

# Lecture No. 29: Islam and Science - I

## (Module 1(123): The Relationship between Islam, the Qur'an, and Science)

### Meaning of Science:

Science is basically the name of knowing or acquiring knowledge of something through a systematic method. In science, both the method of study and its results can be repeated i.e. they are replicable. Science is the study of the universe that can or may come into our observation or experience. The Qur'an is the representative book of Islam, which is the last word of Allah to humankind. Since no other inspired book will be revealed after this, the circumstances and relevant events up to the Day of Resurrection and the sciences have been included in this book.

### Allah says:

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ ۚ وَتَزَلُّوا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تَبَيَّنًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَ  
بُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ ( النحل، 16 : 89 )

And (this) will be the Day (when) We shall raise amongst every people one witness against them from themselves, and, (O Venerable Beloved,) We shall bring you as witness to all of them (communities and Messengers). And We have revealed to you that Glorious Book which is a clear exposition of everything and is guidance, mercy, and glad tidings for the believers.

"The word "Thing" (شَيْءٍ) Applies to every entity in the universe and Allah has mentioned everything in the Qur'an.

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِأُولَى الْأَلْبَابِ ۚ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَكِنْ تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ  
يُؤْمِنُونَ (يوسف: 111)

" Truly, in their stories, there is a lesson of warning for men of understanding. This (Qur'an) is not a Revelation that can be forged, but a confirmation of those (revealed Books) which were revealed before. it, an explanation of everything and guidance and mercy for those who believe".

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أُمَمٌ أَمْثَلُكُمْ ۚ مَا فَرَّطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يُحْشَرُونَ (الانعام، 6 : 38)

And, (O mankind,) there is no moving (animal) on the earth nor a bird that flies on its two wings but (such) that they are species likes you. We have not omitted anything (which is not given symbolic or elaborate details) in the Book. Then all (the people) will be gathered before their Lord.

The following verse explains the comprehensiveness of the Qur'an:

وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِيحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْهَا شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ الْغَلُّومُ وَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٌ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٌ وَلَا يَابِسٌ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ (الأنعام، 6 : 59)

With Him (under His control and possession) are the keys of the unseen (i.e., the ways and means by which the unseen is disclosed to someone); no one (by one's own effort) knows them but He. And He knows (directly) whatever is in the land and in the sea. And not a leaf falls but He knows it. There is not a grain in the folds of the earth's darkness, nor anything green or dry but (has been recorded) in the enlightening Book.

This verse shows that Allah has given the knowledge of everything in this universe clearly, indicated or clarified in the Holy Qur'an since there is nothing in the universe and the earth that is not wet or dry. Allama Jalal-ud-Din Sayuti writes: There is nothing in the universe that is not mentioned or its fundamental is not mentioned in the Qur'an.

It has been decided that the Holy Quran is a comprehensive book of this universe, so now we have to know what is the status of science with Islam and the Qur'an. And whether the advanced research of science is in conflict with Islam or where science has reached today, the Creator of the universe has stated these facts in His book thirteen hundred years ago.

لَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَ اخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لَا يَتْلُو إِلَّا تِلْكَ الْأَوَّلَى الْأُولَى الْخَالِقِ (آل عمران، 3 : 190)

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, there are signs (of Allah's absolute authority) for those who possess constructive wisdom.

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَمًا وَ قُعُودًا وَ عَلَى جُنُوبِهِمْ وَ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَنَكَ قِيَمًا عَذَابِ الْغَايِ (آل عمران، 3 : 19)

These are the people who, remembering Allah, remain standing (as the epitome of submissiveness), sitting (as reverence incarnate), and (also keep) changing sides (in discomfort of love) and meditate on (the manifest luster of His Eminence and Beauty at work in) the creation of the heavens and the earth. (Then, acquainted with the pleasure of His gnosis, they call out spontaneously:) 'O our Lord, You have not created (all) this without any rationale and strategy. You are (impeccably) Pure (of all shortcomings and obligations). So protect us from the torment of Hell.

**In this verse, there are two signs of those who have intellect:**

1. Those who get up and sit remembering Allah all the time.
2. those who think about the creation of this universe and the earth and the sky. (Science)

That is, to Allah, the wise people are those who are also attached to the remembrance of Allah and keep pondering in this universe and observing His greatness and wisdom.

## Confirming The Qur'anic Verses by Modern Scientific Research:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا ۖ وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ (الانبیاء: 31)

And have the disbelievers not seen that the whole heavenly universe and the earth were (all) joined together as one unit, and then We split them apart? And We originated (the life of) all the living organism (on earth) from water. So do they not accept faith (even after learning these facts brought forth by the Qur'an)?

وَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَنْ تَمِيدَ بِهِمْ ۖ وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا فِجَاجًا سُبُلًا لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ ۖ وَجَعَلْنَا السَّمَاءَ سَقْفًا مَحْفُوظًا ۖ وَهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهَا مُعْرِضُونَ (الانبیاء: 32,33)

And We set up firm mountains in the earth lest it should shake with them whilst rotating (in its orbit). And We made in this (earth) broad highways so that people might find routes (to reach different destinations).

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ ۚ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ (الانبیاء: 34)

And (Allah) is He Who created the night and the day, and (also) the sun and the moon. All (heavenly bodies) are continually floating fast in their respective orbits.

## (Module 2(124): Creation of the Universe and its Formation System)

### Scientific and Qur'anic Theory of the Creation of the Universe. (Big Bang Theory)

The Big Bang theory is the theory of the existence of this universe. According to an estimate, about 13.8 billion years ago, the universe was in the form of a shrinking single matter. All the components of this early material, which some scientists have called super atoms, were intensely pulled inwards. According to the Big Bang, the whole universe was initially in the form of a very large landslide (or according to the latest theories, comprised of tiny atom) (the earth and the sky were intertwined) and then as a result of a great explosion called the Big Bang, all the components scattered, from which galaxies and all existence came into being. This explosion was not a coincidence because as a result, stars, planets, and galaxies were formed in such a beautiful way that the craft of its creator surprised. If the Big Bang were accidental, it would not have seen so much discipline in the universe that came into being as a result. In the Qur'an, the Creator of this universe had stated the facts which hundreds of scientists came to the conclusion with the use of modern technology and billions of dollars:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا ۖ وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ (الانبیاء: 31)

And have the disbelievers not seen that the whole heavenly universe and the earth were (all) joined together as one unit, and then We split them apart? And We originated (the life of) all the

living organism (on earth) from water. So do they not accept faith (even after learning these facts brought forth by the Qur'an)?

The Lord of the Universe stated these facts in the Qur'an 1400 years ago, where the human intellect has reached today. This proves that the Qur'an is the word of Allah.

**Expanding Universe:** Astronomer Edwin Hubble revealed for the first time that our galaxy is not the only one. There are many other galaxies in the universe, which are moving in the opposite direction of each other in such a way that their speed also increases as the distance between each other increases. It seems that with the expansion of galaxies, the whole universe has also expanded. The distance between galaxies is also constantly increasing. In 1965, two American physicists Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson proved it. The two scientists worked at Bell Phone Laboratories in New Jersey, USA, and were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1978. Stephen Hawking, one of the top scientists of this century, says about the discovery of the expanding universe: "The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of the great intellectual revolutions of the 20th century."

**The Qur'anic View of The Expansion of the Universe:** It is worth noting that the discoveries that science has made in the 20th century, especially in its last few decades, have been described by the Qur'an 1400 years ago. The Qur'an explains the principle of the expansion of the universe in Surah Al-Fatir as follows:

وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ (النَّارِيات، 51 : 47)

And We built the heavenly universe with great might. And surely, We are expanding (this universe) more and more.

‘لَمُوسِعُونَ’ “The word self clearly indicates the meaning of expansiveness. This verse clearly made it clear that the universe, which Allah almighty has created with power and energy, is expanding and growing in every direction in a broader way. The Qur'an describes the process of expansion as a continuation of the creation of the universe. Undoubtedly, this is a great scientific miracle of the Qur'an. Allama Iqbal might have been inspired by this verse and wrote:

یہ کائنات ابھی ناتمام ہے شاید

کہ آ رہی ہے دمام صدائے کن فیکوں

**(Module 3(125): Creation of Human and its Formation System)**

If we talk about the evolution of human creation, then the conclusion that science has reached today in the light of modern research, the creator of the universe stated in his Scriptures fourteen hundred years ago. There are two aspects of human creation:

## 1- Chemical Evolution

## 2- Biological Evolution

Allah Almighty has mentioned seven stages of human evolution in different places in the Qur'an. A study of the Qur'an shows that the chemical evolution of human life was completed through at least seven stages, which are as follows:

- i. Clay (تراب) وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ (الروم: 20)
- ii. Water (ماء) وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ (الانبيا: 30)
- iii. Mud (طين) هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ طِينٍ (الانعام: 2)
- iv. Sticky clay (طين لازب) إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِنْ طِينٍ لَازِبٍ - (الصفات: 11)
- v. Stinky clay: صلصال من حماء مسنون (الحجر: 26) إِنَّا وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ مِنْ حَمِإٍ مَسْنُونٍ (الحجر: 26)
- vi. Dry mud sounding like earthenware صلصال كالغفار (الرحمن: 14) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ كَالْفَخَّارِ - (الرحمن: 14)
- vii. Extract of Clay (سَلَالَةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ) (المومنون: 12) وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ سَلَالَةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ - (المومنون: 12)

If the human intellect considers this, it turns out that these are different forms of mixing soil and water, which continued to be processed over time and finally the first human existence i.e., Adam (a) was created.

## 2- Biological Evolution:

Allah has explained this process in the following verse:

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النَّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ  
(المومنون - 23: 12-14)

Then We made that zygote a hanging mass (clinging to the uterus like a leech). Then We developed that hanging mass into a lump, looking chewed with teeth. Out of this chewed lump, We built a structure of bones which We clothed with flesh (and muscles). Then (changing him) into another form, We developed him (gradually) into a new creation. Then Allah, the Best of creators, brought. (him up into a strong body)

Today, scientific research and observations of modern machinery have proved these stages of human birth, while the Creator who created man mentioned these stages of man's creation in His book fourteen hundred years ago. Professor Dr. Keith Moore is professor of genetics at the Canadian University of Toronto. Prominent Yemeni scholar Sheikh Abdul Majeed Nadani discussed with him and took his opinion by explaining references to the Qur'an and Hadith related to human creation and evolution. He said that the information obtained from the Quran and authentic hadiths about genetics is in line with modern scientific research. And there is no contradiction between them. After this, he wrote a 3-page essay in which he expressed the truth of the Qur'an and the humility of science in these words: "Statements referring to human reproduction and development are scattered throughout the Qur'an. It is only recently that the scientific meaning of some of these verses has been appreciated fully. This interpretation of the verses in the Qur'an referring to human development would not have been possible in the 7th century AD, or even a hundred years ago. We can interpret them now because the science of modern embryology affords us new understanding. Undoubtedly there are other verses in the Qur'an related to human development that will be understood in the future as our knowledge increases."

### **(Module 4(126): Approaching to the Moon)**

The event of landing on the moon is a great masterpiece of human progress. In July 1969, three scientists under the Auspices of the National Astronomical Space Agency of the United States achieved the great historic feat of Conquest. Referring to this incident, the Qur'an declared 1400 years ago:

وَالْقَمَرَ إِذَا انْشَقَّ، لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَنْ طَبَقٍ، فَمَا لَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ (الانشقاق، 84 : 18 – 20)

"And the moon when it appears full. You will assuredly ride along stage by stage. So, what is the matter with them that (even after witnessing the truth of the forecast of the Qur'an), they do not believe".

If you look at the correlation of these three verses and consider the context, many things come to our notice. In this Surah, accidents, and events that took place before the Day of Resurrection are mentioned. The above verses are preceded by a description of important aspects of the celestial system, the cosmic system, and especially the solar system. Then different oaths have been taken, sometimes of Shafaq (شفق) and sometimes of night, the third one is of the moon. Then it is said, "You will surely travel from one class to another, that is, you will fly from stage to stage."

(لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَنْ طَبَقٍ) The swearing of the moon by the Holy Qur'an before it is a clear indication that the truth mentioned next will be related to the moon. In this verse, Allah has used the word stage instead of using the word moon. Because if it was called the moon instead of the stage, then man's space travel would be limited to the moon only. By using the word stage (from one hemisphere to another), the paths in front of man are made unlimited.

“لَتَرْكَبُنَّ” It means to ride something. The one on which the foot is placed while riding a horse is also called Rikab (ركاب) for the same reason. It is as if the word Latarkabunn (“لَتَرْكَبُنَّ”) indicates that it will be by a ride to go up. Imam Raghīb Isfahani (امام راجب اصفهانی) (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Rukub (ركوب): Actually, it is said to ride an animal, but it is also used to ride a ship. At the end of Latarkabunn (“لَتَرْكَبُنَّ”), the intense noon (نَ) indicates that the event is certain to take place. Latarkabunn (“لَتَرْكَبُنَّ”) is a section of the plural and the section is commonly used in Arabic for at least three, which also reveals the fact that there will be at least three people who fly. (فما لهم لا يؤمنون). There is an indication that those traveling will be non-Muslims. This verse is a prophetic challenge that the human eye saw fulfilled.

## (Module 5(127): The Water Cycle, the Movement of the Sun and the Moon, and the Two Interconnected Seas)

**Water cycle:** Sunlight heats the water on our earth and the water turns into water vapors, due to heating, the vapor starts rising, which cools down after going to the height and turns into small droplets, then these droplets combine to form a cloud. And the rain falls on the ground. This rainwater is absorbed in some land and the rest goes back into the sea through streams, streams, and rivers. In this way, the amount of water on Earth remains the same. This process is constantly happening in what is called the "water cycle". Man has understood these things today through scientific instruments and modern research, whereas Allah mentioned them in the Qur'an 1400 years ago:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ يُرِيكُمُ الْبَرْقَ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَيُنْزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَيُخْرِجُ بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ (الروم:24)

And amongst His signs (as well) is that He shows you lightning to make you fear and hope and pours (rain)water from the sky. Then with that, He brings the earth back to life and liveliness after it dies. Verily, there are signs in it for those who put their mind to work.

وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً بِقَدَرٍ فَأَسْكَنَّاهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّا عَلَى ذَهَابٍ بِهِ لَخَبِيرُونَ (المؤمنون:18)

And We showered water persistently (for a long time) from the clouds according to an estimated measure. So (when the earth became cool then) We lodged this water in (the depressions and depths of) the earth (shaping into preliminary forms of oceans). And verily, We have the power to make it evaporate (as vapours).

وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوَاحِجٍ مُّقْتَدِرٍ فَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمُوهُ وَمَا أَنتُمْ لَهُ بِخَبَرِينَ (سورة الحجر:22)

And We send winds carrying the burden of clouds. Then We pour down water from the sky. Then it is you whom We give it to drink, and it is not you who maintain its reservoirs.

Pushing the clouds closer to each other increases the process of condensation on them, which results in lightning and rain. The following verse is the most comprehensive with regard to the water cycle:

أَوَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْجِي سَحَابًا ثُمَّ يُؤَلِّفُ بَيْنَهُ ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ رُكَّامًا فَتَرَى الْوَدْقَ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ خِلَالِهِ ۚ وَنَزَّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ جِبَالٍ فِيهَا مِنْ بَرَدٍ فَيُصِيبُ بِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَصْرِفُهُ عَنْ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۚ يَكَادُ سَنَا بَرْقِهِ يَذْهَبُ بِالْأَبْصَارِ (النور: 43)

“Have you not seen that Allah is the One Who drives the cloud (first) gently, then joins its (various pieces) together, and then forms them into layers upon layers? Then you see that from spaces between them rain issues forth and falls down. And He sends down hail from the clouds (looking) like snow-covered mountains in the same sky (i.e., atmosphere). And then He throws it down upon whom He wills and turns it away from whom He likes. (Moreover, He creates lightning from the same clouds.) It seems as if the flash of the lightning (of clouds) would (dazzle their eyes and) snatch their sight away”.

When a conscious and knowledgeable person ponders over the universe and the verses of the Qur'an in this way, it becomes clear to him that this word, which was revealed fourteen hundred years ago, cannot belong to anyone other than the Creator of this universe, and thus a relationship is established between science and the Qur'an, this attracts the attention. **The Movement of the Earth and the Sun:** In the evolutionary periods of human intelligence, many theories were presented in this regard. Some people believed that everything is static. Some thought that the sun was stationary and that the whole universe was moving around it. Today, scientific research has proved that everything is in motion and all celestial bodies are rotating in their respective orbits. Allah has already stated this fact in the Holy Qur'an.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ (الانباء: 33)

“And (Allah) is He Who created the night and the day, and (also) the sun and the moon. (heavenly bodies) are continually floating fast in their respective orbits”.

وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَرْتَهُ مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ لَهَا أَنْ تَدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا الْيَلُ سَابِقَ النَّهَارِ وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ (يس: 36-38-40)

And the sun is constantly rotating (non-stop) for its appointed destination. It is a measure fixed by the Almighty, All-Knowing (Lord). And We have also appointed stages (of motion and rotation) of the moon till (its appearance to the dwellers of the earth wanes to) the semblance of an old dry branch of a palm-tree. Neither can the sun (deviate from its orbit and) overtake the



moon, nor can the night precede the day, and all (the stars and planets) are moving in their respective orbits.

**Two Seas, Whose Water does not Meet:**

مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَا يَتَغَيَّرُ (الرحمن: 19-20)

“He is the One Who has made the two seas flow that join each other; There is a barrier between them; they cannot breach (their respective) limits”.

Marine research experts discovered a few years ago that the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean are interconnected in one place, but due to differences in chemical and biological components, the water of the two seas does not meet each other, but both flow side by side but separately.