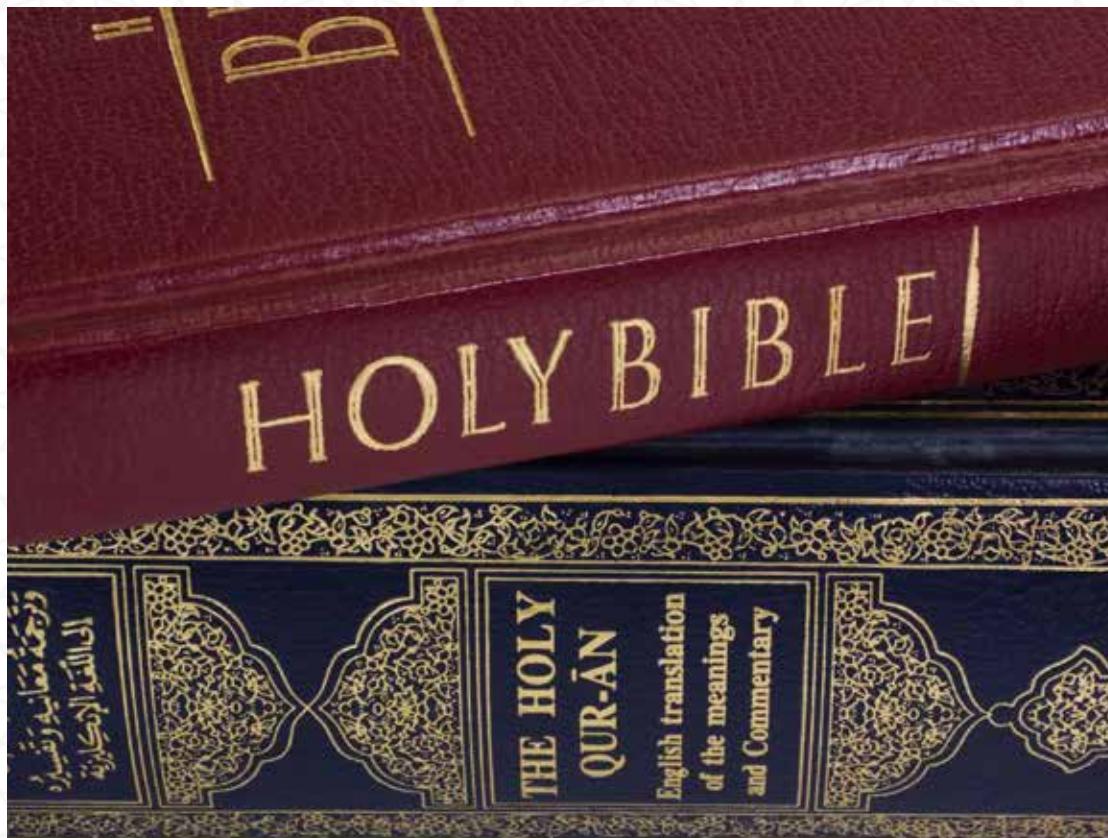
The Arabic version of the Bible was not present at the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The earliest Arabic version of the Old Testament of which we have knowledge of is Saadia Gaon at 900 C.E. More than 250 years after the death of our beloved Prophet (pbuh), and the oldest Arabic version of the New Testament was published by Erpenius in 1616 about 1000 years after the demise of our Prophet (pbuh).



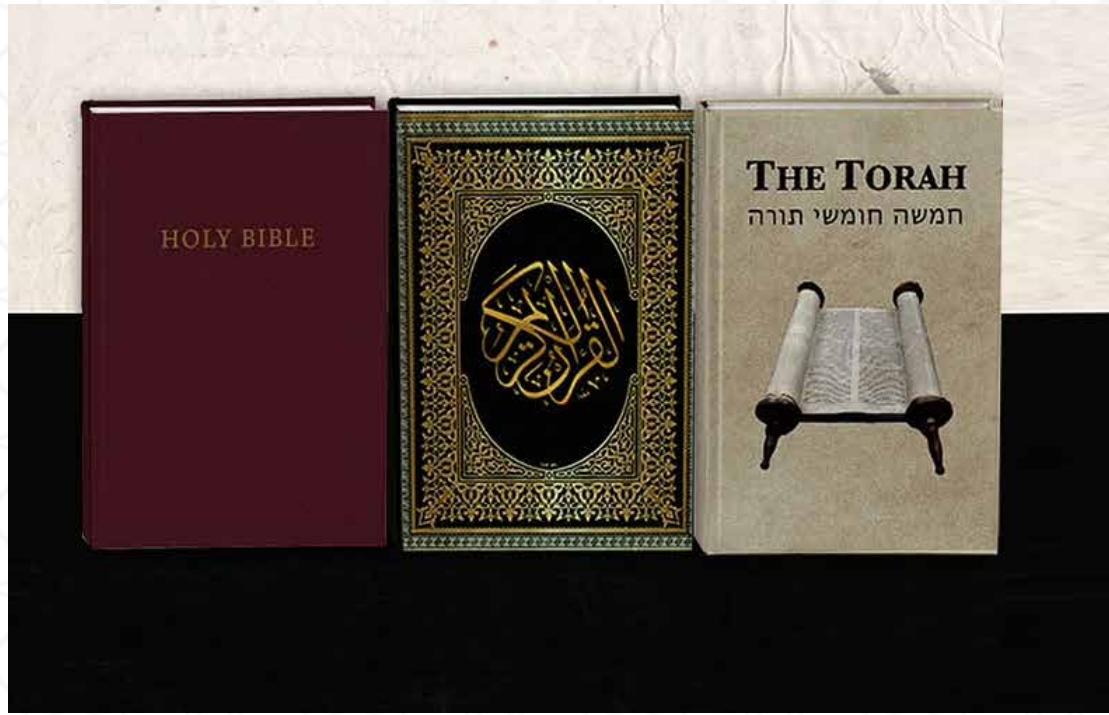


# 8

## SIMILARITIES IN THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE DUE TO COMMON SOURCE



Similarities between the Qur'an and the Bible does not necessarily mean that the latter has been copied from the former. In fact, it gives evidence that both of them are based on a common third source. All divine revelations came from the same source, the One Universal God. No matter what human changes were introduced into some of these revelations that might have distorted their originality, there are bound to be some areas that have remained free from distortion and thus are common to many religions.



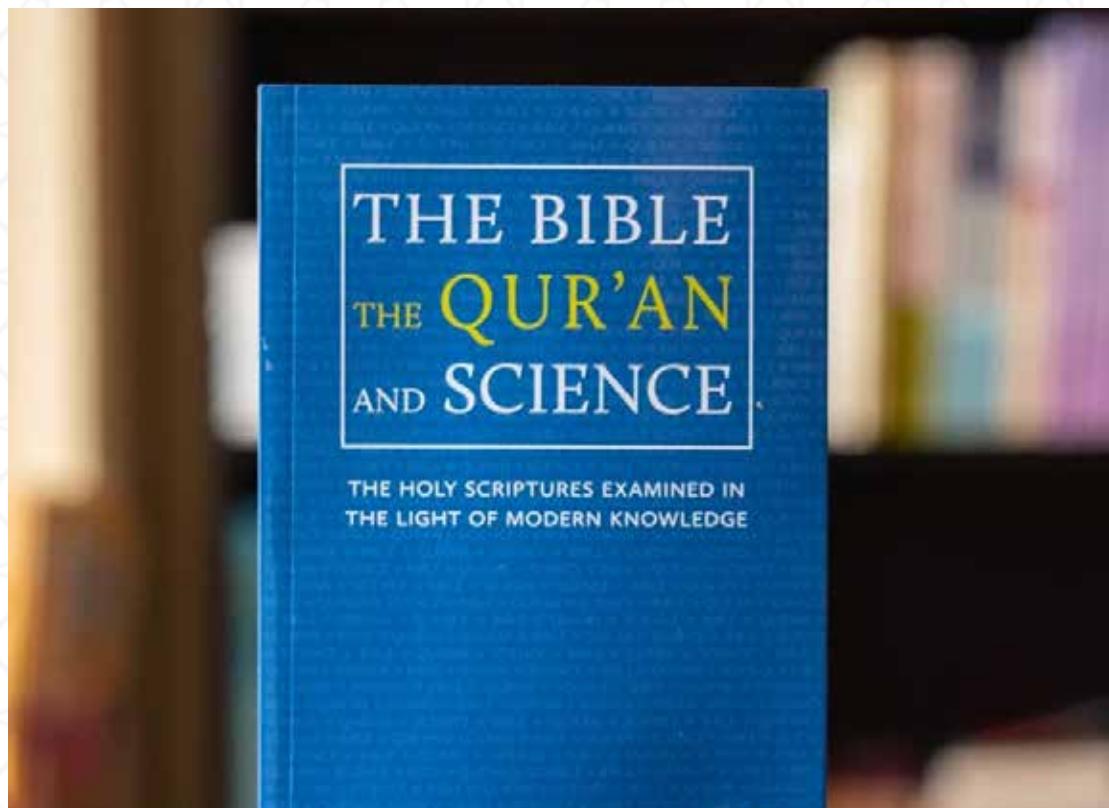
It is true that there are some similar parallels between the Qur'an and the Bible, but this is not sufficient to accuse Muhammad (pbuh) of compiling or copying from the Bible, then the same logic would be applicable to the teachings of Christianity and Judaism and thus anyone can wrongly claim that Jesus (pbuh) was not a genuine Prophet and simply copied from the Old Testament.

The similarities between the two signify a common source that is one true God and the continuation of the basic message of monotheism and not that the later prophets have plagiarized from the previous prophets.



If someone copies during an examination, he will surely not write in the answer sheet, that he has copied from his neighbour or Mr XYZ. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has given due respect and credit to all the previous prophets, and it is also mentioned in the Qur'an about the various revelations given to different prophets.

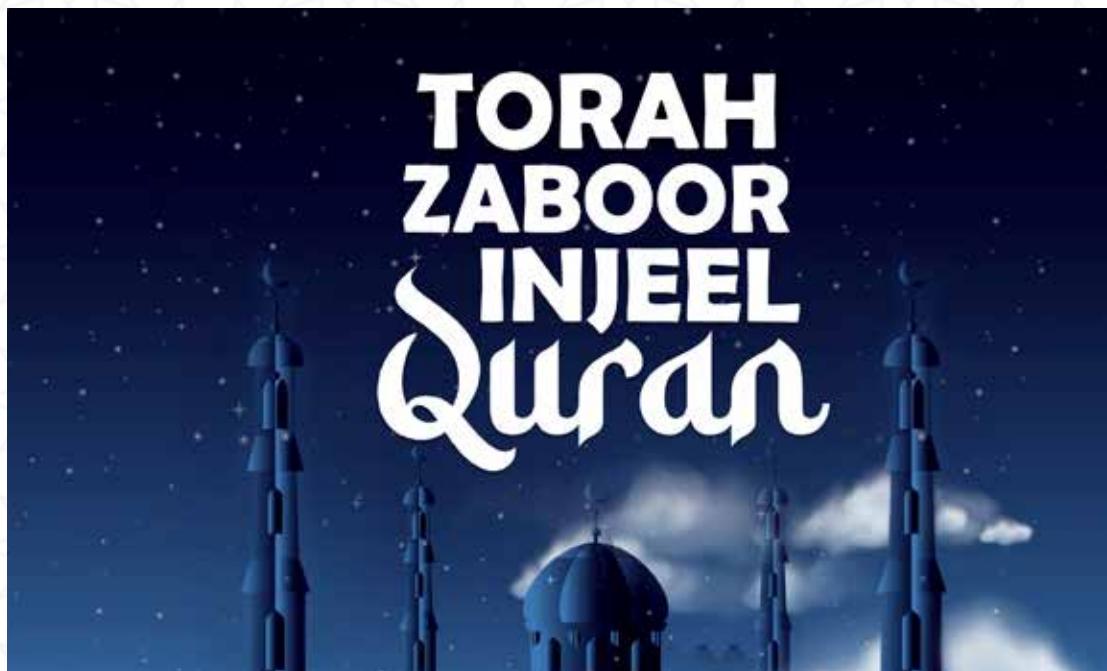
Someone who is neither convinced by Christianity nor by Islam can come to a firm decision which scripture is true, however if you verify them against scientific knowledge the truth will be revealed.





# 9

## MUSLIMS BELIEVE IN THE TAURAH, ZABOOR, INJEEL AND QUR'AN

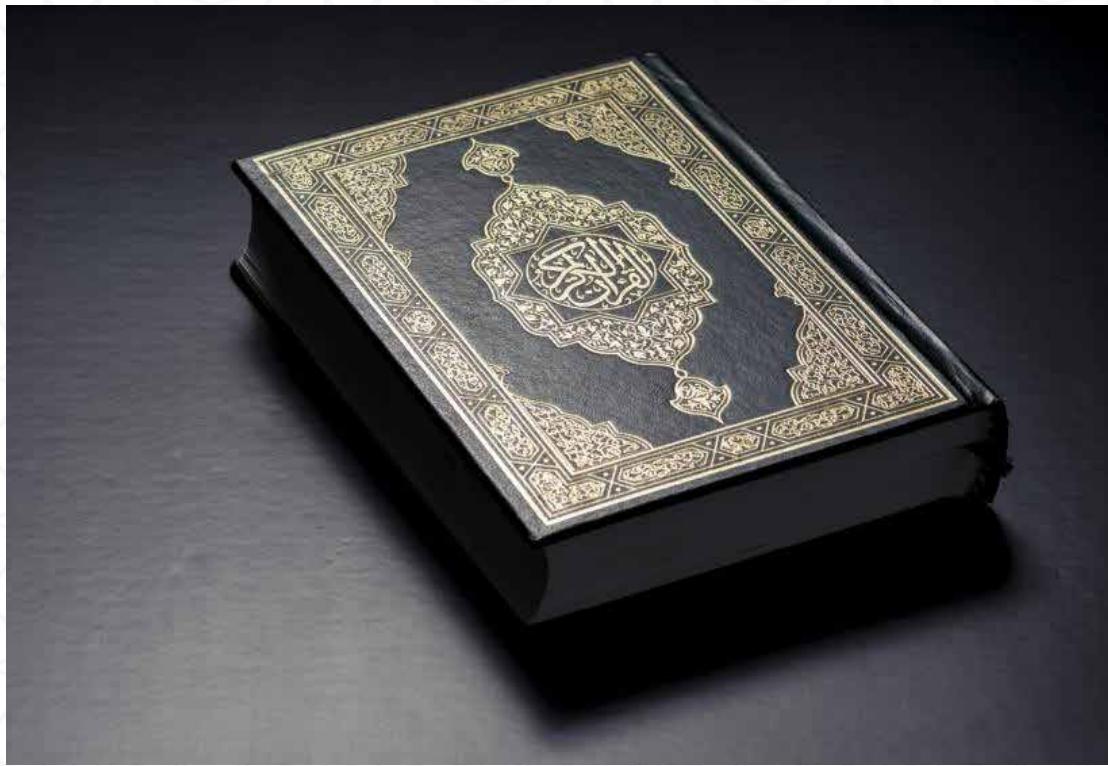


By name, four revelations of Allah (SWT) are mentioned in the Qur'an, the Taurah, the Zaboor, the Injeel and the Qur'an.

- i Taurah, the revelation i.e., the 'Wahi' given to Musa i.e., Moses (pbuh).
- ii Zaboor, the revelation i.e., the 'Wahi' given to Dawood i.e., David (pbuh).
- iii Injeel, the revelation i.e., the 'Wahi' given to Isa i.e., Jesus (pbuh).
- iv Qur'an, the last and final revelation i.e., the 'Wahi' given to the last and final messenger Muhammad (pbuh).



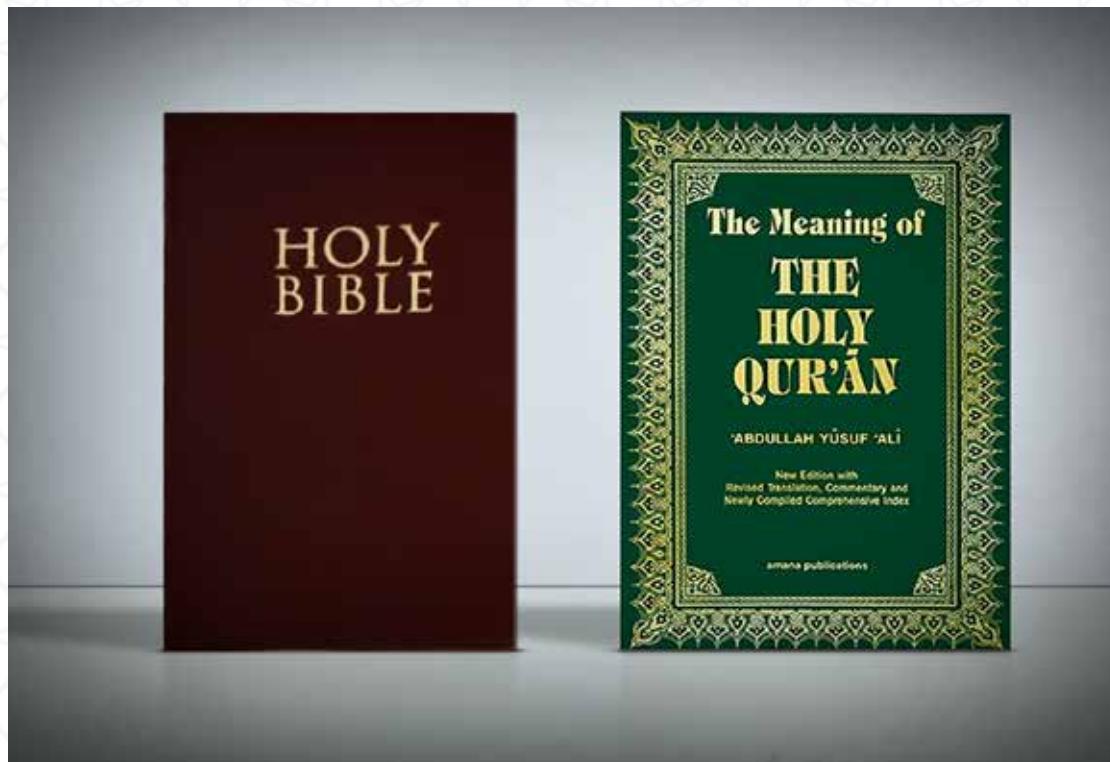
It is an article of faith for every Muslim to believe in all the Prophets of God and all revelations of God but the present day Bible which contains the first five books of the Old Testament attributed to Moses, the Psalms attributed to David and the New Testament or the 4 Gospels of the New Testament are not the Taurah, the Zaboor, or the Injeel, which the Qur'an refers to. These books may partly contain the word of God but they are not the exact revelation given to the Prophets.



Another name for Qur'an is "The Furqan" which means the criteria to judge the right from the wrong and it is on the basis of this Qur'an that we can decipher which part of the previous scriptures can be considered to be the word of God.



If you glance through the Bible and the Qur'an, you may find several points exactly the same in both of them, but if you analyse many of them closely, there is a difference of chalk and cheese.





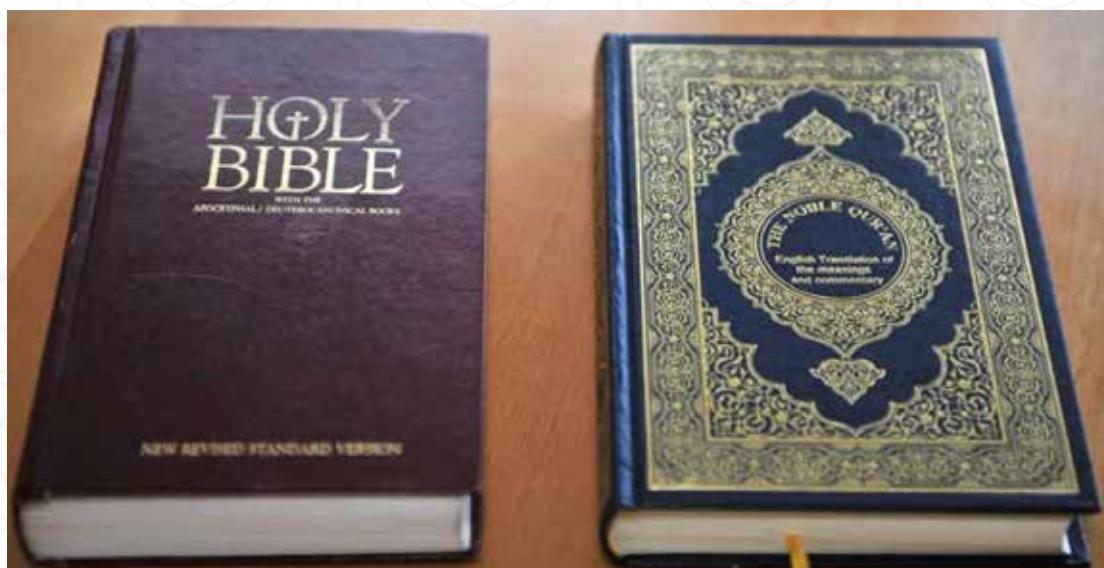
# 10

## SCIENTIFIC COMPARISON BETWEEN QUR'AN AND BIBLE

A

### Creation of the Universe in Six Days

According to the first book of the Bible, Genesis, Chapter No 1, the universe was created in 6 days and each day is defined as a 24-hour period. Even the Qur'an mentioned that the universe was created in 6 'Ayyaam'. 'Ayyaam' is the plural of 'Yaum' which has two meanings: firstly, a standard 24-hour period i.e., day; or it can also mean stage, period or epoch that is a very long period of time. Here the Qur'an refers to the creation of the heavens and the earth in 6 long periods or epochs, which the scientists have no objection to. According to science, the creation of the universe has taken billions of years which contradicts the concept of the Bible which states it took 6, 24-hour days.

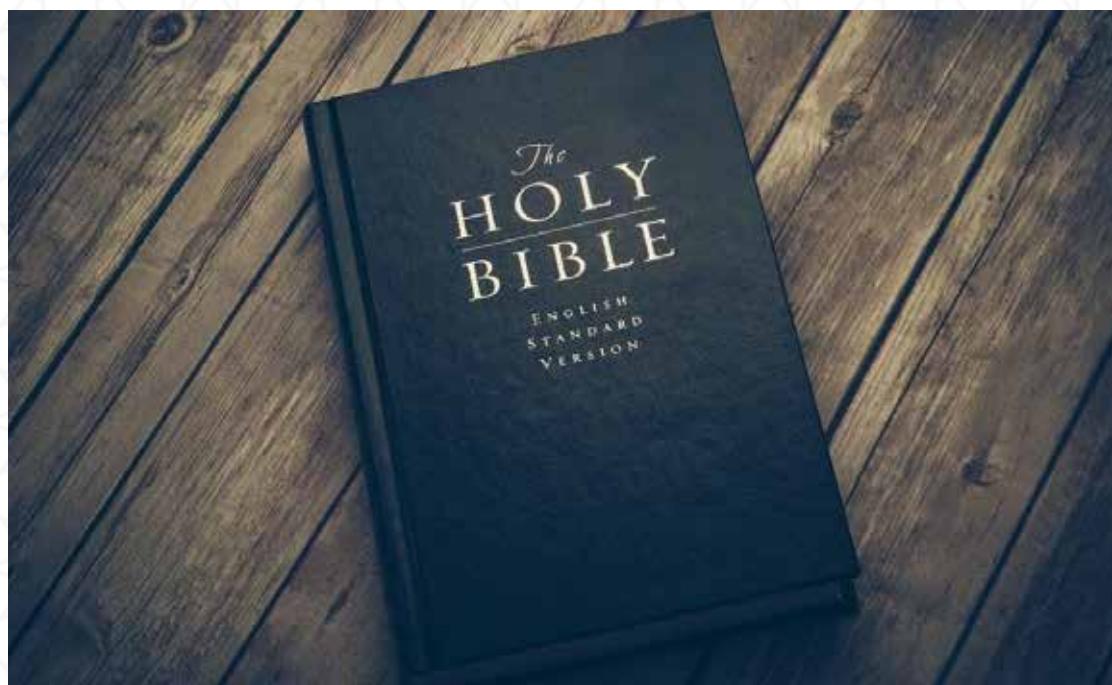




## B

### Sun created after the Day

The Bible says in Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 3 - 5, that the day and night were created on the first day. The light circulating in the universe is the result of a complete reaction in the stars which were created according to the Bible, Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 14 to 19 on the 4th day. It is illogical to mention the result that is the light on the first day when the cause of the light was created 3 days later. Moreover, the existence of evening and morning as elements of a single day is only conceivable after the creation of the earth and its rotation under the sun. The Qur'an does not give this unscientific sequence. To say that Muhammad (pbuh) copied the creation of the universe from the Bible and missed out this fantastic sequence is absurd.

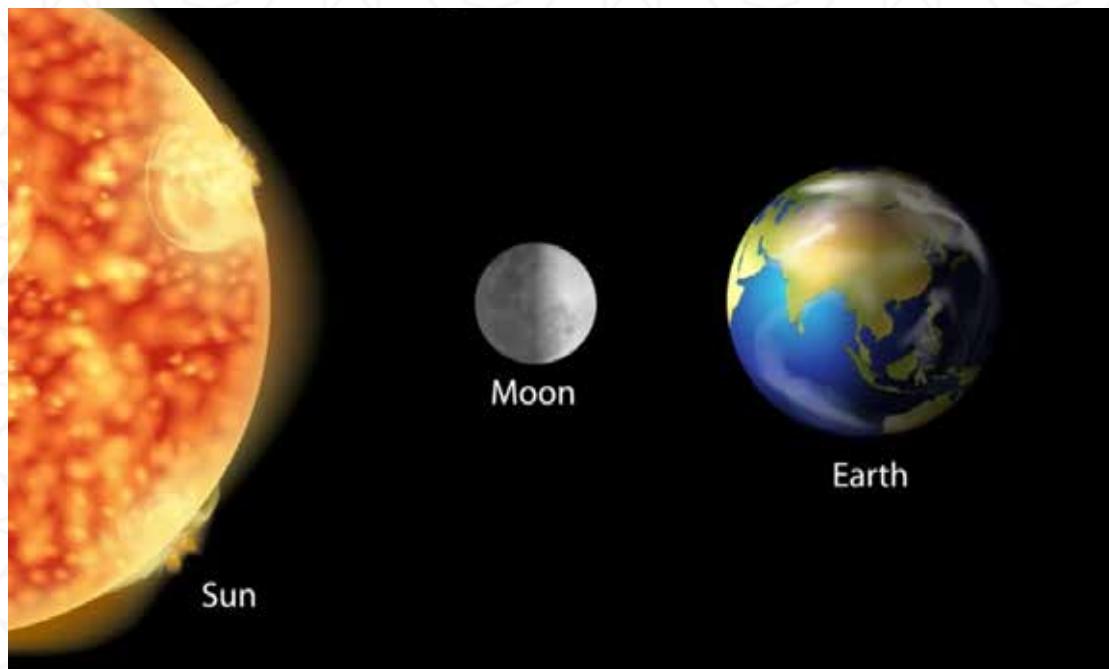




# C

## Creation of the Earth, Sun and Moon

According to the Bible, Book of Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 9 to 13, the earth was created on the 3rd day and according to verse 14-19, the sun and the moon were created on the 4th day. Earth and moon emanated, as we know, from their original star, the sun. To place the creation of the sun and moon after the creation of the earth is contrary to the established idea on the formation of the solar system.

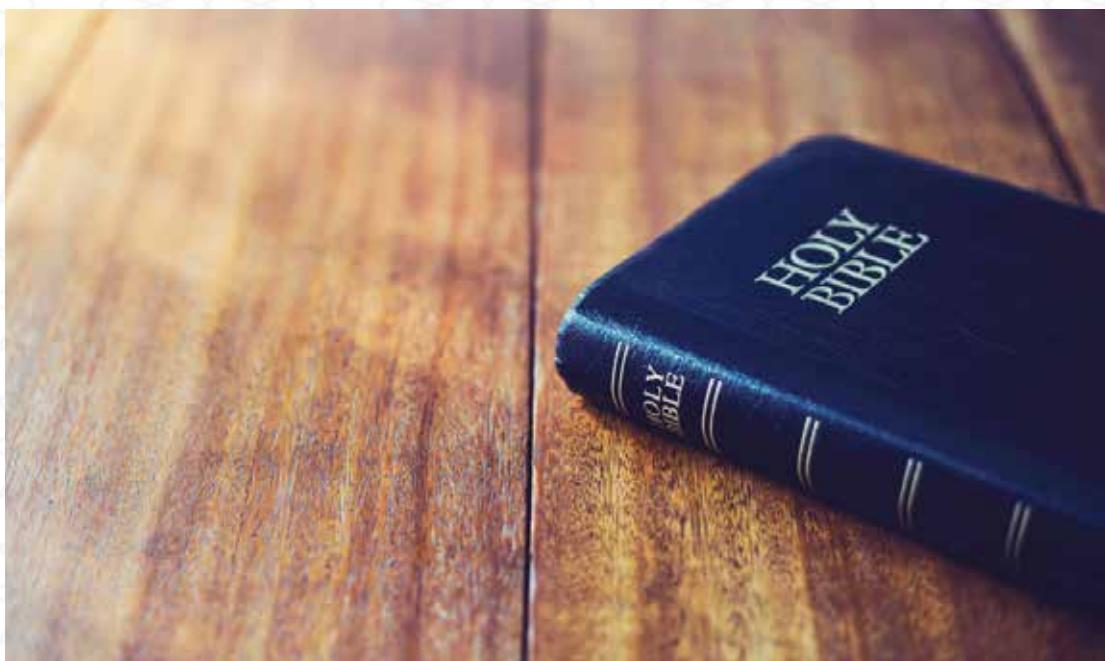




## D

## Vegetation created on the Third and Sun on the Fourth day

According to the book of Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 11-13, vegetation was created on the third day along with seed-bearing grasses, plants, and trees and (Verses 14-19) the sun was created on the 4th day. How is it scientifically possible for the vegetation to have appeared without the presence of the sun?



If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was indeed the author of the Qur'an and merely copied it from the Bible, how did he manage to avoid the factual errors, the Bible contains. The Qur'an does not contain any statements which are incompatible with the scientific facts.



# E

## Sun and the Moon both emit Light

According to the Bible, both sun and moon emit their own light.



"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night."

The Bible - Genesis 1:16



Science tells us today that the moon does not have its own light and confirms the Qur'anic concept that the light of the moon is a reflected light. To say the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) 1400 years ago corrected these scientific errors in the Bible and then copied it in the Qur'an is impossible.



F

Adam (pbuh), The first man on earth lived 5800 years ago

By studying the genealogy of the first man on earth i.e., Adam (pbuh) through Abraham and Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible, he appeared on the earth approximately 5800 years ago.

i

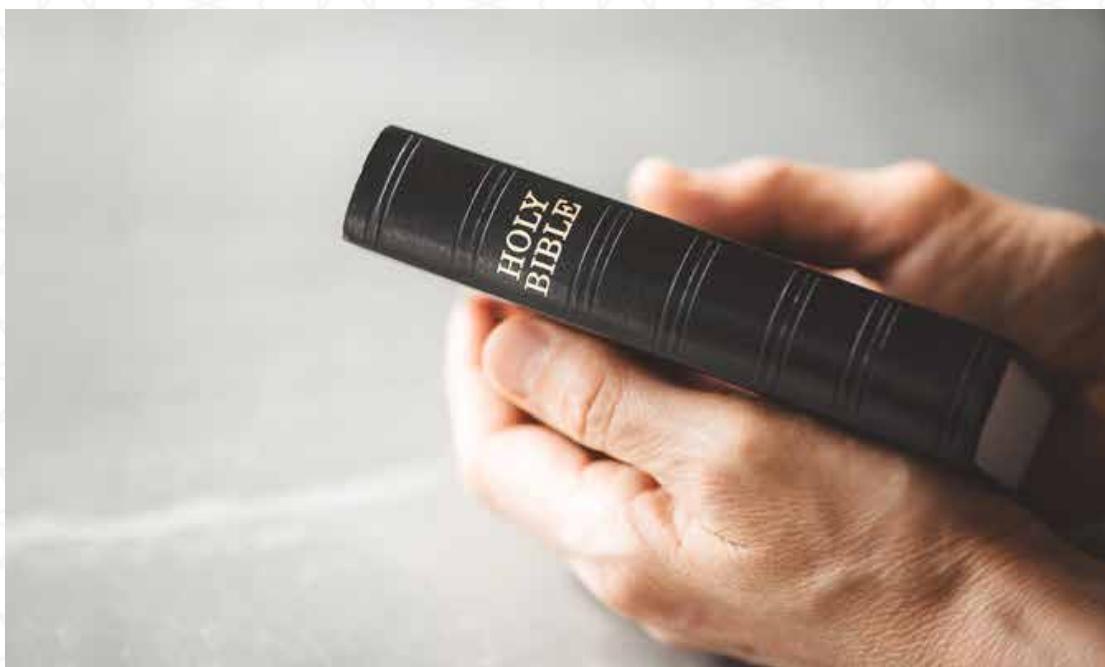
1948 years between Adam and Abraham (pbuh)

ii

Approximately 1800 years between Abraham and Jesus (pbut)

iii

About 2000 years from Jesus (pbuh) till today.





These figures are further confirmed by the fact that the Jewish calendar is currently on or about the year 5800.

There is sufficient evidence from archaeological and anthropological sources to suggest that the first human being on earth was present tens of thousands of years ago and not just merely 5800 years as suggested by the Bible.



The Qur'an too speaks about Adam (pbuh) as the first man on earth but does not suggest any date unlike the Bible which is totally incompatible with science.



# G

## Noah (pbuh) and the flood

The Biblical description of the flood in Genesis, Chapter 6,7 and 8 indicates that the deluge was universal, and it destroyed every living thing on earth except those present with Noah (pbuh) in the ark. The description suggests that the event took place 1656 year after the creation of Adam (pbuh) or 292 years before the birth of Abraham (pbuh).

When Noah (pbuh) was 600 years old, thus the flood may have occurred in the 21st or 22nd century B.C. This story of the flood contradicts scientific evidence from archaeological sources. The 11th dynasty in Egypt, and the third dynasty in Babylonia were in existence without any break in the civilisation and unaffected by any major calamity which were present in the 21st Century B.C. This contradicts the Biblical story that the whole world had been immersed in the flood water.





The Qur'anic presentation of the story of Noah (pbuh) and the flood does not conflict scientific evidence or archaeological data as the Qur'an does not give any specific date to that event and secondly, the flood mentioned in the Qur'an was not a universal phenomenon which destroyed the complete life on earth. In fact, the Qur'an specifically mentions that it was a localised event only involving the people of Noah (pbuh).



It is illogical to assume that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had borrowed the story from the Bible and corrected the mistakes before mentioning it in the Qur'an.



# H

## Moses (pbuh) and Pharaoh of the Exodus

The story of Moses and the Pharaoh of the Exodus are very much identical in the Qur'an and the Bible. Both scriptures agree that the Pharaoh drowned when he tried to pursue Moses and the Israelites across a stretch of water that they crossed. The Qur'an gives additional information in Surah Yunus,

فَالْيَوْمَ نُنْجِيْكَ بِبَدْنِكَ لِتَكُونَ لِمَنْ خَلْفَكَ ءَايَةً وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِنَ الْنَّاسِ عَنْ ءَايَاتِنَا لَغَافِلُونَ



"This day shall We save you in your body, that you may be a sign to those who come after you! But verily many amongst mankind are heedless of Our signs."

Al Qur'an 10:92



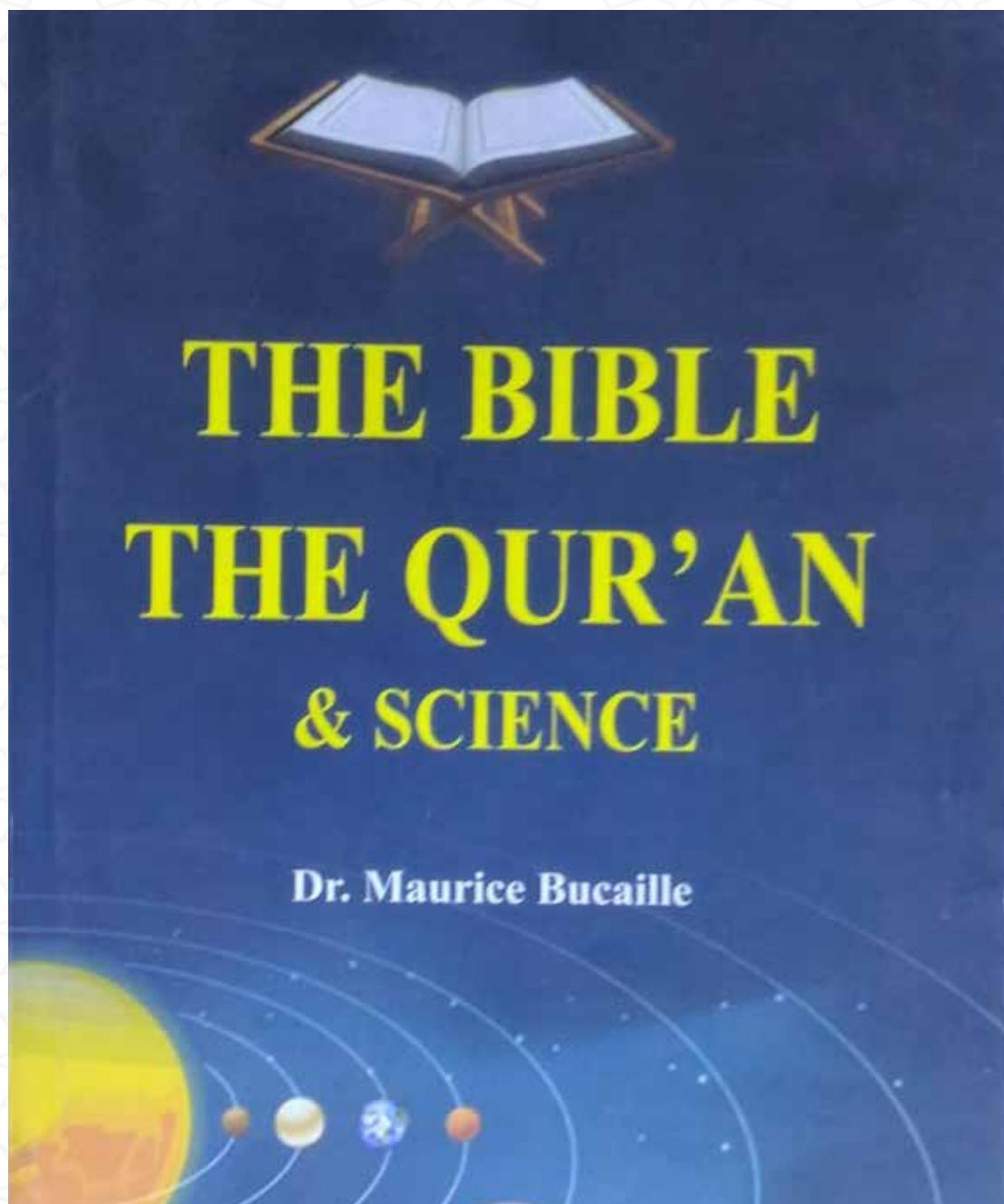


Dr Maurice Bucaille, after thorough research proved that although Rameses II was known to have persecuted the Israelites in the Bible, he actually died whilst Moses (pbuh) was taking refuge in Midian. Rameses II's son 'Merneptah' succeeded him as Pharaoh who drowned during the exodus. In 1898 the mummified body of Merneptah was found in the valley of Kings in Egypt. In 1975, Dr Maurice Bucaille with other doctors received permission to examine the Mummy of Merneptah, the findings of which proved that Merneptah probably died from drowning or a violent shock which immediately preceded the moment of drowning. Thus, the Qur'anic verse, that we shall save his body as a sign, has been fulfilled by the Pharaoh's body being kept at the Royal Mummies room in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.





This verse of the Qur'an compelled Dr Maurice Bucaille, who was a Christian, to study the Qur'an. He later wrote a book "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science" and confessed that the author of the Qur'an can be no one else besides God Himself and thus embraced Islam.





# 11 — CONCLUSION

**A** These evidences are sufficient to conclude that the Qur'an was not copied from the Bible, but the Qur'an is the Furqan i.e., criterion to judge right from wrong and it should be used to decipher which portion of the Bible may be considered as the word of God.

Qur'an itself testifies in Surah As Sajdah,

الْمَ  
تَزَيَّلُ الْكِتَبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ مِنْ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ  
أَمْ يَقُولُونَ أَفْتَرَنَا بَلْ هُوَ الْحُقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَا أَتَهُمْ  
مِنْ نَذِيرٍ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَهَتَدُونَ





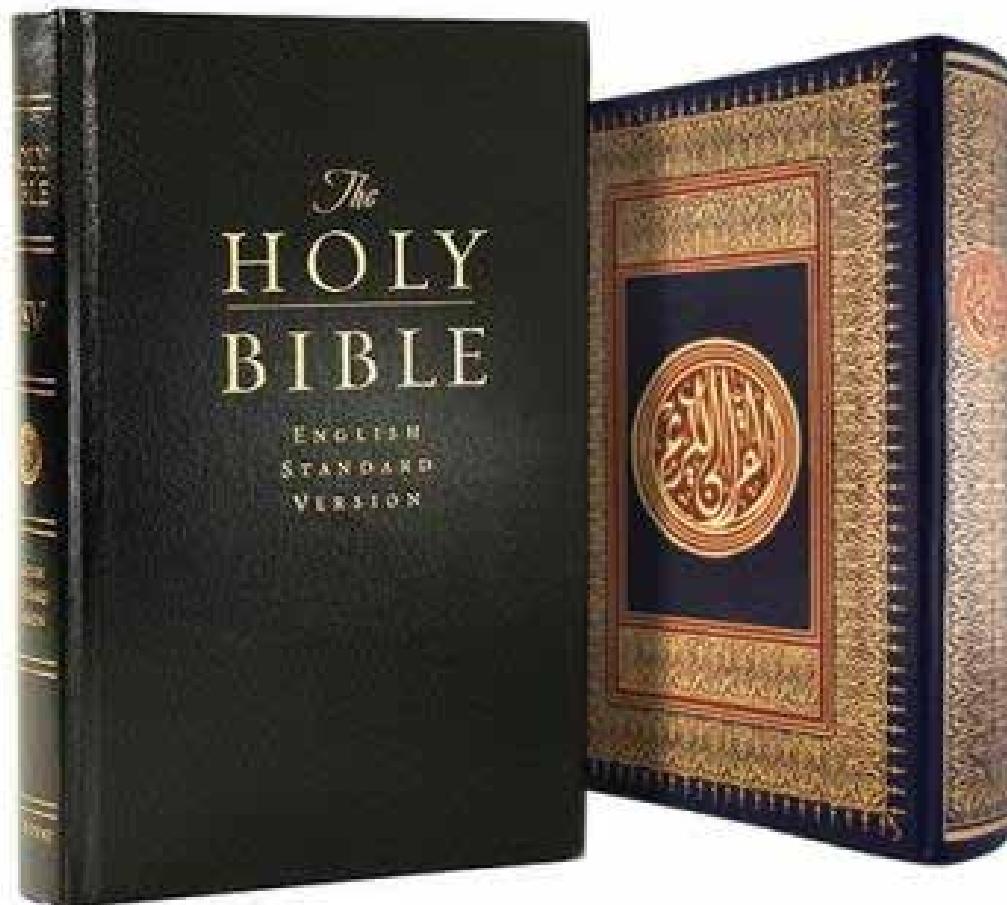
“Alif Lam Mim, this is the revelation of the Book in which there is no doubt - from the Lord of the Worlds. Or do they say, he has forged it? Nay, it is the Truth from your Lord, that you may admonish a people to whom no warner has come before you: in order that they may receive guidance.”

Al Qur'an 32:1-3

**B** The Qur'an presents all the different prophets of Allah as belonging to one single brotherhood; all had a similar prophetic mission and the same basic message. Because of this, the fundamental teachings of the major faiths cannot be contradictory, even if there has been a considerable passage of time between the different prophetic missions because the source of these missions was one: Allah. The differences which exist between the religions are, therefore, says the Qur'an, not the responsibility of the prophets, but of the followers of these prophets who forgot part of what they had been taught, misinterpreted it, changed it, etc. The Qur'an cannot be seen therefore, as a scripture which competes with the teachings of Moses, Jesus, and the other prophets (pbuh).



On the contrary, it confirms, completes, and perfects the messages that they brought to their people. If you glance through the Bible and the Qur'an, you may find several points exactly the same in both of them, but if you analyse many of them closely, there is a difference of chalk and cheese.





**QUR'AN  
IS THE WORD  
OF GOD**

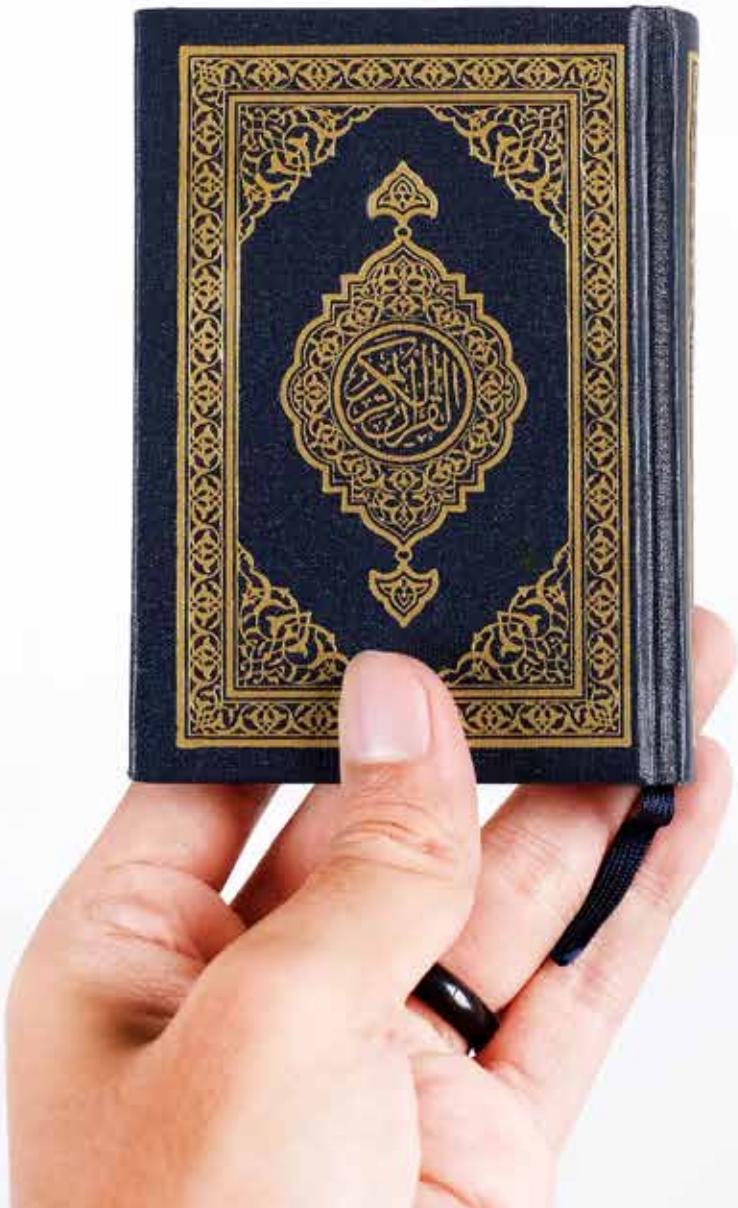
# 4

## LESSON



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**Dr Zakir Naik**



IV

## QUR'AN IS THE WORD OF GOD

1

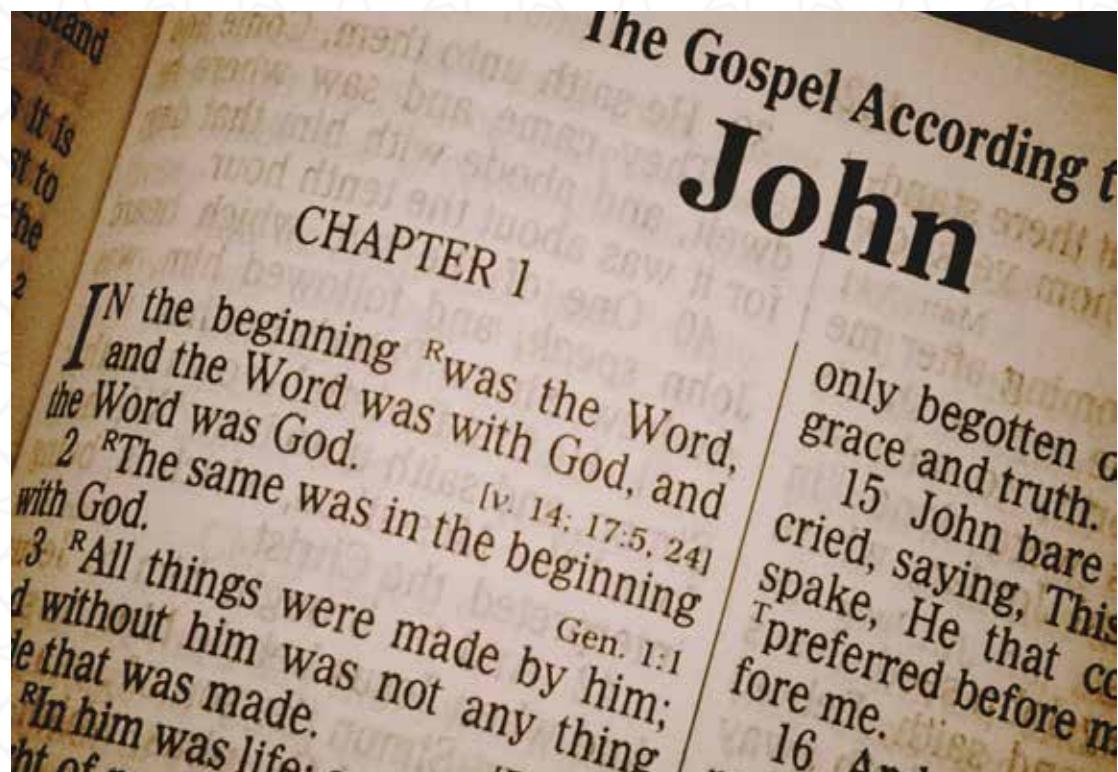
### QUR'AN IS NOT LIKE A STORY BOOK

Qur'an, unlike other religious scriptures, is unique and distinct from the ordinary human pattern of narration. Every other religious book has a pattern similar to that of story books, 'Once upon a time... or 'the fox and the grapes... the wolf and the lamb' etc.



Similarly we find in religious scriptures:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and earth," "In the beginning was the word" etc., it is similar to the storybook style, 'Once upon a time', other examples are "Now it came to pass" similar to, 'So it happened once upon a time.'



All the other scriptures have a beginning and an end and a sequence throughout the scripture and the data mentioned in the scripture is in chronological order. This is how humans think, talk, and write.

The Qur'an is a unique book. The first few verses to be revealed of the Qur'an is not present at its beginning but constitutes the 96th chapter. No religious book on the earth follows this pattern because no alleged revelation was preserved in its pristine purity since it was revealed.



# 2

## UNKNOWN INFORMATION IN THE QUR'AN

Qur'an has a unique way of informing its reader. "You did not know this before." There is no other scripture which I know of that has this unique style. There are ancient writings and scriptures that give a lot of information, but they tell you where the information came from. The Qur'an on the other hand says, "Here is the information which you did not have before but check on it, you will see that it is true." For example,

تِلْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوْحِنِهَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنْتَ  
وَلَا قَوْمٌ كَمِنْ قَبْلِ هَذَا فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ الْعَاقِبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ



"Such are some of the stories of the unseen, which We have revealed unto you. Before this, neither you nor your people knew them, so persevere patiently; for the end is for those who are righteous."

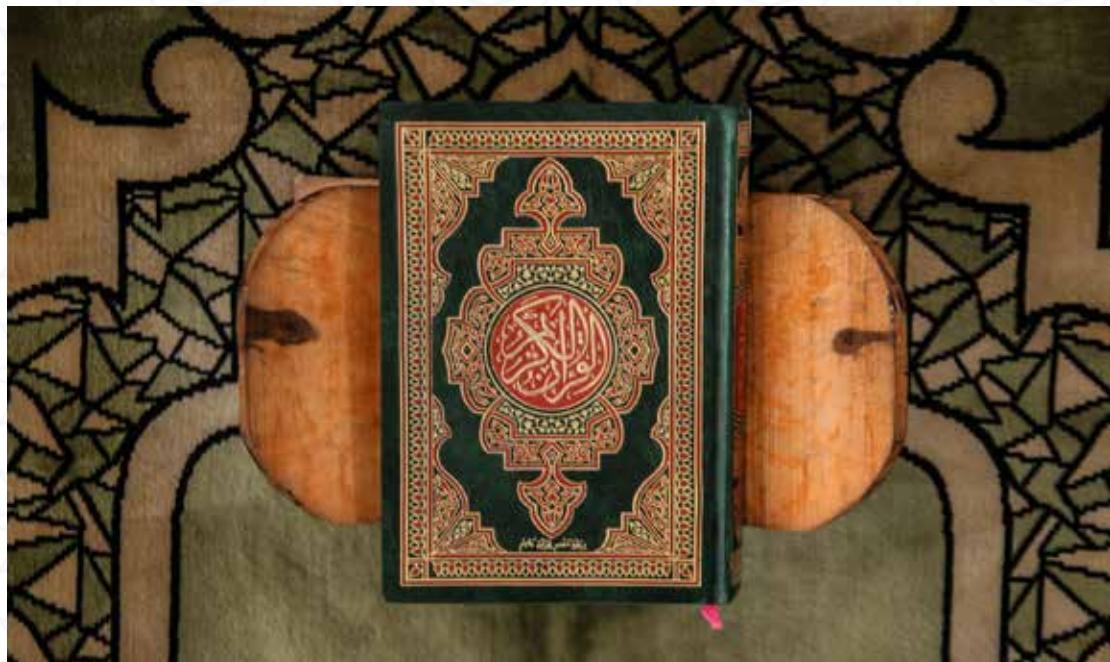
Al Qur'an 11:49





Similarly, the Qur'an says in Surah Yusuf,

نَحْنُ نَقْصُ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَذَا  
الْقُرْءَانَ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ لَمَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا

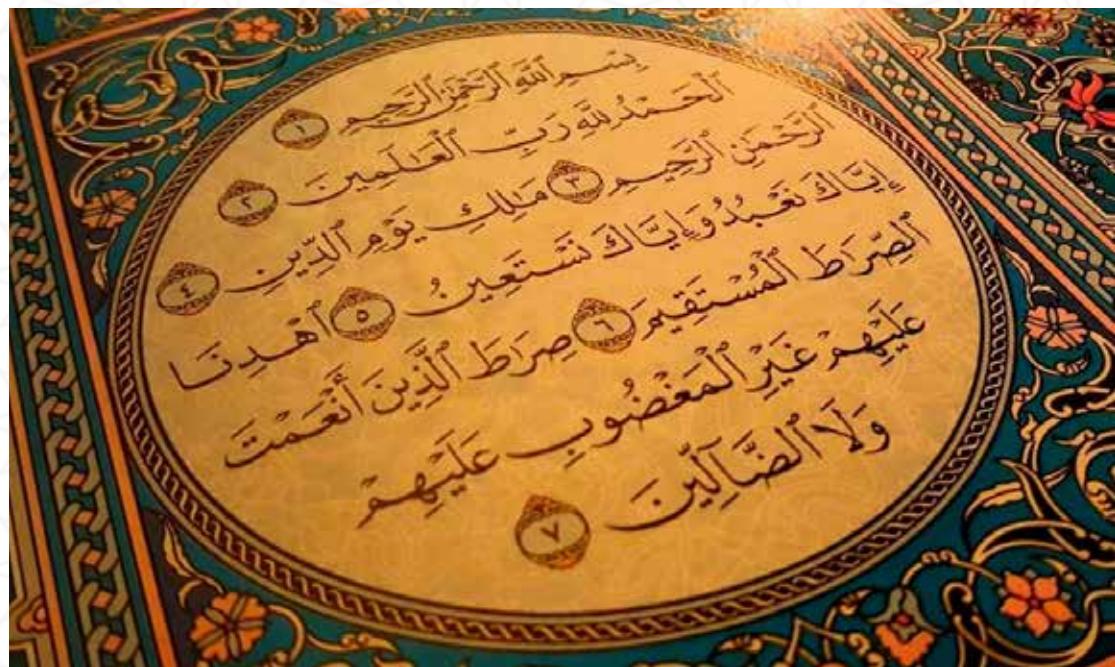


"We do relate unto you the most beautiful of stories, In that We reveal to you this (portion of the) Qur'an; before this, you too was among those who knew it not."

Al Qur'an 12:3



It is interesting that no one ever stood up and said "You are grossly mistaken, O! Muhammad, I am an Arab like you and I knew about these stories even before this revelation." If Muhammad (pbuh) was ignorant and they knew the stories before, it would be a suicidal risk to quote them in such a manner so boldly challenging the enemies that they were ignorant about it. Yet no one challenged Muhammad (pbuh) about these verses.





# 3 —

## QUR'AN IS A DECEPTION?

Those who cannot disprove that the Qur'an is a revelation come up with a bright idea that it is a deception. If it is a deception, what is its origin? Where does it deceive us? But the same people cannot point out a single deception.





# 4

## WE MAKE FALSE DECISIONS & FOOL OURSELVES BY STICKING TO IT

Some people make a decision without thinking or reasoning; e.g., 'I believe this man is my enemy, but I have no reason or proof for my belief; the moment I meet him I treat him like my enemy. When he finds the way I treat him, he reacts and behaves like my enemy then I tell myself that I was right! See, he acts like my enemy, it reinforces my belief. Here because of my initial wrong belief, I forced certain things to take place which should not have taken place normally. Based on the things which took place, i falsely convinced myself that I was initially correct. In short, we make false decisions and fool ourselves by sticking to it.

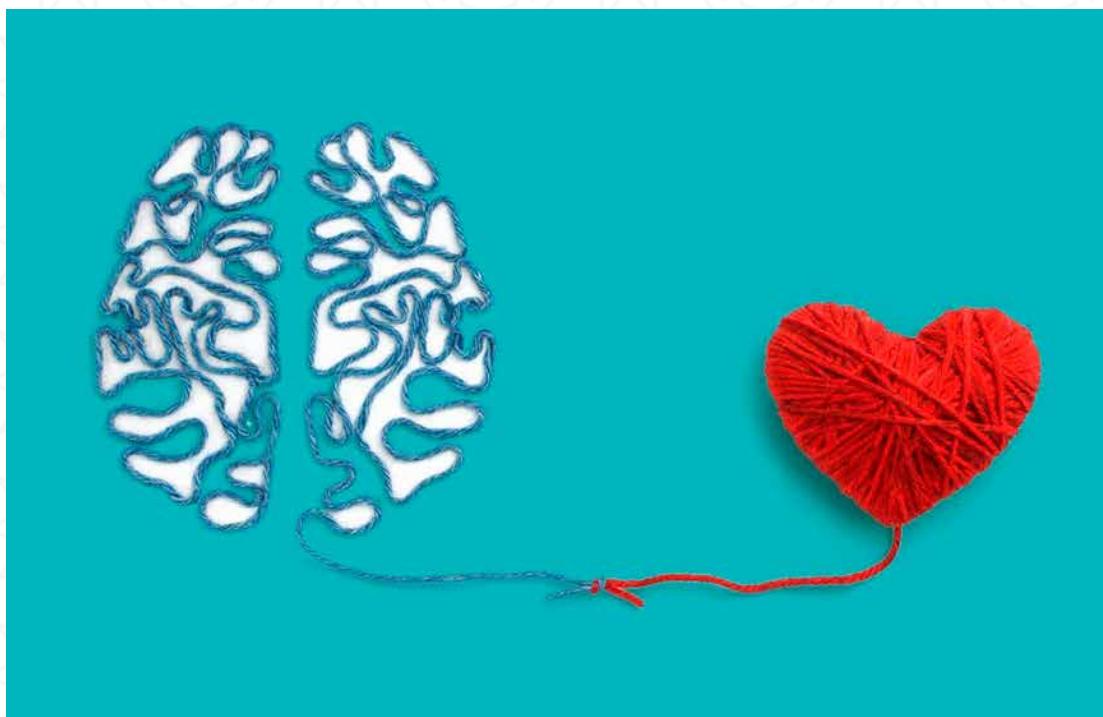




# 5

## REVELATION IS COMPLEMENTED BY REASON

According to the Qur'an, revelation is complemented by reason. Qur'an says this is a revelation, as sure as the fact that you can discuss with another i.e., talk and exchange views between two people. If revelation is superior to reason and logic, then how are we to decide which book claiming to be a revelation is true and which is false. Imam Ghazali rightly said faith and reason should not come in conflict for both are given by Allah.





# 6 — QUR'AN ENCOURAGES DISCUSSION

Many Muslims believe that Qur'an does not encourage any discussion and thus refrain from any talk on conversation including Islam or the Qur'an. In fact, the Qur'an encourages discussion and reasoning.

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ أَلْحَسَنَهُ وَجَدِلْهُمْ  
بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ



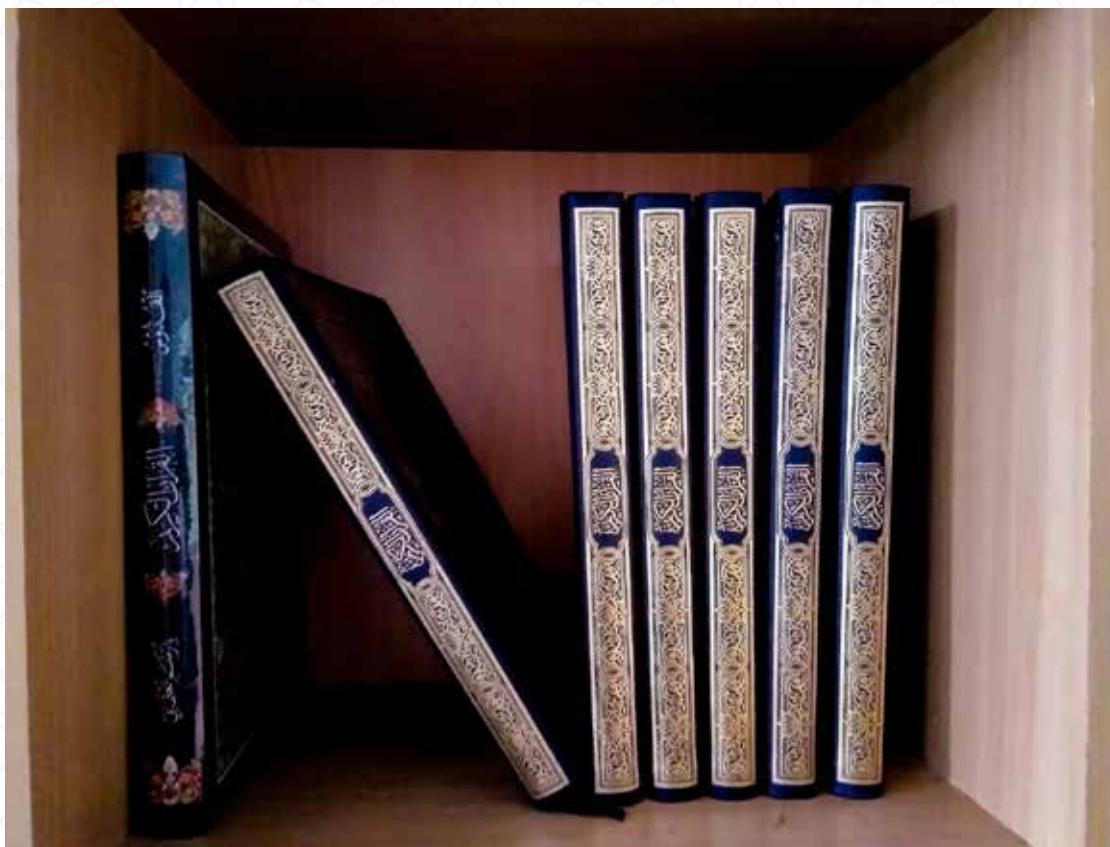
"Invite (all) to the Way Of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; And argue with them in ways that are best And most gracious."

Al Qur'an 16:125





For most of the silly questions that man can think of, the answer is given in the Qur'an. The Arabic word "Qalu" which means "they say" is mentioned in the Qur'an no less than 332 times and the Arabic word "Qul" means "say" is also mentioned 332 times.





# 7

## EXHAUSTING THE ALTERNATIVES

There is an approach known as “Exhausting Alternatives.” The Qur'an says that it is a revelation, if you do not believe it, then what is it?



You have to give some explanation. It is paper and ink, where did it come from? It says it is a revelation, If not!! then where did it come from? Whatever answers people have given has been disproved. Some may say Muhammad (pbuh) was the author, whether for i) material gains ii) power and glory iii) unity of the Arabs iv) or for moral reformation. All these answers fail to prove their points. Some may say he copied, while others may say that he was a liar and a crazy person. All of these are ideas without a logical explanation. In fact, the alternatives have been exhausted. The Qur'an earns your respect because you cannot disqualify it. The Qur'an gives the answer that it is a revelation from God Almighty.



حٰمٰ

تَزِيلُ الْكِتَبُ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ



“Ha Mim, The revelation Of the book is from Allah The Exalted in Power, Full of Wisdom”

Al Qur'an 45:1-2



The Qur'an reconfirms that it is a revelation from God Almighty in several places:

In Surah Al An'am, Chapter 6, Verse 19

In Surah Al An'am, Chapter 6, Verse 92

In Surah Yusuf, Chapter 12, Verses 1 & 2

In Surah Taha, Chapter 20, Verse 113



In Surah An Naml, Chapter 27, Verse 6  
In Surah As Sajdah, Chapter 32, Verses 1-3  
In Surah Yasin, Chapter 36, Verses 1-3  
In Surah Az Zumar, Chapter 39, Verse 1  
In Surah Ghafir, Chapter 40, Verse 2  
In Surah Al Jathiyah, Chapter 45, Verse 2  
In Surah Ar Rahmaan, Chapter 55, Verses 1-2  
In Surah Al Waqiah, Chapter 56, Verses 77-80  
In Surah Al Insan, Chapter 76, Verse 23





# 8 — **FALSIFICATION TEST**



The scientific community has a different method of approach. Many people have new theories, but the scientific community does not even bother to listen to them. They have a reason and say, "If you have a theory, do not bother me with it unless you bring with that theory a way to prove that you are wrong." It is called a falsification test.

This is the same reason why they paid attention to Albert Einstein towards the beginning of the century. He came up with the new theory and said, "I think the universe works like this and there are 3 ways to prove me wrong." The scientists subjected it to tests and within 6 years he passed the tests which he offered. This does not prove that he is great, but it proves that he deserves to be paid attention to, because of the falsification test which accompanies his theory.



Similarly, the Qur'an offers its readers several falsification tests. Some of them were only meant for the past, and some for all times. The Qur'an says that if this book is not what it claims, then all you have to do is this or this, to prove that it is false.



I have not come across this unique falsification test in any other religious scriptures. The next time you discuss with anyone regarding religion, ask them "Is there anything in your religion which if I could show it to you would prove that your religion is wrong." I doubt if anyone else would have anything such as a falsification test to offer. A person should not only present his belief but should also offer the opposite person a chance to prove he is wrong. The Qur'an gives several such opportunities to prove it wrong.



# A

## Story of Abu Lahab

The Prophet (pbuh) had an uncle who was known by the nickname, 'Abu Lahab' which means, "Father of the Flame" because of his fiery temper. He was one of the staunchest enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) and Islam. He used to follow the Prophet (pbuh) and whenever he saw him speaking to a stranger, he would wait till they parted and then ask the stranger, "What did Muhammad (pbuh) tell you? Did he say black? It's white! Did he say morning? It's night! He used to repeat exactly the opposite of what the Prophet (pbuh) said.

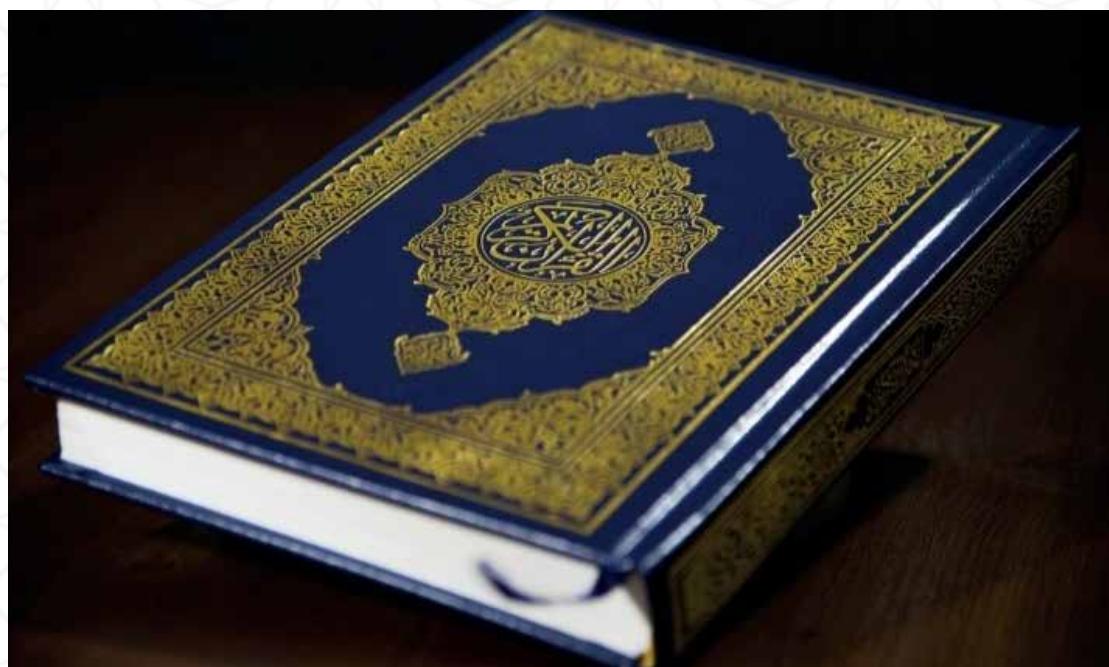
There is a chapter in the Qur'an called Surah Al Lahab i.e., Chapter 111 named after Abu Lahab. This chapter prophesies that Abu Lahab and his wife will perish in the Hellfire. Besides prophesying, it is also indirectly saying he will never become a Muslim and therefore will enter the Hellfire. This Surah was revealed 10 years before he died as an unbeliever in the battle of Badr.





It is interesting to note that many of his friends and other disbelievers accepted Islam in the span of 10 years. Since Abu Lahab was very intelligent and one of the staunchest enemies of Islam who was always eager to try and prove that the Qur'an was false and was of human invention, All Abu Lahab had to say was 'I am a Muslim' and the Qur'an would have been proved wrong. He did not have to behave like a Muslim. Even if he falsely, for namesake said (as he usually did against the Prophet) that I am a Muslim, the whole Qur'an would have been proved wrong. It is as though the Prophet (pbuh) was telling Abu Lahab, you hate me, you want to finish me, here say these words, 'I am a Muslim' and I am finished! Come on, say them.

Imagine, Abu Lahab had 10 years to think over it yet he never uttered them. No logical person will ever put such a claim in his book unless it is a revelation.





# B

## Jews will not call for Death

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ آلَّدَارُ آلَّا خِرَّةٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَالِصَةٌ مِّنْ دُونِ  
النَّاسِ فَتَمَنَّوْا الْمَوْتَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ  
وَلَنْ يَتَمَنَّوْهُ أَبَدًا بِمَا قَدَّمْتُ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ



“Say; If the last home with Allah be for you specially, and not for anyone else, then seek you for death, if you are sincere.”

“But they will never seek for death, on account of the (sins) which their hands have sent on before them, and Allah is well acquainted with the wrong doers.”

Al Qur'an 2:94 & 95





When the Jews came to the Muslims to have a confrontation, they said the last home with Allah i.e., Paradise is especially meant for the Jews only and not for anyone else.

The Qur'an asks them to seek death if they are sincere and speaking the truth. The Qur'an continues and says they will never seek death, because of the sins they have committed. The only thing that the Jews had to do to win the argument and to prove the Qur'an wrong was to say, 'we call for death', even if any single one of the Jews would have opted to say, 'We call for death' just for namesake, not that they actually had to die, the Qur'an would have been proved false. It was so easy to prove the Qur'an wrong.





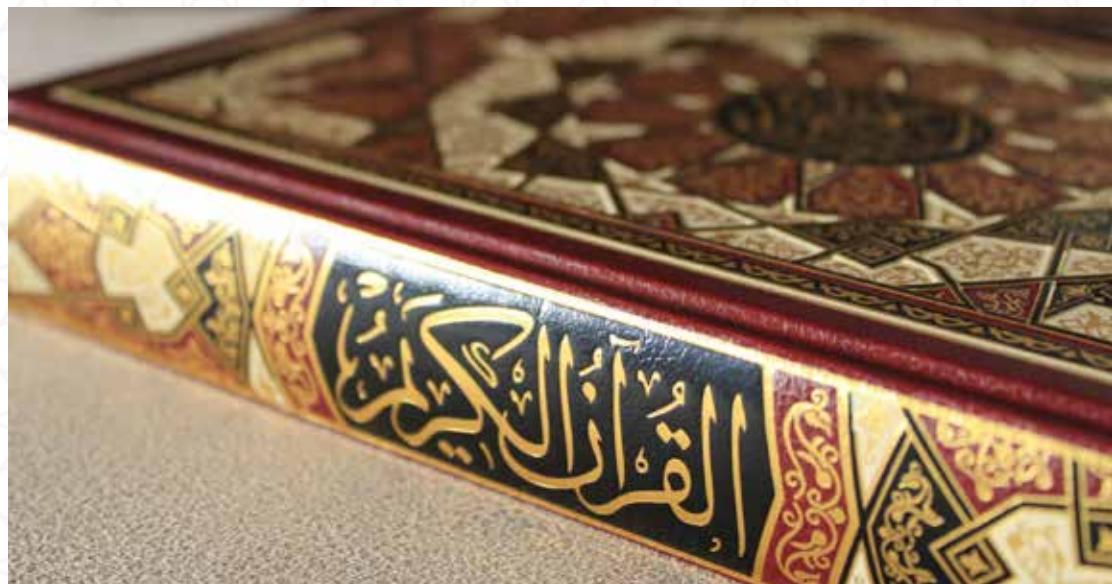
The Qur'an continues in Surah Al Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 96,

وَلَتَجِدُهُمْ أَحْرَصَ الْنَّاسِ عَلَى حَيَاةٍ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُواهُ  
يَوْدُ أَحَدُهُمْ لَوْ يُعَمَّرُ أَلْفَ سَنَةً وَمَا هُوَ بِمُزَّخِرٍ جِهَهٌ مِنَ  
الْعَذَابِ أَن يُعَمَّرَ فَوْ أَلَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ



"You will indeed find them of all people, most greedy of life - even more than the idolaters: Each one of them wishes he could be given a life of a thousand years: But the grant of such life will not save him from (due) punishment. For Allah sees well all that they do."

Al Qur'an 2:96





# C

## Christians will be closer to the Muslims than the Jews

There are certain falsification tests in the Qur'an which are even applicable today and for all times.

لَتَجِدَنَّ أَشَدَّ النَّاسَ عَدُوًّا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَلْيَهُودَ وَالَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُواۚ وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُم مَوْدَةً لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَلَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصْرَىٰۚ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ مِنْهُمْ قِسِيسِينَ وَرُهْبَانًا وَآثِرُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ



"Strongest among men in enmity to the believers will you find the Jews and Pagans; and nearest among them in love to the believers will you find those who say, 'We are Christians' because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant."

Al Qur'an 5:82





The Qur'an says that between the two groups of people that are the Christians and the Jews, the Christians as a whole will treat the Muslims better than the Jews as a whole. There are several Jews who have accepted Islam while some others are good to the Muslims but as a whole the Jews will never be better than the Christians to the Muslims. Today the Jews have a good opportunity to prove the Qur'an wrong. They have to organise themselves and decide as a whole that they will treat the Muslims kindly and better than what the Christians do for a couple of years, then ask the Muslims, who is your best friend in the world? The Jews or the Christians? They have not done it yet, but the offer still stands open to them and they can still prove the Qur'an false.





# D

## Produce A Surah Like It

Muslims and Non-Muslims alike claim that the best Arabic literature available on the face of the earth is the Glorious Qur'an. Its language is rich, noble and eloquent. When the pagans alleged that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) forged the Qur'an it immediately challenged them and gave them a falsification test.

i

First, the challenge was to produce a work similar to the Qur'an

قُلْ لَئِنْ أَجْتَمَعَتِ الْأَنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوْا بِمُثْلِ هَذَا  
الْقُرْءَانِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمُثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِيَغْضِبُوا فَلَيَرَوُا



"Say; If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support."

Al Qur'an 17:88

The Qur'an repeats the challenges to produce a similar work like the Qur'an in Surah At Tur, Chapter 52, Verse 34.



ii

Later the falsification test was made easier to them.

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ آفْتَرَنَهُ قُلْ فَأُتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُورٍ مِّثْلِهِ مُفْتَرِيَّاتٍ  
وَآذْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتُم مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ



"Or they may say, He forged it. Say, Bring you then ten surahs forged, like unto it, and call (to your aid) whomsoever you can, other than Allah! If you speak the truth."

Al Qur'an 11:13

Surah al-Fil



Surah Quraish



Surah al-Ma'un



Surah al-Kauthar



Surah al-Kafirun



Surah an-Nasr



Surah al-Masad



Surah al-Ikhlas



Surah al-Falaq



Surah an-Nas





iii

The Qur'an repeats the challenge and further simplifies the falsification test.

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ آفْتَرَنَاهُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَآذْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتُم مِّنْ دُوْنِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَدِيقِينَ



"Or do they say, he forged it? Say: bring then a surah like unto it, and call (to your aid) anyone you can, besides Allah, if it be you speak the truth."

Al Qur'an 10:38



No challenge was met and thus the pagans had no ground to say that Prophet Muhammad forged it.



iv

Finally, the Qur'an put forward a falsification test which is the easiest of the easy.

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَرَبَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأَتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّنْ مِّثْلِهِ  
وَآذْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ  
فَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَئِنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقْوَدُهَا النَّاسُ  
وَالْحِجَارَةُ أَعِدَّتْ لِكُفَّارِينَ



"And if you are in doubt as to what We revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a Surah like thereunto; And call your witnesses or helpers (If there are any) besides Allah, If your (doubts) are true."

"But if you cannot - and of a surety you cannot - then fear the Fire whose fuel is men and stones - which is prepared for those who reject faith."

Al Qur'an 2:23 - 24

The Qur'an says "Mim mislihi" i.e., somewhat similar, it does not say "Mislihi" i.e., exactly similar, like in the previous challenge.



## Criteria for producing a Surah like it

- i The Qur'an maintains throughout the highest possible standard of eloquence in its speech.
- ii The language of the Qur'an is most clear, meaningful, intelligible, unsurpassable, and miraculous.
- iii Does not deviate from the truth and still maintains its eloquence, rhythm and style unlike the human poetry and literature.
- iv The Qur'an repeats several information in different styles and sizes, all being of a very high standard that one cannot be preferred to another.
- v It encloses a vast range of meaning in a surprisingly small number of words without losing its charm and majesty.
- vi Ability of the Qur'an to address a multitude of people. The same verse of the Qur'an is appreciated by an intelligent person as well as a common man.



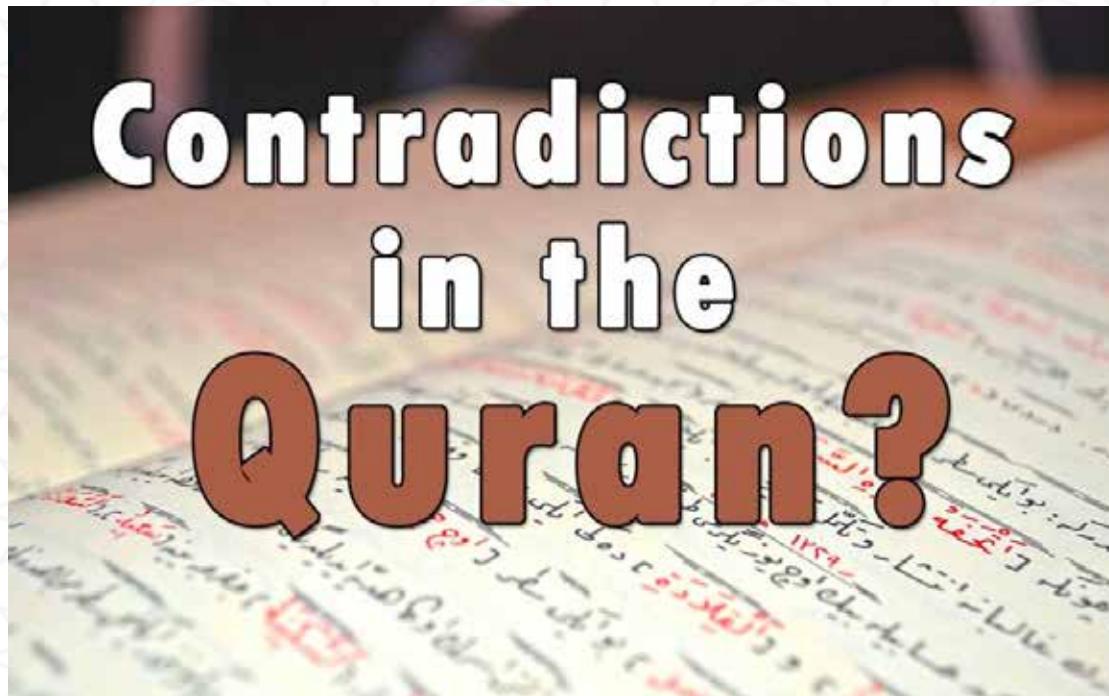


Certain surahs of the Qur'an hardly contain 3 verses which consists of only a few words, not that people did not take up the challenge, the best poets of Arabia at that time tried their level best but they miserably failed and some of what they produced has been preserved in historical books to show that they were the laughing stock. Though they have a similar rhythm to some verses of the Qur'an. The context of the verses was trivial and contained no wisdom and were hilarious. This is a standing challenge and a falsification test which is unanswered for the past 1400 years and will not be answered till eternity.



E

The Qur'an does not contain Contradictions



The Qur'an also gives a falsification test which anyone in the world can try.

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْءَانَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا  
فِيهِ آخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا



"Do they not consider The Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other Than Allah, they would surely Have found therein much discrepancy."

Al Qur'an 4:82



Today if anyone wants to prove that the Qur'an is not the word of God, he just has to point out a single contradiction in the Qur'an. There are many unbelievers who have pointed several contradictions in the Qur'an but all of them are either out of context, mistranslations, or misquotations. A Maulana, who may be an expert in historical knowledge of Qur'an and Islam but may not be very well versed in the field of science, if he is asked regarding an alleged scientific mistake in the Qur'an, he may not be in a position to clarify it. This does not indicate that the Qur'an contains a scientific discrepancy and is thus not the word of God.



The Qur'an says,

فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ



"Ask the person who is well acquainted with."

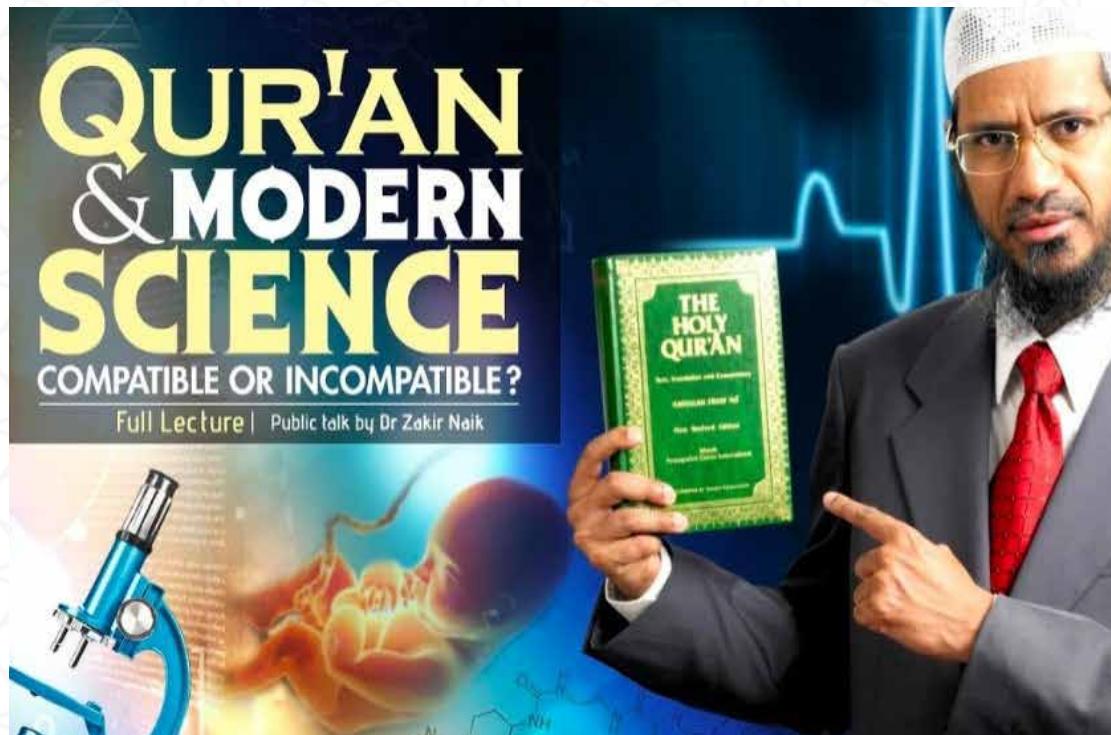
Al Qur'an 16:43



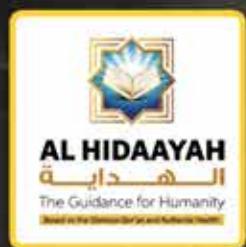
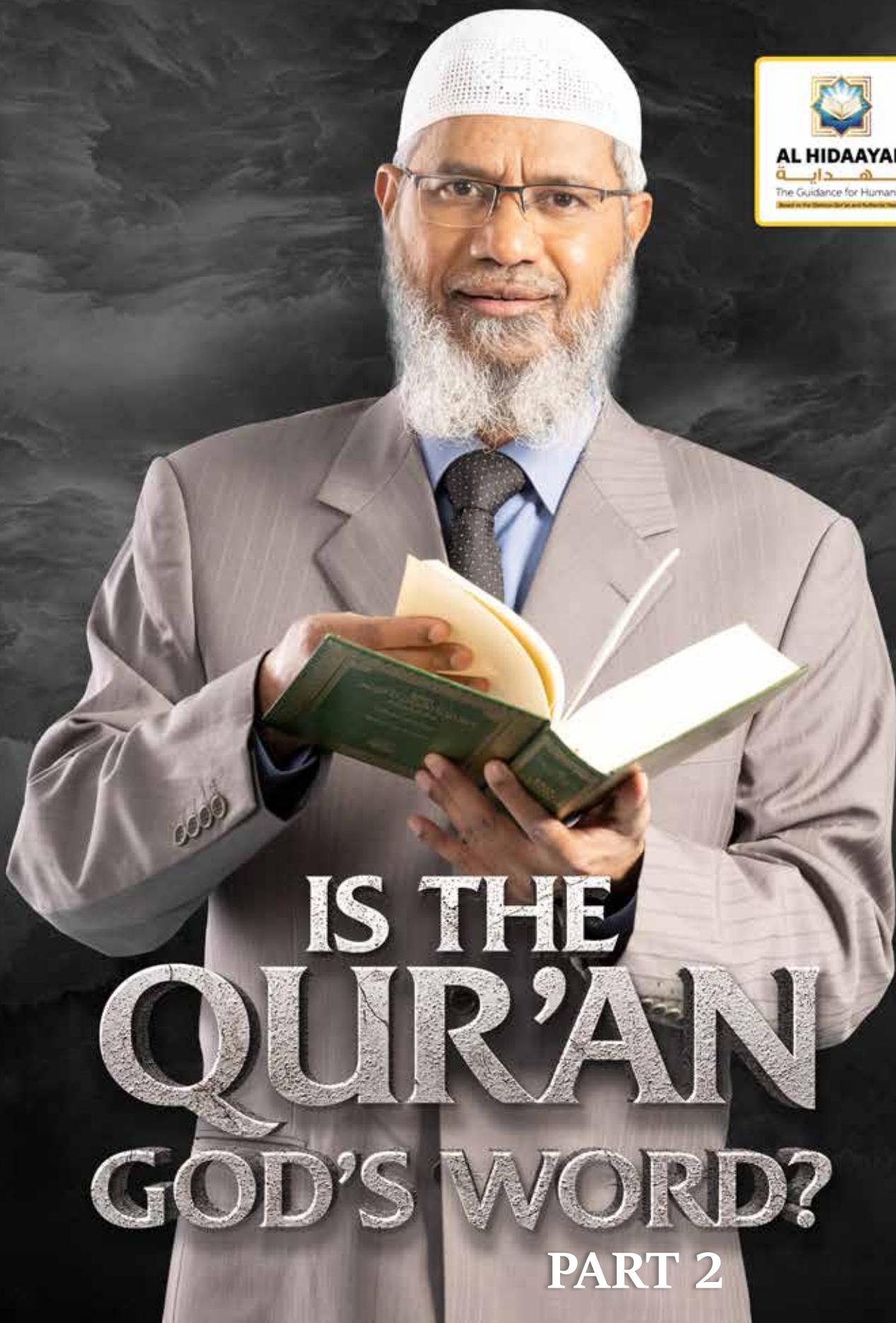
Meaning ask the person who has knowledge about that field. If you want to enquire about the scientific knowledge mentioned in the Qur'an, you should ask a scientist. Similarly, if you ask me a question regarding Arabic recitation of the Qur'an or if you point out a grammatical mistake in the Qur'an, I may not be able to answer your question because I am just a student in the field of Arabic. Because I am unable to clarify the alleged Arabic mistake in the Qur'an that does not prove that the Qur'an contains mistakes and is not the word of God. The Qur'an says, "Ask the person who is well acquainted." Thus, you should ask a Qari, who is an expert in recitation of the Qur'an or a person who is an expert in the Arabic grammar.



If you pose medical and scientific question related to the Qur'an, I may be in a better position to clarify, not that I am claiming to be an expert in the field but because I have studied medicine for 5 and a half years before obtaining the MBBS degree.



STUDY GUIDE



# IS THE QUR'AN GOD'S WORD?

PART 2

BY DR ZAKIR NAIK

# COURSE OUTLINE



## COURSE TOPICS

### 1 QUR'ANIC CONCEPT OF GOD

1. Atheist does not believe in God or in the Qur'an
2. Congratulating an atheist
3. Logical concept of God
4. Concept of God according to Surah Al Ikhlaas
5. To Allah belongs most beautiful names
6. Name 'Allah' preferred to God

### 2 QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE

- |              |                 |                     |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Astronomy | 5. Oceanography | 9. Medicine         |
| 2. Physics   | 6. Biology      | 10. Physiology      |
| 3. Hydrology | 7. Botany       | 11. Embryology      |
| 4. Geology   | 8. Zoology      | 12. General Science |

# COURSE OUTLINE



## 3 — CONCLUSION

1. Qur'an is a book of S-I-G-N-S and not a book of S-C-I-E-N-C-E
2. Theory of probability
3. Qur'an is the 'Furqan'
4. Creator is the author of the Qur'an
5. Science is eliminating models of God but not God

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the Qur'anic concept of God
2. To determine the veracity of the Glorious Qur'an beyond the boundaries of time and age
3. To objectively analyse the Muslim belief regarding the Divine origin of the Qur'an, in the light of established scientific discoveries
4. To realise that the Glorious Qur'an is the last and final revelation of Allah (swt) sent to guide all of humanity

# COURSE OUTLINE



## QUESTION AND ANSWER BUCKET

## TRANSCRIPTS

## GRAPHIC POSTERS

Facebook Posts

## ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Matching the Columns

True or False

## COURSE DURATION

Video - 1 hour 55 min

Study Guide - 1 hour 15 min

Graphic Posts - 25 min

Assessment - 10 min

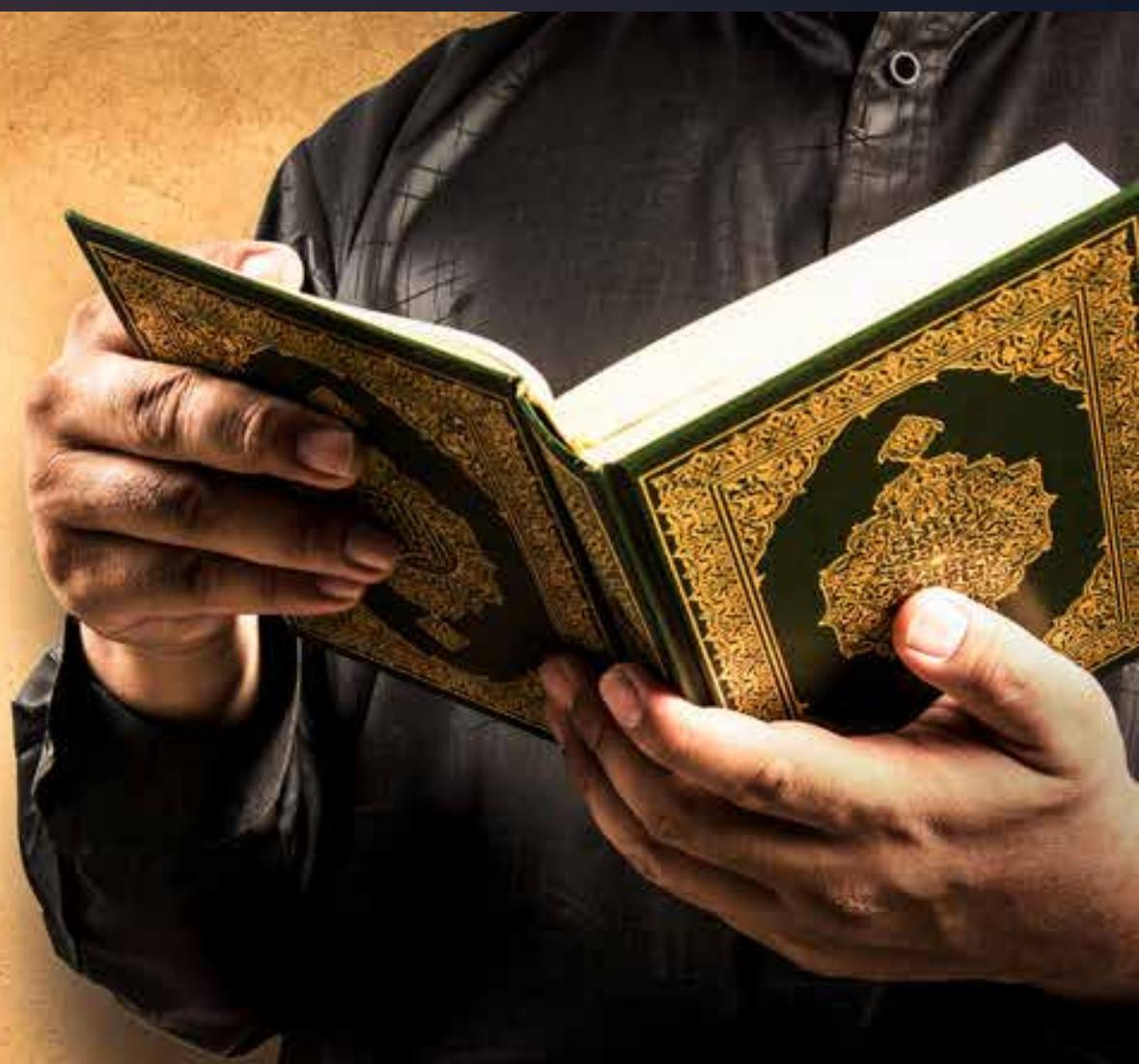
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# LESSON 5

# QUR'ANIC

# CONCEPT OF GOD



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**Dr Zakir Naik**



V

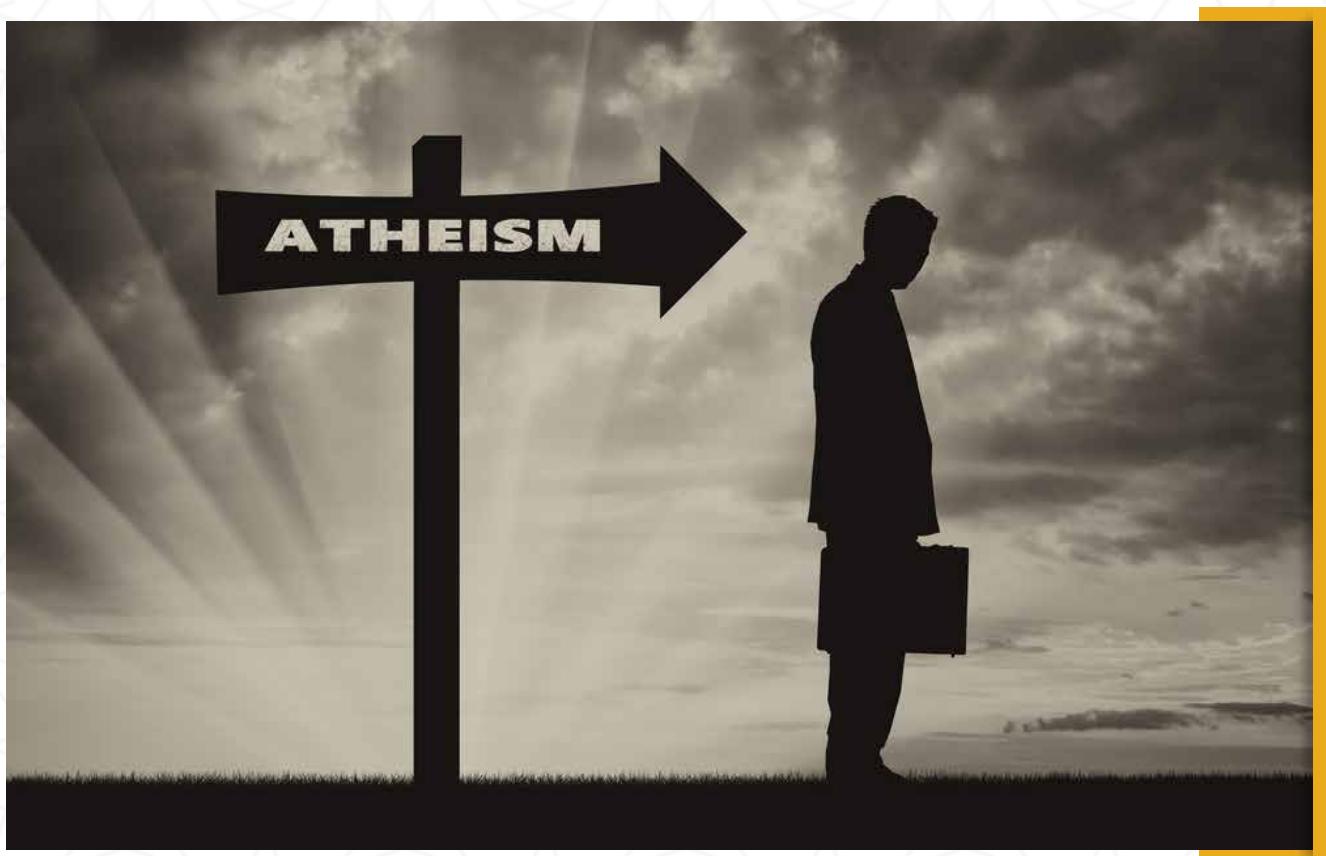
## QUR'ANIC CONCEPT OF GOD

### 1 — Atheist does not believe in God or in the Qur'an

To the atheist who does not believe in the existence of God, the question, ‘Is the Qur'an God's word?’ is baseless. He does not believe in God, therefore the question whether the Qur'an is God's word does not arise.



## 2 — Congratulating an Atheist



To all the atheists, the first thing I would like to do is to congratulate you. My special congratulations to you because most of the other people who believe in a God are doing blind belief, he is a Christian because his father is a Christian, he is a Hindu because his father is a Hindu, he is a Muslim because his father is a Muslim, the majority of the people in the world are blindly following the religion of their fathers. An atheist on the other hand, even though he may be belonging to a religious family, uses his intellect to deny the existence of God because whatever qualities of God he has learnt in his religion do not seem to be logical.

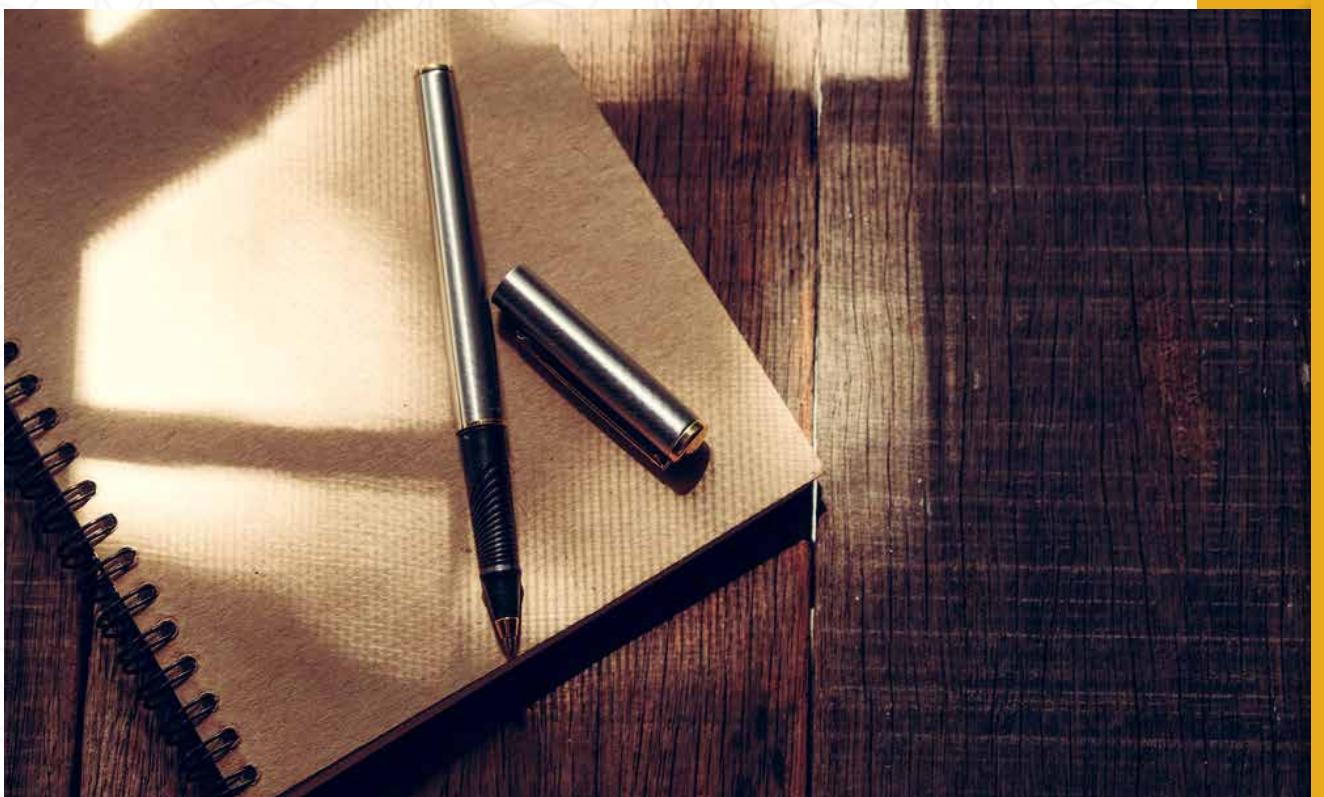


My Muslim brother may question me, Zakir how are you congratulating an atheist? The reason that I am congratulating an atheist is because he agrees with the first part of the Shahaadah i.e., Islamic creed, 'La Ilaaha', 'there is no God.' Half my job is already done, now the only part left is 'Illaah laah' i.e., 'but Allah' which I shall do In Sha Allah. With the other people I have to first remove from their minds the wrong concept of God they have and then put the correct concept of one true God.





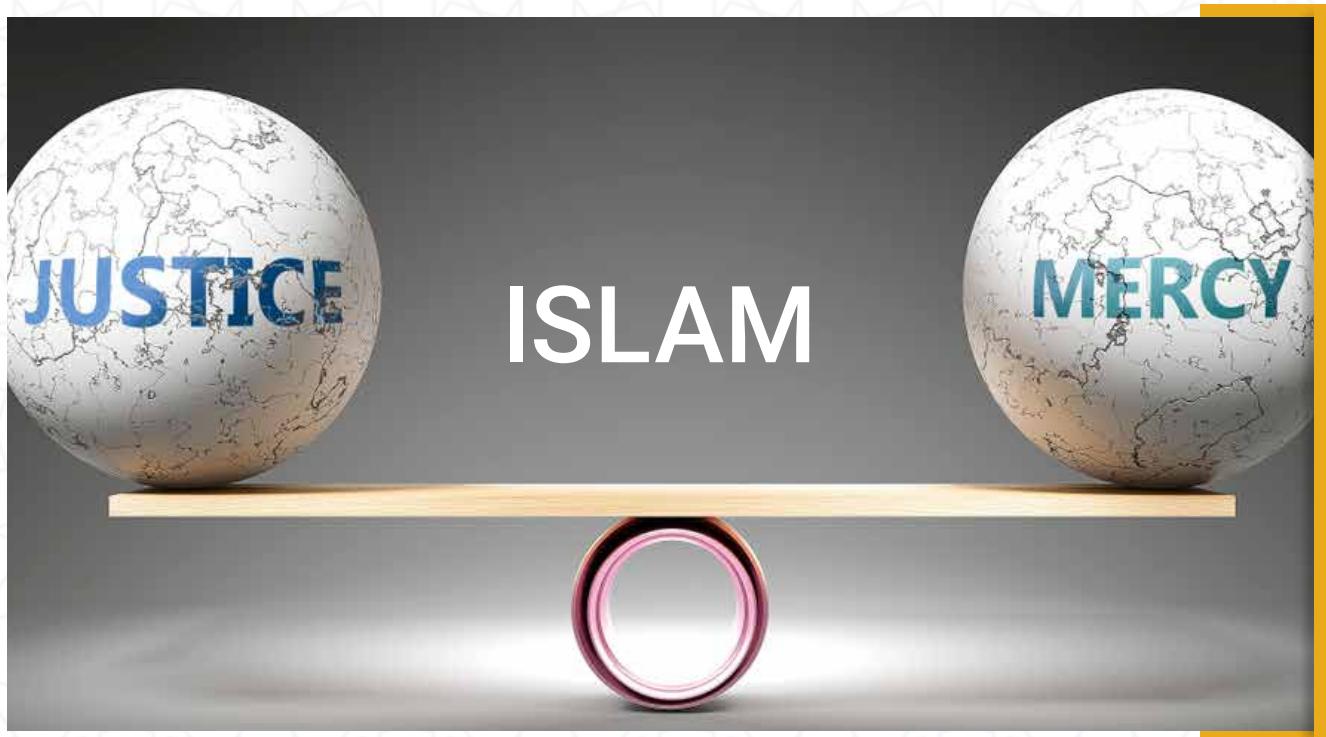
# 3 — Logical Concept of God



My first question to the atheist will be, what is the definition of God? For a person to say there is no God, he should know what the meaning of God is. If I say holding a book that 'this is a pen' he should know what the definition of a pen is, even if he does not know what I am holding in my hand, for him to say there is no God, he should at least know the concept of God. His concept of God is derived from the surroundings in which he lives. The god that people worship has human qualities, therefore he does not believe in such a god. Similarly, a Muslim too does not have to believe in such false gods.



If a non-Muslim believes that Islam is a merciless religion, something to do with terrorism, a religion which does not give rights to the women, a religion which contradicts with science. In his limited sense, that non-Muslim is correct to reject such an Islam. The problem is he has a wrong picture of Islam. Even I reject such a false picture of Islam, but at the same time, it becomes my duty as a true Muslim to present the correct picture of Islam to that non-Muslim i.e., Islam is a merciful religion, it gives equal rights to the women, it does not contradict with logic, reason, and science, then In Sha Allah, that non-Muslim will accept Islam.



Similarly, the Atheist rejects the false gods and it is the duty of every Muslim to present the correct concept of God which he shall In Sha Allah should not refuse.



# 4 Concept of God according to Surah Al Ikhlaas

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَّهُ كُفُواً أَحَدٌ

سورة الإخلاص

SURAH AL-IKHLAS

The best definition that you can find in the Qur'an of God Almighty is in Surah Al Ikhlaas,

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ  
الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ  
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُوْلَدْ  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَّهُ كُفُواً أَحَدٌ



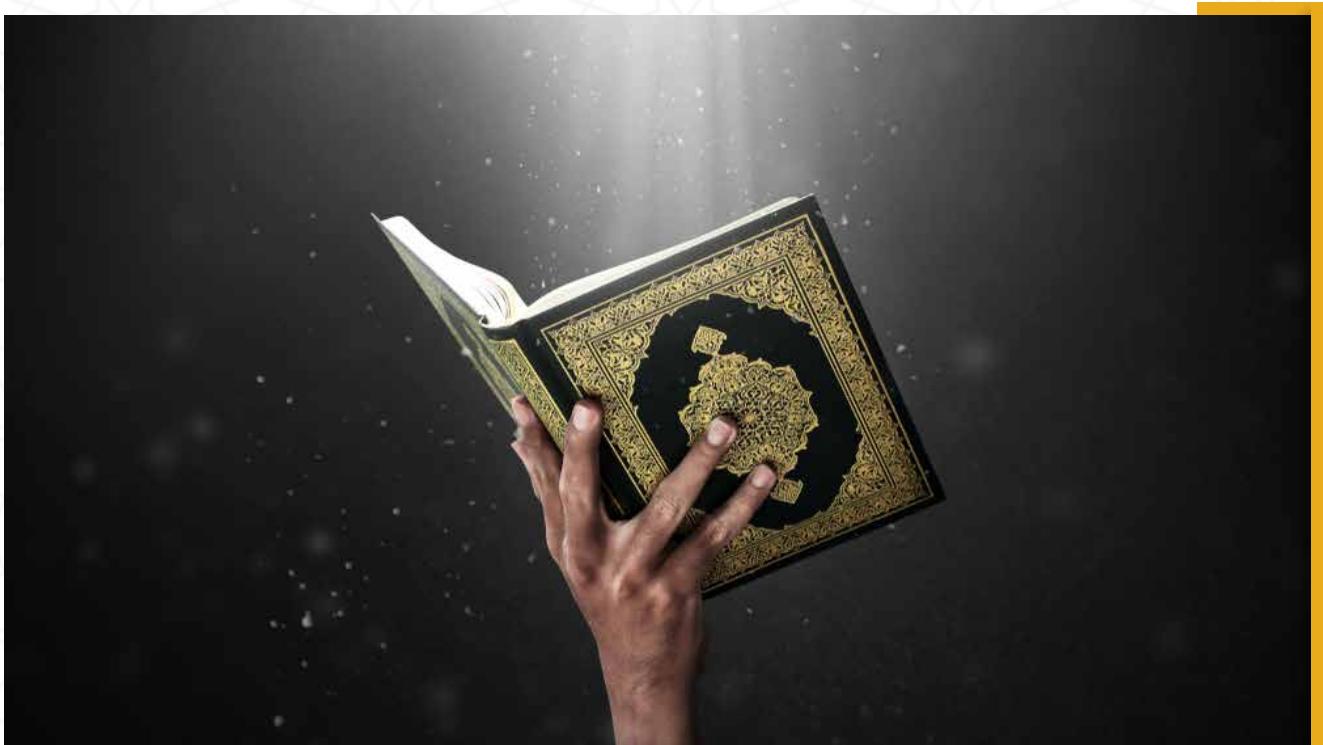
“Say: He is Allah, the One and Only.”

“Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.”

“He begetteth not, Nor is He begotten.”

“And there is none Like unto Him.”

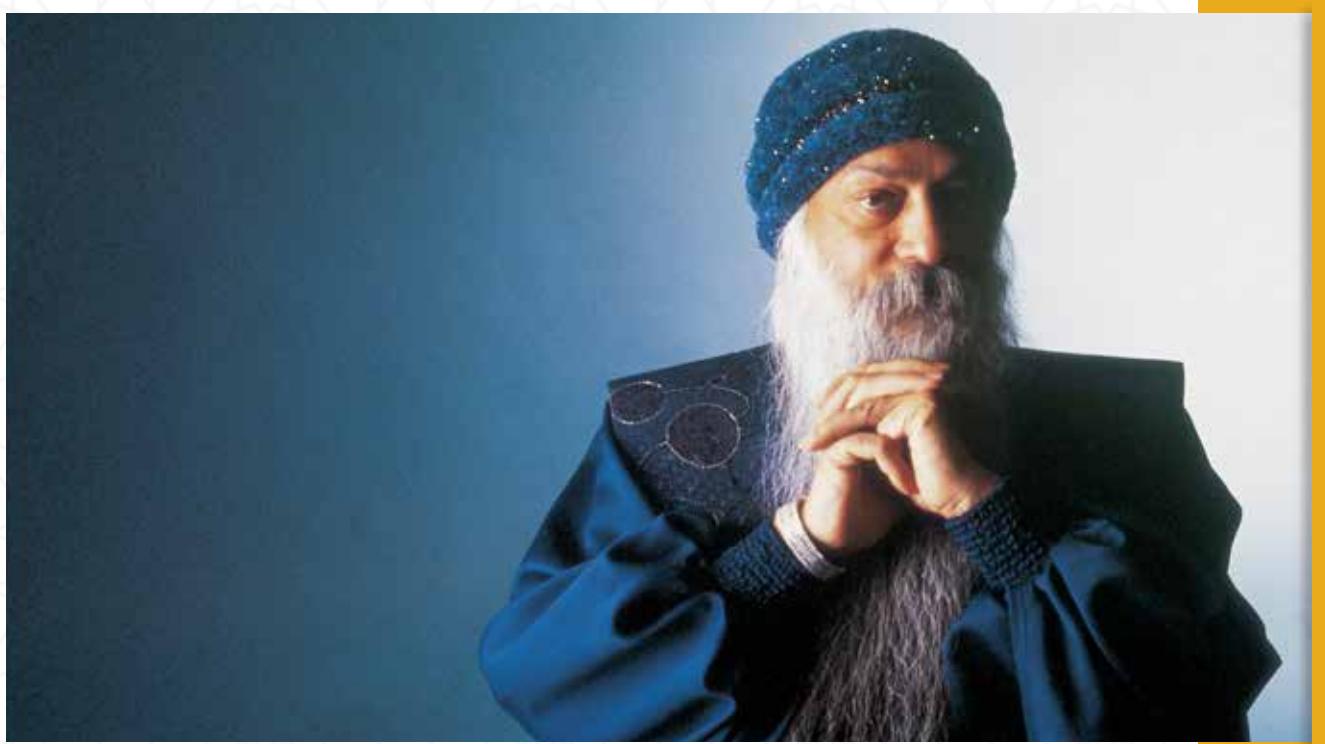
Al Qur'an 112:1-4



This is a 4-line definition of Allah (swt), God Almighty, according to the Qur'an. If any candidate who claims to be God Almighty fits in this 4-line definition, we Muslims have no objection in accepting him as God. This Surah Al Ikhlaas is the acid test. It is the 'Furqan' or the criteria to judge between true and false gods.

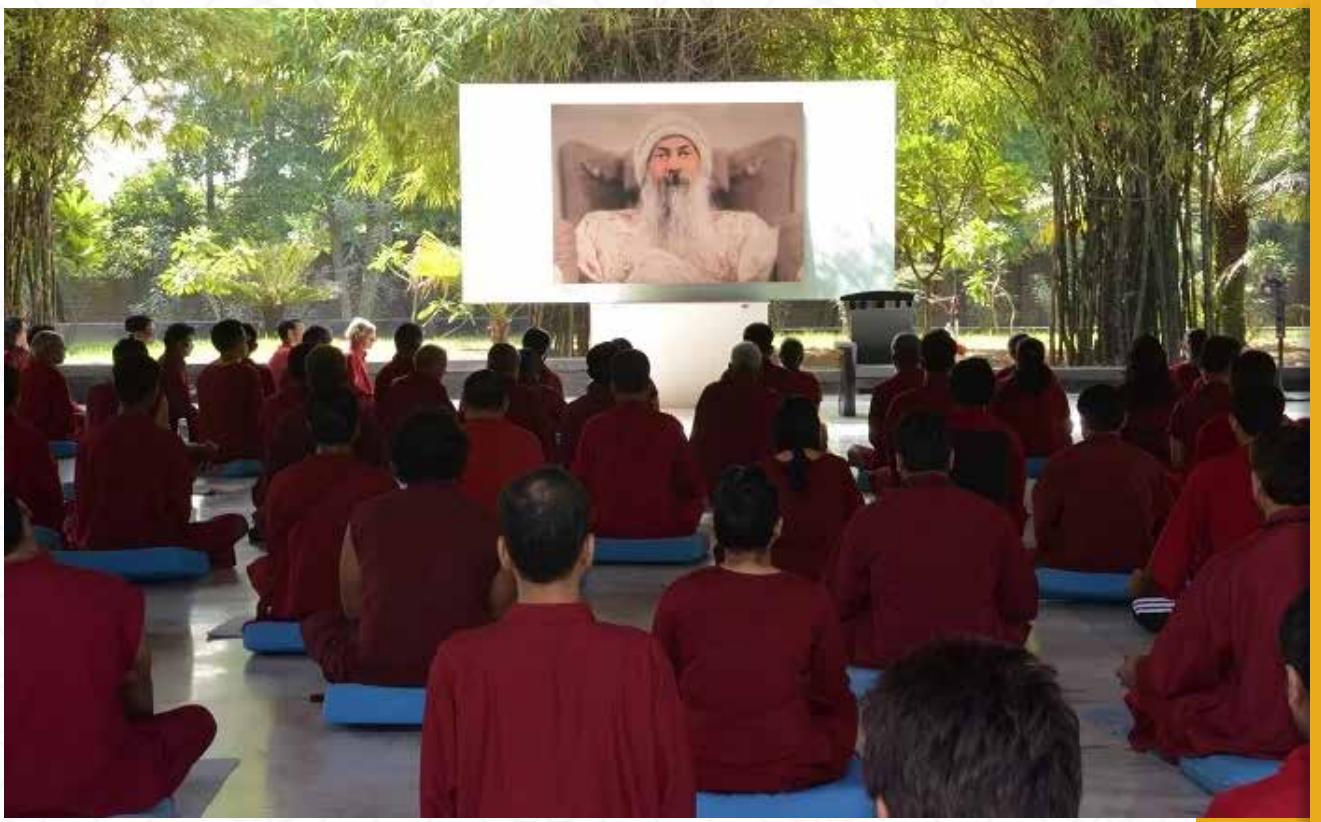


Whichever God any human being on the face of this earth is worshipping, if it fulfills these 4 criteria then He is the true God.



For example, let us put this candidate to divinity, Bhagwan Rajneesh, to the test of Surah Al Ikhlaas, the touchstone of theology.

- A** The first criterion is “Say, He is Allah, One and Only.” Is Rajneesh one and only, No! There are many people like Rajneesh who claim divinity. Some disciples of Rajneesh may still hold that Rajneesh is one and only.
  
- B** The second criterion is, ‘Allah is Absolute and Eternal’. Rajneesh was surely not absolute and eternal, he died in 1990. We know from his biography that he suffered from diabetes, asthma, and chronic backache. He alleged that the U.S. Government gave him slow poison in jail. Imagine Almighty God being poisoned! Rajneesh was neither absolute nor eternal.



**C** The third criterion is 'He begets not, nor is He begotten'. We know that Rajneesh was born in Jabalpur in India and had mother as well as a father who later became his disciples.

In May 1981 he went to the U.S. and established a town called 'Rajneeshpuram'. He later fell afoul of the West and was finally arrested and asked to leave the country. He came back to India and started a commune in Pune which is now known as the 'Osho' commune. The followers of Osho Rajneesh believe that he is Almighty God.

A visitor to the "Osho Commune" in Pune will find the following epitaph on his tombstone: "Osho - never born, never died; only visited the planet earth between 11th December 1931 to 19th January 1990."



They forget to mention that he was not granted visa for 21 countries of the world. Can a person imagine a 'God' visiting the earth and requiring a visa to enter a country! The Archbishop of Greece said that if Rajneesh had not been deported, they would have burnt his house and those of his disciples.

**D** The fourth test, which is the most stringent, is "There is none like unto Him". The moment you can imagine 'God' or compare 'God' to anything then he (the candidate to divinity) is not God. It is not possible to conjure up a mental picture of the One True God. We know that Rajneesh was a human being with a white flowing beard. He had two eyes, two ears, one nose, and one mouth. Photographs and posters of Rajneesh are available in plenty. The moment you can imagine what god is, he is not God. We know, many are tempted to make anthropomorphic comparisons to God.

What is the concluding remark to this section of "acid test?" This said test cannot be passed by anyone except the One True God.



# 5

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## To Allah belongs the Most Beautiful Names

قُلْ آذُّنُوا اللَّهُ أَوْ آذُّنُوا الرَّحْمَنَ أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ



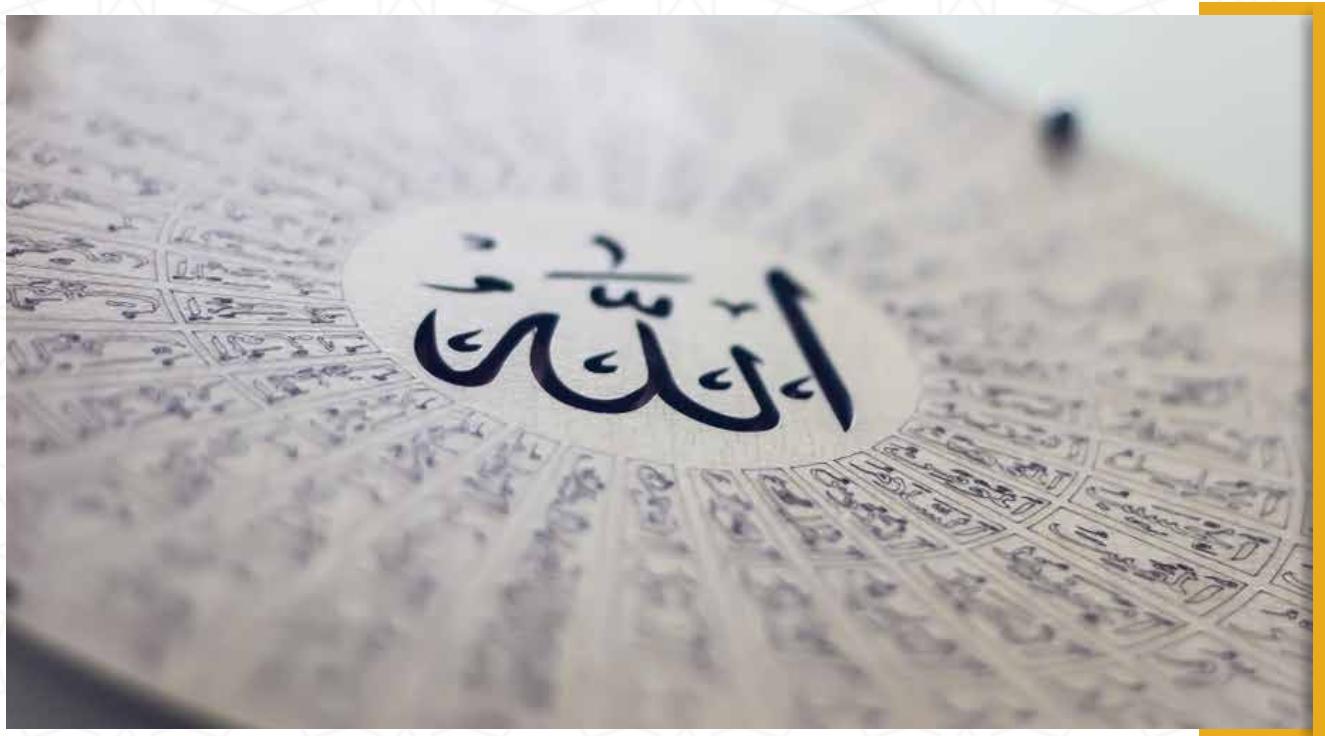
"Say: Call upon Allah, or Call upon Rahmaan, By whatever name you call Upon Him, (it is well): For to Him belong The Most Beautiful Names."

Al Qur'an 17:110





You can call Allah by any name, but that name should be beautiful and should not conjure up a mental picture. The Qur'an gives no less than 99 different attributes to God Almighty, Ar Rahmaan, Ar Raheem, Al Hakeem, i.e., Most Gracious, Most Merciful, All Wise, no less than 99 different attributes and the crowning one is Allah. The Qur'an repeats this message that to Allah belongs the most beautiful names in several places:



- A** Surah Al A'raaf, Chapter 7, Verse 180
- B** Surah Taha, Chapter 20, Verse 8
- C** Surah Al Hashr, Chapter 59, Verse 24



# 6

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## Name 'Allah' preferred to God



The Muslims prefer calling God Almighty as Allah instead of the English word God. The Arabic word Allah is pure and unique unlike the English word God which can be played around with.

If you add 's' to God, it becomes Gods that is plural of God. Allah is One and singular, there is no plural of Allah.



If you add 'dess' to God, it becomes Goddess, that is a female God. There is nothing like male Allah or female Allah. Allah has got no gender. If you add father to God, it becomes Godfather, 'He is my Godfather' i.e., he is my guardian. There is nothing like 'Allah Abba' or 'Allah father' in Islam. If you add mother to God, it becomes Godmother, there is nothing like 'Allah Ammi' or 'Allah mother' in Islam. If you put 'tin' before God, it becomes 'tin god' i.e., a fake God, there is nothing like 'tin Allah' or fake Allah in Islam.



Allah is a unique word which does not conjure up a mental picture nor can be played around with, therefore the Muslims prefer saying Allah. But sometimes while speaking to the non-Muslims, we may have to use the inappropriate word God for Allah.



## LESSON 6

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – ASTRONOMY



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**Dr Zakir Naik**

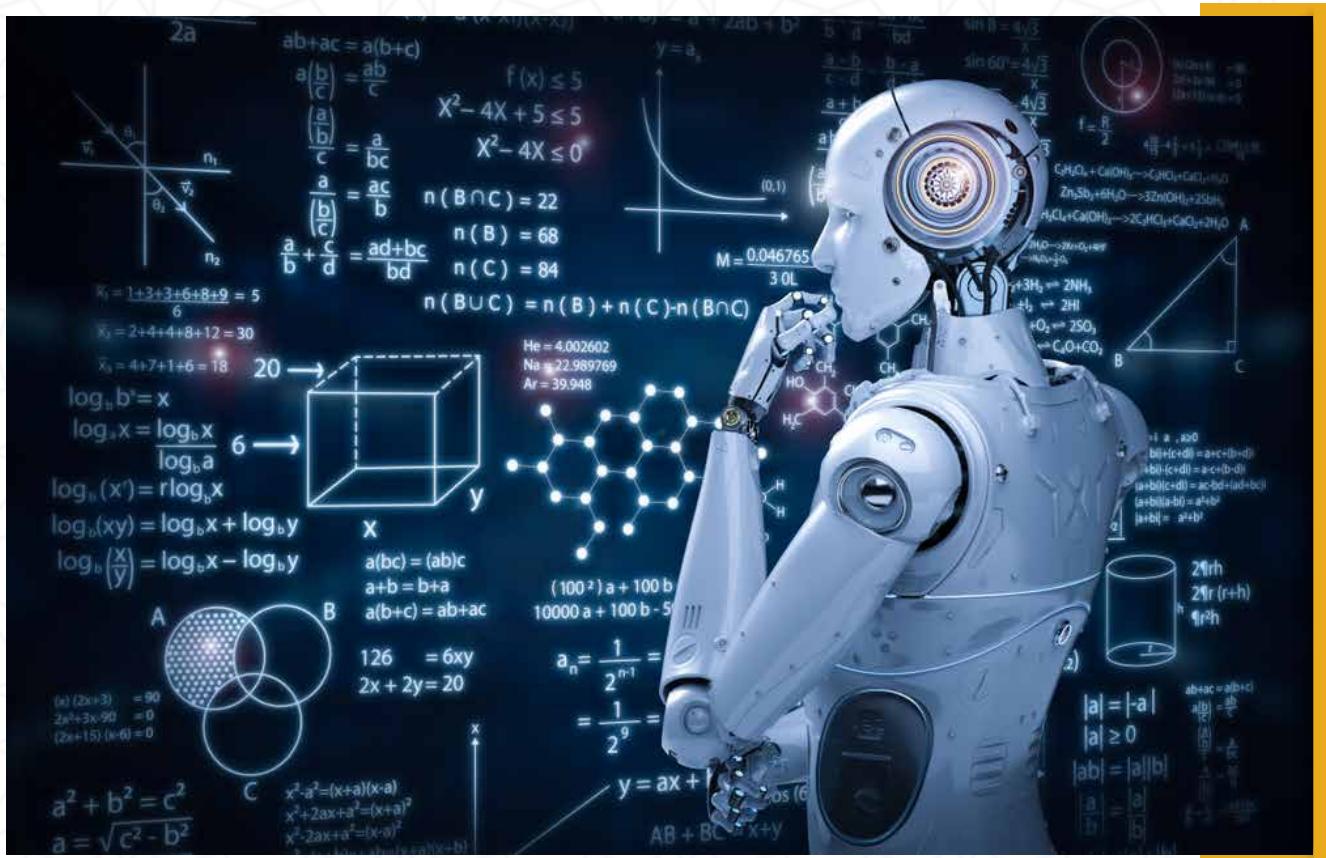


VI

## QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE

# A — Introduction

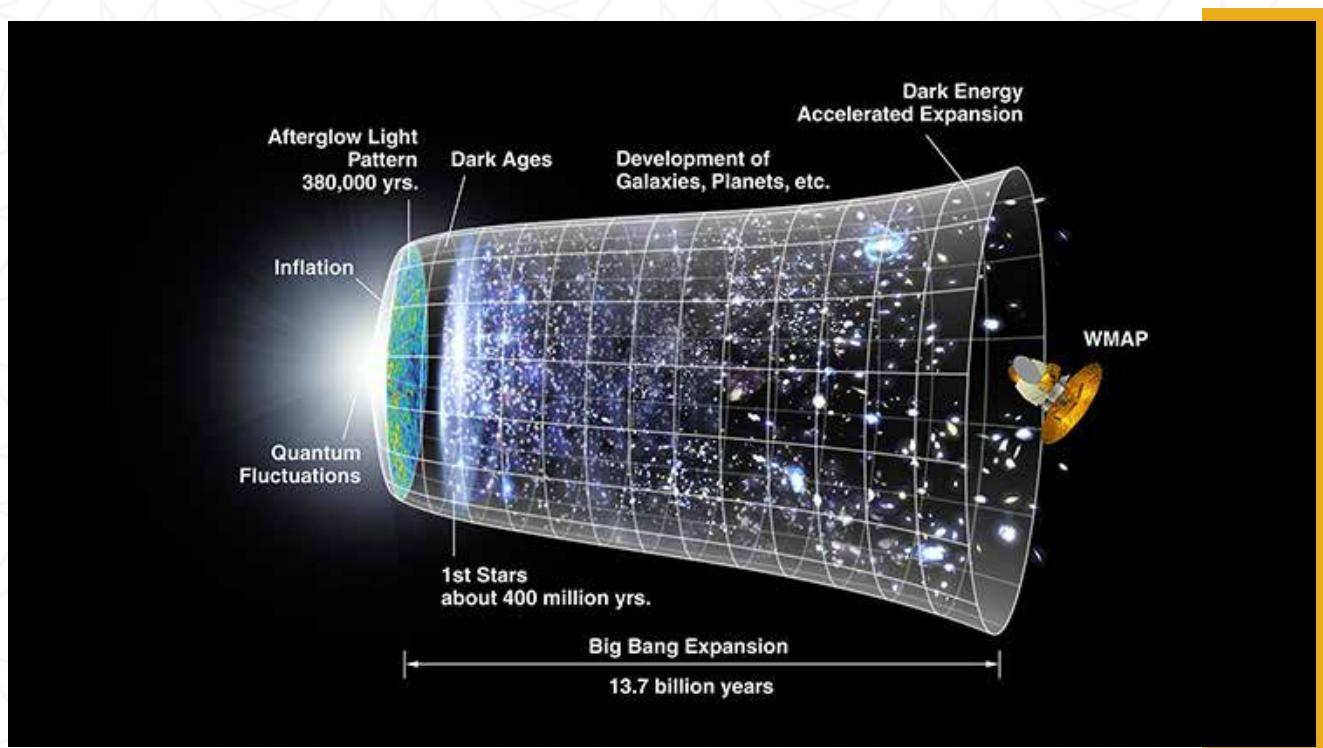
The methods discussed before of proving the existence of God to an atheist may satisfy some but not all. Many atheists demand for a scientific proof for the existence of God. I do agree today is the age of science and technology. Let us use the scientific knowledge so that we can kill 2 birds with one stone i.e., to prove the existence of God and simultaneously prove that Qur'an is a revelation of God.



If a new object or a machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before is shown to an atheist or any person and then asked a question, 'Who is the first person who will be able to tell the mechanism of this unknown object?' After little bit of thinking, he will reply, 'the creator of that object.' Some may say, 'the producer' while others may say, 'the manufacturer.' Whatever answer the person gives, keep it on your mind, the answer will always be either the creator, the producer, the manufacturer or somewhat of the same meaning i.e., the person who has made it or created it, don't grapple with words, whatever answer he gives, the meaning will be the same, therefore accept it.



# B Scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an



## 1 ASTRONOMY

### i Creation of the Universe – The Big Bang

The creation of the universe is explained by astrophysicists in a widely accepted phenomenon, popularly known as the 'Big Bang'. It is supported by observational and experimental data gathered by astronomers and astrophysicists for decades. According to the 'Big Bang', the whole universe was initially one big mass (Primary Nebula). Then there was a 'Big Bang' (Secondary Separation) which resulted in the formation of galaxies.



These then divided to form stars, planets, the sun, the moon, etc. The origin of the universe was unique and the probability of its occurring by chance is zero.



The Qur'an contains the following verse, regarding the origin of the universe:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الظِّينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا

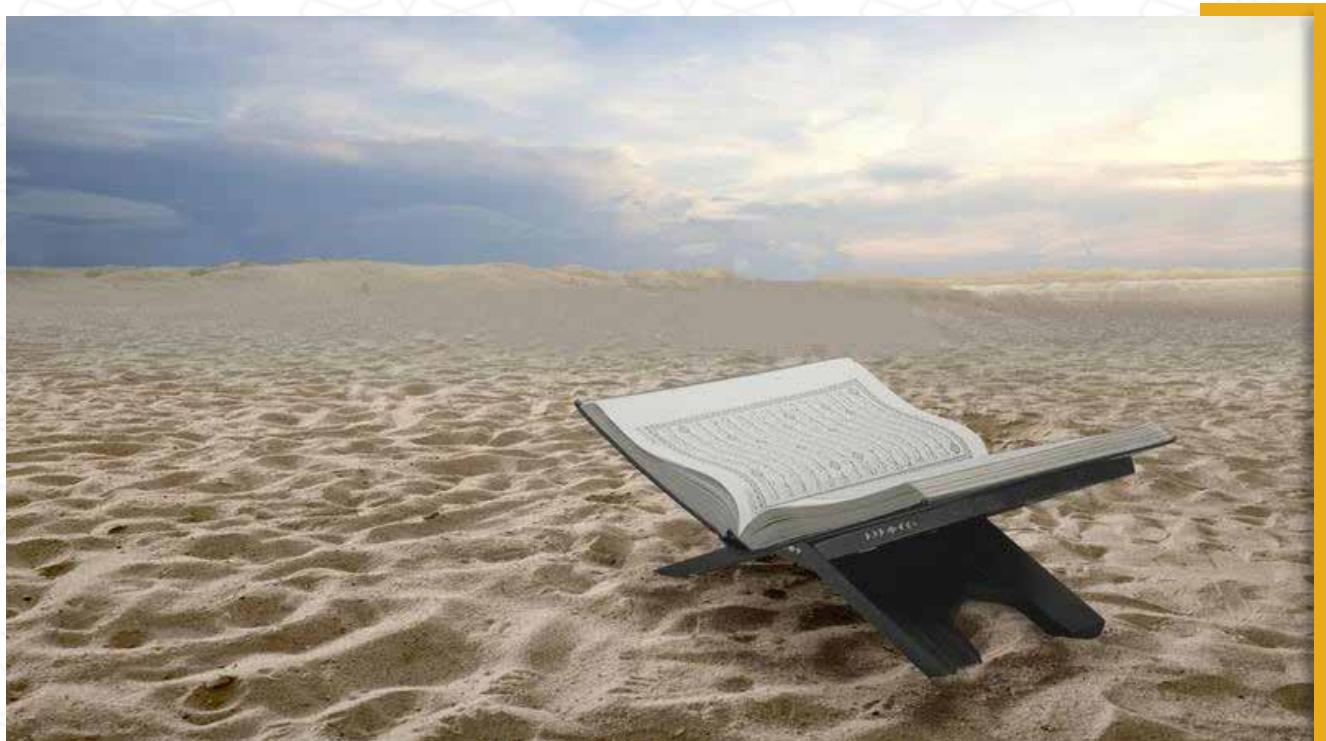


"Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of Creation), before we clove them asunder?"

Al Qur'an 21:30



The striking congruence between the Qur'anic verse and the 'Big Bang' is inescapable! How could a book, which first appeared in the deserts of Arabia 1400 years ago, contain this profound scientific truth?



## **ii} There was an Initial Gaseous Mass before the Creation of Galaxies**

Scientists say that before the galaxies in the universe were formed, celestial matter was initially in the form of gaseous matter. In short, huge gaseous matter or clouds were present before the formation of the galaxies. To describe initial celestial matter, the word 'smoke' is more appropriate than gas. The following Qur'anic verse refers to this state of the universe by the word 'Dukhan' which means smoke.



شَمْ أَسْتَوَى إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلأَرْضِ آتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ  
كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعَيْنَ



"Then He turned to the sky, and it had been (as) smoke: He said to it and to the earth: "Come you together, willingly or unwillingly." They said: "We do come together, in willing obedience."

Al Qur'an 41:11



Again, this fact is a corollary to the 'Big Bang' and was not known to the Arabs during the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). What then, could have been the source of this knowledge?



### iii The Spherical Shape of the Earth

In early times, people believed that the earth is flat. For centuries, men were afraid to venture out too far, lest they should fall off the edge. Sir Francis Drake was the first person who proved that the earth is spherical when he sailed around it in 1577.



Consider the following Qur'anic verse regarding the alternation of day and night:

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُوَجِّعُ الْلَّيْلَ فِي الظَّهَارِ وَيُوَجِّعُ الظَّهَارَ فِي الْلَّيْلِ



“See you not that Allah merges Night into Day and He merges Day into Night...”

Al Qur'an 31:29



Merging here means that the night slowly and gradually changes to day and vice versa. This phenomenon can only take place if the earth is spherical. If the earth was flat, there would have been a sudden change from night to day and from day to night.

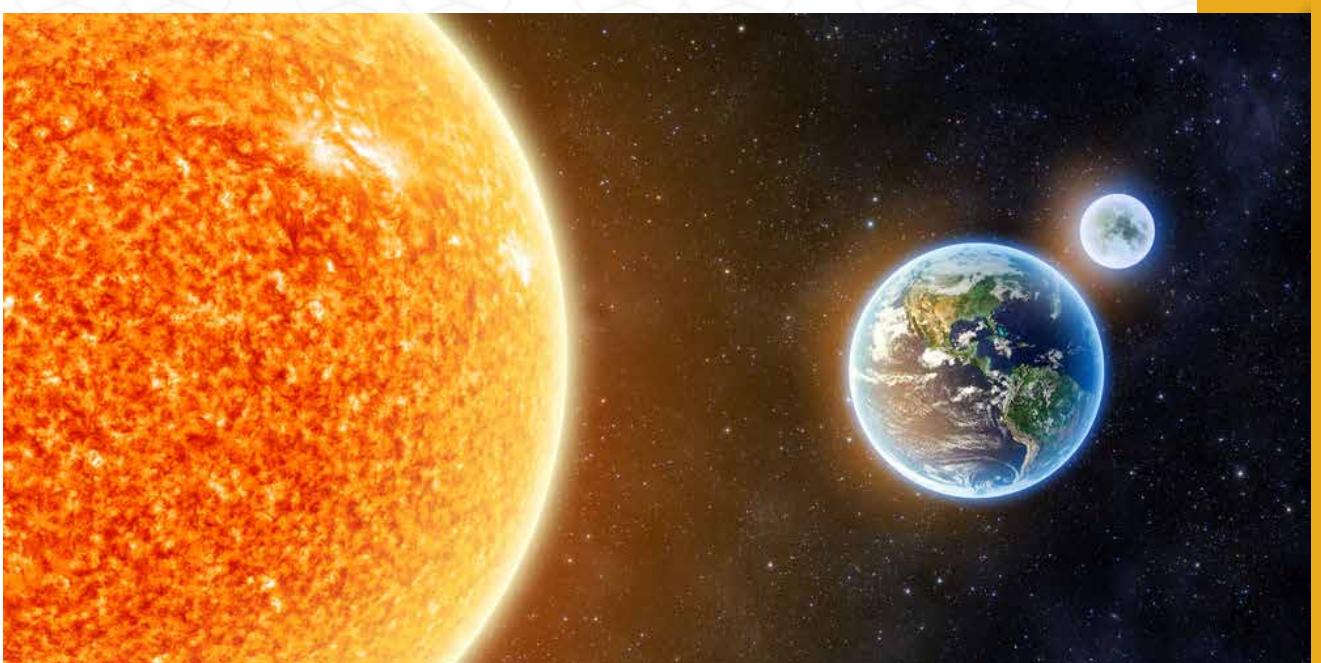
**The following verse also alludes to the spherical shape of the earth:**

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحُقْقِ يُكَوِّرُ الْيَوْمَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى الْيَوْمِ



"He created the heavens and the earth in true (proportions): He makes the Night overlap the Day, and the Day overlap the Night..."

Al Qur'an 39:5





The Arabic word used here is 'Kawwara' meaning 'to overlap or 'to coil' – the way a turban is wound around the head. The overlapping or coiling of the day and night can take place if the earth is spherical. The earth is not exactly round like a ball, but geo-spherical, i.e., it is flattened at the poles.

**The following verse contains a description of the earth's shape:**

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ دَحَّلَهَا



"And the earth, moreover, has He extended (to a wide expanse)."

Al Qur'an 79:30





The Arabic word for egg here is ‘Dahaha’ which means an ostrich-egg. The shape of an ostrich-egg resembles the geo-spherical shape of the earth.

Thus, the Qur'an correctly describes the shape of the earth, though the prevalent notion when the Qur'an was revealed was that the earth is flat.





#### iv The Light of the Moon is Reflected Light

It was believed by earlier civilisations that the moon emanates its own light. Science now tells us that the light of the moon is reflected light. However, this fact was mentioned in the Qur'an 1,400 years ago in the following verse:



تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرْجًا وَقَمَرًا مُنِيرًا



"Blessed is He Who made constellations in the skies and placed therein a lamp and a moon giving light."

Al Qur'an 25:61



The Arabic word for the sun in the Qur'an, is 'Shams'. It is referred to as 'Siraj' which means a 'torch' or as 'Wahhaj' which means 'a blazing lamp' or as 'Diya' which means 'shining glory'. All three descriptions are appropriate to the sun since it generates intense heat and light by its internal combustion. The Arabic word for the moon is 'Qamar' and it is described in the Qur'an as Muneer which is a body that gives 'Noor', i.e., light. Again, the Qur'anic description matches perfectly with the true nature of the moon which does not give off light itself and is an inert body that reflects the light of the sun. Not once in the Qur'an, is the moon mentioned as Siraj, Wahhaj or Diya or the sun as Noor or Muneer. This implies that the Qur'an recognizes the difference between the nature of sunlight and moonlight. Consider the following verses related to the nature of light from the sun and the moon:





أَلَمْ تَرُوا كَيْفَ خَلَقَ اللَّهُ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا وَجَعَلَ الْقَمَرَ فِيهِنَّ نُورًا  
وَجَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ سِرَاجًا



"See you not how Allah has created the seven heavens one above another. And made the moon a light in their midst, and made the sun as a (glorious) lamp?"

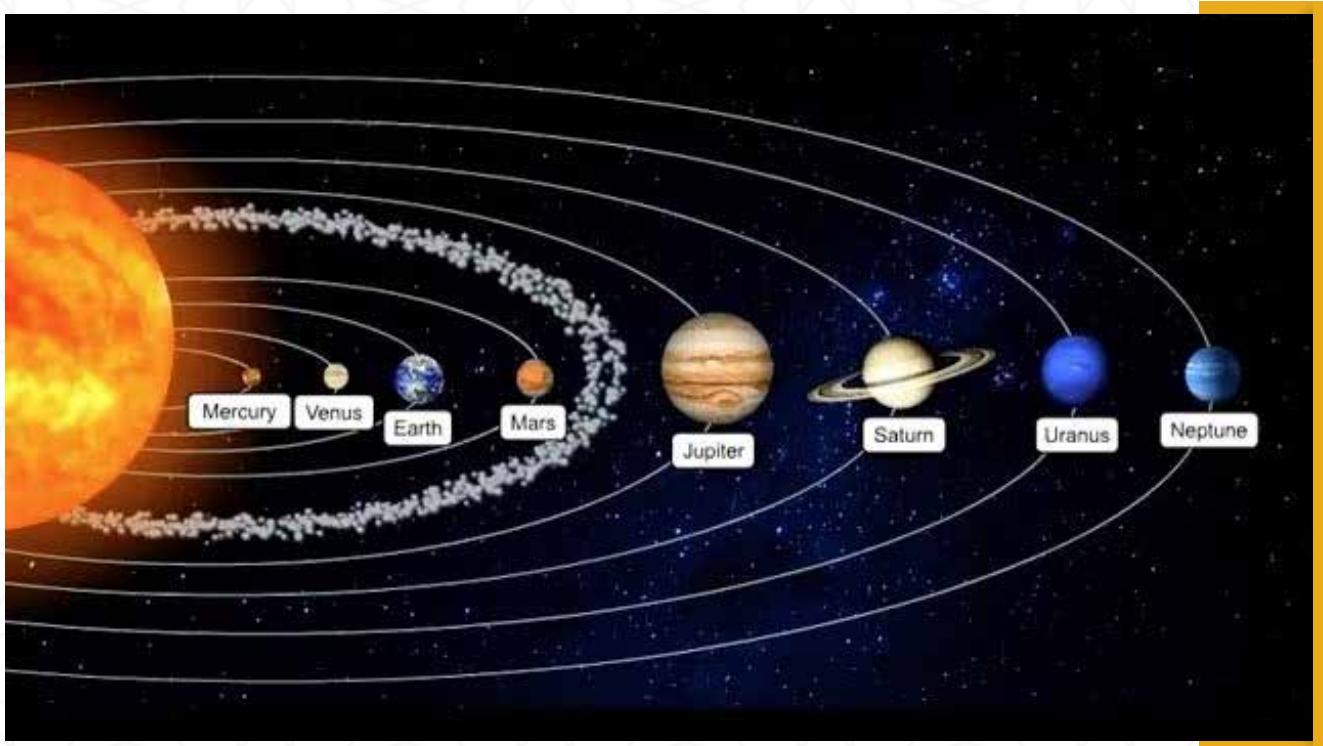
Al Qur'an 71:15-16





## v The Sun rotates

For a long time, European philosophers and scientists believed that the earth stood still in the center of the universe and every other body including the sun moved around it. In the West, this geocentric concept of the universe was prevalent right from the time of Ptolemy in the second century BC. In 1512, Nicholas Copernicus put forward his Heliocentric Theory of Planetary Motion, which asserted that the sun is motionless at the centre of the solar system with the planets revolving around it.



In 1609, the German scientist Johannes Kepler published the 'Astronomia Nova'. In this he concluded that not only do the planets move in elliptical orbits around the sun, they also rotate upon their axes at irregular speeds.



With this knowledge it became possible for European scientists to explain correctly many of the mechanisms of the solar system including the sequence of night and day.

(After these discoveries, it was thought that the sun was stationary and did not rotate about its axis like the earth. I remember having studied this fallacy from geography books during my school days.)

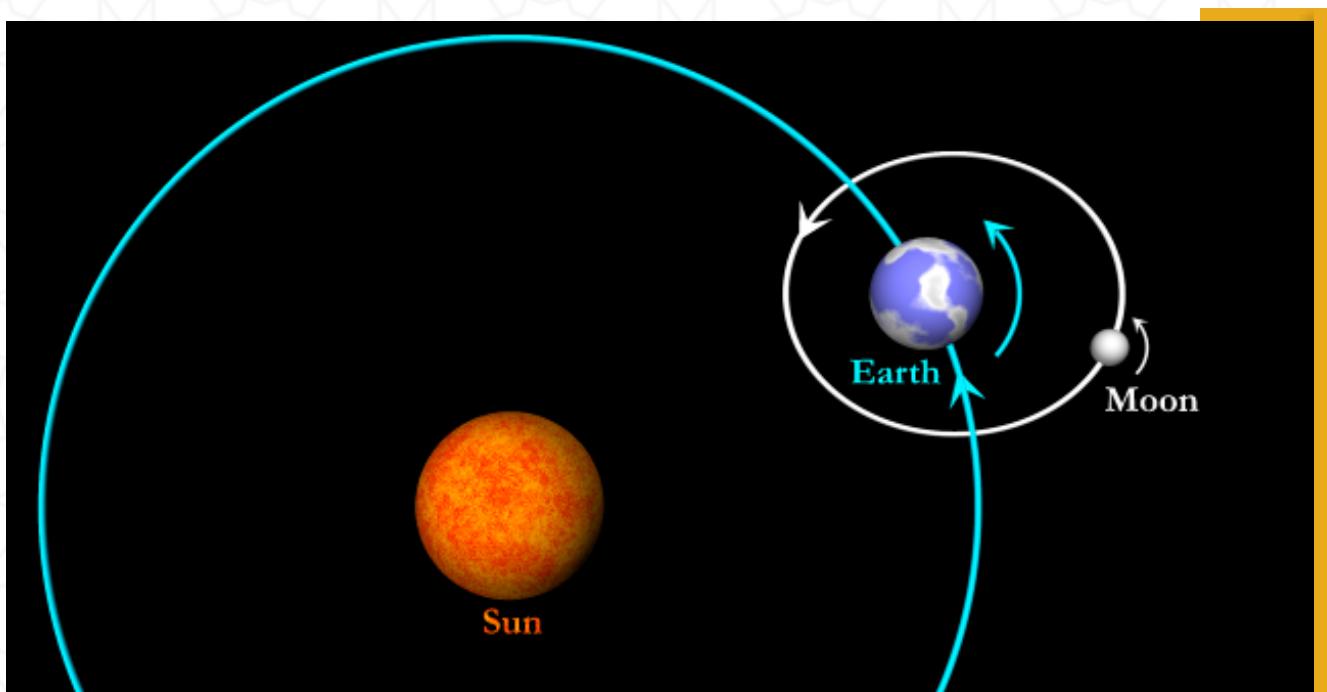
Consider the following Qur'anic Verse:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلُّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ



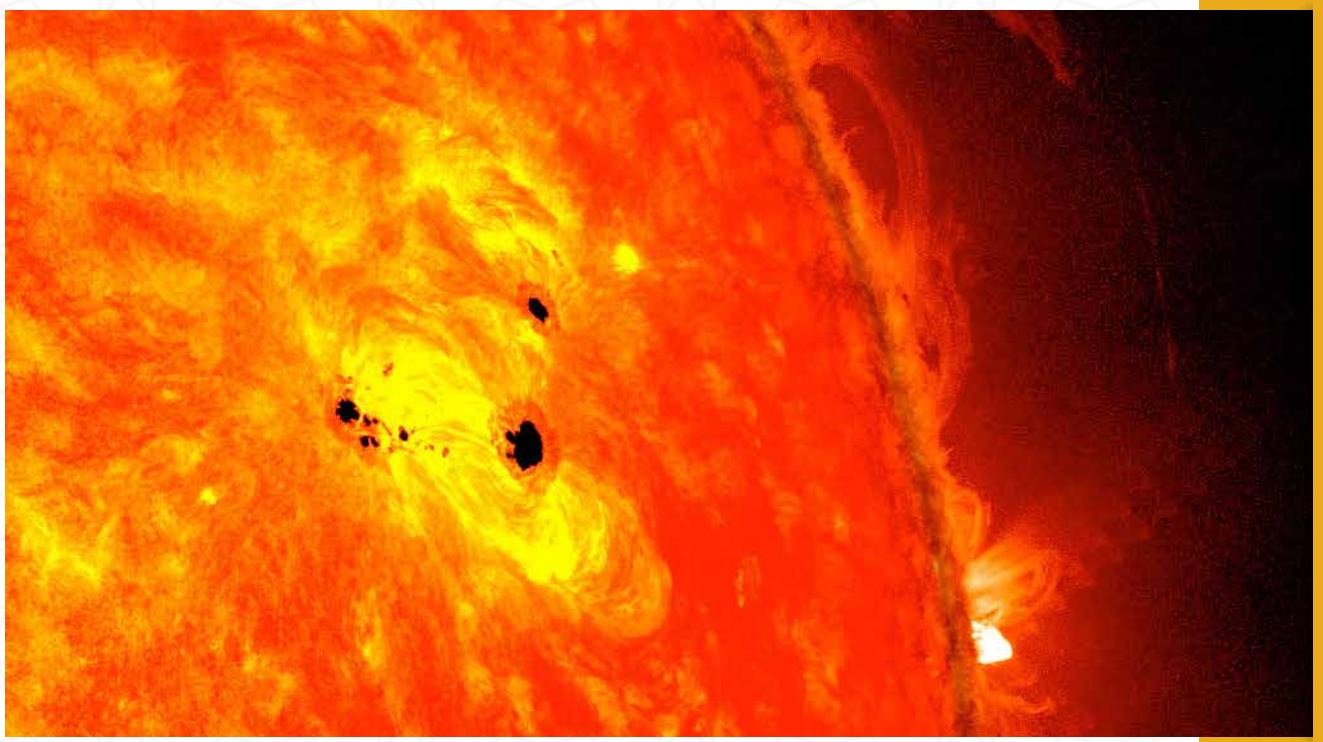
"It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon: All (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course."

Al Qur'an 21:33





The Arabic word used in the above Verse is ‘Yasbahoon’. The word ‘Yasbahoon’ is derived from the word ‘Sabaha’. It carries with it the idea of motion that comes from any moving body. If you use the word for a man on the ground, it will not mean that he is rolling but would mean he is walking or running. If you use the word for a man in water, it will not mean that he is floating but would mean that he is swimming.

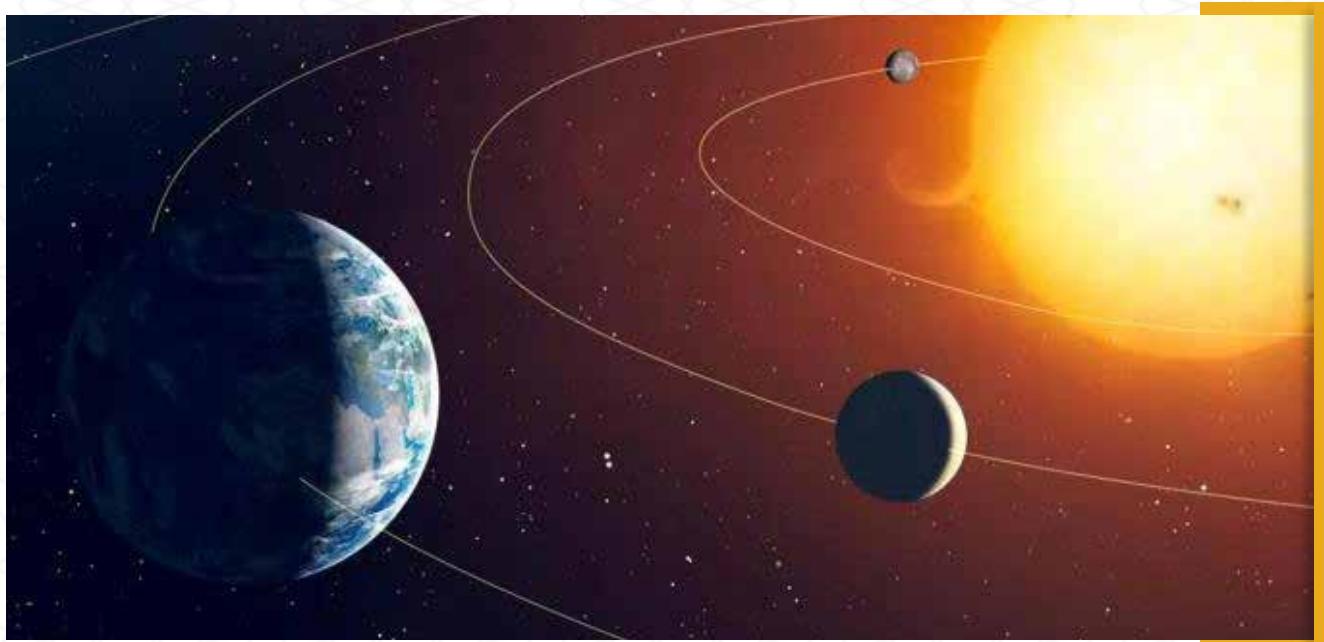


Similarly, if you use the word ‘Yasbah’ for a celestial body such as the sun, it would not mean that it is only flying through space but would mean that it is also rotating as it goes through space. Most of the school textbooks have incorporated the fact that the sun rotates about its axis. The rotation of the sun about its own axis can be proved with the help of an equipment that projects the image of the sun on the tabletop so that one can examine the image of the sun without being blinded.



It is noticed that the sun has spots which complete a circular motion once every 25 days, i.e., the sun takes approximately 25 days to rotate around its axis.

In fact, the sun travels through space at roughly 150 miles per second and takes about 200 million years to complete one revolution around the center of our Milky Way Galaxy.



لَا أَلْشَمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا أَلَيْلٌ سَابِقُ الْأَلَّاَرِ وَكُلُّ فِي فَلَكٍ  
يَسْبَحُونَ



"It is not permitted to the sun to catch up the moon, nor can the night outstrip the day: Each (just) swims along in its own orbit (According to Law)."

Al Qur'an 36:40



This verse mentions an essential fact discovered by modern astronomy, i.e., the existence of the individual orbits of the sun and the moon, and their journey through space with their own motion.

The fixed place towards which the sun travels, carrying with it the solar system, has been located exactly by modern astronomy. It has been given a name, the Solar Apex. The solar system is indeed moving in space towards a point situated in the constellation of Hercules (alpha Lyrae) whose exact location is firmly established.

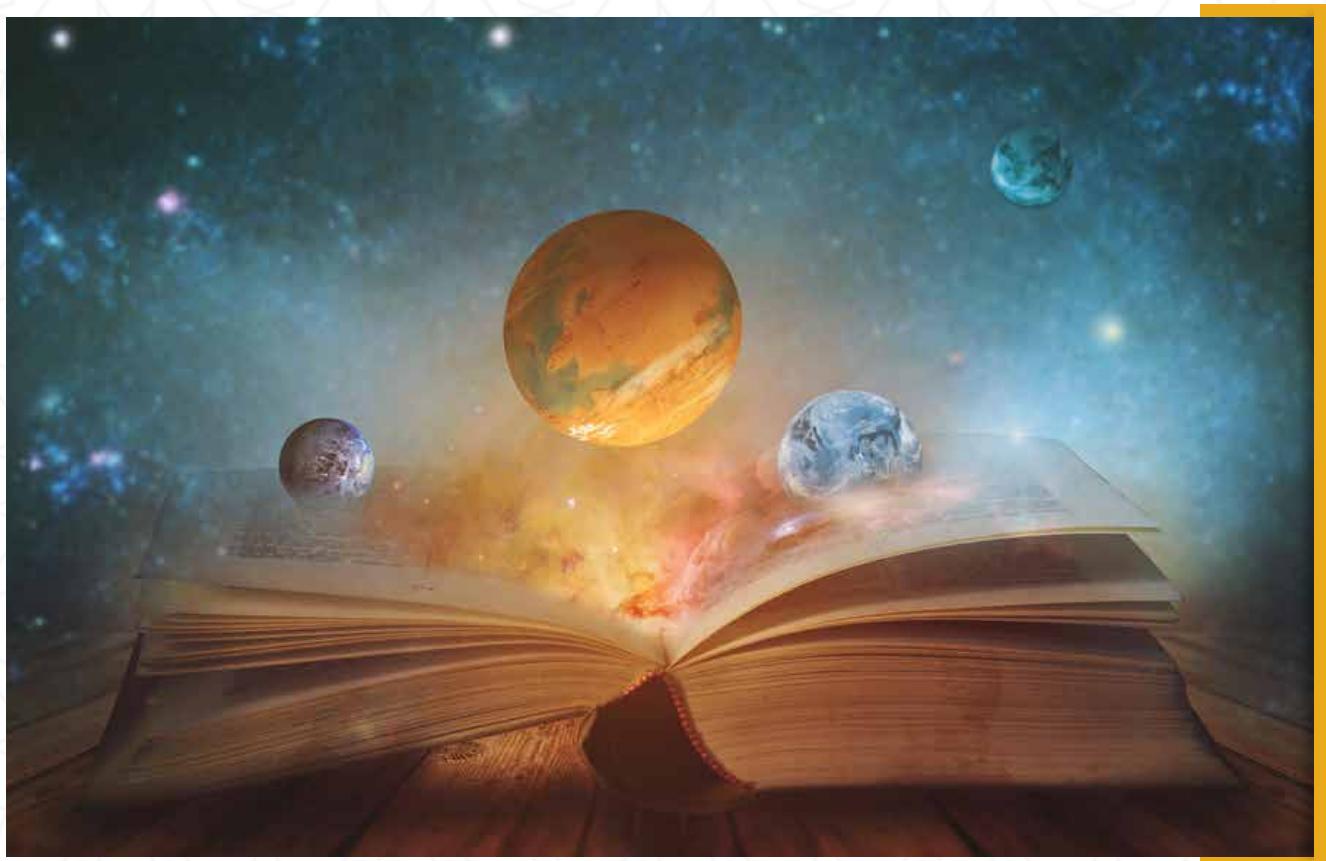


The moon rotates around its axis in the same duration that it takes to revolve around the earth. It takes approximately 29 1/2 days to complete one rotation.



One cannot help but be amazed at the scientific accuracy of the Qur'anic verses. Should we not ponder over the question:

"What was the source of knowledge contained in the Qur'an?"



#### vi The Sun will Extinguish after a Certain Period

The light of the sun is due to a chemical process on its surface that has been taking place continuously for the past five billion years. It will come to an end at some point of time in the future when the sun will be totally extinguished leading to extinction of all life on earth.



Regarding the impermanence of the sun's existence the Qur'an says:

وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقْرٍ لَّهَا ۚ ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرٌ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ



"And the sun runs unto a resting place for him  
that is the decree of (Him) the Exalted in Might,  
the All-Knowing."

Al Qur'an 36:38



The Arabic word used here is 'Mustaqarr', which means a place or time that is determined. Thus, the Qur'an says that the sun runs towards a determined place, and will do so only up to a predetermined period of time – meaning that it will end or extinguish.

A similar message is conveyed in the Qur'an in 13:2, 35:13, 39:5 and 31:29.



## vii The Sky is a Protected Ceiling

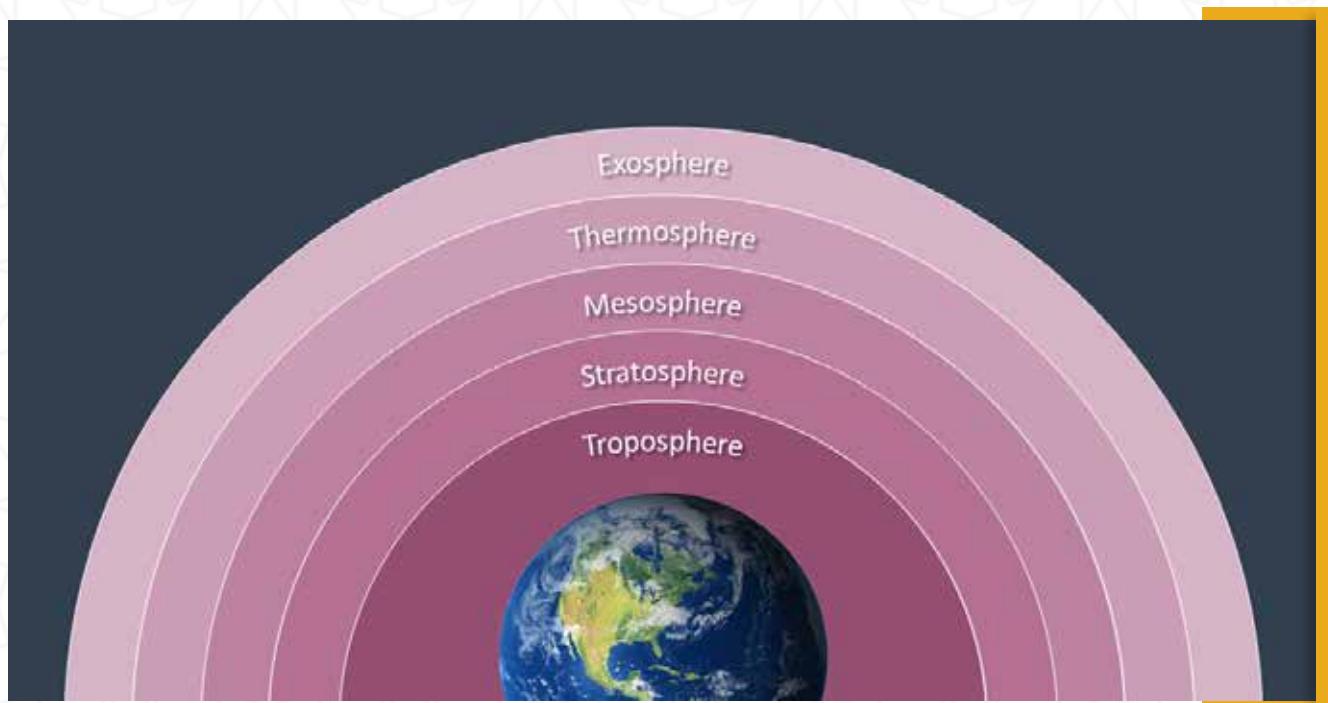
The earth's atmosphere acts as a filter prevent harmful radiation from reaching the surface. Short wavelengths like X-rays and Ultraviolet rays are filtered out at higher altitudes. Protection from these rays is vital for the existence of life on earth.

وَجَعَلْنَا الْسَّمَاءَ سَقْفًا مَحْفُوظًا



"And We have made the heavens as a canopy well-guarded."

Al Qur'an 21:32





## viii The Presence of Interstellar Matter

Space outside organised astronomical systems was earlier assumed to be a vacuum. Astrophysicists later discovered the presence of bridges of matter in this interstellar space. These bridges of matter are called plasma, and consist of completely ionized gas containing equal number of free electrons and positive ions. Plasma is sometimes called the fourth state of matter (besides the three known states, viz., solid, liquid and gas).

**The Qur'an mentions the presence of this interstellar material in the following verse:**

الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا



"He Who created the heavens and the earth  
and all that is between."

Al Qur'an 25:59

It would be ridiculous, for anybody to even suggest that the presence of interstellar galactic material was known 1400 years ago.



## ix The Expanding Universe

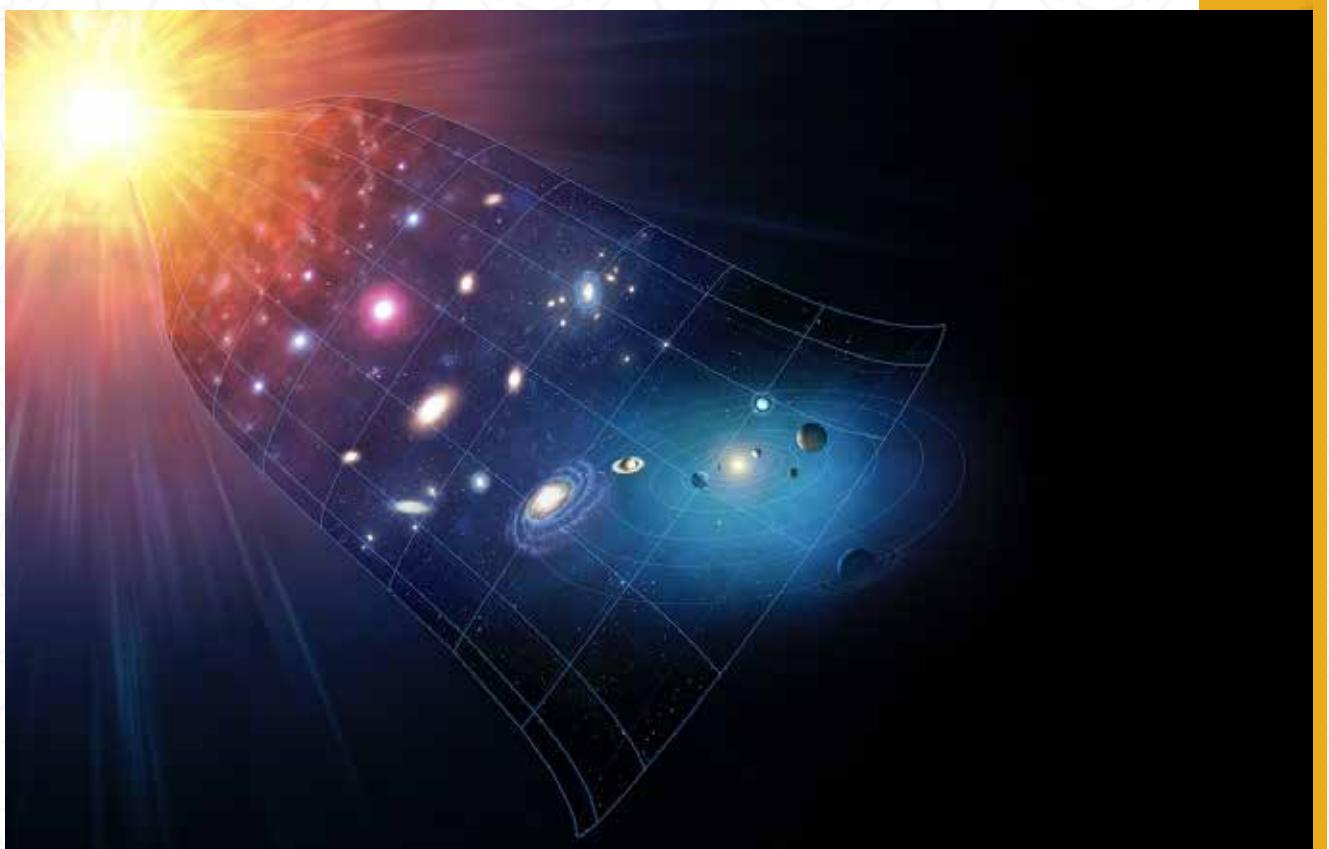
In 1925, an American astronomer by the name of Edwin Hubble, provided observational evidence that all galaxies are receding from one another, which implies that the universe is expanding. The expansion of the universe is now an established scientific fact. This is what the Qur'an says regarding the nature of the universe:

وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْمَدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُؤْسِعُونَ



"We have built the Firmament with might. And We indeed have vast power."

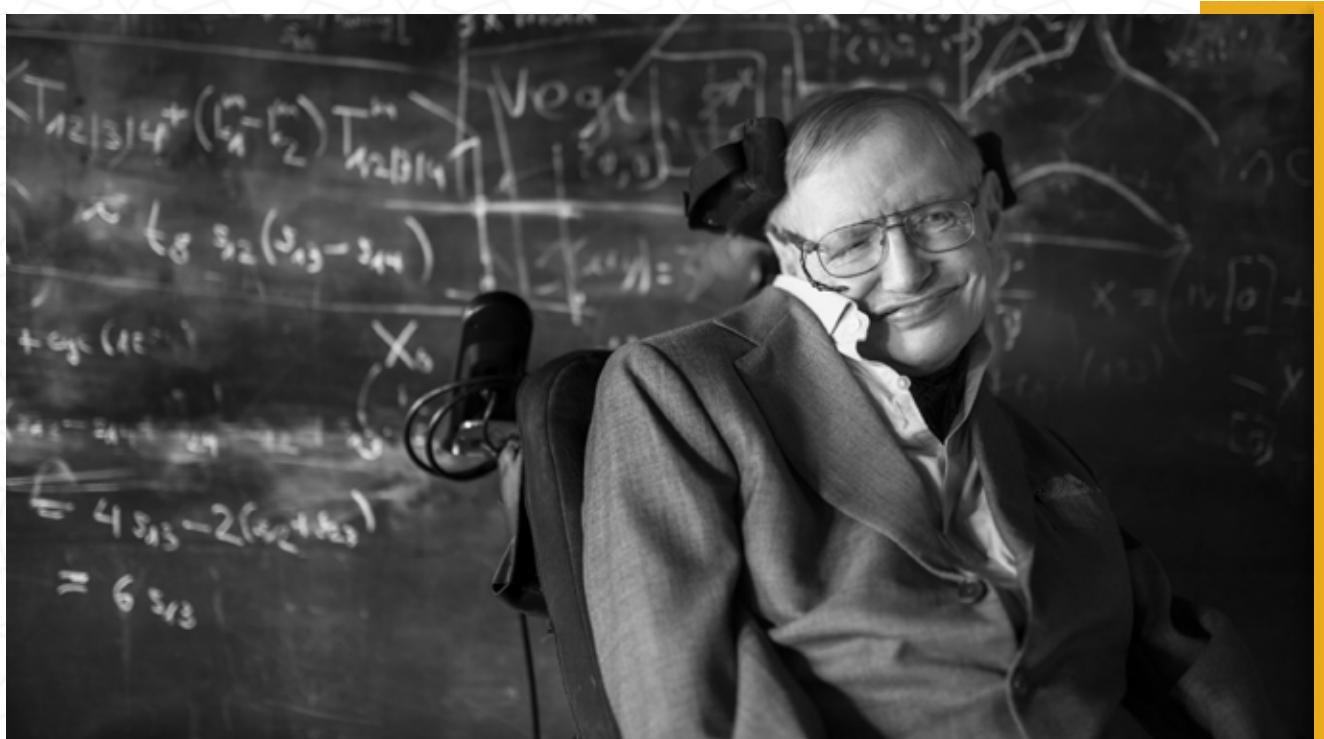
Al Qur'an 51:47





The Arabic word ‘Musi’oon’ is correctly translated as ‘expanding it’, and it refers to the creation of the expanding vastness of the universe.

Stephen Hawking, in his book, "A Brief History of Time" says, "The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of the great intellectual revolutions of the 20th century." The Qur'an mentioned the expansion of the universe, before man even learnt to build a telescope!





Some may say that the presence of astronomical facts in the Qur'an is not surprising since the Arabs were advanced in the field of astronomy. They are correct in acknowledging the advancement of the Arabs in the field of astronomy.

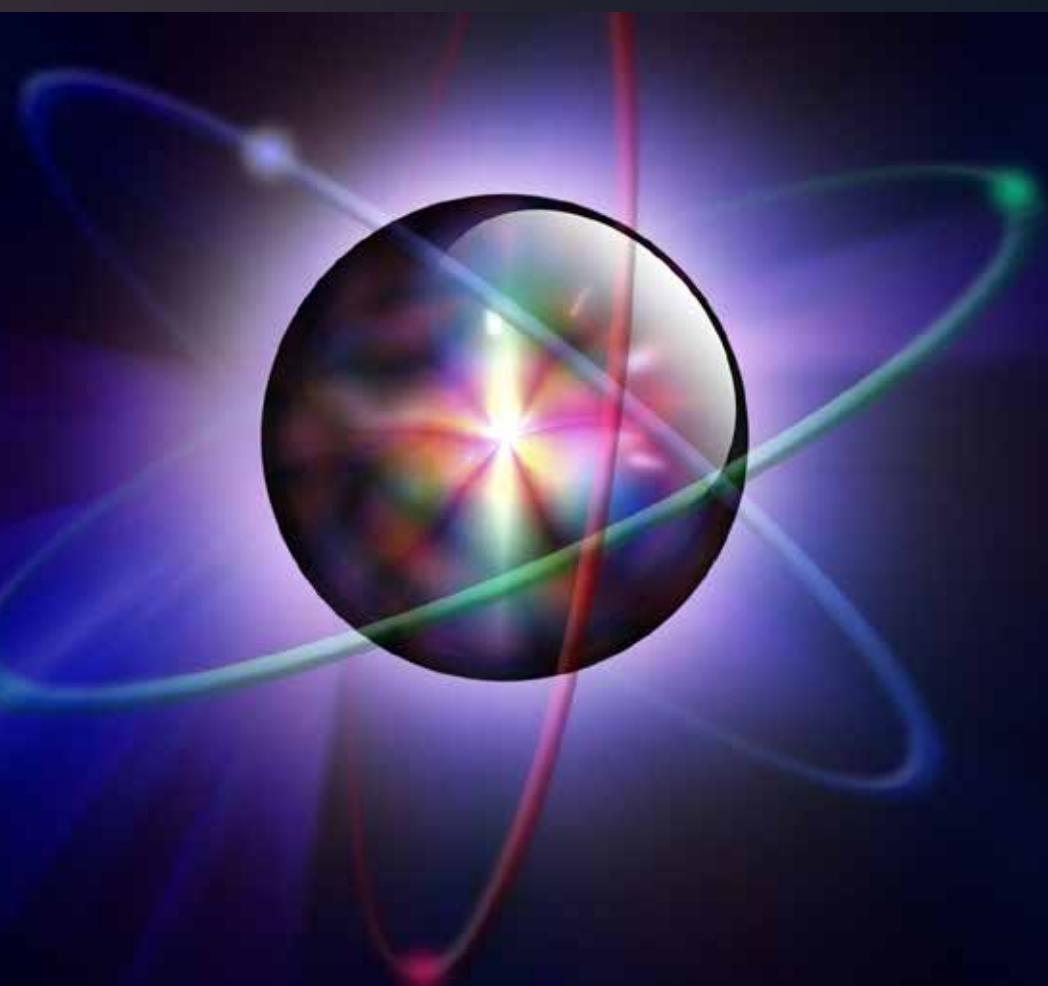
However, they fail to realize that the Quran was revealed centuries before the Arabs excelled in astronomy. Moreover, many of the scientific facts mentioned above regarding astronomy, such as the origin of the universe with a Big Bang, were not known to the Arabs even at the peak of their scientific advancement. The scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an are therefore not due to the Arabs' advancement in astronomy. Indeed, the reverse is true. The Arabs advanced in astronomy because astronomy occupies a place in the Qur'an.





## LESSON 7

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – PHYSICS AND HYDROLOGY

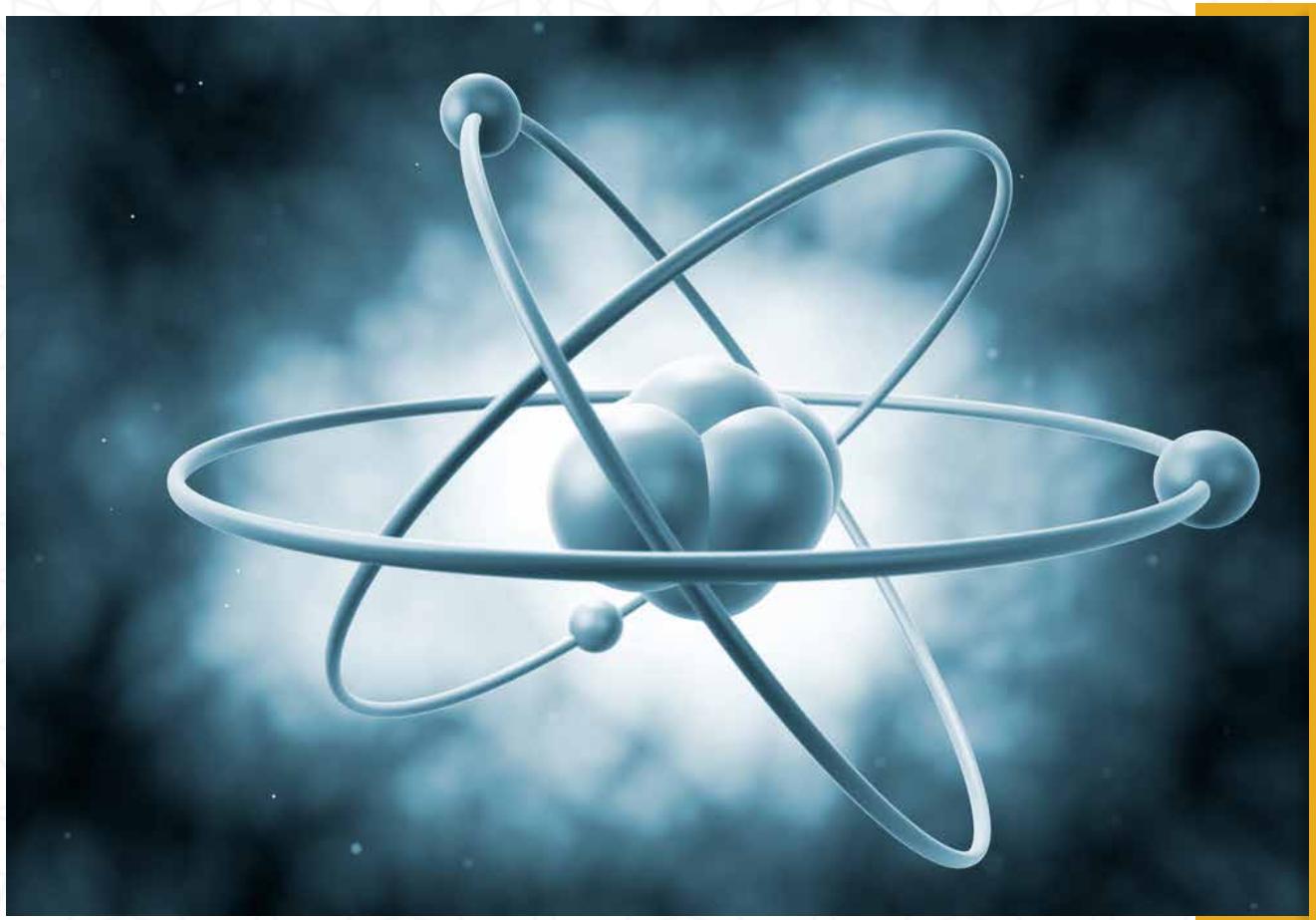


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**Dr Zakir Naik**



## 2 PHYSICS



### The Existence of Subatomic Particles

In ancient times a well-known theory by the name of 'Theory of Atomism' was widely accepted. This theory was originally proposed by the Greeks, in particular by a man called Democritus, who lived about 23 centuries ago. Democritus and the people that came after him, assumed that the smallest unit of matter was the atom. The Arabs used to believe the same. The Arabic word 'Dharrah' most commonly meant an atom.



In recent times modern science has discovered that it is possible to split even an atom. That the atom can be split further is a development of the 20th century. Fourteen centuries ago, this concept would have appeared unusual even to an Arab. For him the 'Dharrah' was the limit beyond which one could not go.

**The following Qur'anic verse, however, refuses to acknowledge this limit:**

وَقَالَ الْأَذِنَّ كَفَرُوا لَا تَأْتِنَا السَّاعَةُ قُلْ بَلَى وَرَبِّنَا لَتَأْتِنَّكُمْ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ  
لَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْهُ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أَصْغَرُ مِنْ  
ذَلِكَ وَلَا أَكْبَرُ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ



"The Unbelievers say, "Never to us will come the Hour": say, "Nay! But most surely, by my Lord, it will come upon you; by Him Who knows the unseen – from Whom is not hidden the least little atom in the Heavens or on earth: Nor is there anything less than that, or greater, but is in the record perspicuous."

Al Qur'an 34:3

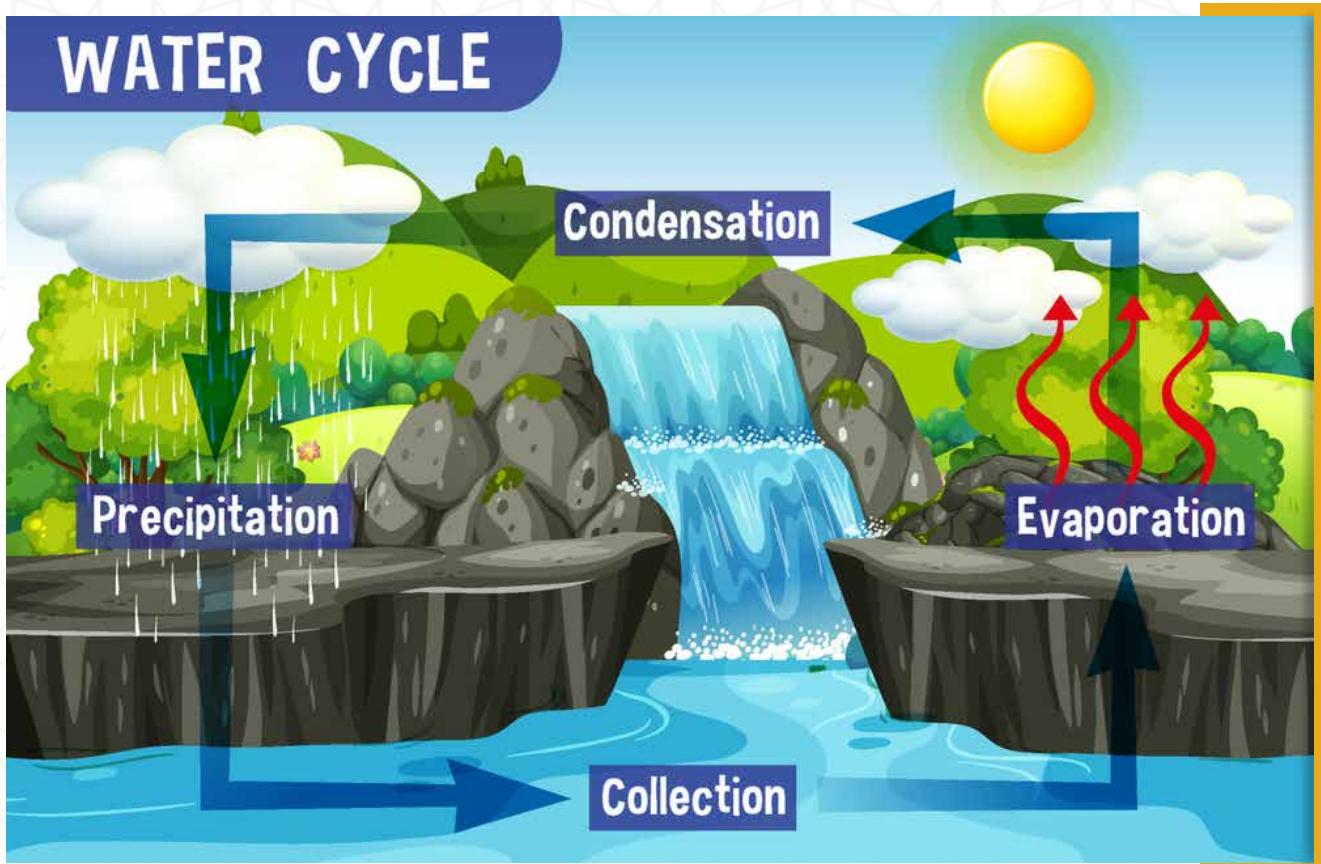


This verse refers to the Omniscience of God, His knowledge of all things, hidden or apparent. It then goes further and says that God is aware of everything, including what is smaller or bigger than the atom. Thus, the verse clearly shows that it is possible for something smaller than the atom to exist, a fact discovered only recently by modern science.

A similar message is conveyed in the Qur'an in 10:61.



### 3 HYDROLOGY



#### i The Water Cycle

In 1580, Bernard Palissy was the first man to describe the present-day concept of 'water cycle'. He described how water evaporates from the oceans and cools to form clouds.

The clouds move inland where they rise, condense and fall as rain. This water gathers as lakes and streams and flows back to the ocean in a continuous cycle. In the 7th century BC, Thales of Miletus believed that surface spray of the oceans was picked up by the wind and carried inland to fall as rain.



In earlier times people did not know the source of underground water. They thought the water of the oceans, under the effect of winds, was thrust towards the interior of the continents. They also believed that the water returned by a secret passage, or the Great Abyss. This passage is connected to the oceans and has been called the "Tartarus", since Plato's time. Even Descartes, a great thinker of the eighteenth century, subscribed to this view. Till the nineteenth century, Aristotle's theory was prevalent. According to this theory, water was condensed in cool mountain caverns and formed underground lakes that fed springs. Today, we know that the rainwater that seeps into the cracks of the ground is responsible for this.



The water cycle is described by the Qur'an in the following verses:

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَااءِ مَاءً فَسَلَكَهُ، يَنَبِّئُ فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا مُّخْتَلِفًا أَوْ نُونٌ،



"See you not that Allah sends down rain from the sky, and leads it through springs in the earth? Then He causes to grow, there with, produce of various colours."

Al Qur'an 39:21





وَيُنَزَّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَيُحْيِي بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَكَيْتٍ  
لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ



“And He sends down rain from the sky and with it gives life to the earth after it is dead: Verily in that are signs for those who are wise.”

Al Qur'an 30:24





وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَآءً بِقَدَرٍ فَأَسْكَنَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّا عَلَى ذَهَابِ  
لَقَدِرِهِنَّ



“And We send down water from the sky according to (Due) measure, and We cause it to soak in the soil, and We certainly are able to drain it off (with ease).”

Al Qur'an 23:18



No other text dating back 1400 years ago gives such an accurate description of the water cycle.



## ii) Winds Impregnate the Clouds

وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوْقَهُ فَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَسْقَيْنَاهُ كُمُؤْهُ



"And We send the fecundating winds, then cause the rain to descend from the sky, there with providing you with water (in abundance)."

Al Qur'an 15:22





The Arabic word used here is ‘Lawaqih’ which is the plural of ‘Laqih’ from ‘Laqaha’, which means to impregnate or fecundate. In this context, impregnate means that the wind pushes the clouds together increasing the condensation that causes lightning and thus rain.

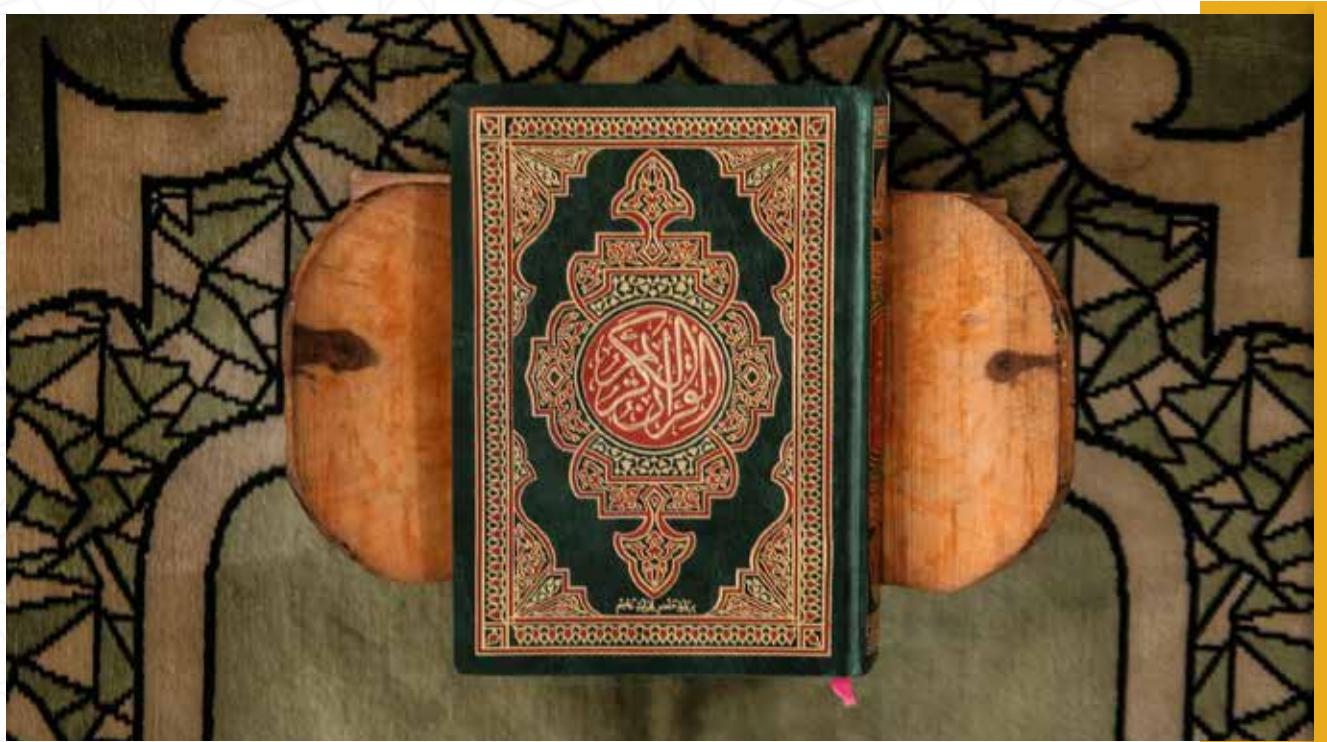
A similar description is found in the Qur'an:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُرْسِلُ الرِّيحَ فَتَشَيَّرُ سَحَابًا فَيُنْسِطُهُ فِي السَّمَااءِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ  
وَيَجْعَلُهُ كَسَفًا فَتَرَى الْوَدْقَ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ خَلْلِهِ فَإِذَا أَصَابَ بِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ  
مِنْ عِبَادِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبَشِرُونَ



“It is Allah Who sends the winds and they raise the clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills and break them into fragments, until you see rain-drops issue from the midst thereof; then when He has made them reach such of His servants as He wills, behold, they do rejoice!”

Al Qur'an 30:48



The Qur'anic descriptions are absolutely accurate and agree perfectly with modern data on hydrology. The water cycle is described in several verses of the Glorious Qur'an, including 2:19, 7:57, 13:17, 25:48-49, 36:34, 50:9-11, 56:68-70, 67:30 and 86:11.



## LESSON 8

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – GEOLOGY & OCEANOGRAPHY



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**Dr Zakir Naik**

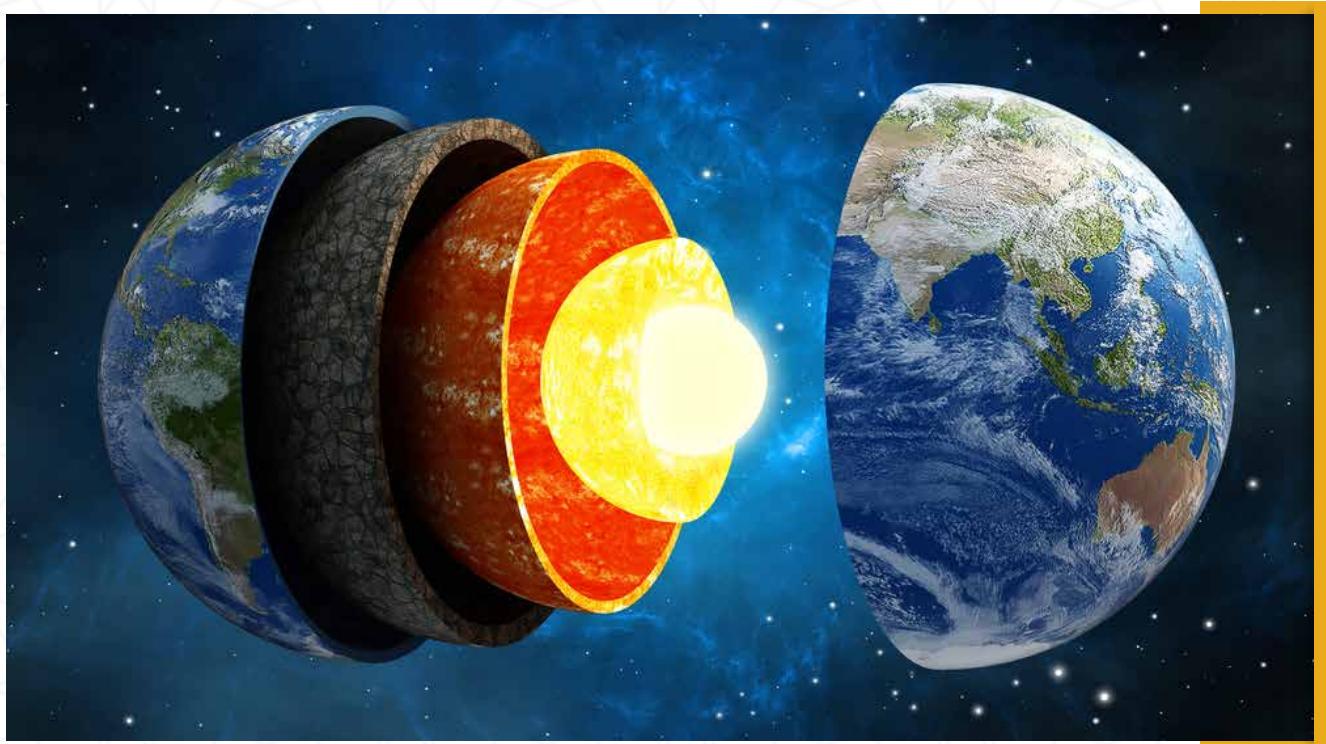


## 4 GEOLOGY



### i Mountains are like Pegs (stakes)

In geology, the phenomenon of 'folding' is a recently discovered fact. Folding is responsible for the formation of mountain ranges. The earth's crust, on which we live, is like a solid shell, while the deeper layers are hot and fluid, and thus inhospitable to any form of life. It is also known that the stability of the mountains is linked to the phenomenon of folding, for it was the folds that were to provide foundations for the reliefs that constitute the mountains.



Geologists tell us that the radius of the earth is about 3,750 miles and the crust on which we live is very thin, ranging between 1 to 30 miles. Since the crust is thin, it has a high possibility of shaking. Mountains act like stakes or tent pegs that hold the earth's crust and give it stability.

**The Qur'an contains exactly such a description in the following Verse:**

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَالْجِبَالَ أُوتَادًا

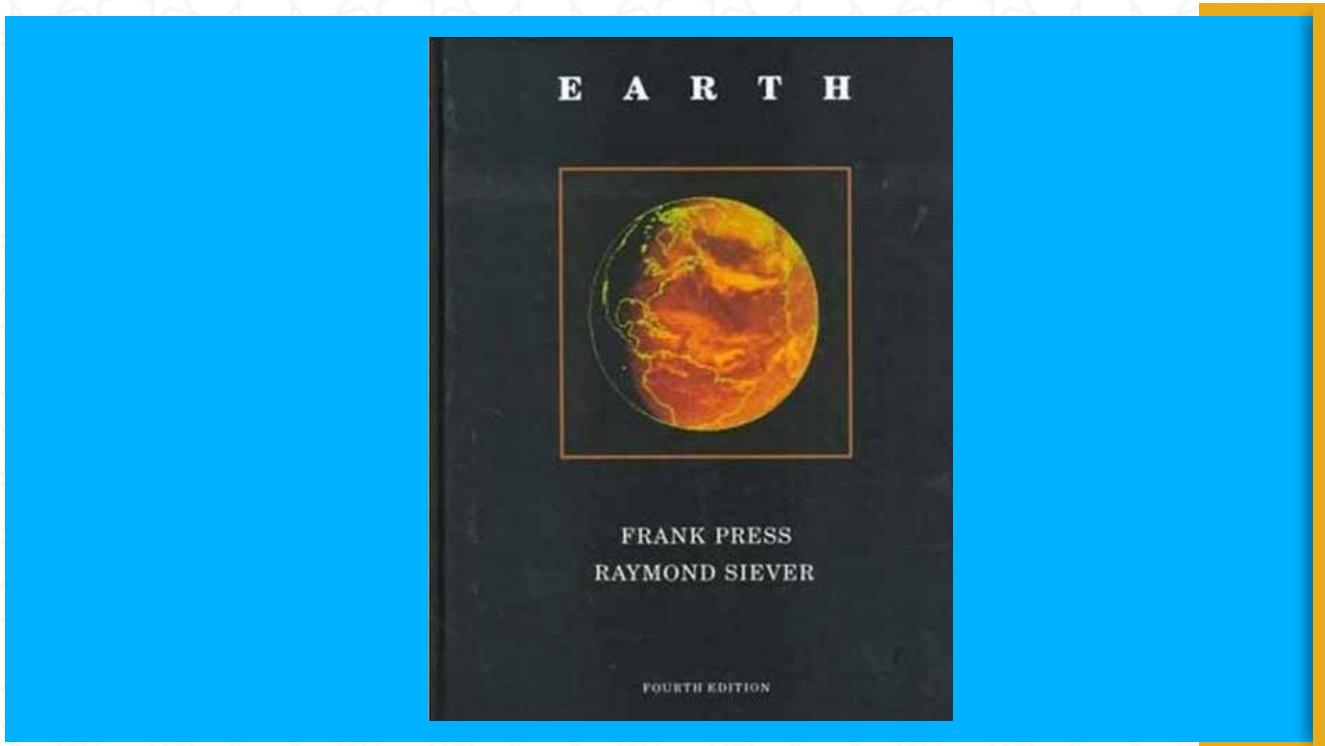


"Have We not made the earth as a wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?"

Al Qur'an 78:6-7



The word 'Awtad' means stakes or pegs (like those used to anchor a tent); they are the deep foundations of geological folds.



A book named 'Earth' is considered as a basic reference textbook on geology in many universities around the world. One of the authors of this book is Frank Press, who was the President of the Academy of Sciences in the USA for 12 years and was the Science Advisor to the former US President Jimmy Carter. In this book he illustrates the mountain in a wedge-shape and the mountain itself as a small part of the whole, whose root is deeply entrenched in the ground. According to Dr Press, the mountains play an important role in stabilizing the crust of the earth.



The Qur'an clearly mentions the function of the mountains in preventing the earth from shaking:

وَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ رُؤُسًا



"And We have set on the earth mountains standing firm."

Al Qur'an 21:31

The Qur'anic descriptions are in perfect agreement with modern geological data.



## ii) Mountains Firmly Fixed

The surface of the earth is broken into many rigid plates that are about 100 km in thickness. These plates float on a partially molten region called asthenosphere. Mountain formations occur at the boundary of the plates. The earth's crust is 5 km thick below oceans, about 35 km thick below flat continental surfaces and almost 80 km thick below great mountain ranges. These are the strong foundations on which mountains stand.

**The Qur'an also speaks about the strong mountain foundations in the following verse:**

وَأَنْجَبَ الْأَرْضُ هَا



"And the mountains has He firmly fixed..."

Al Qur'an 79:32

A similar message is contained in the Qur'an in 88:19, 31:10 and 16:15.



### iii Mountains Prevent Shaking of the Earth

Qur'an clearly mentions the function of the mountains as to prevent the earth from shaking.

وَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ رُؤُسِيَّ أَنْ تَمْيِدَ بِهِنْ



"And We have set on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with them."

Al Qur'an 21:31

A similar message is given in 31:10 and 16:15.





## 5 OCEANOGRAPHY



### i Barrier between Sweet and Salt Waters

Consider the following Qur'anic Verses:

مَرْجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَا يَنْغِيَانِ



"He has let free the two seas meeting together. Between them is a barrier which they do not transgress."

Al Qur'an 55:19-20



In the Arabic text the word 'Barzakh' means a barrier or a partition. This barrier is not a physical partition. The Arabic word 'Maraja' literally means 'they both meet and mix with each other'. Early commentators of the Qur'an were unable to explain the two opposite meanings for the two bodies of water, i.e., they meet and mix, and at the same time, there is a barrier between them. Modern science has discovered that in the places where two different seas meet, there is a barrier between them. This barrier divides the two seas so that each sea has its own temperature, salinity, and density.



Oceanographers are now in a better position to explain this verse. There is a slanted unseen water barrier between the two seas through which water from one sea passes to the other.



But when the water from one sea enters the other sea, it loses its distinctive characteristic and becomes homogenized with the other water. In a way this barrier serves as a transitional homogenizing area for the two waters. This scientific phenomenon mentioned in the Qur'an was also confirmed by Dr William Hay who is well-known marine scientist and Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado, USA.

**The Qur'an mention this phenomenon also in the following Verse:**

وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا



"And made a separating bar between the two seas (Can there be another)."

Al Qur'an 27:61





This phenomenon occurs in several places, including the divider between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean at Gibraltar.

But when the Qur'an speaks about the divider between fresh and salt water, it mentions the existence of a forbidding partition with the barrier.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَحَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فَرَاثٌ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أَجَاجٌ وَجَعَلَ  
بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَجَعَلَ مَحْجُورًا



"It is He Who has let free the two bodies of flowing water: One palatable and sweet, and the other salt and bitter; yet has He made a barrier between them, a partition that is not to be passed."

Al Qur'an 25:53





Modern science has discovered that in estuaries, where fresh (sweet) and saltwater meet, the situation is somewhat different from that found in places where two seas meet. It has been discovered that what distinguishes fresh water from salt water in estuaries is a “pycnocline zone with a marked density discontinuity separating the two layers.” This partition (zone of separation) has a salinity different from both the fresh water and the salt water.



This phenomenon occurs in several places, including Egypt, where the river Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea.



## ii) Darkness in the Depths of the Ocean

Prof. Durga Rao is an expert in the field of Marine Geology and was a professor at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

**He was asked to comment on the following Verse:**

أَوْ كَظُلْمَتِ فِي بَحْرٍ لَّجِيٍّ يَغْشَلُهُ مَوْجٌ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِ مَوْجٌ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِ سَحَابٌ  
ظُلْمَتْ بَعْضُهَا فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ إِذَا أَخْرَجَ يَدَهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ يَرَهَا وَمَنْ لَمْ يَجْعَلِ  
اللَّهُ لَهُ نُورًا فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ نُورٍ



"Or (the Unbelievers' state) is like the depths of darkness in a vast deep ocean, Overwhelmed with billow topped by billow, topped by (dark) clouds: Depths of darkness, one above another: if a man stretches out his hand, he can hardly see it! For any to whom Allah gives not light, there is no light!"

Al Qur'an 24:40



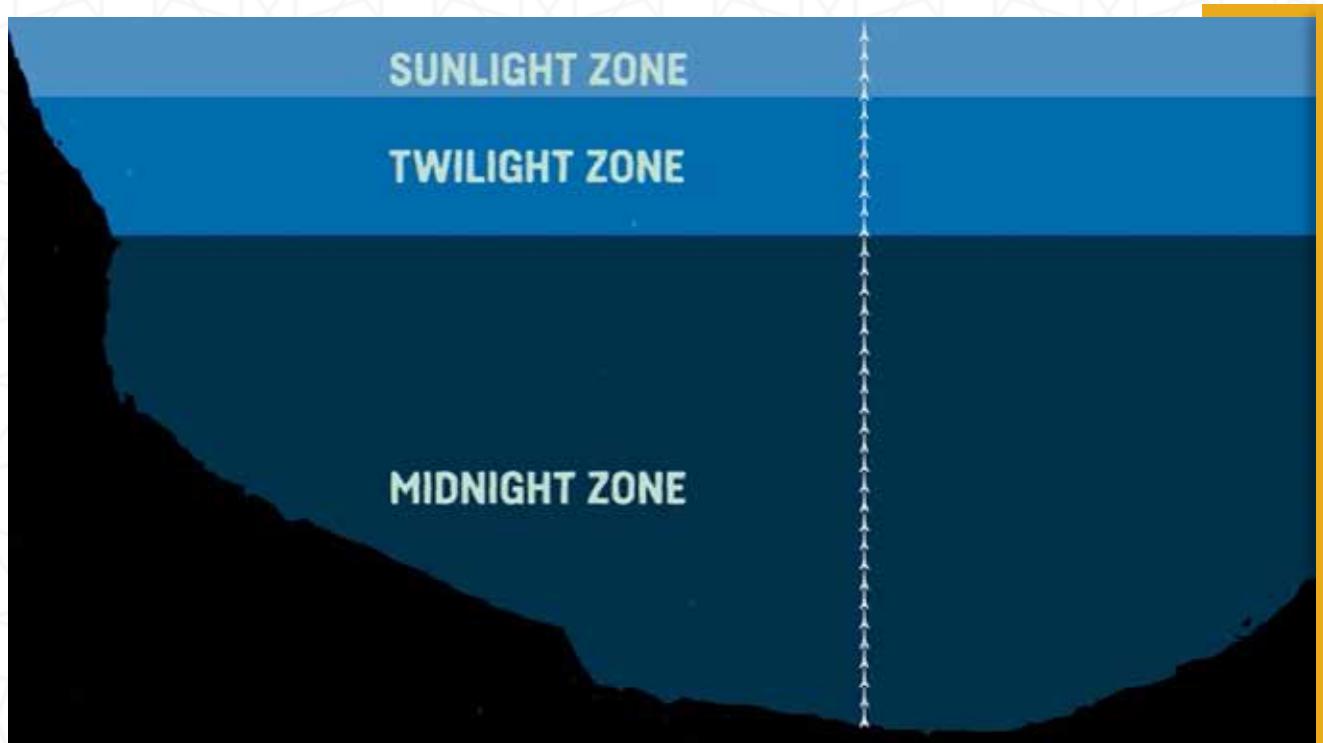
Prof. Rao said that scientists have only now been able to confirm, with the help of modern equipment that there is darkness in the depths of the ocean. Humans are unable to dive unaided underwater for more than 20 to 30 meters and cannot survive in the deep oceanic regions at a depth of more than 200 meters. This verse does not refer to all seas because not every sea can be described as having accumulated darkness layered one over another. It refers especially to a deep sea or deep ocean, as the Qur'an says, "darkness in vast deep ocean".

**This layered darkness in a deep ocean is the result of two causes:**





a A light ray is composed of seven colours. These seven colours are, Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red (VIBGYOR). The light ray undergoes refraction when it hits water. The upper 10 to 15 metres of water absorbs the red colour. Therefore, if a diver is 25 metres under water and gets wounded, he would not be able to see the red colour of his blood, because the red colour does not reach this depth. Similarly orange rays are absorbed at 30 to 50 metres, yellow at 50 to 100 metres, green at 100 to 200 metres, and finally, blue beyond 200 metres and violet and indigo above 200 metres. Due to successive disappearance of colour, one layer after another, the ocean progressively becomes darker, i.e., darkness takes place in layers of light. Below a depth of 1000 metres there is complete darkness.





- b The sun's rays are absorbed by clouds which in turn scatter light rays thus causing a layer of darkness under the clouds. This is the first layer of darkness. When light rays reach the surface of the ocean, they are reflected by the wave surface giving it a shiny appearance. Therefore, it is the waves that reflect light and cause darkness. The un-reflected light penetrates into the depths of the ocean. Therefore, the ocean has two parts. The surface characterised by light and warmth and the depth characterized by darkness. The surface is further separated from the deep part of the ocean by waves.



The internal waves cover the deep waters of seas and oceans because the deep waters have a higher density than the waters above them.

The darkness begins below the internal waves. Even the fish in the depths of the ocean cannot see; their only source of light is from their own bodies.



**The Qur'an rightly mentions:** "Darkness in a vast deep ocean overwhelmed with waves topped by waves."

In other words, above these waves there are more types of waves, i.e., those found on the surface of the ocean. The Qur'anic verse continues, "topped by (dark) clouds; depths of darkness, one above another."



These clouds, as explained, are barriers one over the other that further cause darkness by absorption of colors at different levels.

Prof. Durga Rao concluded by saying, "1400 years ago a normal human being could not explain this phenomenon in so much detail." Thus, the information must have come from a supernatural source."



## LESSON 9

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – BIOLOGY, BOTANY & ZOOLOGY

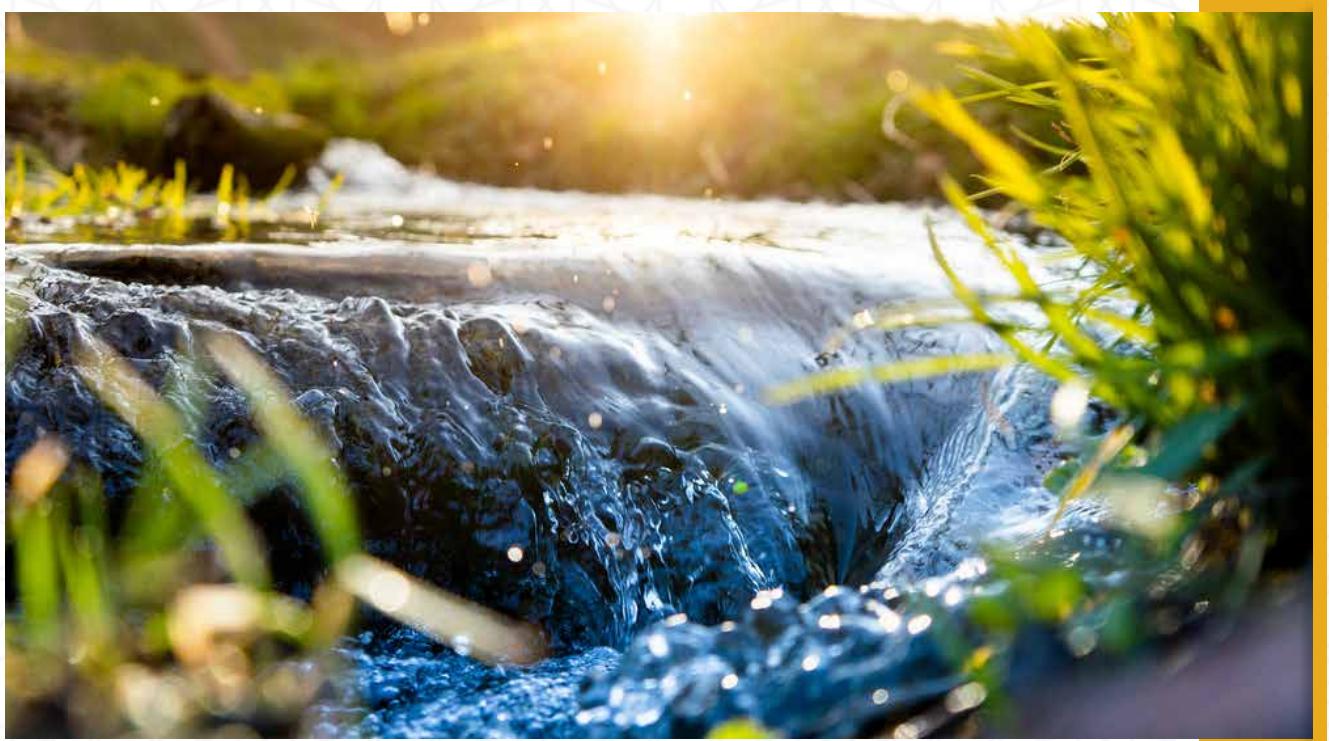


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Dr Zakir Naik



## 6 BIOLOGY



### i Every Living Thing is made of Water

Consider the following Qur'anic verse:

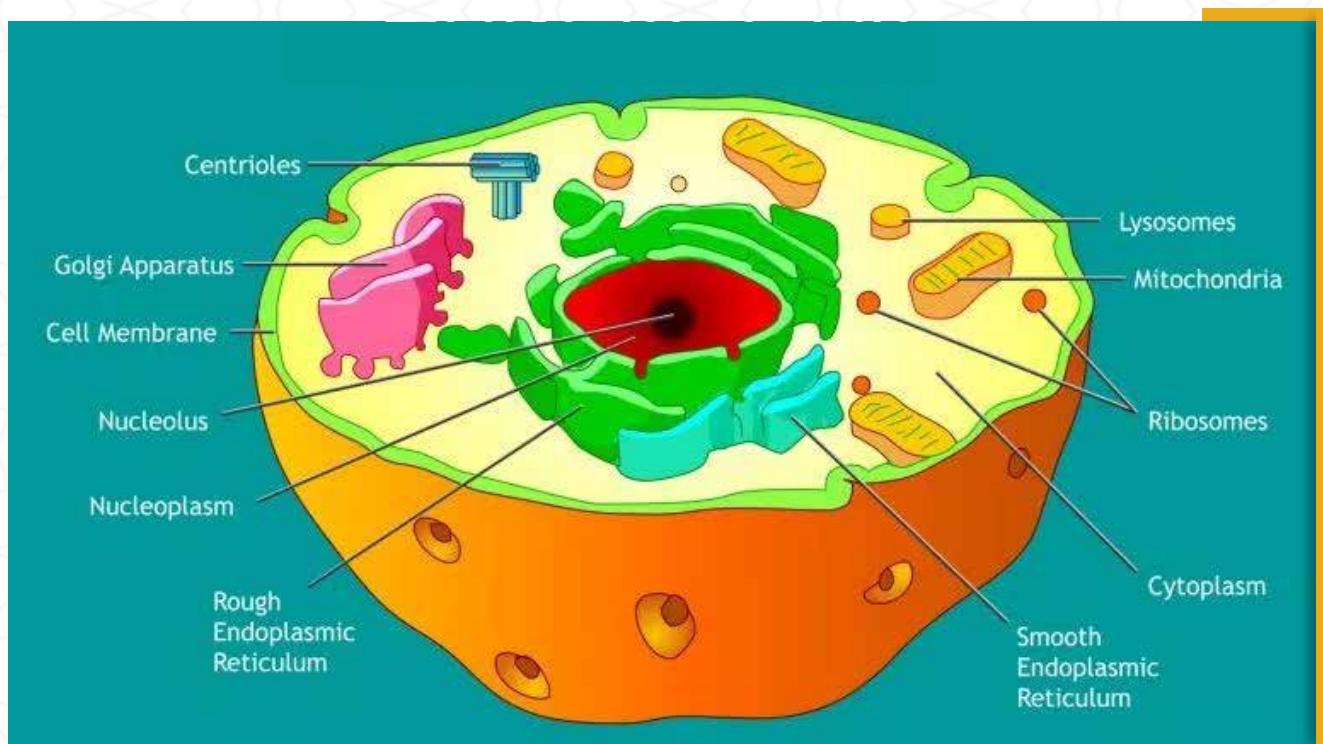
أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا  
وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ



“Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth Were joined together (as one unit of Creation), before We clove them asunder? We made form water every living thing. Will they not then believe?”

Al Qur'an 21:30

Only after advances have been made in science, do we now know that cytoplasm, the basic substance of the cell is made up of 80% water. Modern research has also revealed that most organisms consist of 50% to 90% water and that every living entity requires water for its existence. Was it possible 14 centuries ago for any human being to guess that every living being was made of water? Moreover, would such a guess be conceivable by a human being in the deserts of Arabia where there has always been scarcity of water?





## ii Every living animal is made of water

The following verse refers to the creation of animals from water:

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَ كُلَّ دَآبَةٍ مِّنْ مَاءٍ



"And Allah has created every animal from water."

Al Qur'an 24:45





### iii Human beings are created from Water

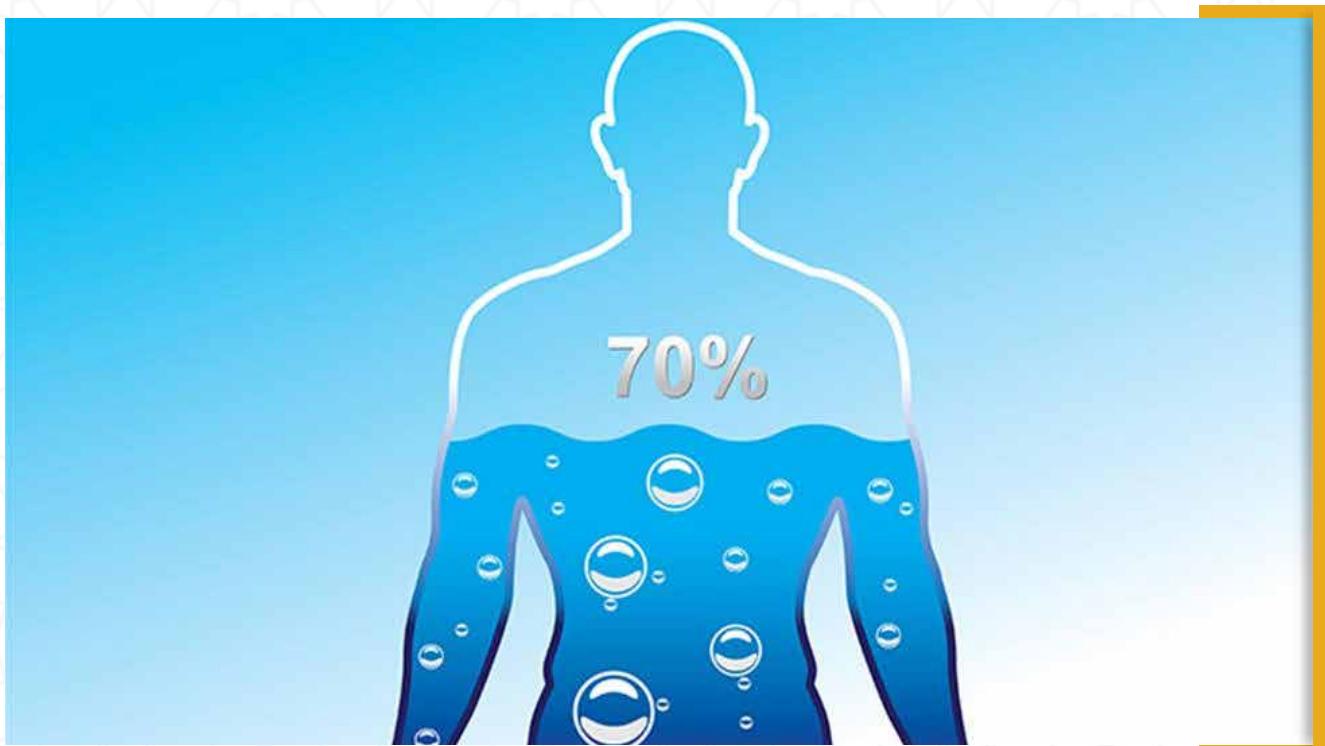
The following verse refers to the creation of human beings from water:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا



"It is He Who has created man from water: Then has He established relationships of lineage and marriage: for your Lord has power (over all things)."

Al Qur'an 25:54





## 7 BOTANY



### i Plants created in Pairs, Male and Female

Previously humans did not know that plants too have male and female gender distinctions. Botany states that every plant has a male and female gender. Even the plants that are unisexual have distinct elements of both male and female.



وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ أَرْوَاحًا مِّنْ نَبَاتٍ شَتَّى



"And has sent down water from the sky. With it We produced diverse pairs of plants each separate from the others."

Al Qur'an 20:53





## ii) Fruits Created in Pairs, Male and Female

وَمِنْ كُلِّ الْثَمَرَاتِ جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ أَثْنَيْنِ



"And fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two."

Al Qur'an 13:3





Fruit is the end product of reproduction of the superior plants. The stage preceding fruit is the flower, which has male and female organs (stamens and ovules). Once pollen has been carried to the flower, they bear fruit, which in turn matures and frees its seed. All fruits therefore imply the existence of male and female organs; a fact that is mentioned in the Qur'an.



In certain species, fruit can come from non-fertilized flowers (parthenocarpic fruit), e.g. bananas, certain types of pineapple, fig, orange, vine, etc. They also have definite sexual characteristics.



### iii) Everything made in Pairs

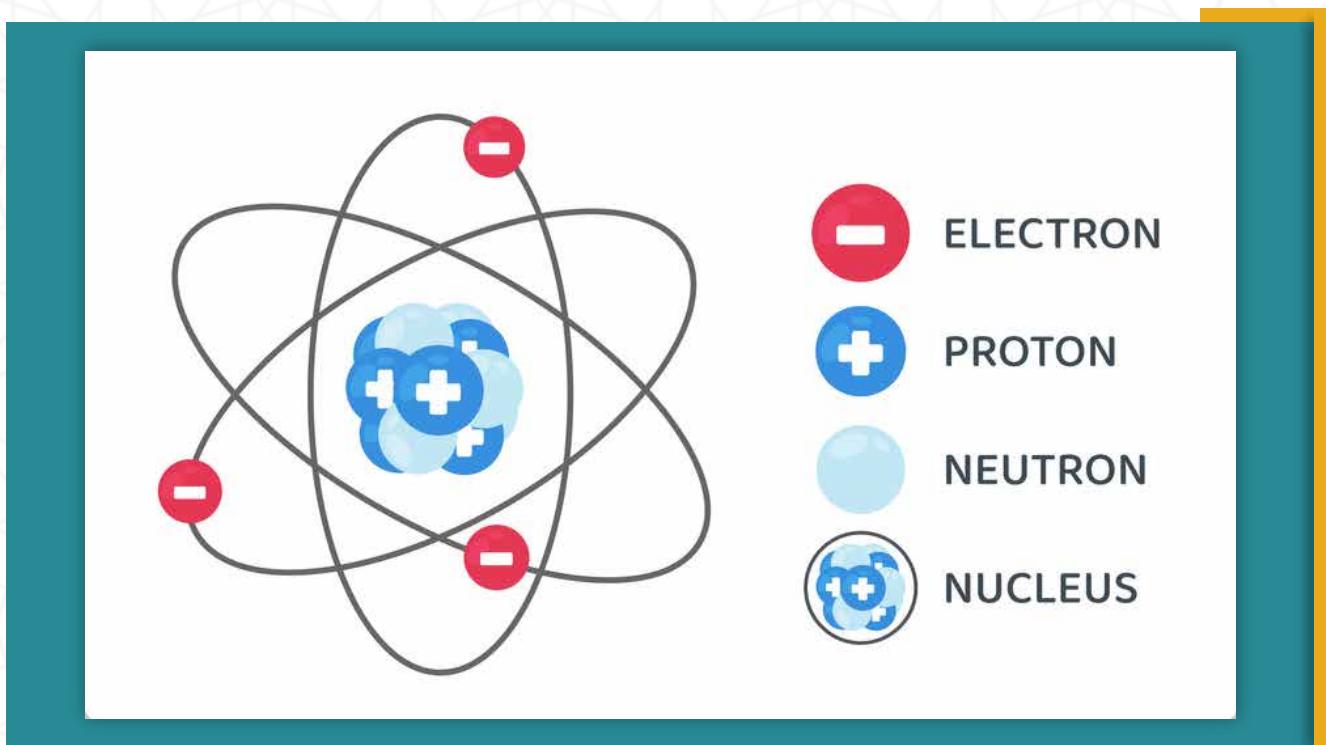
وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ



"And of everything We have created pairs."

Al Qur'an 51:49

This refers to things other than humans, animals, plants and fruits. It may also be referring to a phenomenon like electricity in which the atoms consist of negatively – and positively charged electrons and protons.





سُبْحَنَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُبْتَهُ أَلْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا  
يَعْلَمُونَ



“Glory to Allah. Who created in pairs all things that the earth produces, as well as their own (human) kind and (other) things of which they have no knowledge.”

Al Qur'an 36:36



The Qur'an here says that everything is created in pairs, including things that the humans do not know at present and may discover later.



## 8 ZOOLOGY



### i Animals and Birds live in Communities

وَمَا مِنْ دَآبَةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٌ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أُمَّمٌ أَمْثَالُكُمْ



"There is not an animal (that lives) on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like you."

Al Qur'an 6:38

Research has shown that animals and birds live in communities, i.e., they organize, and live and work together.



## ii The Flight of Birds

أَلَمْ يَرُوا إِلَى الْطَّيْرِ مُسَخَّرِتٍ فِي جَوِّ السَّمَاءِ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ۖ إِنَّ فِي  
ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ



"Do they not look at the birds, held poised in the midst of the air and the sky? Nothing holds them up but (the power of) Allah. Verily in this are signs for those who believe."

Al Qur'an 16:79





A similar message is repeated in the Qur'an in the verse:

أَوَلَمْ يَرُوا إِلَيْهِ الظَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَافَّٰتِ وَيَقْبِضُنَّ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا الْرَّحْمَنُ<sup>۲</sup>  
إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ بَصِيرٌ



"Do they not observe the birds above them, spreading their wings and folding them in? None can uphold them except the Most Gracious: Truly it is He that watches over all things."

Al Qur'an 67:19





The Arabic word 'Amsaka' literally means, 'to put one's hand on, seize, hold, hold someone back,' which expresses the idea that Allah holds the bird up in His power. These verses stress the extremely close dependence of the birds' behavior on Divine order. Modern scientific data has shown the degree of perfection attained by certain species of birds with regard to the programming of their movements. It is only the existence of a migratory program in the genetic code of the birds that can explain the long and complicated journey that very young birds, without any prior experience and without any guide, are able to accomplish. They are also able to return to the departure point on a definite date.





Prof Hamburger in his book 'Power and Fragility' gives the example of 'mutton-bird' that lives in the Pacific with its journey of over 15,000 miles in the shape of figure 8! It makes this journey over a period of 6 months and comes back to its departure point with a maximum delay of one week. The highly complicated instructions for such a journey have to be contained in the birds' nervous cells. They are definitely programmed. Should we not reflect on the identity of this 'Programmer'.





### iii The Bee

#### a Bee has a sophisticated method of navigation

وَأَوْحَى رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنِ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ. ثُمَّ كُلِّي مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ فَاسْلُكِي سُبُّلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلُلًا يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بُطُونِهَا شَرَابٌ مُّخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ، فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ لِلنَّاسِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ



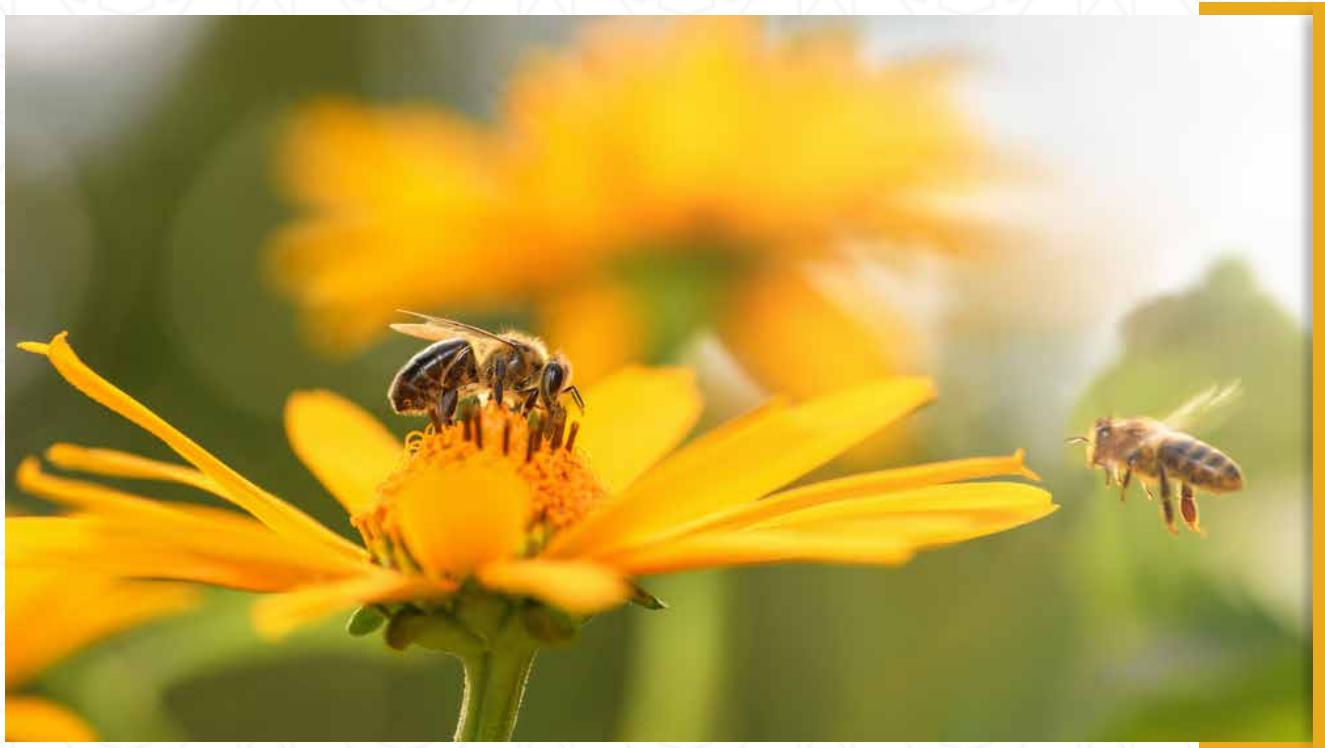
"And your Lord taught the Bee To build its cells in hills, on trees, and in (men's) habitations. Then to eat of all the produce (of the earth), and follow the ways of your Lord made smooth."

Al Qur'an 16:68-69





Von-Frisch received the Nobel Prize in 1973 for his research on the behaviour and communication of the bees. The bee, after discovering any new garden or flower, goes back and tells its fellow bees the exact direction and map to get there, which is known as 'bee dance'. The meanings of this insect's movements that are intended to transmit information between worker bees have been discovered scientifically using photography and other methods. The Qur'an mentions in the above verse how the bee finds with skill the spacious paths of its Lord.





**b The worker bee or the soldier bee is a female bee**

In Surah An-Nahl, chapter no. 16, Verses 68 and 69 the gender used for the bee is the female gender (Fasluki and Kuli), indicating that the bee that leaves its home for gathering food is a female bee. In other words, the soldier or worker bee is a female bee.



However, in Shakespeare's play, "Henry IV", some of the characters speak about bees and mention that the bees are soldiers and that they have a king. That is what people thought in Shakespearean times. They thought that the worker bees are male bees, and they go home and are answerable to a king bee. This, however, is not true. The worker bees are females and they do not report to a king bee but to a queen bee. But it took modern investigations in the last 300 years to discover this.



#### iv Spider's Home is Fragile

مَثُلُ الَّذِينَ أَتَخْذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أُولِيَاءَ كَمَثَلِ الْعَنكَبُوتِ اتَّخَذَتْ بَيْتًا  
وَإِنَّ أَوْهَنَ الْبَيْوَاتِ لَبَيْتُ الْعَنكَبُوتِ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ



"The parable of those who take protectors other than Allah is that of the spider, who builds (to itself) a house; but truly the flimsiest of houses is the spider's house; if they but knew."

Al Qur'an 29:41

Besides giving the physical description of the spider's web as being very flimsy, delicate, and weak, the Qur'an also stresses on the flimsiness of the relationship in the spider's house, where the female spider many a time kills its mate, the male spider.





## V Lifestyle and Communication of Ants

Consider the following Qur'anic verse:

وَحُشِرَ لِسْلَيْمَنَ جُنُودُهُ، مِنَ الْجِنِّ وَالإِنْسِ وَالطَّيْرِ فَهُمْ يُوزَّعُونَ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا  
أَتَوْا عَلَىٰ وَادِ الْنَّمْلِ قَالَتْ نَمْلَةٌ يَأْتِيهَا النَّمْلُ أَذْخُلُوا مَسَكِنَكُمْ لَا  
يَخْطِمَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ، وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ



"And before Solomon were marshalled His hosts, of Jinns and men and birds, and they were all kept in order and ranks. At length, when they came to a valley of ants, one of the ants said: "O you ants, get into your habitations, lest Solomon and his hosts crush you (under foot) without knowing it."

Al Qur'an 27:17-18

In the past, some people would have probably mocked at the Qur'an, taking it to be a fairy tale book in which ants talk to each other and communicate sophisticated messages.



In recent times, research has shown us several facts about the lifestyle of ants, which were not known earlier to humankind. Research has shown that the animals or insects whose lifestyle is closest in resemblance to the lifestyle of human beings are the ants.

**This can be seen from the following findings regarding ants:**

- a** The ants bury their dead in a manner similar to the humans.
- b** They have a sophisticated system of division of labour, whereby they have managers, supervisors, foremen, workers, etc.
- c** Once in a while they meet among themselves to have a chat.
- d** They have an advanced method of communication among themselves.



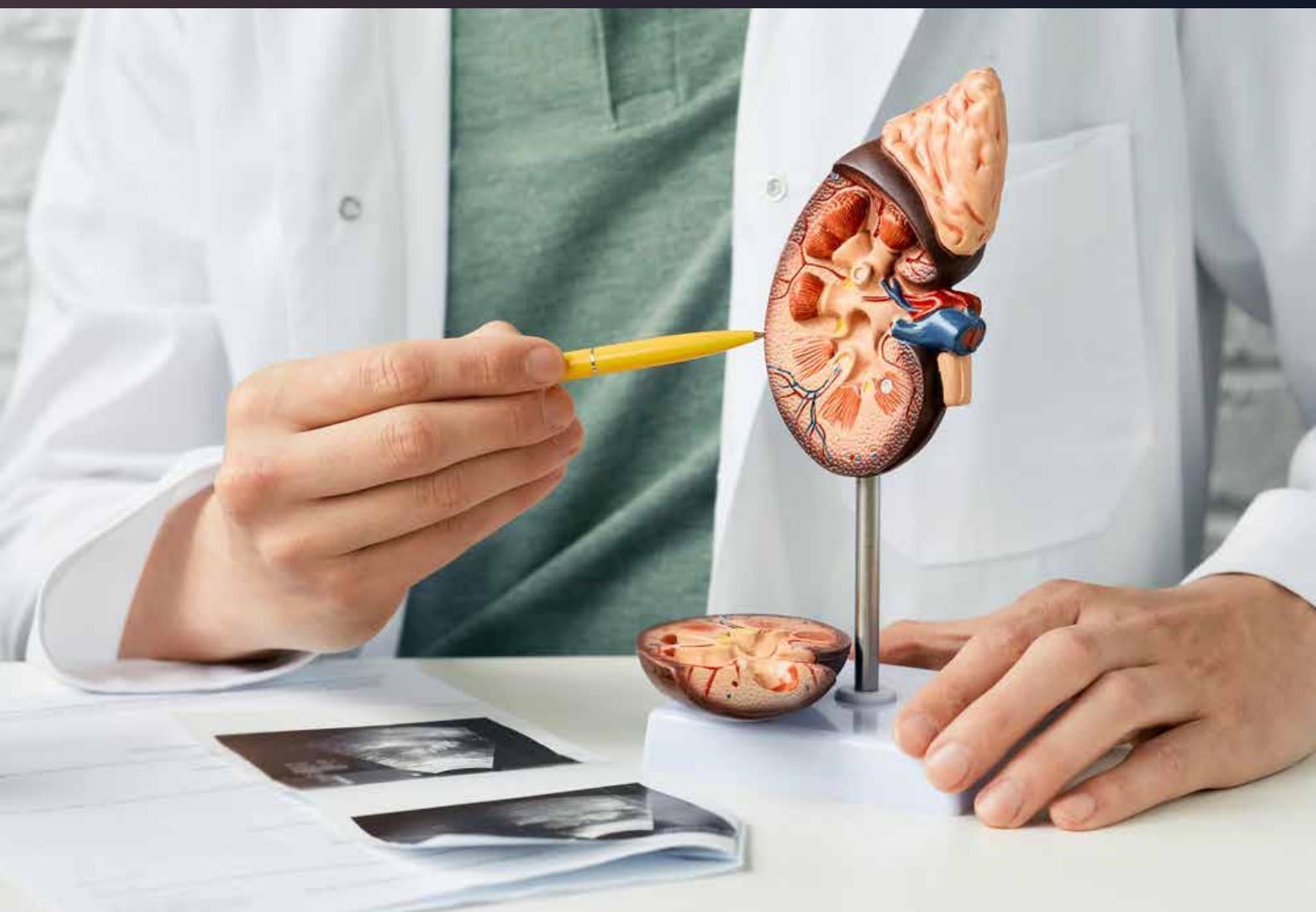
- e They hold regular markets wherein they exchange goods.
- f They store grains for long periods in winter and if the grain begins to bud, they cut the roots, as if they understand that if they leave it to grow, it will rot. If the grains stored by them get wet due to rains, they take these grains out into the sunlight to dry, and once these are dry, they take them back inside as though they know that humidity will cause development of root systems and thereafter rotting of the grains.





## LESSON 10

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – MEDICINE AND PHYSIOLOGY



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**Dr Zakir Naik**



## 9 MEDICINE



### Honey has Healing Properties

The bee assimilates juices of various kinds of flowers and fruit and forms within its body the honey, which it stores in its cells of wax. Only a couple of centuries ago, man came to know that honey comes from the belly of the bee.

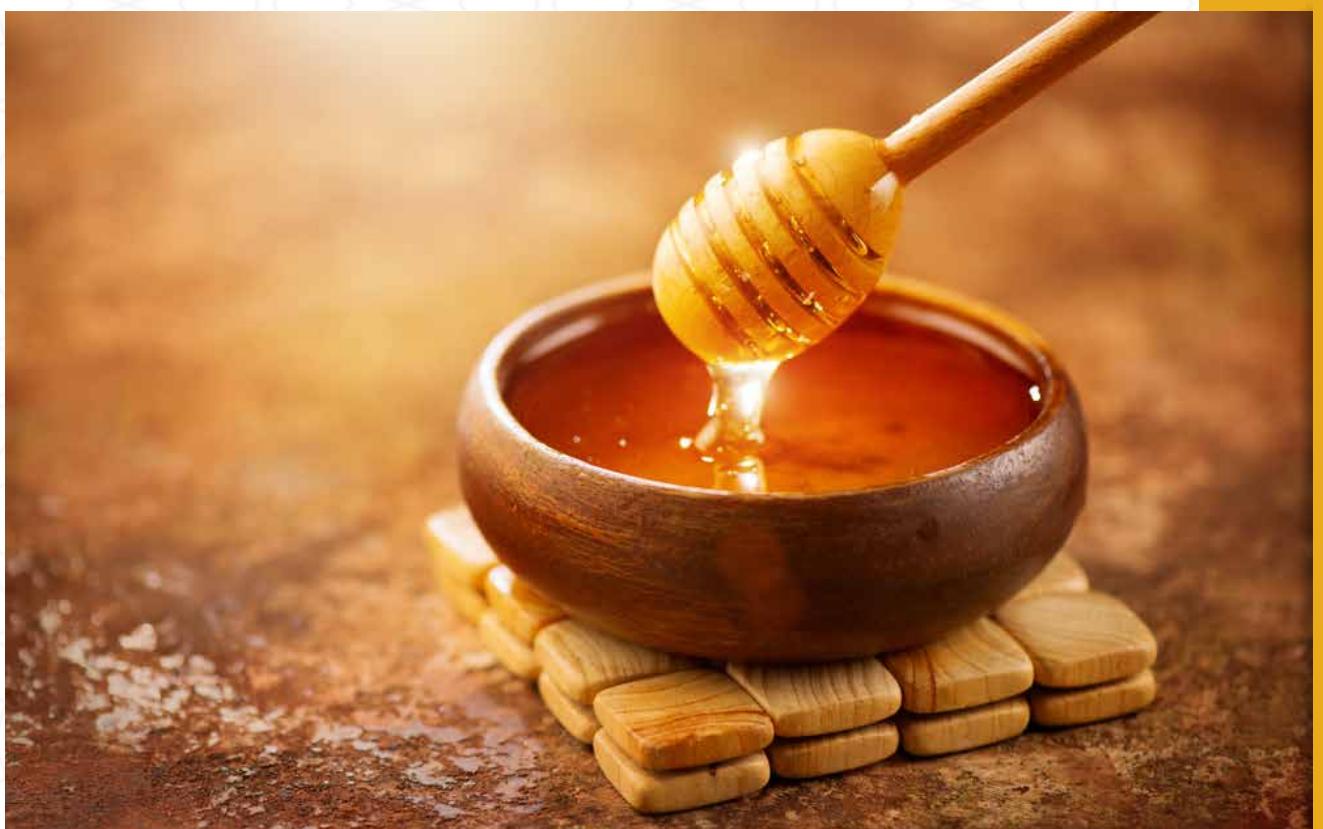
**This fact was mentioned in the Qur'an 1400 years ago in the following Verse:**

يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بُطُونِهَا شَرَابٌ مُّخْتَلِفُ الْوُنُودُ، فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ لِلنَّاسِ



“There issues from within their bodies a drink of varying colours, wherein is healing for men.”

Al Qur'an 16:69



We are now aware that honey has a healing property and also a mild antiseptic property. The Russians used honey to cover their wounds in World War II. The wound would retain moisture and would leave very little scar tissue. Due to the density of honey, no fungus or bacteria would grow in the wound.



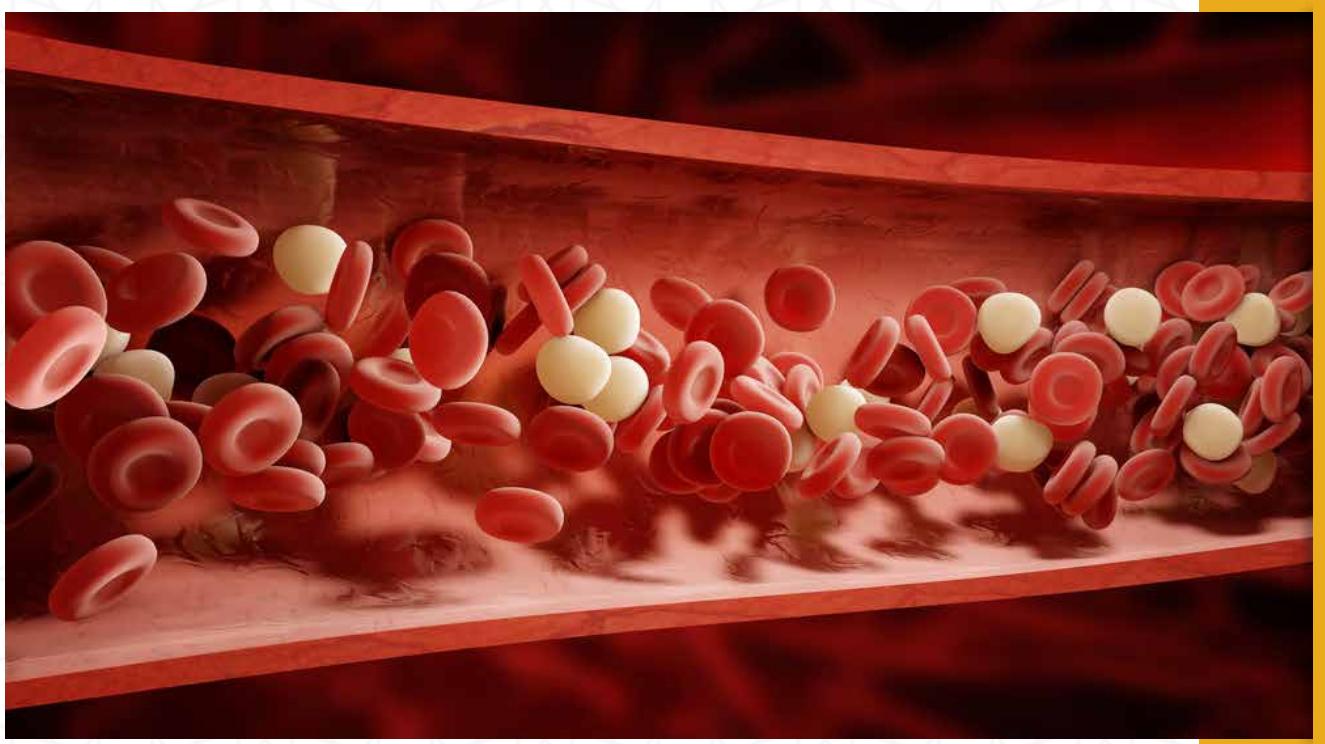
A person suffering from an allergy of a particular plant may be given honey from that plant so that the person develops resistance to that allergy. Honey is rich in fructose and vitamin K.



Thus, the knowledge contained in the Qur'an regarding honey, its origin and properties, was far ahead of the time it was revealed.



## 10 PHYSIOLOGY

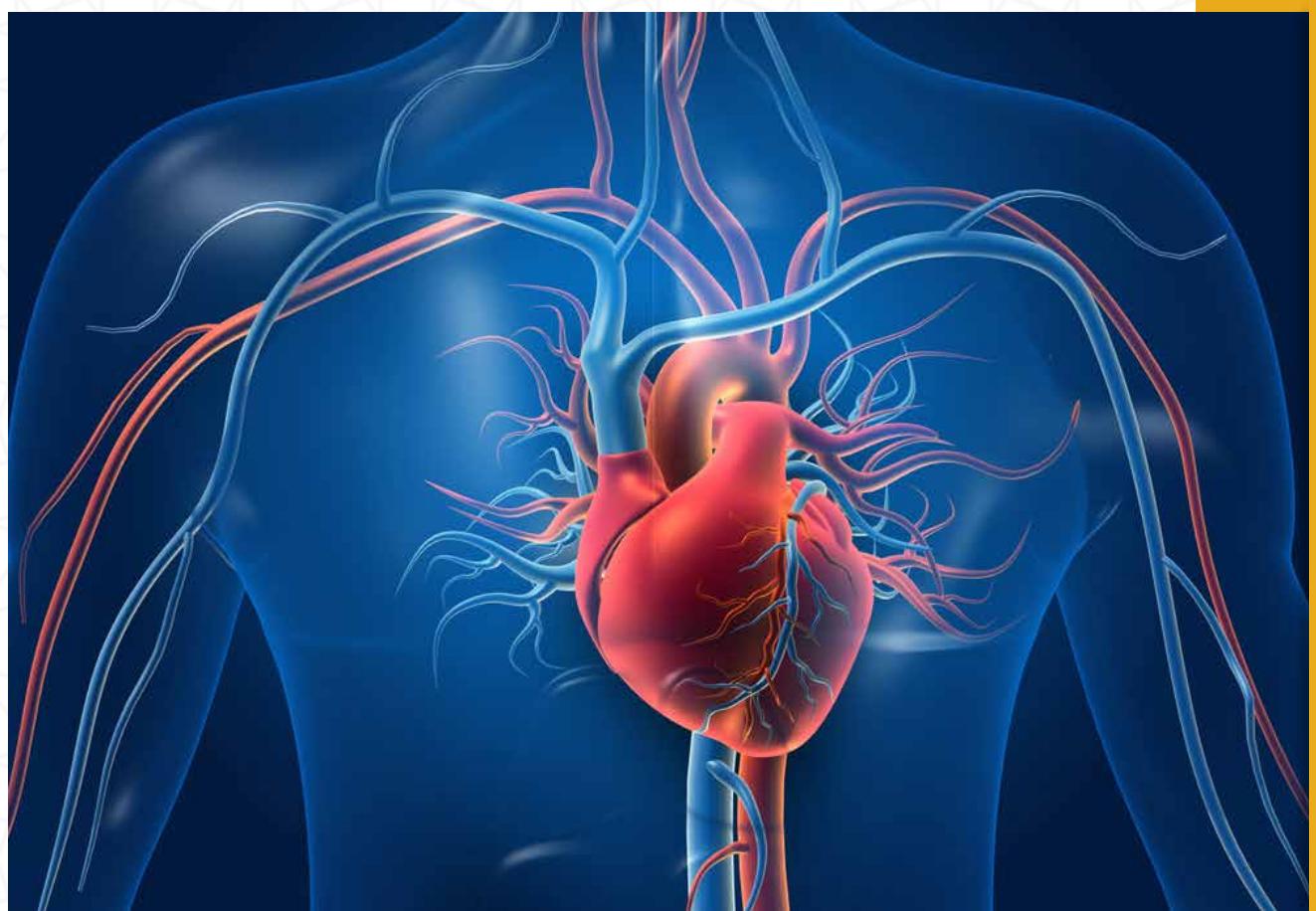


### Blood Circulation and the Production of Milk

The Qur'an was revealed 600 years before the Muslim scientist Ibn Nafees described the circulation of the blood and 1000 years before William Harvey brought this understanding to the Western world. Roughly thirteen centuries before it was known what happens in the intestines to ensure that organs are nourished by the process of digestive absorption, a verse in the Qur'an described the source of the constituents of milk, in conformity with these notions.



To understand the Qur'anic verse concerning the above concepts, it is important to know that chemical reactions occur in the intestines and that, from there, substances extracted from food pass into the blood stream via a complex system; sometimes by way of the liver, depending on their chemical nature. The blood transports them to all the organs of the body, among which are the milk-producing mammary glands. In simple terms, certain substances from the contents of the intestines enter into the vessels of the intestinal wall itself, and these substances are transported by the blood stream to the various organs.





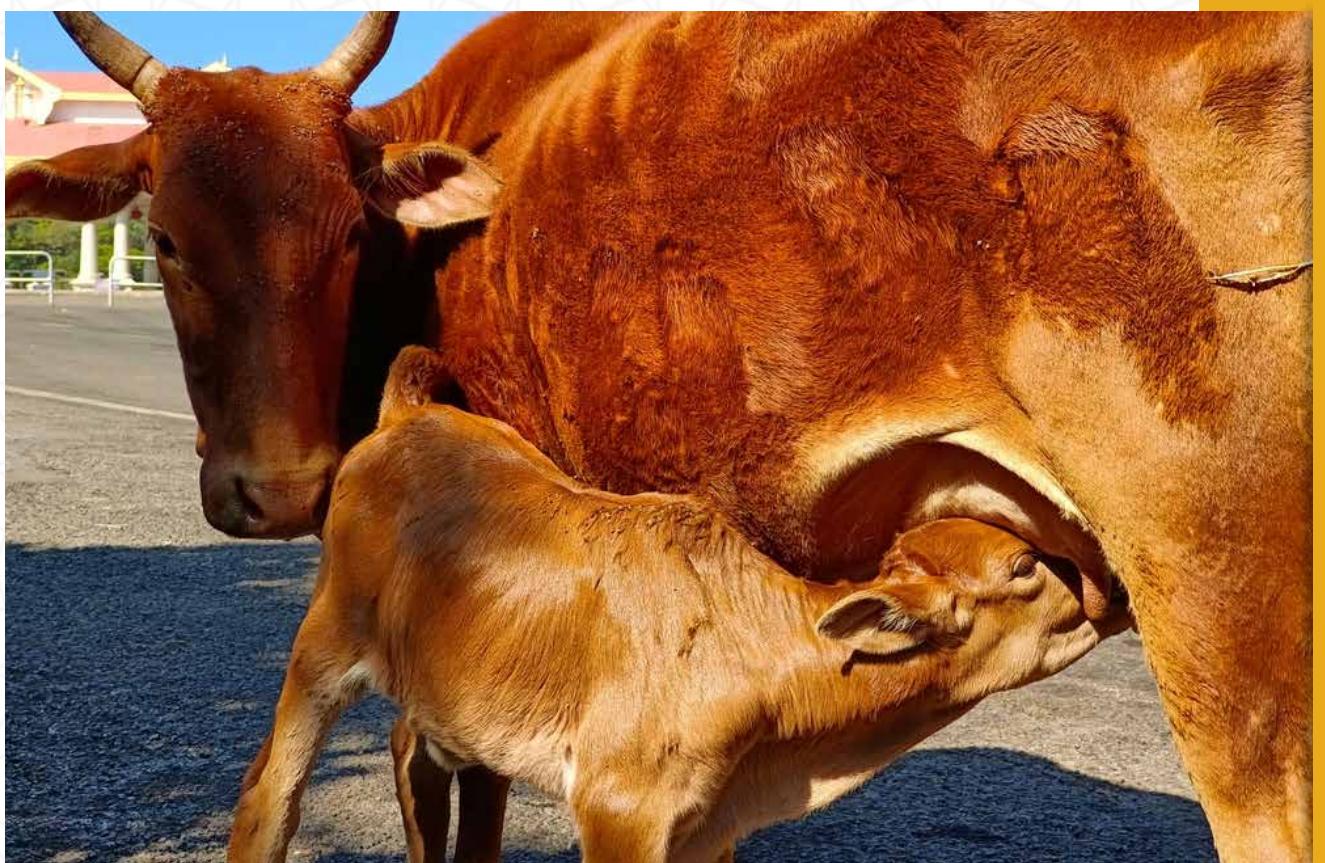
This concept must be fully appreciated if we wish to understand the following verses in the Qur'an:

وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةًۖ نُسْقِيْكُمْ مَمَّا فِي بُطُونِهِۚ مِنْ بَيْنِ فَرْثٍ وَدَمٍ لَبَنًا  
خَالِصًا سَائِغًا لِلشَّرِّيْنَ



"And verily in cattle (too) will you find an instructive Sign. From what is within their bodies, between excretions and blood, We produce, for your drink, milk, pure and agreeable to those who drink it."

Al Qur'an 16:66





وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً ۖ نُسْقِيْكُمْ مَمَّا فِي بُطُونِهَا وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنْفِعٌ كَثِيرٌ ۚ  
وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ



“And in cattle (too) you have an instructive example: From within their bodies We produce (milk) for you to drink; there are, in them. (Besides), numerous (other) benefits for you; and of their (meat) you eat.”

Al Qur'an 23:21



The Qur'anic description of the production of milk in cattle is strikingly similar to what modern physiology has discovered.



# LESSON 11

## QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – EMBRYOLOGY

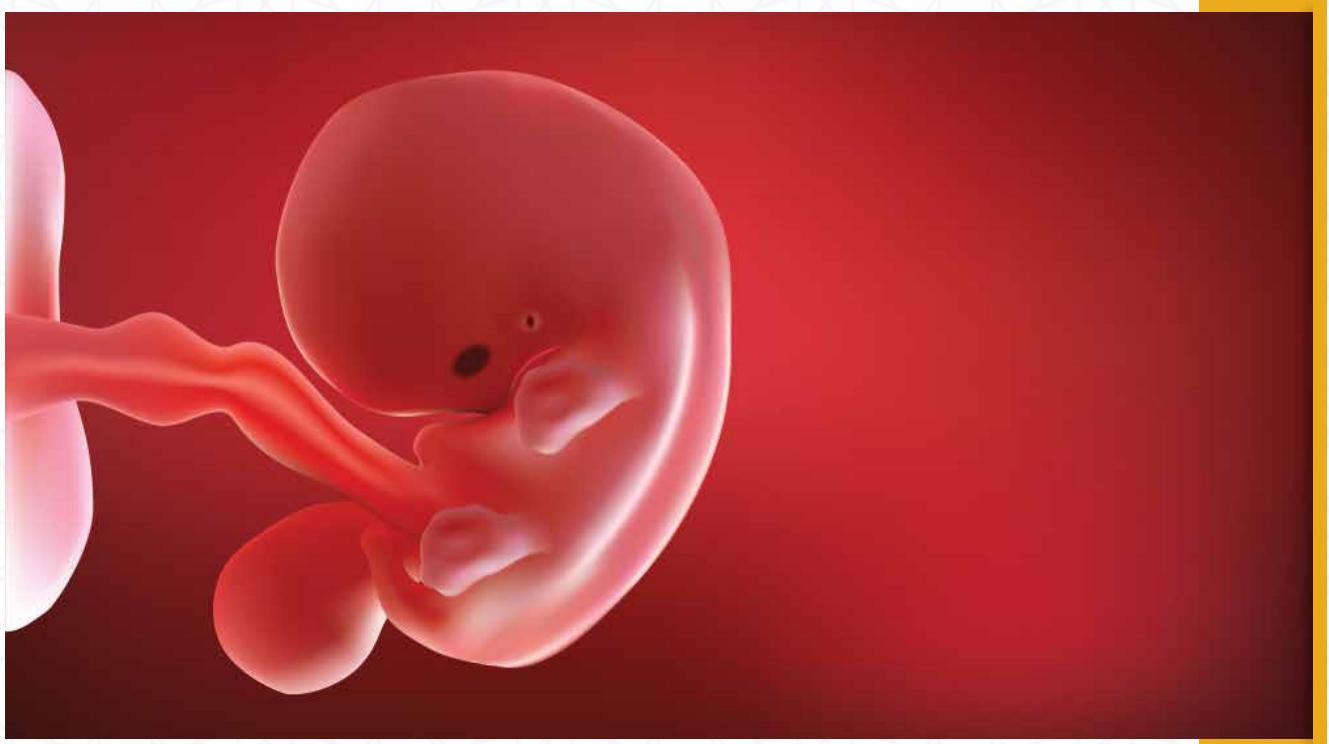


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**Dr Zakir Naik**



## 11 EMBRYOLOGY



### i Man is Created from 'Alaq – Leech-like Substance

A few decades ago, a group of Arabs collected all information concerning embryology from the Qur'an and followed the instruction of the Qur'an:

فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الْذِكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ



"If you realise this not, ask of those who possess the Message."

Al Qur'an 16:43 & 21:7



All the information from the Qur'an so gathered, was translated into English and presented to Prof (Dr) Keith Moore, who was the Professor of Embryology and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Toronto, in Canada. At present he is one of the highest authorities in the field of embryology.



He was asked to give his opinion regarding the information present in the Qur'an concerning the field of embryology. After carefully examining the translation of the Qur'anic verses presented to him, Dr Moore said that most of the information concerning embryology mentioned in the Qur'an is in perfect conformity with modern discoveries in the field of embryology and does not conflict with them in any way. He added that there were however a few verses, on whose scientific accuracy he could not comment.



He could not say whether the statements were true or false, since he himself was not aware of the information contained therein. There was also no mention of this information in modern writings and studies on embryology.

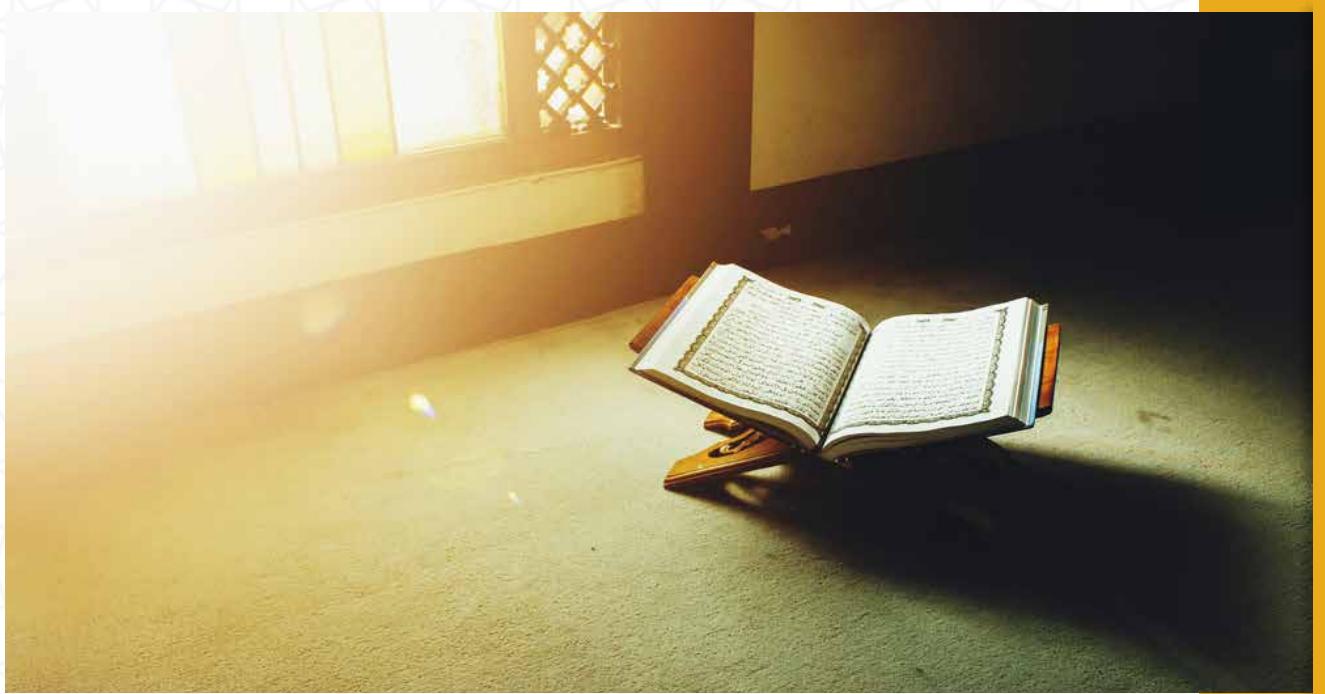
One such verse is:

أَقْرِأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ○ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَنَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ



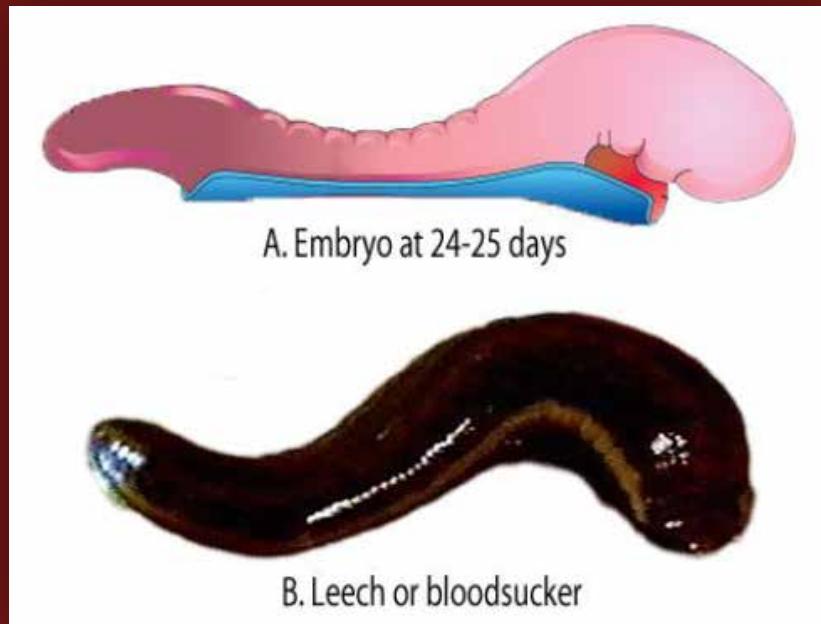
“Proclaim! (Or Read!) In the name of your Lord and Cherisher, Who created. Created man, out of a leech-like Clot.”

Al Qur'an 96:1-2





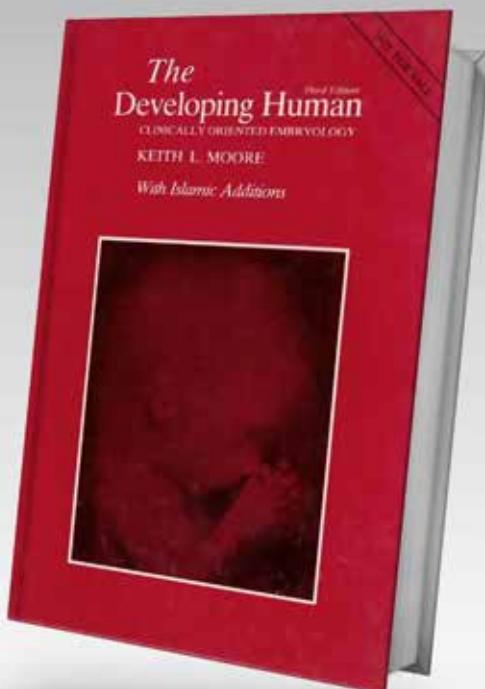
The word 'Alaq' besides meaning a congealed clot of blood also means something that clings, a leech-like substance. Dr Keith Moore had no knowledge whether an embryo in the initial stages appears like a leech. To check this out he studied the initial stage of the embryo under a very powerful microscope in his laboratory and compared what he observed with a diagram of a leech and he was astonished at the striking resemblance between the two!



In the same manner, he acquired more information on embryology, that was hitherto not known to him, from the Qur'an.



Dr Keith Moore answered about eighty questions dealing with embryological data mentioned in the Qur'an and Hadith. Noting that the information contained in the Qur'an and Hadith was in full agreement with the latest discoveries in the field of embryology, Prof Moore said, "If I was asked these questions thirty years ago, I would not have been able to answer half of them for lack of scientific information."



Dr Keith Moore had earlier authored the book, 'The Developing Human'. After acquiring new knowledge from the Qur'an, he wrote, in 1982, the 3rd edition of the same book, 'The Developing Human'. The book was the recipient of an award for the best medical book written by a single author. This book has been translated into several major languages of the world and is used as a textbook of embryology in the first year of medical studies.



In 1981, during the Seventh Medical Conference in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Dr Moore said, "**It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Qur'an about human development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad from God or Allah, because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later. This proves to me that Muhammad must have been a Messenger of God or Allah.**"



Dr Joe Leigh Simpson, Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA, proclaims, “These Ahadith, sayings of Muhammad (pbuh) could not have been obtained on the basis of the scientific knowledge that was available at the time of the writer (7th century). It follows that not only is there no conflict between genetics and religion (Islam) but in fact religion (Islam) may guide science by adding revelation to some of the traditional scientific approaches... there exist statements in the Qur'an shown centuries later to be valid which support knowledge in the Qur'an having been derived from God.”





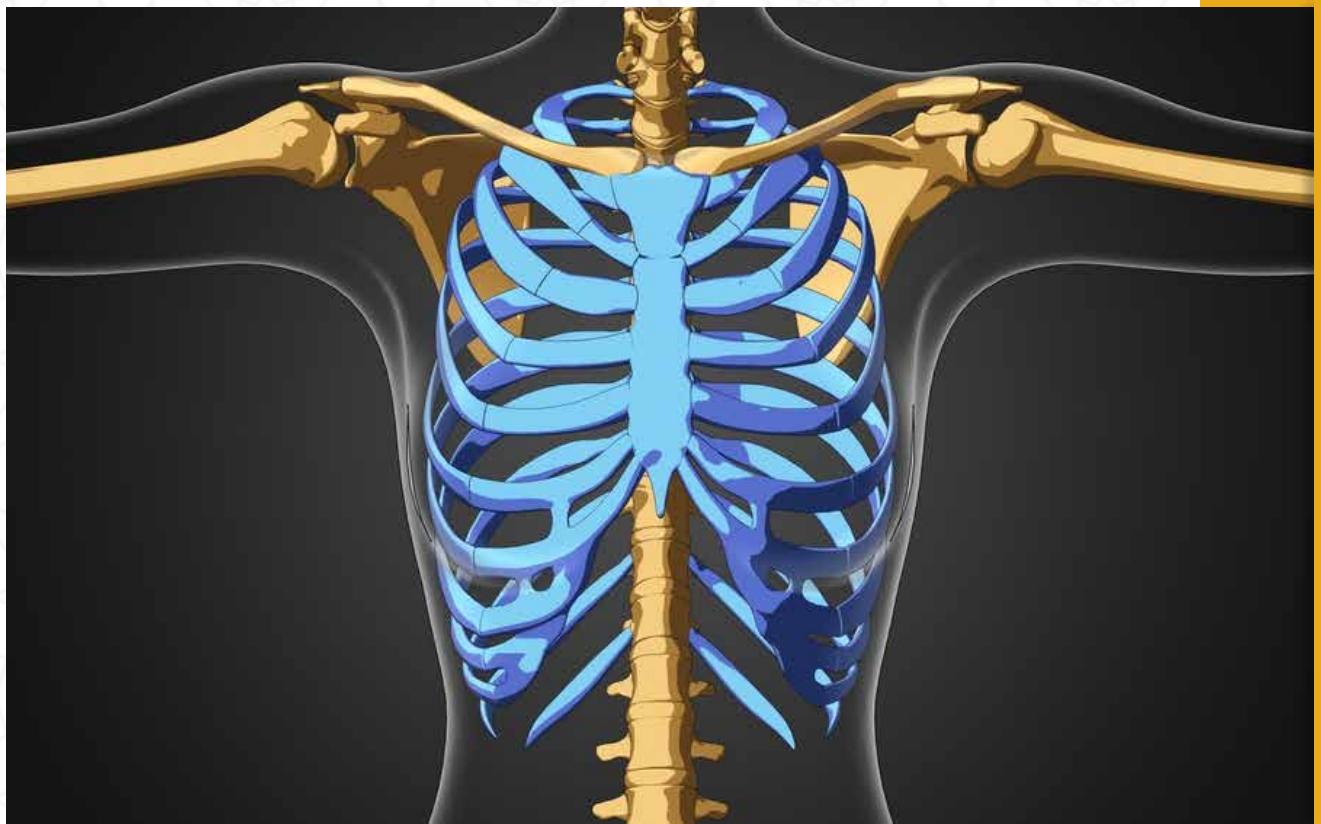
## ii) Man Created from a drop emitted from between the Backbone and the Ribs

فَلَيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَنُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ خُلِقَ مِنْ مَآءٍ دَافِقٍ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَصْلَبِ  
وَالْتَّرَأَبِ



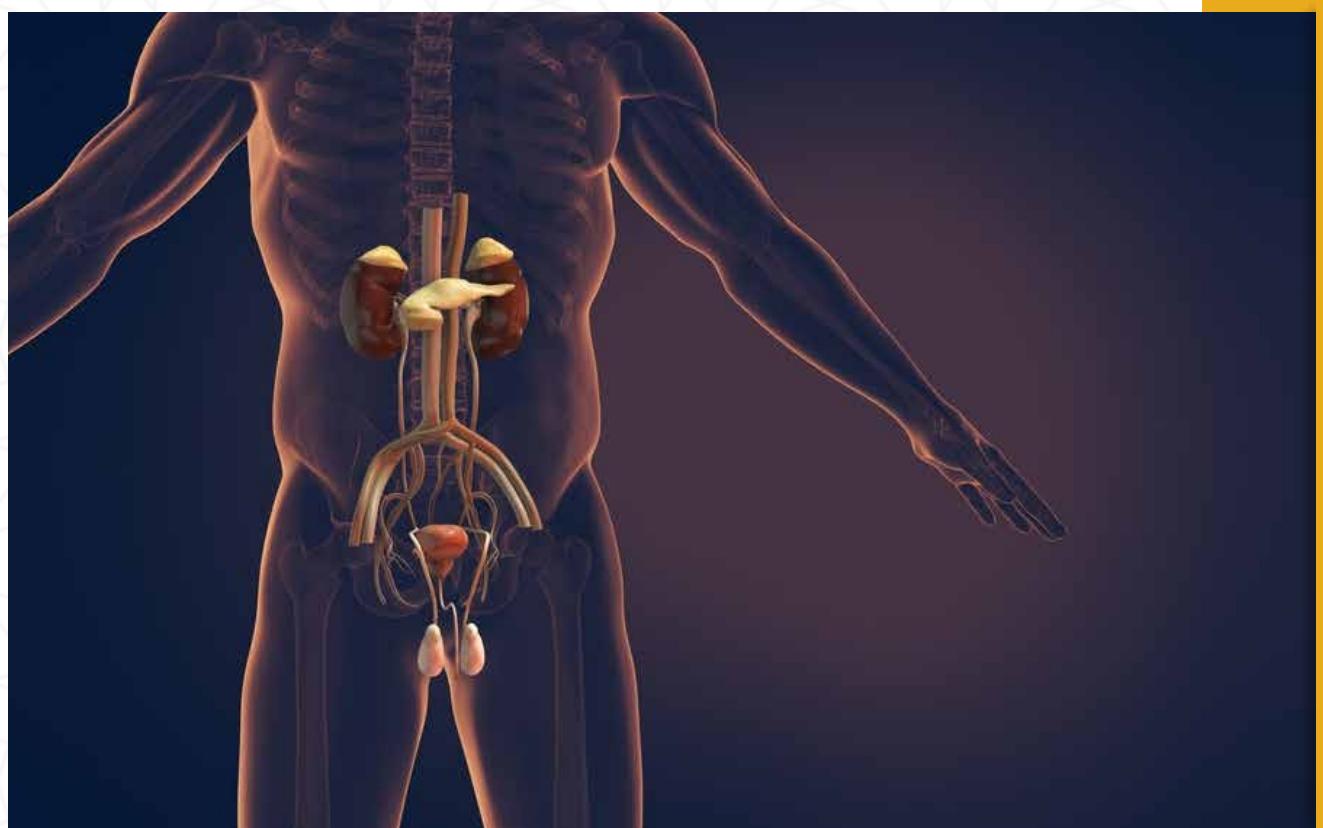
"Now let man but think from what he is created! He is created from a drop emitted. Proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs."

Al Qur'an 86:5-7





In embryonic stages, the reproductive organs of the male and female, i.e., the testicles and the ovaries, begin their development near the kidney between the spinal column and the eleventh and twelfth ribs. Later they descend, the female gonads (ovaries) stop in the pelvis while the male gonads (testicles) continue their descent before birth to reach the scrotum through the inguinal canal. Even in the adult after the descent of the reproductive organ, these organs receive their nerve supply and blood supply from the abdominal aorta, which is in the area between the backbone (spinal column) and the ribs. Even the lymphatic drainage and the venous return go to the same area.





### iii Human Beings Created from Nutfah (Minute Quantity of Liquid)

The Glorious Qur'an mentions no less than eleven times that the human being is created from 'Nutfah', which means a minute quantity of liquid or a trickle of liquid which remains after emptying a cup. This is mentioned in several verses of the Qur'an including 16:4, 18:37, 22:5, 23:13, 35:11, 36:77, 40:67, 53:46, 75:37, 76:2 and 80:19.



Science has confirmed in recent times that only one out of an average of three million ejaculated sperms is required for fertilizing the ovum. This means that only a 1/three millionth part or 0.00003% of the quantity of ejaculated sperms that are emitted is required for fertilization.



#### iv Human Beings Created from Sulalah (Quintessence of Liquid)

ثُمَّ جَعَلَ نَسْلَهُ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِّنْ مَآءٍ مَّهِينٍ



"And made his progeny from a quintessence of despised fluid."

Al Qur'an 32:8





The Arabic word ‘Sulalah’ means quintessence or the best part of a whole. We have come to know now that only one single spermatozoon that penetrates the ovum is required for fertilization, out of the several millions produced by man. That one spermatozoon out of several millions, is referred to in the Qur'an as ‘Sulalah’. ‘Sulalah’ also means gentle extraction from a fluid. The fluid refers to both male and female germinal fluids containing gametes. Both ovum and sperm are gently extracted from their environments in the process of fertilization.





## v Man Created from Nutfatun Amshaj (Mingled Liquids)

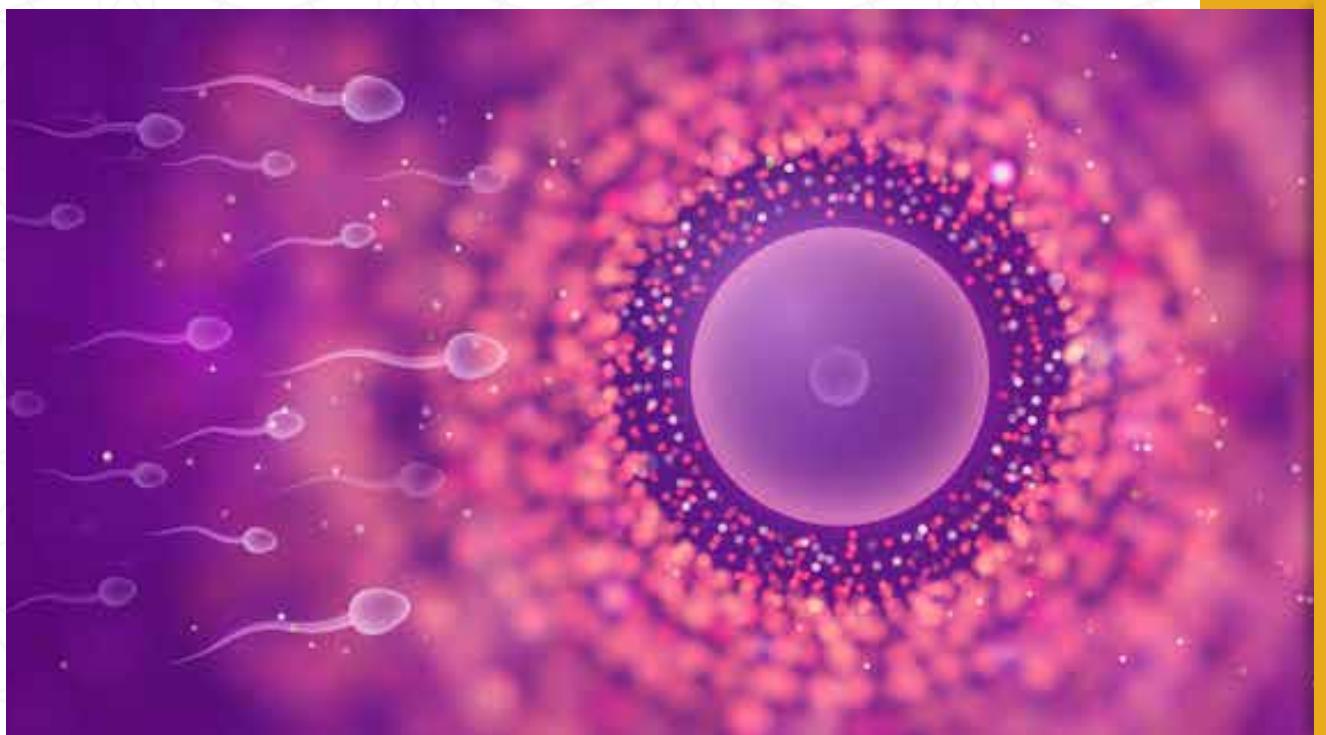
Consider the following Qur'anic Verse:

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَنَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ



"Verily We created Man from a drop of mingled sperm."

Al Qur'an 76:2





The Arabic word ‘Nutfatin Amshajin’ means mingled liquids. According to some commentators of the Qur'an, mingled liquids refer to the male or female agents or liquids. After mixture of male and female gamete, the zygote still remains ‘Nutfah’. Mingled liquids can also refer to spermatic fluid that is formed of various secretions that come from various glands.

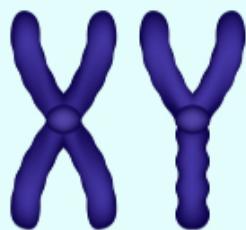


Therefore ‘Nutfatin Amshaj’, i.e., a minute quantity of mingled fluids refer to the male and female gametes (germinal fluids or cells) and part of the surrounding fluids.

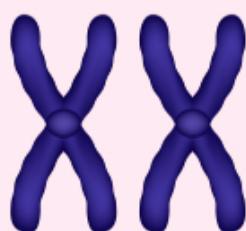


## vi Sex Determination

The sex of a foetus is determined by the nature of the sperm and not the ovum. The sex of the child, whether female or male, depends on whether the 23rd pair of chromosomes is XX or XY respectively.



**Male**



**Female**

Primarily sex determination occurs at fertilisation and depends upon the type of sex chromosome in the sperm that fertilizes an ovum. If it is an 'X' bearing sperm that fertilizes the ovum, the foetus is a female and if it is a 'Y' bearing sperm then the foetus is a male.

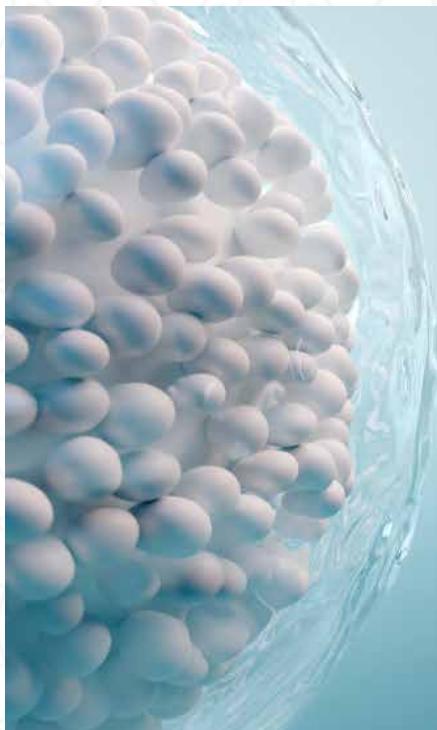


وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الْزَّوْجَيْنِ الْذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ إِذَا تُمْنَى



"That He did create the pairs, – male and female, from a sperm-drop when lodged (in its place)."

Al Qur'an 53:45-46



The Arabic word 'Nutfah' means a minute quantity of liquid and 'Tumna' means ejaculated or planted. Therefore 'Nutfah' specifically refers to sperm because it is ejaculated.



The Qur'an says:

أَلَمْ يَكُنْ نُطْفَةً مِّنْ مَّنِيْ يُمْنَى ثُمَّ كَانَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقَ فَسَوَّ لَنْجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الْزَّوْجَيْنِ  
الذَّكَرُ وَالْأُنْثَى



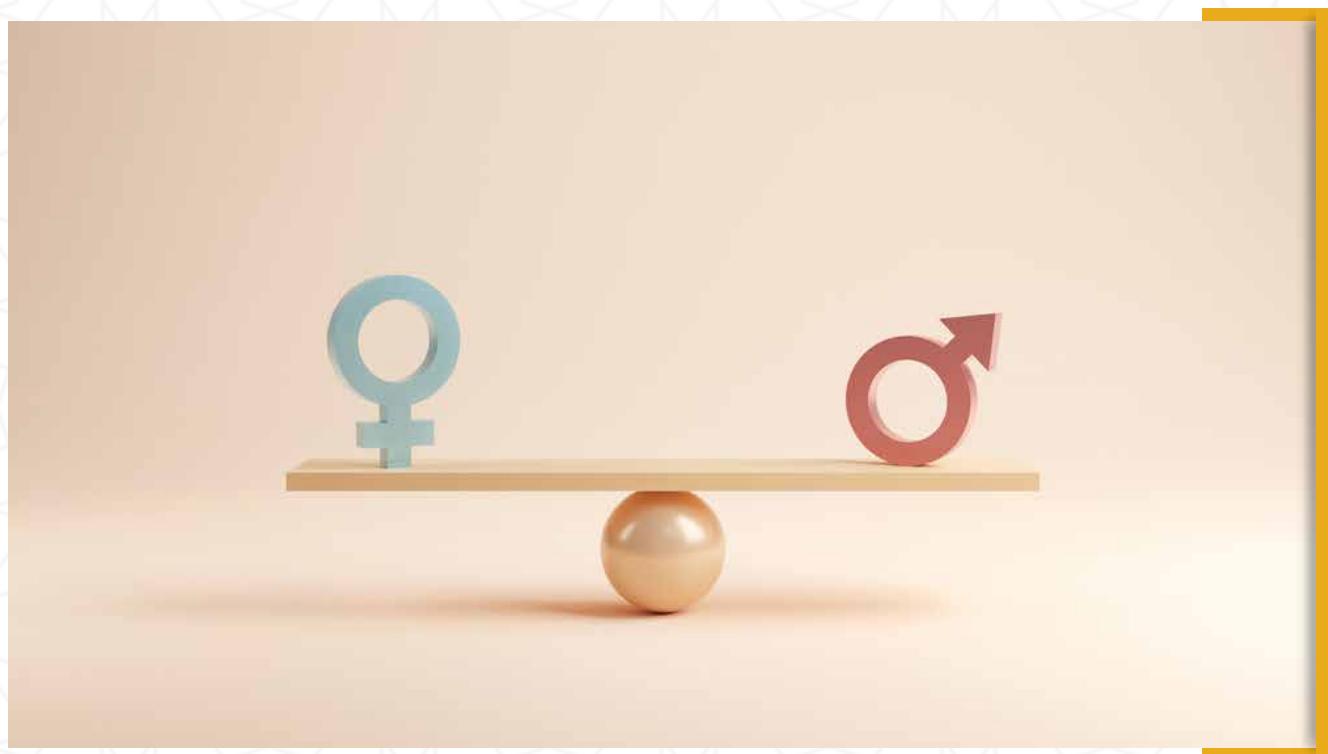
"Was he not a drop of sperm emitted (in lowly form)? Then did (Allah) make and fashion (him) in due proportion. And of him He made two sexes, male and female."

Al Qur'an 75:37-39





Here again it is mentioned that a small quantity (drop) of sperm (indicated by the word Nutfatan min Maniyyin) which comes from the man is responsible for the sex of the foetus. Mothers-in-law in the Indian subcontinent, by and large prefer having male grandchildren and often blame their daughters-in-law if the child is not of the desired sex. If only they knew that the determining factor is the nature of the male sperm and not the female ovum! If they were to blame anybody, they should blame their sons and not their daughters-in-law since both the Qur'an and science hold that it is the male fluid that is responsible for the sex of the child!





## vii) Foetus protected by three Veils of Darkness

يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلْمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ



"He creates you, in the wombs of your mothers, in stages, one after another, in three veils of darkness."

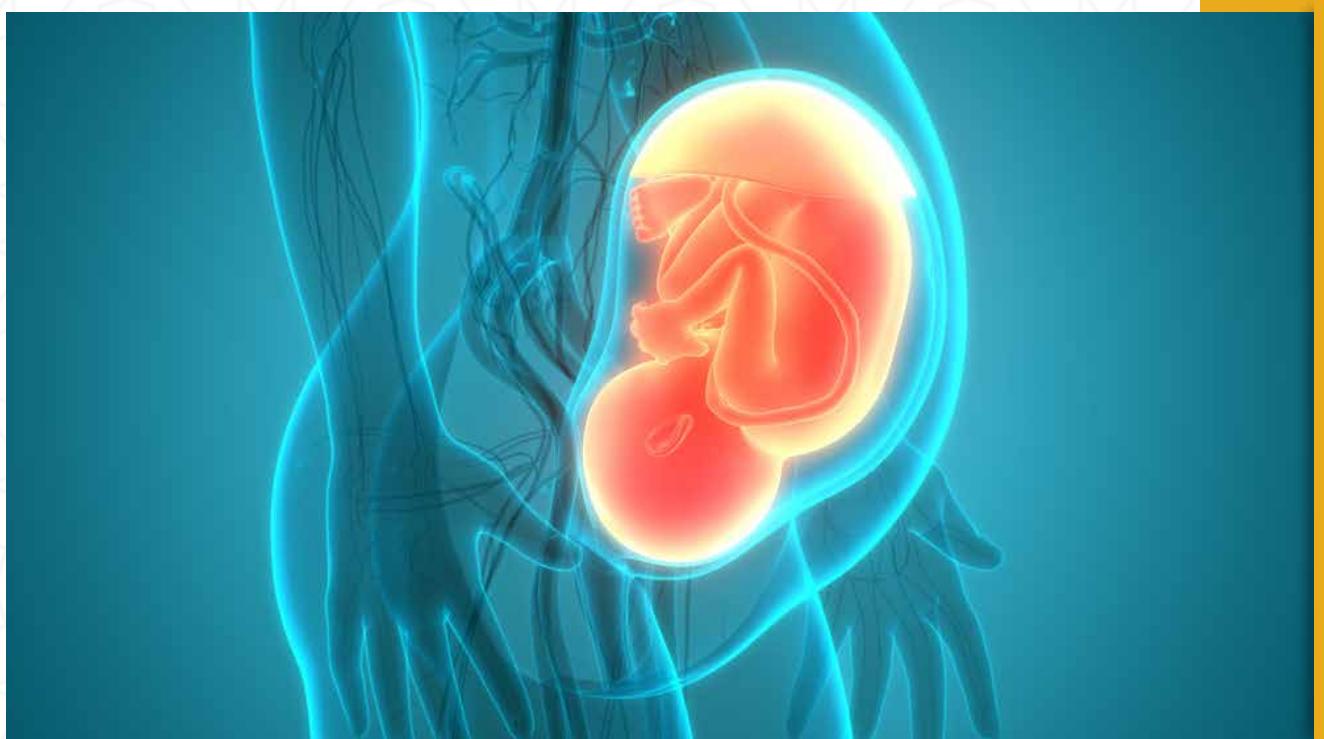
Al Qur'an 39:6





**According to Prof Keith Moore these three veils of darkness in the Qur'an refer to:**

- i** Anterior abdominal wall of the mother
- ii** The uterine wall
- iii** The amnio-chorionic membrane.





## viii Embryonic Stages

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَنَ مِنْ سُلَّةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَكِينٍ  
ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَمًا  
فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَمَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خُلْقًا إِذَا هُوَ أَخْسَنُ الْخَلِيقَينَ



"Man We did create from a quintessence (of clay), then we placed him as a drop of) sperm in a place of rest, firmly fixed; Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood, then of that clot We made a (foetus) lump: then We made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then We developed out of it another creature. So blessed be Allah, the Best of Creators."

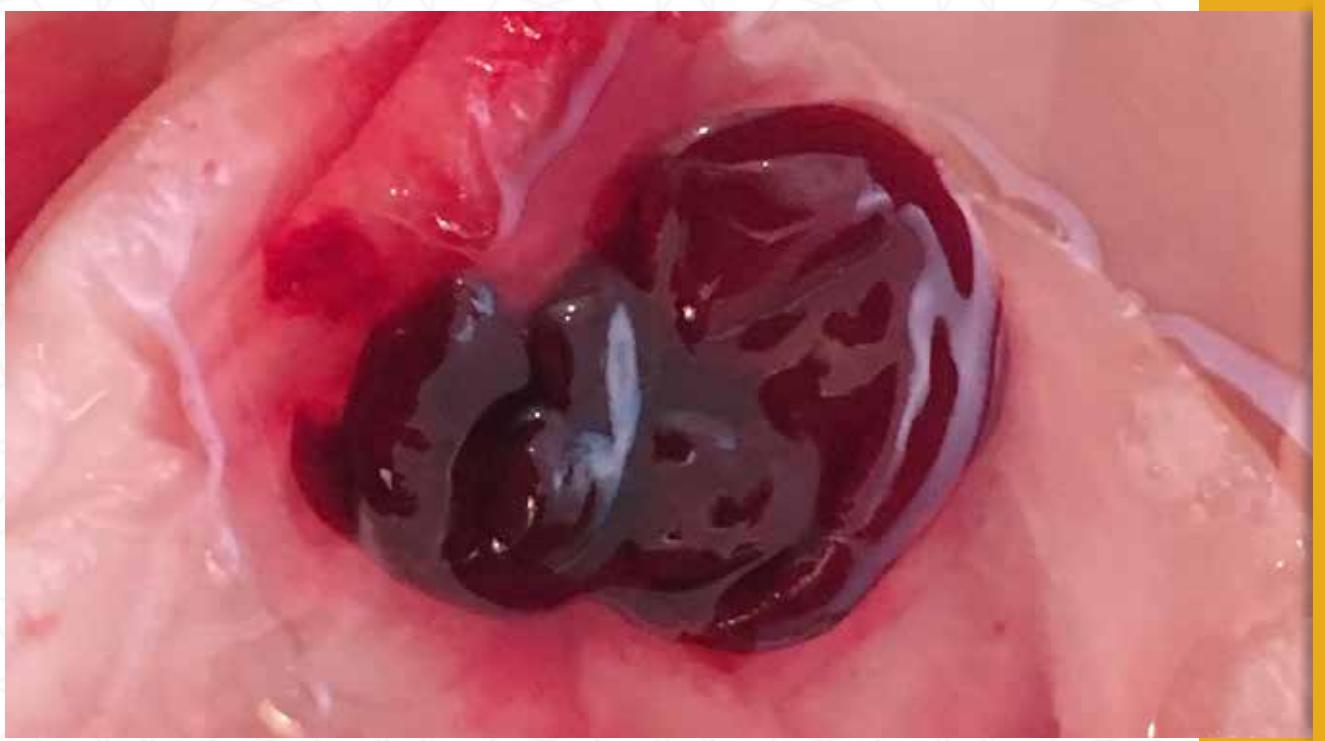
Al Qur'an 23:12-16



In this verse Allah states that man is created from a small quantity of liquid, which is placed in a place of rest, firmly fixed (well established or lodged) for which the Arabic word 'Qararin Makin' is used. The uterus is well protected from the posterior by the spinal column supported firmly by the back muscles. The embryo is further protected by the amniotic sac containing the amniotic fluid. Thus, the foetus has a well-protected dwelling place.



This small quantity of fluid is made into 'Alaqah, meaning something that clings. It also means a leech-like substance. Both descriptions are scientifically acceptable as in the very early stages the foetus clings to the wall and also appears to resemble the leech in shape. It also behaves like a leech (blood sucker) and acquires its blood supply from the mother through the placenta.



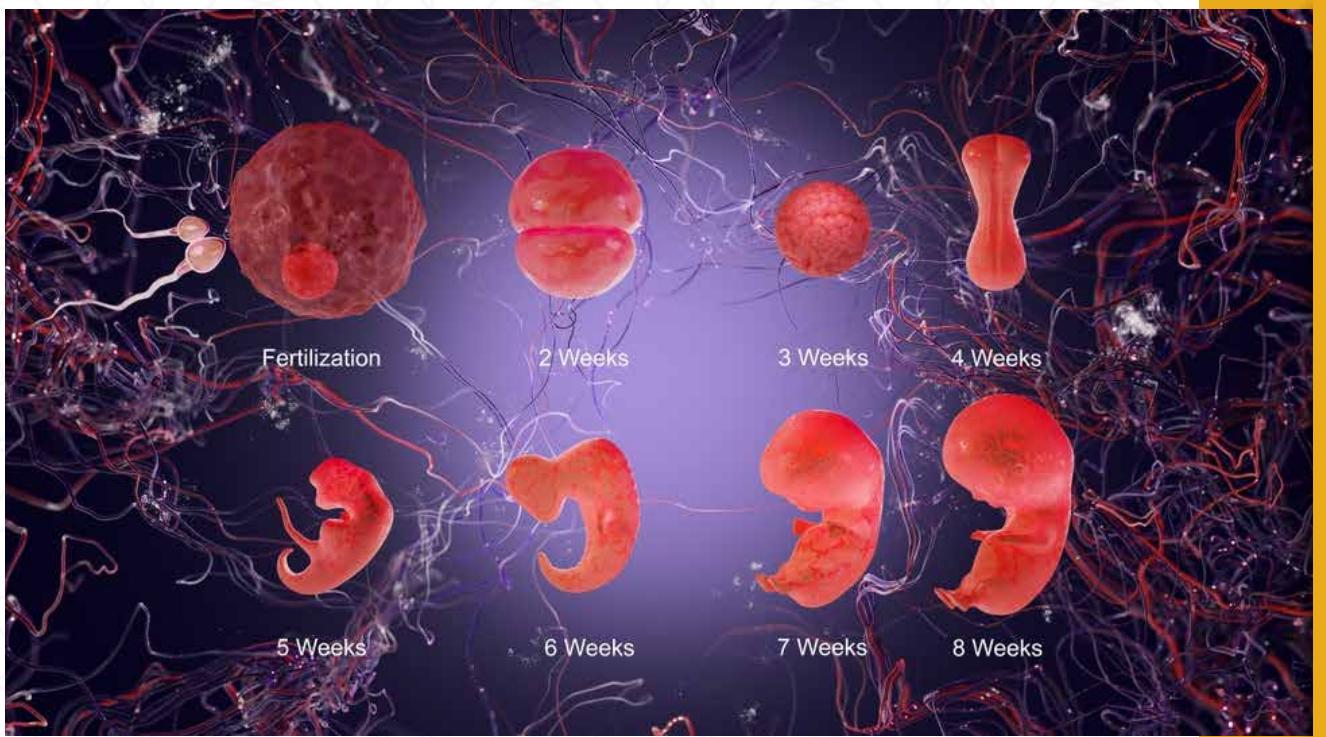
The third meaning of the word 'Alaqah is a blood clot. During this 'Alaqah stage, which spans the third and fourth week of pregnancy, the blood clots within closed vessels. Hence the embryo acquires the appearance of a blood clot in addition to acquiring the appearance of a leech. In 1677, Hamm and Leeuwenhoek were the first scientists to observe human sperm cells (spermatozoa) using a microscope. They thought that a sperm cell contained a miniature human being that grew in the uterus to form a new-born. This was known as the perforation theory. When scientists discovered that the ovum was bigger than the sperm, it was thought by De Graf and others that the foetus existed in a miniature form in the ovum. Later, in the 18th century Maupertuis propagated the theory of biparental inheritance.



The 'Alaqah is transformed into 'Mudghah' which means 'something that is chewed (having teeth marks)' and also something that is tacky and small, which can be put in the mouth like gum. Both these explanations are scientifically correct. Prof Keith Moore took a piece of plaster seal and made it into the size and shape of the early stage of foetus and chewed it between the teeth to make it into a 'Mudghah'. He compared this with the photographs of the early stage of foetus. The teeth marks resembled the 'somites' which is the early formation of the spinal column.



This Mudghah is transformed into bones (Izama). The bones are clothed with intact flesh or muscles (Lahm). Then Allah makes it into another creature.



Prof Marshall Johnson is one of the leading scientists in US and is the head of the Department of Anatomy and Director of the Daniel Institute at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia in the U.S.

He was asked to comment on the verses of the Qur'an dealing with embryology. He said that the verses of the Qur'an describing the embryological stages cannot be a coincidence. He said it was probable that Muhammad (pbuh) had a powerful microscope. On being reminded that the Qur'an was revealed 1400 years ago, and microscopes were invented centuries after the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Prof Johnson laughed and admitted that the first microscope invented could not magnify more than 10 times and could not show a clear picture.



Later he said: "I see nothing here in conflict with the concept that Divine intervention was involved when Muhammad (pbuh) recited the Qur'an."



According to Dr Keith Moore, the modern classification of embryonic development stages that is adopted throughout the world, is not easily comprehensible, since it identifies stages on a numerical basis, i.e., stage I, stage II, etc. The divisions revealed in the Qur'an are based on distinct and easily identifiable forms or shapes, which the embryo passes through. These are based on different phases of prenatal development and provide elegant scientific descriptions that are comprehensible and practical.



Similar embryological stages of human development have been described in the following verses:

أَلَمْ يَكُ نُطْفَةً مِنْ مَنِيٍّ يُمْنَى ثُمَّ كَانَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقَ فَسَوَّى فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ  
الرَّزْوِ جَنِينَ الْذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنْثَى



"Was he not a drop of sperm emitted (In lowly form)? Then did he become a leach-like clot; then did (Allah) make and fashion (him) in due proportion. And of him He made two sexes, male and female."

Al Qur'an 75:37-39





الَّذِي خَلَقَكَ فَسَوَّنَكَ فَعَدَلَكَ ○ فِي أَيِّ صُورَةٍ مَا شَاءَ رَكَبَكَ



"Him Who created you, fashioned you in due proportion, and gave you a just bias; in whatever form He wills, does He put you together."

Al Qur'an 82:7-8





## ix Embryo Partly Formed and Partly Unformed

At the 'Mugdah' stage, if an incision is made in the embryo and the internal organ is dissected, it will be seen that most of them are formed while the others are not yet completely formed.



According to Prof. Johnson, if we describe the embryo as a complete creation, then we are only describing that part which is already created.

If we describe it as an incomplete creation, then we are only describing that part which is not yet created. So, is it a complete creation or an incomplete creation? There is no better description of this stage of embryogenesis than the Qur'anic description, "partly formed and partly unformed".



The Qur'an says in the following verse:

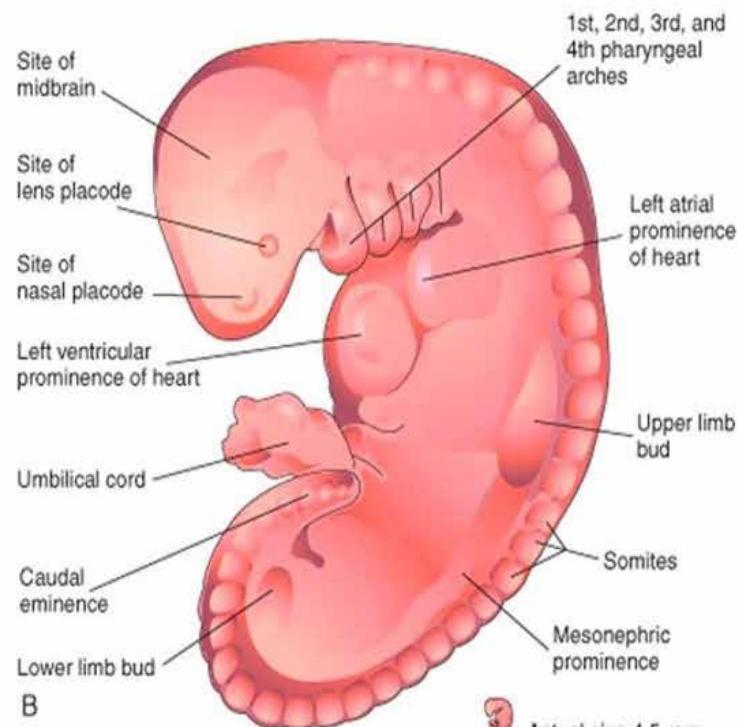
فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُم مِّنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ مُضْغَةٍ مُخْلَقَةٍ  
وَغَيْرِ مُخْلَقَةٍ لِّتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ



"We created you out of dust, then out of sperm, then out of a leech-like clot, then out of a morsel of flesh, partly formed and partly unformed."

Al Qur'an 22:5

Scientifically we know that at this early stage of development there are some cells that are differentiated and there are some cells that are undifferentiated – some organs are formed and yet others unformed.





## x Sense of Hearing and Sight

The first sense to develop in a developing human embryo is hearing. The foetus can hear sounds after the 24th week. Subsequently, the sense of sight is developed and by the 28th week, the retina becomes sensitive to light.

**Consider the following Qur'anic verses related to the development of the senses in the embryo:**

وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْسَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَرَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ



"And He gave you (the faculties of) hearing and sight and understanding."

Al Qur'an 32:9





إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَنَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا



"Verily We created Man from a drop of mingled sperm, in order to try him: So We gave him (the gifts), of hearing and sight."

Al Qur'an 76:2

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْشَأَ لَكُمُ الْسَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَرَ وَالْأَفْئَدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَا تَشْكُرُونَ



"It is He Who has created for you (the faculties of) hearing, sight, feeling and understanding: little thanks it is you give!"

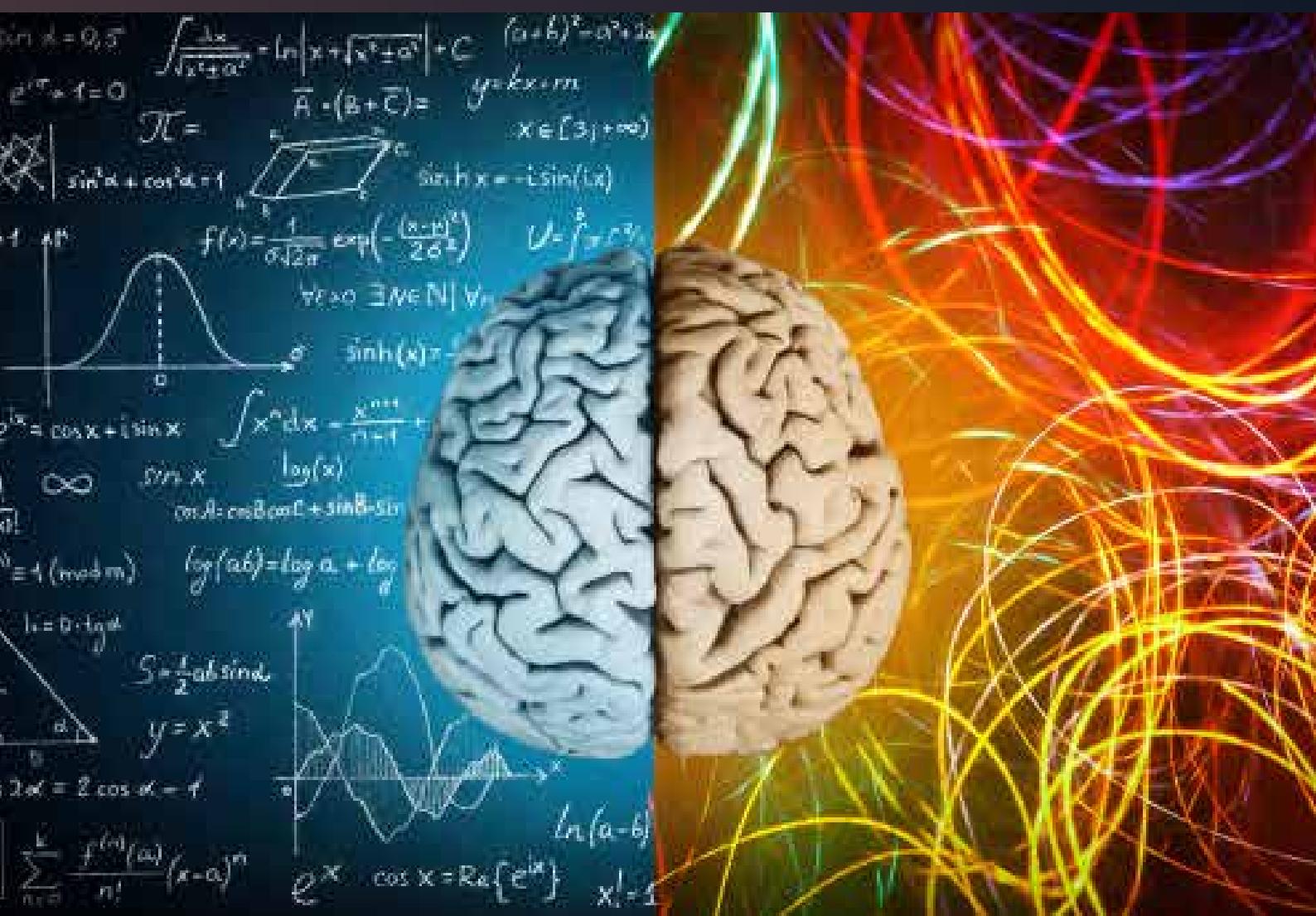
Al Qur'an 23:78

In all these verses the sense of hearing is mentioned before that of sight. Thus, the Qur'anic description matches with the discoveries in modern embryology.



## LESSON 12

# QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – GENERAL SCIENCE & CONCLUSION



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Dr Zakir Naik



## 12 GENERAL SCIENCE



### i Fingerprints

أَيْخُسْبُ الْإِنْسَنُ أَلَّنْ نَجْمَعَ عِظَامَهُ، بَلَىٰ قَدِيرِينَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ نُسْوِي بَنَائَهُ،



"Does man think that we cannot assemble his bones? Nay, We are able to put together in perfect order the very tips of his fingers."

Al Qur'an 75:3-4



Unbelievers argue regarding resurrection taking place after bones of dead people have disintegrated in the earth and how each individual would be identified on the Day of Judgment. Almighty Allah answers that He can not only assemble our bones but can also reconstruct perfectly our very fingertips.

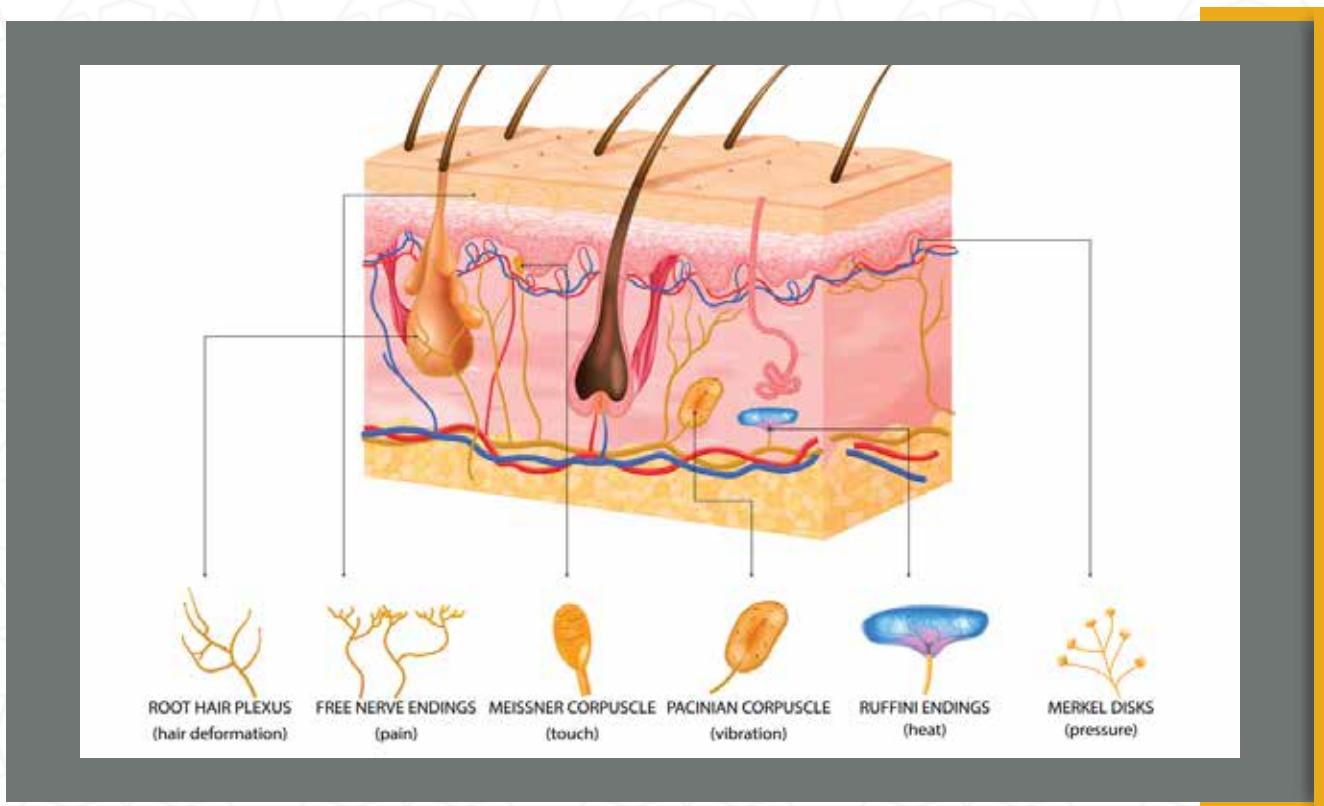


Why does the Qur'an, while speaking about determination of the identity of the individual, speak specifically about fingertips? In 1880, fingerprinting became the scientific method of identification, after research done by Sir Francis Galton. No two persons in the world can ever have exactly the same fingerprint pattern. That is the reason why police forces worldwide use fingerprints to identify the criminal 1400 years ago, who could have known the uniqueness of each human's fingerprint? Surely it could have been none other than the Creator Himself!



## ii Pain Receptors Present in the Skin

It was thought that the sense of feeling, and pain was only dependent on the brain. Recent discoveries prove that there are pain receptors present in the skin without which a person would not be able to feel pain.



When a doctor examines a patient suffering from burn injuries, he verifies the degree of burns by a pinprick. If the patient feels pain, the doctor is happy, because it indicates that the burns are superficial, and the pain receptors are intact. On the other hand, if the patient does not feel any pain, it indicates that it is a deep burn and the pain receptors have been destroyed.



The Qur'an gives an indication of the existence of pain receptors in the following verse:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِإِيمَانِنَا سَوْفَ نُضْلِّهِمْ نَارًا كُلَّمَا نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ  
بَدَّلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا



"Those who reject Our Signs. We shall soon cast into the Fire: As often as their skins are roasted through. We shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the chastisement: for Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise."

Al Qur'an 4:56





Prof Tagatat Tejasen, Chairman of the Department of Anatomy at Chiang Mai University in Thailand, has spent a great amount of time on research of pain receptors. Initially he could not believe that the Qur'an mentioned this scientific fact 1400 years ago. He later verified the translation of this particular Qur'anic verse. Prof Tejasen was so impressed by the scientific accuracy of the Qur'anic verse, that at the 8th Saudi Medical Conference held in Riyadh on the 'Scientific Signs of Qur'an and Sunnah' he proclaimed in public:

**"LAA ILAAHA ILLAL LAAH MUHAMMADUR RASULULLAH"**

"There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ سُلَيْمَانُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ



# Conclusion

VII

## CONCLUSION

### 1 Qur'an is a Book of S-I-G-N-S and Not a Book of S-C-I-E-N-C-E

To attribute the presence of scientific facts in the Qur'an to coincidence, would be against common sense and a true scientific approach. The Qur'an invites all humans to reflect on the Creation of this universe in the Verse:



إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَآخْتِلَفِ اللَّيلِ وَالنَّهارِ لَكَيْتٍ لَّا يُؤْلِي  
الْأَلْبَبِ



"Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of Night and Day, there are indeed Signs for men of understanding."

Al Qur'an 3:190



The scientific evidences of the Qur'an clearly prove its Divine origin. No human could have produced a book, fourteen hundred years ago, that would contain profound scientific facts, to be discovered by humankind centuries later.



The Qur'an however, is not a book of 'Science' but a book of 'Signs'. These signs invite Man to realise the purpose of his existence on earth, and to live in harmony with Nature. The Qur'an is truly a message from Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. It contains the same message of the Oneness of God, that was preached by all Prophets, right from Adam, Moses, Jesus to Muhammad (peace be upon them).



Several detailed tomes have been written on the subject of Qur'an and modern science and further research in this field is on. In Sha Allah (if Allah wills), this research will help mankind to come close to the Word of the Almighty. This contains only a few of the scientific facts present in the Qur'an. I cannot claim to have done full justice to the subject.



Prof Tejasen accepted Islam on the strength of just one scientific 'sign' mentioned in the Qur'an. Some people may require ten signs while some may require hundred signs to be convinced about the Divine origin of the Qur'an. Some would be unwilling to accept the Truth even after being shown a thousand signs.

**The Qur'an condemns such a closed mentality in the verse:**

صُمُّ بُكْمُ عُمَىٰ فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ



"Deaf, dumb, and blind, they will not return (to the path)."

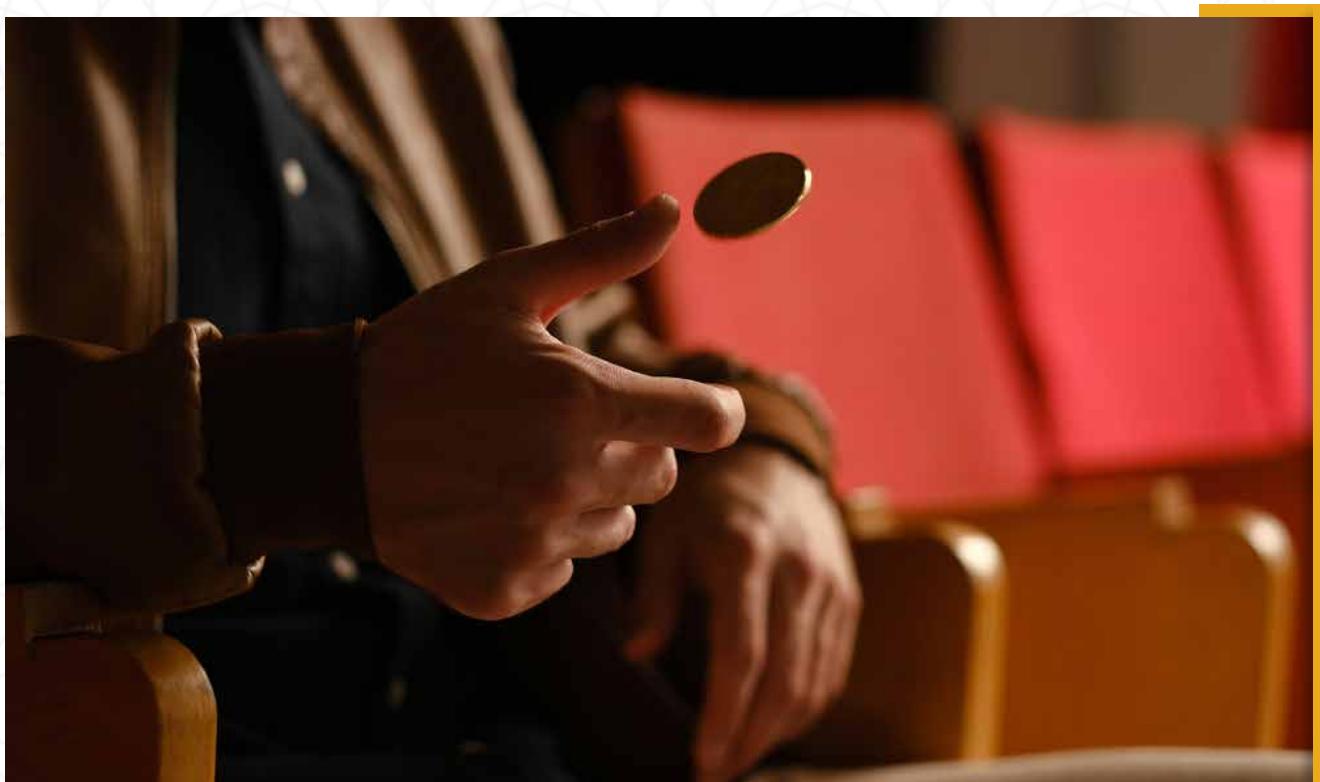
Al Qur'an 2:18

The Qur'an contains a complete code of life for the individual and society. Alhamdulillah (praise is to Allah), the Qur'anic way of life is far superior to the 'isms that modern man has invented out of sheer ignorance. Who can give better guidance than the Creator Himself?



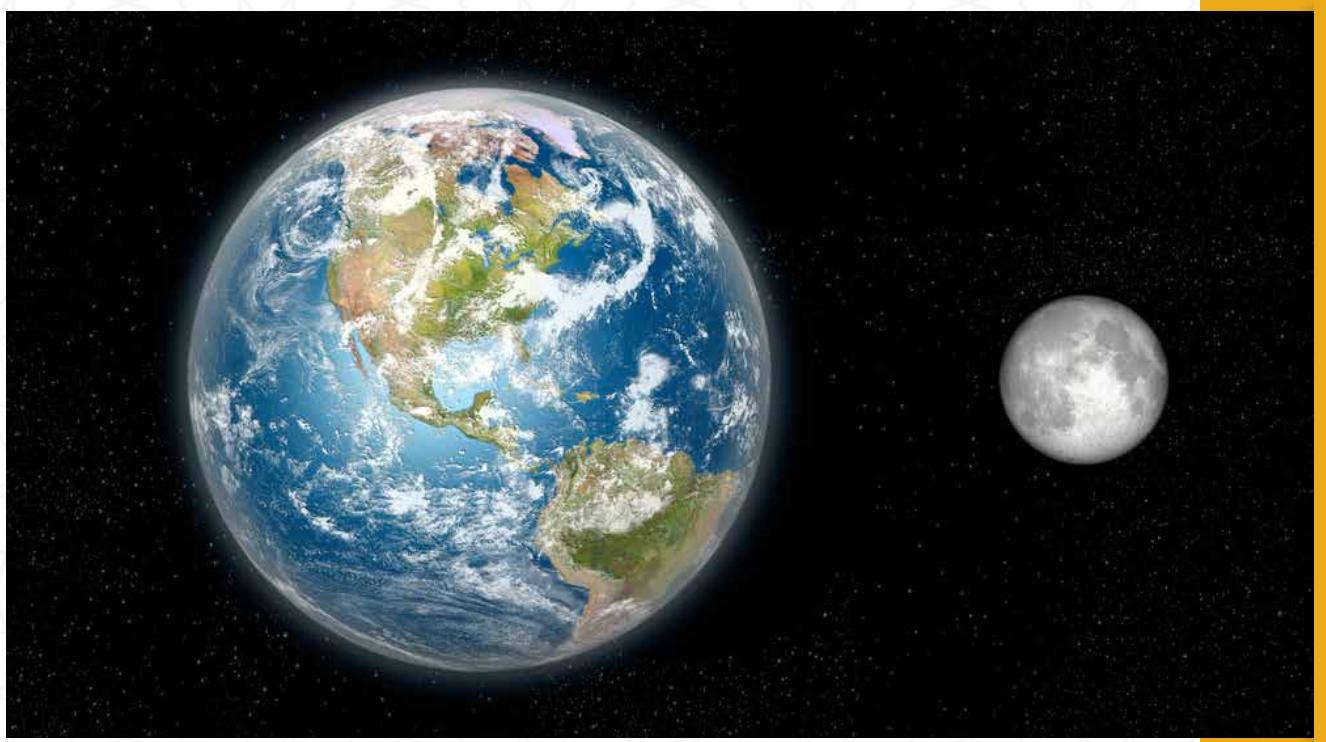
## 2 — Theory of Probability

In Mathematics there is a theory known as “Theory of Probability.” If you have two options, out of which one is right and one is wrong, the chances that you will choose the right one is half i.e., one out of the two will be correct. You have 50% chances of being correct. Similarly, if you toss a coin the chances that your guess will be correct is 50% i.e.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ . If you toss a coin the second time, the chances that you will be correct in the second toss is again 50% i.e., half but the chances that you will be correct in both the tosses is half x half ( $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ) which is equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  i.e., 50% of 50% i.e equal to 25%. If you toss a coin the third time, chances that you will be correct all 3 times is ( $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ) that is  $\frac{1}{8}$  or 50% of 50% of 50% that is 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  %.





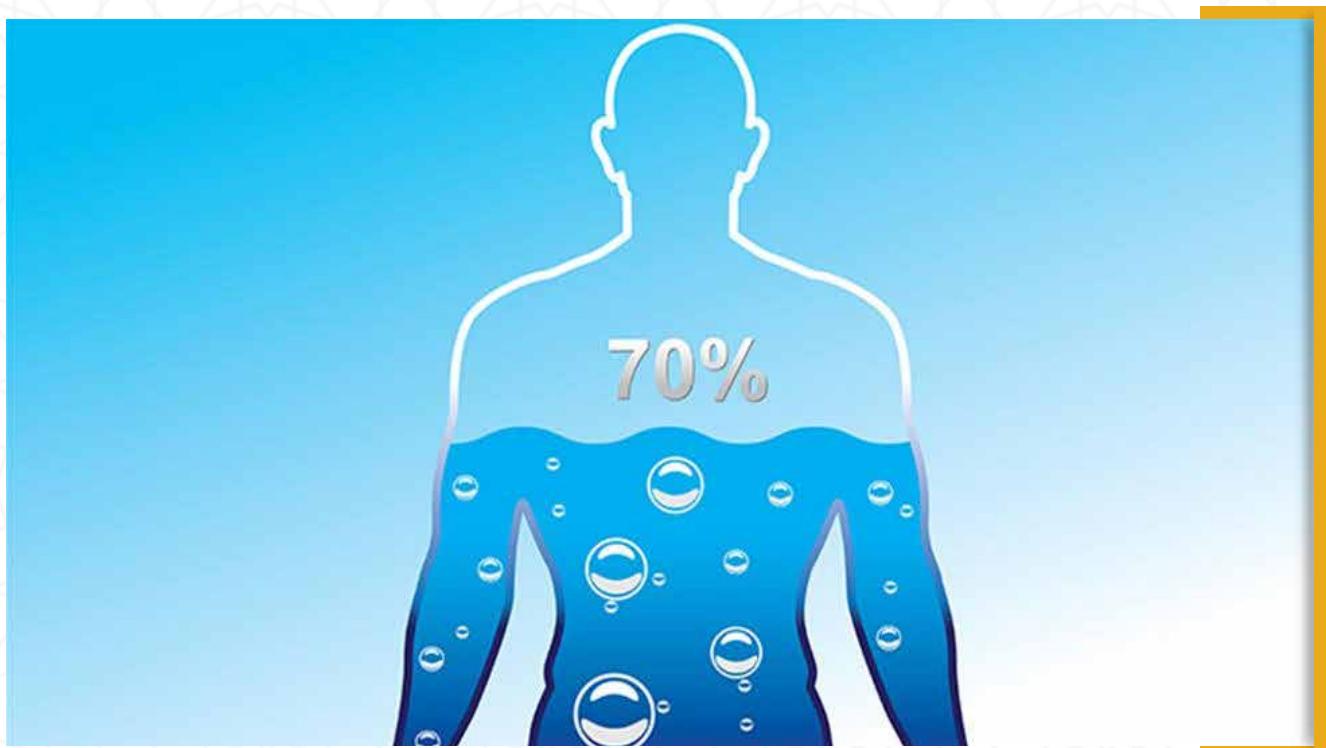
At the time when the Qur'an was revealed people thought the world was flat, there are several other options for the shape of the earth. It could be triangular, it could be quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, spherical, etc. Let's assume there are about 30 different options for the shape of the earth. The Qur'an rightly says it is spherical, if it was a guess, the chances of the guess being correct is  $1/30$ .



The light of the moon can be its own light or a reflected light. The Qur'an rightly says it is a reflected light. If it is a guess, the chances that it will be correct is  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the probability that both the guesses i.e., the earth is spherical, and the light of the moon is reflected light is  $1/30 \times \frac{1}{2} = 1/60$ .



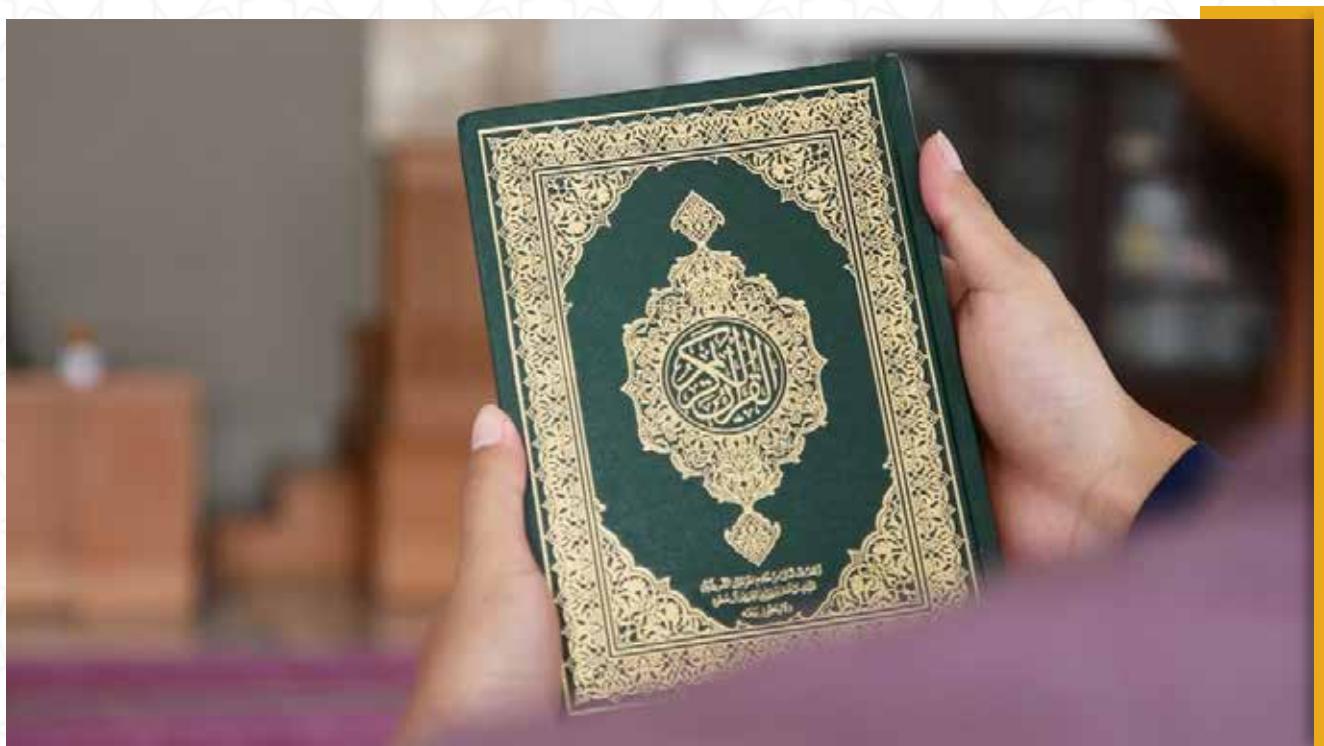
Further the Qur'an also mentions every living thing made up of water. The options are say about 10,000. Every living thing can be made up of either wood, stone, copper, aluminum, steel, silver, gold, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, oil, water, cement, concrete, etc. The Qur'an rightly says every living thing is made up of H<sub>2</sub>O. If it's a guess, the chances that it will be correct is 1/10,000 and the probability all the three guesses i.e., earth is spherical, light of moon reflected, every living thing heated from water being correct is  $1/30 \times \frac{1}{2} \times 1/10,000 = 1/60,000$  which is equal to about .0017%.



The Qur'an speaks about hundreds of things that were not known at that time. Only in three options the result is .0017%.

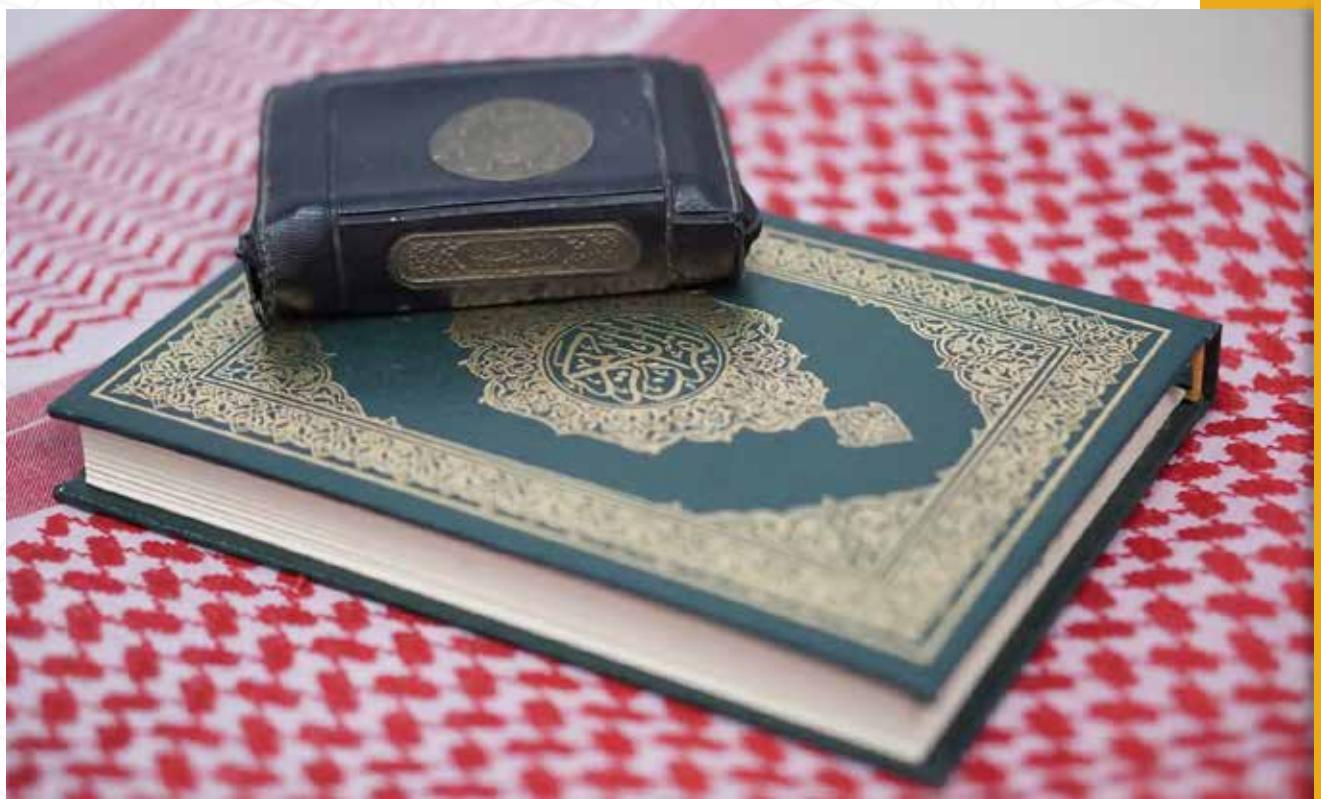


I leave it up to you, the intellectual audience, to work out the probability if all the hundreds of the unknown facts were guesses, the chances of all the guesses being correct and not a single wrong. It is beyond human capacity to make all the guesses correct without a single mistake, which itself is sufficient to prove to a logical person that the origin of the Qur'an is divine.





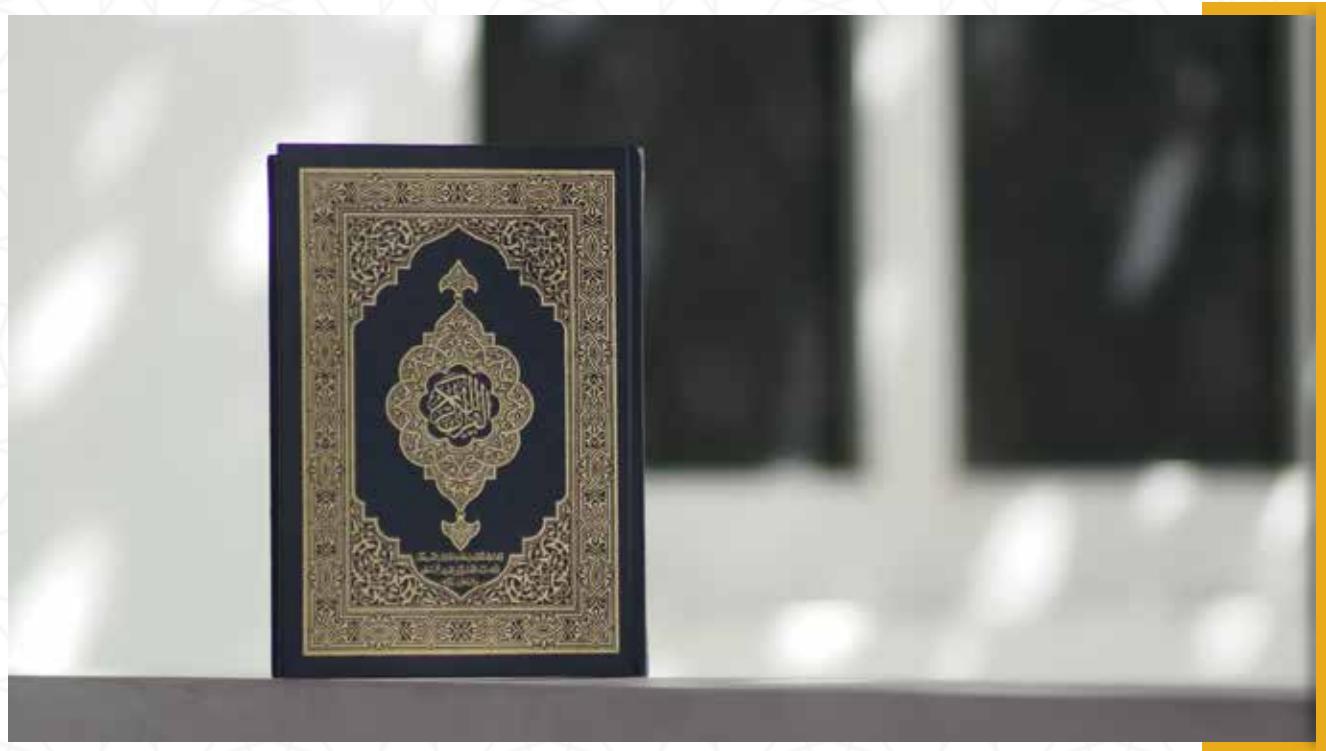
# 3 — Qur'an is the 'Furqan'



Let me remind you that Qur'an is not a book of "science" but a book of "signs" i.e the book of Aayaat that is signs out of which more than a 1000 speak about science. I am not trying to prove that the Qur'an is the word of God using scientific knowledge as a yardstick because a yardstick is supposed to be more superior for us Muslims. The Qur'an is the 'Furqan' i.e., criteria to judge right from wrong and the ultimate yardstick which is more superior to scientific knowledge.



But for an educated man who is an atheist, scientific knowledge is the ultimate test which he believes in. We do know that science many a times takes 'U' turns, therefore I have restricted the examples only to scientific facts which have sufficient proof and evidence and not scientific theories based on assumptions. Using the ultimate yardstick of the atheist, I am trying to prove to him that Qur'an is the word of God, and it contains the scientific knowledge which is his yardstick which was discovered recently 1400 years ago, therefore at the end of the discussion, we both come to the same conclusion that God is though superior to science, does not conflict but conciliates with it.





# 4 Creator is the Author of the Qur'an



The only logical answer to the question, who could have mentioned all these scientific facts 1400 years ago before they were discovered is exactly the same answer initially given by the atheist or any person, for the question who will be the first person will be able to tell the mechanism of the unknown object. It is the 'Creator', the producer, the manufacturer. Another name for this 'Creator, Producer, Manufacturer of the whole universe and its contents, in the English language is 'God', or more appropriate in the Arabic language is 'ALLAH.'



# 5 Science is Eliminating models of God but not God



A famous scientist, Francis Bacon has rightly said, a little knowledge of science makes you an atheist, but in-depth study of science makes you a believer in God. Scientists today are eliminating models of God, but they are not eliminating God. If you translate this into Arabic, it is 'La ilaaha illal lah' (There is no God, (god with a small 'g' that is fake God) but God (with a capital 'G')).



سَرِّيهِمْ ءَايَتِنَا فِي أَلْ ئَافَاقٍ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحُقْقُ ۚ أَوَلَمْ  
يَكُفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ



"Soon will we show them our Signs in the (furthest) Regions (of the earth), and In their own souls, until It becomes manifest to them That this is the Truth. It is not enough that your Lord does witness All things?"

Al Qur'an 41:53





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