

Qur'an and Modern Science – Compatible or Incompatible?

by Dr Zakir Naik

Lesson 12 – Question & Answer Session – Part 4 by Dr Zakir Naik

Lesson 1 – Introduction

Dr Zakir Naik: A'uzubillahi Minash Shaytaan Nirrajeem, Bismillah Hirrahmaan Hirraheem

Awalam Yaral Ladhina Kafaru 'Annas Samawati Wal 'Arda Kaanata Ratqan Fafataqnahuma Wa Ja`alna Minal Maa'i Kulla Shay'in Hayyin 'Afala Yu'uminun

Bismillah Hirrahmaan Hirraheem

Rabbish Rahli Şadri Wa Yassir Li 'Amri Wa Ahlul `Uqdatan Min Lisani Yafqahu Qawli

My respected elders and my dear brothers and sisters - I welcome all of you with the Islamic greetings, Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu, may peace, blessings and mercy of Almighty Allah be on all of you. The topic of this evening's talk is, 'Qur'an and Modern Science - Conflict or Conciliation?'

The Holy Qur'an is the last and final revelation of Allah Subhanu Wa Ta'ala, which was revealed to the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

For any book to claim that it is a revelation from Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala for any book to claim, it is a word of Almighty God, it should stand the test of time. It should prove itself to be the word of God in all the ages. Previously it was the age of Miracles, 'Moujaza'. A 'Miracle' is any unusual event, for which the human beings do not have any explanation. It's any unusual event which is attributed to a Super Natural Power or Almighty God. The Holy Qur'an is the 'Miracle of Miracles'. But for a modern man to accept any Miracle, he will first analyze and verify it. Alhamdulillah, the Holy Qur'an proved itself to be a word of God 1400 years ago. Even today it can be analyzed and verified, and even in future, and it will always prove itself to be a word of Almighty God, it is a Miracle of all times.

Suppose a person says that he has done a Miracle, I would like to give an example of Baba Pilot who said, 'that he stayed underwater in a tank, for three days' and when the reporters, when they wanted to examine the base of the tank, he said... "how can you examine the womb of the mother, which gives birth to the child?" and

he prevented the reporters from examining the base of the tank. Will a modern man accept such Miracles? If such Miracles are the tests, then he has to agree with me, that P. C. Sorcar who happens to be one of the leading magicians of the world, he will be considered as the best god-man alive today.

Later on, came the age of literature and poetry, Muslims and non-Muslims alike they acclaim the Holy Qur'an to be the best Arabic literature available on the face of the earth.

And the Holy Qur'an gives a challenge in Surah Al Baqarah Chapter No. 2, Verse No. 23 and 24, where it says:

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا

“And if you are in doubt, as what we have revealed to our servant, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from time to time.”

فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ

“Then produce a Surah somewhat similar to it.”

وَأَدْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

“And call forth your witnesses and helpers if there are any besides Allah, If your doubts are but true.”

فَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا

“And if ye cannot.”

وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا

“And of a surety you cannot.”

فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ ۗ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ

“Then fear the fire which is prepared for those who reject faith whose fuel shall be men and stones”

For anyone to try and accept this challenge but natural, the Surah they produce should be in Arabic. There are certain Surahs which are hardly three verses... hardly three sentences. The Surah they produce should be in Arabic, the language should be as divine as that of the Holy Qur'an... as noble as the Holy Qur'an. The language

of the Holy Qur'an is miraculous, is unsurpassable, intelligible, it has the highest rhetoric and at the same time it is very rhythmic.

When any one wants to praise a person or wants to glorify anyone, he deviates away from reality and the best example you can see is in the Hindi movies when the hero praises the heroine, and he tries to please her and says "Main tumhare liye chand tod ke leke aounga, mai tumhare liye sitaare tod ke leke aounga" "I will get for you the Moon I will get for you the stars" The more you try and praise a person, the more you deviate away from reality.

Alhamdulillah, though the Qur'an is rhythmic it does not deviate from reality.

There were many people who tried to produce a Surah like the Qur'an, but they failed miserably. No one has been able to do it so far, and no one In Sha Allah will be able to do it till eternity.

But suppose if I tell you that there is a religious scripture who says in a very poetic fashion that 'the world is flat' , Will a modern man today believe? But natural no, because today is not the age of literature and poetry. Today is the age of science and technology. So let's analyze today the Holy Qur'an and modern science, whether they conflict or conciliate? The Qur'an and modern science whether they contradict or they are compatible?

According to the famous physicist, Albert Einstein, who had got the Nobel prize, he said: "Science without religion is lame, and religion without science is blind". I would like to repeat it, Albert Einstein said that "Science without religion is lame and religion without science is blind".

I would like to remind you that the Holy Qur'an is not a 'book of Science'... S-C-I-E-N-C-E; but it's a book of Signs... S-I-G-N-S; it's a book of Ayaats - and there are more than 6000 Signs or 6000 Ayats, out of which more than a 1,000 speak about Science. There are some people who would be satisfied just by acquiring one sign. Some people require ten signs to accept the truth. Some may require a hundred, while the others even after you produce a thousand signs to them yet they will not accept the truth.

As far as my talk today will be concerned, I will only be speaking about those scientific facts which have been established. I will not be speaking about theories which are based on assumptions and hypotheses, because we know very well that many a times science based on theories and hypotheses takes U-turns.

Lesson 2 – Astronomy

In the field of Astronomy if you ask a scientist that... how was our universe formed? How did it come into existence? He will tell you about the Big Bang Theory that initially the whole universe was one 'Primary Nebula'. Then there was a secondary separation which gave rise to galaxies, which further split to form things such as our

solar system, which gave rise to planets, the Sun and the present Earth which we live in.

I started my talk by quoting a verse of the Holy Qur'an from Surah Al-Anbiya, Chapter No. 21, Verse No. 30, which says:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا

"Do not the unbelievers see"

وَأَنَّ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنٰهُمَا

That...

"The heavens and the earth were joined together, and We clove them asunder?"

This verse of the Holy Qur'an speaks about the Big Bang Theory, in a nutshell. Imagine, what we came to know today, the Holy Qur'an mentions 1400 years ago.

And the Qur'an also says in Surah Fussilat, Chapter No. 41, verse 11, that:

"Moreover, in His design He comprehended the sky, and it had been smoke. And He said to it and the earth, come ye together willingly or unwillingly, and they said we come together in willing obedience."

The Arabic word used here is 'Dukhan', which means 'Smoke'. If you ask a scientist, he will tell you that the universe before it was formed, the celestial matter, it was in the state of 'gas', and the Arabic word 'Dukhan' which means Smoke, is more scientifically correct than mere 'gas'. And according to Stephen Hawkins, who is a very famous scientist, he said "the discovery of bridges of matter in the space is the biggest discovery of this century which gives us indisputable evidence of the creation, of the universe and the Big Bang Theory".

Previously the people thought that the world we live in, it is flat and they were afraid to venture too far, lest they would fall over. It was only in 1577, when Sir Francis Drake when he sailed around the earth he proved that the world was spherical.

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Luqman, Chapter No. 31, Verse 29:

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُوَلِّجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُوَلِّجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ

"It is Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, who merges the night into the day and merges the day into the night."

Merging is a slow and gradual process. The night slowly and gradually changes to day, and the day slowly and gradually changes to night. This phenomena is only possible if the shape of the earth is spherical, It's not possible if it is flat. If it was flat there will be a sudden change.

The Qur'an says in Surah Az-Zumar, Chapter No. 39, Verse No. 5, it says:

خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ

“It is Allah who has created the heavens and the earth in true proportion and he overlaps and coils the night unto the day and overlaps or coils the day unto the night.”

The Arabic word used is, ‘Kawwara’ which means overlapping or coiling. How you coil a turban around the head, How you overlap a turban around the head. This phenomena of the night overlapping and coiling over the day is only possible if the shape of the earth is spherical. It is not possible if the shape of earth is flat there will be a sudden change.

The Holy Qur'an further says in Surah Naziat, Chapter No. 79, Verse No. 30, it says:

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ دَحَلَهَا

“And thereafter We have made the earth egg-shaped.”

The Arabic word ‘Dahaha’ comes from root word ‘Duhya’, meaning an Egg-shape and it does not refer to any normal Egg. It specifically refers to the Egg of an Ostrich and today we know that the world is not completely round like a ball, it is Geo Spherical. It is slightly flattened from the top and bulging from the centre, it's Geo Spherical. And if you analyze the shape of the Egg of an Ostrich - it too is Geo Spherical, slightly flattened from the top and bulging from the centre. So the Holy Qur'an describes the exact ‘Geo Spherical earth’ 1400 years ago.

Previously we thought that the light of the Moon is its own light. It's recently we discovered that the light of the Moon is reflected light of the Sun.

The Qur'an says in Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse No. 61:

“Blessed is He who has created the constellations in the sky, and placed therein a lamp, and Moon having borrowed light.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Yunus, Chapter No. 10, Verse No. 5:

“It is Allah who has created the Sun as a shining glory and the Moon having a reflection of light.”

The similar message is repeated in Surah Nuh, Chapter No. 71, Verse No. 15 to 16:

The Arabic word for Sun is ‘Shams’. It's always described either as ‘Siraj’ meaning a torch, or ‘Wahaj’ meaning a blazing lamp, or ‘Diya’ meaning a shining glory.

The Moon, the Arabic word is ‘Qamar’. It's always described as ‘Munir’, meaning borrowed light or ‘Noor’, which is a reflection of light. Nowhere is the moon light described as ‘Siraj’ or ‘Wahaj’ or ‘Diya’ always as ‘Munir’ or ‘Noor’ that's borrowed light or a reflection of light.

The Qur'an says in Surah Tariq, Chapter No. 86 Verse No. 3:

النَّجْمُ النَّاقِبُ

The Arabic word for the Star is 'Najm'. It is described as 'Saqib' its light is described as 'Saqib'. It pierces the darkness and consumes itself.

Previously the Europeans, they thought that the Earth stood dead, in the centre of the Universe and all the planets including the Sun, it revolved around the earth. It was known as the theory of 'Geocentrism'. It was believed by Ptolemy in the second century BC, and was believed till as late as 16th century, until Copernicus said that the Earth and the planets revolve around the Sun. And later on, in 1609 Johannes Kepler wrote in his book, 'Astronomia Nova' ... that not only do the earth and the planets revolve around the Sun, they also rotate about their own axis.

When I was in school I had learnt that the earth and the planets they rotate about their axis, but I was taught that the Sun was fixed, it did not rotate about its own axis.

But the Holy Qur'an says in Surah Al-Anbiya, Chapter No. 21, Verse No. 33:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ

"It is Allah who has created the night and the day"

وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ

"The Sun and the Moon"

كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

"Each one traveling in a orbit, with its own motion."

The Arabic word 'Yasbahoon', is derived from the word 'Sabaha', which describes the motion of a moving body. If I say that a man is doing 'Sabaha' on the ground, it will not mean that he is rolling, it will mean he is either walking or running. If I say a person is doing 'Sabaha' in the water, it will not mean he is floating, it will mean he is swimming. Similarly, when the Qur'an uses the word 'Yasbahoon' derived from 'Sabaha', for a celestial body it will not mean... it is flying, it will mean, it is rotating about its own axis. And today we have come to know with the help of an equipment, we can have the image of the Sun on the table top, and we see there are black spots and it takes approximately 25 days for these black spots to complete one rotation indicating that the Sun takes approximately 25 days to complete one rotation.

Can you imagine the Qur'an speaks about the rotation and the revolution of the Sun 1400 years ago, which science has discovered today.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Yasin, Chapter No. 36, Verse No. 40:^٤

“It is not permitted for the Sun to catch up with the Moon, nor the night to outstrip the day...

وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

... each one travelling in an orbit with its own motion”

What does the Qur'an mean by saying it is not permitted for the Sun to catch up with the Moon... previously people thought that the orbit of the Sun and the Moon was the same. But Qur'an gives the indication... No! the orbit of the Sun and the Moon, is different. The question of catching up does not arise and each of them, the Sun and the Moon, they rotate as well as revolve.

The Qur'an says in Surah Yasin, Chapter No. 36, Verse No. 38:

وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا

That...

“The Sun is running its course to a place determined, for a period determined”

The Arabic word, ‘Mustakar’, means to a place determined, for a period determined.

Today science has come to know that the Sun, along with the Solar system, it is going towards a point in the Universe which the scientists call as the ‘Solar Apex’. And it's moving at a speed of 12 miles per second, and it is going to a point which they call as ‘A point in the constellation of Hercules’.

This same message is repeated...

In Surah Rad, Chapter No. 13, Verse No. 2..

In Surah Fatir, Chapter No. 35, Verse No. 13...

In Surah Luqman, Chapter No. 31, Verse No. 29 as well as..

In Surah Al-Zumar, Chapter No. 39, Verse No. 5.

It says that... “The Sun and the Moon runs its course for a period determined.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Dhariat, Chapter No. 51, Verse No. 47, that:

“It is We who have constructed with power and skill, the firmaments and it's We who make the vastness, and the expanding universe.”

The Arabic word ‘Musioona’ means expanding universe, the vastness of space.

Edwin Aero, who is a famous scientist, he discovered and said that ‘the universe is expanding’. The galaxies are receding from one another which the Qur'an has mentioned 1400 years ago.

There may be some people who say... It is nothing great that the Holy Qur'an speaks about Astronomy, since the Arabs, they were very well advanced in the field of Astronomy. I would like to bring to their notice that it was centuries after the Holy Qur'an was revealed that the Arabs became advanced in Astronomy. So it is from the Qur'an, that the Arabs learnt about Astronomy, and not the vice versa.

Lesson 3 – Physics and Hydrology

In the field of Physics, there was a theory known as 'Atomism'. That 'atom' is the smallest part of matter, which cannot be divided. This theory was propounded by Democritus, the Greek, twenty-three centuries ago and it was also known to the Arabs and the Arabic word for atom, is 'Zarra'. But today, after science has advanced, we have come to know that though 'atom' is the smallest particle of matter, having the characteristic of the element, it yet can be divided into electrons, protons, etc. So people may think that the Qur'an is outdated. The Qur'an does speak about 'Zarra', and says it's a minute particle, but nowhere does it say that it cannot be divided.

In fact, the Qur'an says in Surah Sabah, Chapter No. 34, Verse No. 3, it says that:

“When the unbelievers say that the hour will never come tell them... it will surely come with the permission of the Lord who has the knowledge of the unseen, who has in His record, the minutest detail of an atom in the heaven and in the earth, and in His record is perspicuous things, smaller and greater than the 'atom'”

So Qur'an says there are things smaller and greater than the atom. So Qur'an is not outdated... it is up to date.

A similar message is repeated in Surah Yunus, Chapter No. 10, Verse No. 61 that:

“In Allah's record is perspicuous things, smaller and greater than the atom.”

In the field of Geography, we learn in school about the coherent water cycle. This was first described by Sir Bernard Palissy, in 1580. And he said how does water evaporate from the ocean, form clouds, the cloud move in the interior... how do they fall as rain, the rain water flows into the ocean and the cycle is completed.

Previously people thought in the 7th century BC Thales of Miletus he said that “the spray of the ocean was picked up by the wind and it fell into the interior as rain”. People did not know... how did the underground water... the springs, where did they come from. So they thought that due to the pressure of the winds on the water, the thrust of the winds on the water - it fell into the interior as rain, and this rain water seeped into the soil, and returned to the ocean through a secret passage, 'the Abyss' which was known at the time of the Plato as 'Tartarus'. People believed in this theory of Descartes, even till as late as 17th century. And philosophers like Aristotle's theory

was believed till as late as 19th century, that water vapor evaporated from the soil, it condensed in mountain caverns, and these mountain caverns formed lakes which fed the spring water.

Today we know that the underground water, the springs, it is due to the seepage of the rain water.

And the Qur'an says that in Surah Al-Zumur, Chapter No. 39, Verse No. 21:

“Seest thou not that it is Allah who sends down rain from the sky, and seeps it in the sources in the ground, in the springs in the earth, and causes sown seed of various colours to grow.”

The message is repeated in Surah Rum Chapter No. 30, Verse No. 24:

“Allah sends down rain and the dead earth... brings it back to life.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Muminun, Chapter No. 23, Verse No 18, that:

“It is Allah who sends down rain in due measure, We are able to store it, and We are also able to easily drain it.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Al-Hijr, Chapter No. 15, Verse No 22, it says that:

“We send fecundating winds, winds impregnating, and cause rain to descend from the sky, and give you water in due measure.”

The Arabic word 'Lawaaqi' used here, is the plural of 'Laqi' derived from 'Laqaha' which means to impregnate or to fecundate. The winds carrying the pollen they impregnate the cloud, and then rain falls. The wind causes the clouds to merge... there is condensation, there is lightning and rain falls from the clouds.

The Qur'an describes the complete water cycle, how does the water evaporate, how it forms clouds, how it moves in the interior, how it falls down, how it flows back into the ocean in several places.

In Surah Nur, Chapter No. 24, Verse No. 43...

In Surah Naba, Chapter No. 78, Verse No 12 to 14, as well as...

In Surah Rum, Chapter No. 30, Verse No 48.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Nur, Chapter No. 24, Verse No 43, that:

“We send mountain masses of clouds.”

What does the Qur'an mean by saying, We send mountain masses of clouds? Today if anyone has been traveling in an Aeroplane, he will realize that when the Aeroplane goes above the clouds, and he looks at the clouds beneath, he will see that the clouds appear as mountain masses. The Qur'an has said this 1400 years ago. There

wasn't a Aeroplane 1400 years ago. Qur'an describes 'Hydrology', and 'Water cycle' in several places in great detail.

It's mentioned, in Surah Araf, Ch. No. 7, Verse No 57;

In Surah Rad, Chapter No. 13, Verse No 17;

In Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse No 48 to 49;

In Surah Fatir, Chapter No. 35, Verse No 9;

In Surah Yasin, Chapter No. 36, Verse No 34;

In Surah Jathiyah, Chapter No. 45, Verse No 5;

In Surah Qaf, Chapter No. 50, Verse No 9 & 10;

In Surah Waqiah, Chapter No. 56, Verse No 68 to 70; as well as

In Surah Mulk, Chapter No. 67, Verse No 30.

The Qur'an describes the Hydrology and Water cycle, in great detail.

Lesson 4 – Geology and Oceanography

Let us discuss the field of Geology. Today the Geologists, they tell us that the earth we live on, the outer crust it's hard and solid, and the deeper layers they are hot and fluid and inhospitable for the existence of living creatures. The Geologists, they tell us that outer crust is very thin, hardly 1 to 10 miles less than one percent of the radius of the earth, which is 3750 miles. And the outer crust is very thin and there are high possibilities of it shaking. Today Geologists tell us, it is due to the 'folding phenomena', which gives rise to mountain ranges and these mountains, they prevent the earth from shaking; they act as 'pegs' as 'stakes'.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Naba, Chapter No. 78, Verse No. 6 and 7, it says:

"We have made the earth as an expanse",

وَالْجِبَالِ أَوْتَادًا

"And the mountains as stakes".

The Arabic word 'Avtaad', means 'Stakes', means 'Pegs' which we have discovered today.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Jashiya, Chapter No. 88, Verse No. 19, as well as in Surah Naziat, Chapter No. 79, Verse No. 32, it says:

وَأَلْجِبَالَ أَوْتَادًا

'We have made the mountain standing firm.'

There is a book by the title 'The Earth' which is a very famous book ... an authority in this field, which is referred by most of the Universities throughout the world, in this subject. One of its author's name is... Frank Press, and he gives the illustration of the mountain in this book called 'Earth', as wedge shaped, and he says... 'the function of the mountain is to stabilize the Earth's Crust'.

And Qur'an says that. The same information in...

Surah Anbiya, Chapter No. 21, Verse No 31, as well as in...

Surah Luqman, Chapter No. 31, Verse No 10, and ...

Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16, Verse No 15, that...

"We have set on the earth mountains standing firm lest it would shake."

The Qur'an gives the functions of the mountain 1400 years ago, which we discovered today.

In the field of 'Oceanology', the Holy Qur'an says in Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse No. 53:

"It is Allah who has let free two bodies of flowing water one sweet and palpable and the other salt and bitter, and between them there is a 'Barzakh', a barrier, which is forbidden to be trespassed."

The Qur'an repeats the message in Surah Rahman, Chapter No. 55, Verse No. 19 and 20:

مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ

بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَا يَبْغِيَانِ

That...

"It is Allah who has let free two bodies of flowing water which meet and between them there is a barrier which is forbidden to be trespassed."

The Arabic word 'Barzakh' means 'a barrier' and the Arabic statement... "Marajal Bahraini yaltaqiyaan" ... means 'the flowing bodies of water, they meet and mix'. Previously the commentators, they could not understand the two opposite descriptions of the two bodies of flowing water. It says, 'they meet and mix', as well

as it says... 'there is a barrier between them'. The commentator of the Qur'an could not understand, explain, what did this verse actually mean, it was confusing. Today we have come to know, with the help of science, that there is a slanting barrier between the two bodies of salt water and sweet water... between the salt sea and the sweet sea. And whenever water passes from one sea to the other sea, it loses its characteristics and gets homogenized into the water it flows. There is a barrier but this barrier is called as 'a transitional homogenizing space or area'.

Both the waters though they meet and mix, but their characteristics yet remain the same. Salt water remains salt, the sweet water remains sweet... and this phenomena can be seen in Cape Point, southernmost tip of South Africa, in Cape Town - where salt and sweet water meet, but they are distinct... they don't mix. When they flow across, the water changes its characteristics. Similar things can be observed in Egypt, when river Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea. As well as the example of the Gulf stream, which starts in the Gulf of Mexico though it flows for thousands of miles, both the water, salt and sweet water, they are distinct. And if you are traveling in a boat, and if you pick up water from one side of the boat and water from the other side, you will find that both the waters are different. One is sweet and the other is salty. Even the temperature differs. Even in the area of Gibraltar, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean ocean, there is an unseen barrier, and this was confirmed. This phenomena which the Qur'an speaks about, was confirmed by Professor Hay, who is a leading marine of USA.

The Qur'an asks the people, that "which of the favours of thy Lord will you deny".

In Surah Rehman itself, Chapter No. 55, this verse... "then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny?" ...

is repeated no less than thirty-one times. It speaks about the signs of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, about trees, about the heavens, and then asks you... "then which of the signs of your Lord will you deny?" It speaks about the water cycle and then asks you... "then which of the signs of thy Lord will you deny?"...It speaks about the barrier between the sweet and the salt water, and then asks you... "which of the signs, of thy Lord will you deny?" The Qur'an in one Chapter itself, it is asking its reader... 'Which of the signs of God Almighty, will you people deny? It is prodding you that all these signs, from where do they come? which is the signs you will deny?

Lesson 5 – Biology, Botany and Zoology

In the field of Biology, the Holy Qur'an says in Surah Al Anbiya, Chapter No. 21, Verse No. 30:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ

“We have created every living thing from water - Will you not then believe?”

Imagine in the deserts of Arabia, where there was scarcity of water, the Qur'an says... Everything was created from water... who would have believed in it? Anything else the Qur'an would have said people could have believed. 'Water' - where there was scarcity - the Qur'an says 1400 years ago... 'Every living thing is created from water'. Today we have come to know that Cytoplasm which is the basic substance of the living cell contains 80% water. Every living creature contains 50 to 70% water, and without water, the living creature cannot survive - It is a must.

Qur'an asks you...

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ

“We have created from water every living thing - Will you not then believe?”

Allah is saying... 'that everything is created from water' - which you came to know today. Qur'an mentions that 1400 years ago... “Will you not then believe?” It's asking you a question, It wants a reply.

The Qur'an says in Surah Nur, Chapter No. 24, Verse No. 45, that:

“We have created every living animal from water.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse No. 54:

“We have created the man from water”

Imagine 1400 years ago, the Qur'an mentions this.

In the field of 'Botany', we have come to know recently, that even the plants have got sexes, male and female, previously we did not know that. Even the Unisexual plant has got distinct characteristic of male and female.

The Qur'an says in Surah Ta Ha, Chapter No. 20, Verse No. 53:

“It is Allah who sends down water from the sky and causes diverse pairs of plants to grow, each separate from the other.”

That means, the plants have got sexes, Male and Female.

The Qur'an says in Surah Rad, Chapter No. 13, Verse No. 3:

“We have created every kind of fruit, in pairs two and two”

Even the fruit has got sexes, Male and Female.

In the field of 'Zoology', the Holy Qur'an says in Surah Anam, Chapter No. 6, Verse No 38, that:

“We have created every living animal that lives on the earth and every bird that flies on the wings in the air, to live in communities like you”

Today science has discovered that even the animals and birds live in communities, like the human beings.

The Qur'an describes the flight of the bird in Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16. Verse No. 79:

“Do you not look at the bird subjected in the midst in the air? None of them can hold them up except with the power of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala”

The Qur'an repeats in Surah Mulk, Chapter No. 67, Verse No. 19:

“Do you not observe the birds above you? They spread their wings and they fold it. None can hold them up except with the power of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, and He watches over all things.”

This verse of the Holy Qur'an there is a very striking resemblance with what modern science has discovered today, that the birds have got a certain migratory programming in their nervous system. That is the reason that young birds, without any prior experience, can take flights of thousands of miles without a guide and they come back to the departure point also. And a very good example is given by Professor Hamburger in his book 'Power and fragility of the Mutton bird'. The Mutton bird lives in the Pacific, it has a journey of more than 15,000 miles, and it takes about six months, and it comes back to the departure point in a delay of not more than one week. How is it possible? Scientists say, “there has to be a certain programming of these birds” Who is programming them? But natural, as the Holy Qur'an says 'Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala holds them up'... the Arabic word 'Amsaka' meaning to seize or to hold.

The Qur'an says in Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16, Verse No. 68 and 69:

“It is the Lord who has taught the bees to build cells, in hills, in trees and human habitations and to eat of what the earth produces, and to find the spacious path of the Lord, with great skill”

What does the Qur'an mean by... 'Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala has taught the bee to find the spacious path of the Lord?' Von Frisch, who is a scientist, he got the Noble Prize, in 1973, when he described the behavior of the animals, especially the communication method of the bee. And today we have come to know that whenever a worker bee finds a new flower or a new garden from where it can take nectar, it goes and tells its fellow bees the exact direction and map of that new flower or garden... it is called as the 'bee dance'. Only today, we have come to know by high photographic method, how is this communication given.

The gender used in the Holy Qur'an in these Verses of Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16, Verse 68, and 69 is a female gender 'Quli', or 'Fasluki' which means a 'Female bee'. Previously we thought it was the male bee which was the worker bee. No wonder, Shakespeare in his play 'Henry the IV', he writes that the soldier bee, the male bee

goes and reports to the king. Today we have come to know it is not the king which they report to, it's the queen and the worker bee is not the Male bee, it's a Female bee.

Imagine! Qur'an speaks about the gender of the worker bee 1400 years ago, which we have discovered today.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Ankabut, Chapter No. 29, Verse No 41, that:

“As to those who take for protectors, anyone besides Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, they build for themselves houses like that of the spider and verily, the house of the spider is fragile, it is delicate”

Besides, the Qur'an saying, that anyone who takes for protectors anyone besides Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, the physical nature of their house will be like that of the spider fragile, delicate, flimsy -it also gives a reference to their family life, which we have to know today, that many a times, the female spider kills the male spider.

The Qur'an says in Surah Naml, Chapter No. 27, Verse No 17 and 18, that:

“Before Solomon marched, the hosts of Jinns, men and birds, and when they reached a lowly valley of ants, one of the ants said get ye into your habitation, lest Solomon and his horses unknowingly will trample you beneath the feet”

People will think... What kind of a fairy tale book is the Holy Qur'an? This book... the Holy Qur'an... it's speaking about ants... ants talking among themselves, it's a fairy tale book.

Today we have come to know that any animal or any insect which has the closest resemblance to that of the human being... it is the ant. The ants bury the dead the same way as the human beings do. They have a sophisticated method and division of labour, where they have a manager, supervisor, workers, etc. They very often meet to chat. They have a sophisticated method of communication. They have market places where they exchange goods. And when they store the grain in winter, and if the grain begins to bud, the ants cut the bud as though they knew that budding will cause rotting of the grain. And in Monsoon, if the grain gets wet, they bring it out in the sunlight to dry. Surely you might have seen the ants carrying grain in the sunlight to dry as though they knew that humidity will cause the development of root system, which will cause rotting of the grain. So Qur'an speaks about the advanced nature of the ants, 1400 years ago.

Lesson 6 – Medicine and Physiology

In the field of Medicine, the Holy Qur'an says in Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16, Verse No. 68 and 69, that:

“From the belly of the bee you get a drink of varying colours, in which there is healing for mankind.”

It's recently we have come to know that the honey we have is derived from the bee. It is the bee which is responsible for the honey. We did not know about this before. And today we know honey has got high nutritive values. It is rich in vitamin K, and Fructose and it has got mild antiseptic properties. No wonder the Russian soldiers, they used honey to cover up their wounds which prevented the evaporation of moisture and left very little scar tissue. Any person suffering from an allergy of a particular plant, if honey produced from that plant is given, that person starts developing resistance to that allergy.

In the field of 'Physiology', it was Ibn Nafees, who 600 years after the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, described the blood circulation and 1000 years after the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, that is 400 years after Ibn Nafees described the blood circulation... William Harvey, he made it famous to the Western World. The food that we eat, it enters the stomach, it enters the intestine, from the intestine it goes into the blood vessels of the intestine and enters the blood circulation and the blood circulation takes the foods substance to various organs including the mammary glands which produce milk.

The Qur'an speaks about the blood circulation, and the production of milk in a nutshell in:

Surah Nahl, Chapter No. 16, Verse No. 66, where it says, that:

“Verily in the cattle is a lesson for you, We give you to drink from what is within their bodies, coming from the conjunction of the constituents, of the intestine and blood, milk which is pure and pleasant for those who drink.”

The Qur'an says in Surah Mu'minun, Chapter No. 23, Verse No. 21, which was also recited by our Qari, brother Ashraf Mohammedy. It says that:

“Verily in the cattle, is an instructive sign for you. We give you to drink from what is within their bodies in which there is various benefit and of their meat you can eat.”

Qur'an describes the blood circulation and the production of milk in a nutshell, 1400 years ago.

Lesson 7 – Embryology

In the field of 'Embryology', there were a group of Arab students who collected all the matter in the Holy Qur'an, dealing with 'Embryology'. And they followed the guidance of the Holy Qur'an in Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse 59, which says:

“If you are in doubt, ask the person who knows... ask the person who is knowledgeable.”

So they took all the data given in the Holy Qur'an dealing with 'Embryology', and presented it to Professor Keith Moore. Professor Keith Moore is the head and chairman of the department of Anatomy, in the University of Toronto in Canada, and is one of the leading authorities in the world in the field of Embryology.

When Professor Keith Moore went through the translation of the various Verses No. of the Qur'an, dealing with Embryology, he said, that most of the things which the Qur'an speaks about Embryology is matching with the latest discoveries made in the field of Embryology, but there are a couple of things, which I cannot say that they are right. Neither can I say that they are wrong, because I myself do not know about it.

And one such Verse, was from Surah Iqra, or Surah Alaq, Chapter No. 96, Verse No. 1 and 2 which says:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

“Read, Recite or Proclaim, in the name of thy Lord, who created - who created the human beings from something which clings - a leech like substance”

So Professor Keith Moore said, I do not know whether the embryo looks like a leech or not. So he went in his laboratory and under a very powerful microscope, examined the shape of the early stage of Embryo, and compared it with a photograph of a leech, and he was astonished at the striking resemblance. And when he was asked about 80 questions on Embryology taken from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith, he said... 'that if you would have asked me all these things 30 years ago, I would not be able to answer more than 50% of this. Because Embryology... the development of Embryology, is just recently, hardly 30 to 50 years, it is advanced'. And Professor Keith Moore, he had written a book - 'The Developing Human'... and in his new edition, the 3rd edition, he has incorporated the new things which he found from the Qur'an and the Hadith for which he got an award for the best medical book written in that year by any single author.

And when I was doing my MBBS in the first year, we referred to this book 'Developing Human' by Keith Moore. If we wanted to score high marks, in 'Embryology', we referred to the book by Keith Moore. If we wanted to get just passing marks, we referred to Inderbir Singh but if we wanted to score, we had to refer to the book by Professor Keith Moore. And later on this book was translated into several languages of the world. Professor Keith Moore said, “I have got no objection, in accepting that Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) is the messenger of God Almighty, and that the Holy Qur'an has to be a Divine Revelation”

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Tariq Chapter No. 86, Verse No. 5 to 7:

“Let now man think from what he is created, he is created from a drop, emitted from a space between the backbone and the ribs.”

Today we have come to know, the genital organs, the testes, in the males, and the ovaries in the female, in the Embryonic stage they develop from a space, where the

kidney is present today, between the backbone and the 11th and 12th rib. Later on the testes they descend to the inguinal canal, into the scrotum and the ovaries in the female to the true pelvis. But in the Embryonic stage, it is in the space which the Qur'an speaks about... 'between the backbone, the spinal column and the 11th and 12th rib'.

Even in the adult life after the Genital organs they descend, yet they receive the blood supply, the nerve supply and the lymphatic drainage from the same space between the spinal column and the 11th and 12th rib.

The Holy Qur'an mentions in Surah Muminun, Chapter No. 23, Verse No. 13, as well as Surah Al Hajj, Ch. No. 22, Verse No. 5 that:

"We have created the human beings from a 'Nutfah"

The Arabic word 'Nutfah', that the human beings have been created from 'Nutfah', is mentioned in the Qur'an no less than 11 times and the word 'Nutfah', is mentioned 12 times, but human beings created from 'Nutfah' is mentioned 11 times. The Arabic word 'Nutfah' means a minute quantity of liquid.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Sajdah, Chapter No. 32, Verse No. 8, that:

"We have created the human beings from a quintessence of liquid."

The Arabic word is 'Sulala' meaning a minute quantity, or the best part of the whole. And today we have come to know, only one sperm actually, it penetrates the ovum, and only one sperm is required to fertilize the ovum, out of the tens of millions of sperms, which the man ejaculates.

Qur'an refers to it as 'Sulala', the best part of the whole or 'Nutfah' a minute quantity.

The Qur'an says in Surah Insaan, Chapter No. 76, Verse No. 2:

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ

The Arabic word means 'Nutfatin amshaj' means...

"We have created the human being from a minute quantity of mingled fluids"... 'Nutfatin amshaj', minute quantity of mingled fluids.

This can refer to the male and female gametes after they are formed... the 'Zygote' it yet remains a 'Nutfah' a minute quantity of liquid. It can also refer to the spermatid fluid, which contains several secretions from various glands, like the testis, the 'Sero fluid', which contains the 'Spermatozoons' it also includes the secretions from the Seminal 'Vesicles', the seminal fluids, which is a reservoir of 'Spermatozoons', but does not contain the fertilizing agent. Also it refers the secretion of the Prostatic glands, which gives the creamy texture and the characteristic odour to the sperm, as well as glands attached to the Urinary tract... the Coopers gland or the Littres gland, which gives the specific texture of mucous, to the sperm. The Qur'an refers to as

'Nutfatin amshaj'... minute quantity of mingled fluid, male and female gametes surrounded by these fluids which are responsible for the birth of the human being.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Al Zumur Chapter No. 39, Verse No. 6:

"We have created the human beings in the wombs of their mother, in stages, one after the other in three veils of darkness."

Professor Keith Moore said these three veils of darkness refers to the Anterior Abdominal wall of the mother, the Uterine wall, and the AMNIO-CHORIONIC MEMBRANE.

The Qur'an also speaks about 'Genetics'.

The Qur'an says... in Surah Najm, Chapter No. 53, Verse No. 45 and 46, that:

"We have created the human beings and made them into male and female through minute quantity of liquid which is ejaculated."

But natural, if it is ejaculated, it has to be a male fluid. Qur'an says it is the male which is responsible for the sex of the child.

The Qur'an repeats this message in Surah Qiyamah, Chapter No. 75, Verse No. 37 and 39, that:

"We have created the human beings from a minute quantity of sperm and then made it into an 'Alaqa' a leech-like substance then gave it due proportion, then made it into sex male and female"

The Arabic word 'Nutfatun mim Manee'eeyumna' means a minute quantity of sperm. Qur'an says a minute quantity of sperm is required for sex of the child.

Today science has come to know that the sex of the child depends upon the 23rd pair of Chromosome, and it is the sperm which is responsible for deciphering the sex of the child. If it is 'XX'... it is a female. If it is an 'XY'... it's a male. The Qur'an has mentioned this 1400 years ago.

In our society, specially in the Indian society, for reasons known best to them, people prefer having a male child. And suppose the daughter in law, if she gives birth to a female child, the mother-in-law normally blames the daughter-in-law. If the mother-in-law has to blame anyone, she should blame the son, not the daughter-in-law... because the Holy Qur'an and science tells us, that it is the male which is responsible for the sex of the child and not the female.

The Qur'an describes the various Embryological stages in great detail.

In Surah Muminun, Chapter No. 23, Verse No. 12 to 14, it says:

“We have created the human beings from a quintessence of clay, then made it into a drop, placed it into ‘Qarare Makeen’ place of security, then made it into an ‘Alaqa’, something which clings, a leech like substance, made that ‘Alaqa’ into ‘Mudga’, a chewed like lump, made that ‘Mudga’, into ‘Izama’ bones, then clothed the ‘Izama’, bones with ‘Lahem’ that is flesh and then made it into a creature. Blessed is He, the best to create”

This verse of the Holy Qur'an, from 12 to 14 of Surah Muminun, Chapter No. 23, describes the Embryological stages in great detail. It starts with saying...

“We have placed the ‘Nutfah’ the minute quantity into ‘Qaraare Makeen’, a place of security”

Today Embryology tells us that the Embryo is protected posteriorly by the back bone and the posterior muscles of the mother - anteriorly by the anterior abdominal wall, by the uterine wall as well as the Amnio-Chorionic Membrane. It continues... “then we made it into an ‘Alaqa’, a leech like substance, something which clings”

The Arabic word ‘Alaqa’, has got 3 meanings: something which clings, a leech like substance, as well as blood clot. Alhamdulillah, all three meanings are applicable here, because the Embryo, in the initial stages it clings to the uterine wall of the mother. It looks like a ‘leech’, as confirmed by Professor Keith Moore. It also behaves like a ‘leech’, it behaves like a blood sucker, it derives the blood supply and the nutrition from the mother. And at this stage if an abortion takes place, the concept is, it looks like a blood clot. It looks like a blood clot as well as a leech. So Qur'an, in one word it implies three meanings, which all are applicable.

Qur'an mentions this word ‘Alaqa’ no less than six times.

Twice in Surah Muminun, Chapter No. 23, Verse No. 12 to 14;

Surah Hajj, Chapter No. 22, Verse No 5;

Surah Ghafir, Chapter No. 40, Verse 67;

Surah Qiyamah, Chapter No. 75, Verse 38; as well as in

Surah Iqra, Chapter No. 96, Verse No 2... Six times it is mentioned.

Previously, in the 17th century people thought that the sperm, it walled a miniature human being. A miniature human being was present in the head of the sperm, which later on developed into the uterus of the mother, as a new born baby. This was believed by Flaumadam, who proposed the ‘Perforation theory’. Later on, when they discovered that the ovum is bigger than the sperm, D Graphy and others, they said it is not the sperm which walls a miniature human being, it is the ovum which walls a miniature human being. Later on, Maopertuis in the eighteen century, he proposed the ‘Bi-parental theory’ that both are responsible. As the Qur'an says, both the sperm and the ovum is responsible for the birth of the child. Qur'an says, we made that ‘Alaqa’, into a ‘Mudga’. ‘Mudga’ means ‘chewed like lump’, or something tacky which

can be put in the mouth. Professor Keith Moore said, 'both these meanings are applicable, because it is something tacky which can be put in the mouth' and later on he took a plaster seal and bit it between his teeth, to look like a Mudga, 'a chewed like lump'. And he was astonished that the teeth marks resembled the 'Somites', from which develops the spinal column. The Qur'an says, 'We made that 'Mudga' into 'Izama'... bones. We clothed the 'Izaman' with 'lahem'... flesh, and muscles.

Allah says then, "We create the 'Al-Nasha' stage, We create a new creature"

What does the Qur'an mean ... 'We have created a new creature'?. Science today tells us that the embryological stages of development, before this stage, in the rabbit, in the fish, in the other animals, it is similar to that of human beings. It is only at this stage of 'Al-Nasha', that the particular characteristics of the human beings are seen... the head, the hands and the feet. The Qur'an says... 'We have made a new creature', and ends by saying... 'Blessed is He, who is the best to create'. Imagine, Qur'an gives the various Embryological stages in great detail.

There was a person who put forward an argument... 'It is nothing new; may be some Arab, he opened up the abdomen of a pregnant woman and checked the shape and wrote in the Qur'an'. He did not realise that all these stages, which the Qur'an describes, it cannot be observed with the naked human eye, you require a very powerful microscope. When Professor Marshall Johnson was asked to comment of these Verses... He is the head of the department of 'Anatomy' in the Daniel Institute, in Sir Thomas Jefferson's hospital in Philadelphia, USA. He said 'It can be possible that Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), he had a microscope and he observed it'. Then, he was reminded that... 'Microscope was not invented 1400 years ago'. So, Professor Marshall Johnson laughed loudly, and he said 'Yes, I know that. And I have seen the first microscope with my own eyes, it hardly enlarges to ten times and the picture is not even clear. Then he said, "These stages has to be a Divine Revelation".

He was further asked to comment on the verse of the Qur'an from Surah Hajj, Chapter No. 22, Verse No 5, which says:

"We have created the human beings from dust then made it into an 'Alaqa', made it into a 'Mudga', partly formed and partly unformed"

When you take an incision at this stage, and analyze the Embryo and cut up the internal organs, you will find out that the internal organs at this particular stage, some of the organs are formed while the other organs, they aren't formed. So Professor Marshall Johnson said, If I said, that it is a complete creation, I am only describing those organs which are formed. If I say it is an incomplete creation, I am only describing those organs which are not formed. There can be no better description than the Holy Qur'an, saying... "Partly formed and partly unformed", because some organs are formed, the others are not formed... some cells are differentiated, the others are not differentiated'.

Professor Keith Moore said, that... 'Today in Embryology we have got several stages of the Embryological development, but it is so difficult to understand it, because it has got numerical stages - stage 1, stage 2, stage 3. The Qur'an bases the stages

on shapes, and predated development, which is far superior and easy than what modern Embryology has done today. If the Embryologists... they describe according to the stages of the Qur'an, it is far more easier for them to describe and understand, than what modern Embryology has done - stage 1, stage 2, stage 3.

The Qur'an says in Surah Abasa, Chapter No. 80, Verse 19 and 20:

“We have created the human beings from minute quantity and We have made the passage of birth easy.”

People normally wonder, that how can the birth canal which hardly admits 3 to 4 fingers, how can a baby come out of it? The bony structure is so rigid, it has got Ligament... How is it possible? Qur'an says... ‘Allah makes the pathway easy’. And today we have come to know that... How is it possible. Relaxin is being secreted by the ovaries and the placenta which loosens the ligament of the pelvic joints and softens the cervix. The uterine contraction that takes place, it pushes the baby downwards in the birth canal. The bag of water which ruptures, it provides a slippery surface for the baby to come out, to slide and the various movements of the baby, while birth facilitates the movement through the irregular pelvic joints.

The Qur'an says that... ‘Allah makes the pathway easy’. Qur'an is giving you signs. It is showing you various Embryological stages. Who could have described all these stages? They are asking you a question, ‘Will you not then believe? ... Will you not then believe in the Holy Qur'an?’

The Qur'an says in Surah Sajdah, Chapter No. 32, Verse No. 9:

‘We have given the human beings the faculty of hearing and sight’

It is repeated in Surah Insaan, Chapter No. 76, Verse No. 2:

‘We have given the faculty of hearing and sight, to the human being’

Today we have come to know the first sense to develop, is the sense of hearing Qur'an says... ‘First hearing then sight’. By the fifth month of pregnancy it is complete the ear, later on in the seventh month of pregnancy, the eye split is open. Imagine Qur'an gives the order, first comes hearing, then comes sight.

Lesson 8 – General Science and Conclusion

Professor Durgarao, who is an expert in the field of ‘Marine Geology’ who is teaching in the University of King Abdul Aziz in Jeddah, he was asked to give his comments on a verse of the Holy Qur'an from Surah Nur, Chapter No. 24, Verse No. 40, which says that...

“The state of the unbeliever is like the depth of darkness in a vast deep ocean, overwhelmed with waves topped with waves, topped with dark clouds, the depths of

darkness, one layered over the other. When a man stretches out his hand, he can hardly see it, Allah gives light to whom He wishes. If He does not give light you cannot see”

Professor Durgarao, he said that... ‘This verse of the Holy Qur'an is not speaking about a normal sea, it is speaking about a deep sea’. And today, only with the help of things like submarines, we have come to know the depths of the oceans, it is dark. Previously, we did not know that, because a man cannot go unaided, more than 20 to 30 metres under water and if he goes more than 200 metres unaided, he dies. It is today, we have come to know, by the instruments that we have, that the depths of the ocean is dark’. And he said... ‘This darkness is due to two phenomena, first is due to successive absorption of the colours in layers’. As we all know, the light has got Seven colours. And we learnt in school for remembering easy: VIBGYOR, the colours of the rainbow. Vibgyor - V for violet, I for Indigo, B for blue, G for Green, Y for Yellow, O for Orange, and Red... R for Red – Vibgyor... Seven colours.

Professor Durgarao said, that ‘When the light enters the ocean by the first 15 to 20 meters, the Red colour is absorbed’. And if a man goes under water about 30 meters deep, and if he bleeds, if he has a wound, he will not be able to see red colour of his own blood because Red colour does not reach there. Later on, 30 to 50 metres absorbs Orange. Yellow is absorbed by next 50 to 100 metres, green by 100 to 200 metres, and blue beyond 200 metres, and violet and indigo much above 200 metres

Therefore, the layers of darkness you see in the ocean, is due to the absorption of light in successive layers. The second reason for these layers’, Professor Durgarao said... ‘is due to barriers, like the clouds. When the sunlight hits the cloud, the cloud absorbs the light therefore there is darkness below the cloud, then the light is scattered. After getting scattered, it hits at the superficial waves of the ocean. This is the second barrier, the waves reflect the light further, the superficial waves of the ocean. Those light rays which are not reflected, they enter the ocean. Therefore, you have two types of layers in the ocean: the superficial layer and the deep layer. The superficial layer is warm and lit up, the deep layers they are dark. And this superficial and deep layer of the ocean, it is divided by internal waves. We human beings did not know that even there were internal waves. We only knew of superficial waves. It was only in 1900, that we have come to know that there are even waves deep in the water. They are known as internal waves, which divide the superficial part of the ocean and the deep part of the ocean.

Imagine the Qur'an mentions that... “the unbelievers' state is like the depth of darkness in a vast deep ocean, overwhelmed with waves topped with waves”

That means deep waves are there, internal waves are there, topped with superficial waves. And it further continues... ‘topped with dark clouds’. The clouds are the barriers, and even the clouds are in layers. And when a man stretches out his hand, he can hardly see it. ‘Only if Allah gives light, can they see’.

Even the fish that swim in the deep part of the ocean, they cannot see unless they have their own light with them. They have their own lights with them. Even the submarine that goes underwater, it carries its own light, otherwise they cannot see underwater. So when Professor Durgarao was asked, how come this is mentioned in

the Qur'an 1400 years ago, he said – 'It's impossible for any human being to mention this verse - This Qur'an has to be a Divine Revelation'.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Qiyamah, Chapter No. 75, Verse No. 3 and 4:

"The unbelievers ask, that how will Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala be able to reassemble our bones'. Allah says... 'We can not only reassemble the bones, We can even reconstruct in perfect order the very fingertips'.

When the unbelievers say... After we are buried, after our bones have got disintegrated, how will Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala on the day of judgment, reassemble our bones'. So Allah says... 'He will not only be able to reassemble the bones, He can even reconstruct your very fingertip in perfect order'.

It is referring to the fingerprinting method, which was discovered by Sir Francis Gold in 1880, and he said that , 'No two fingerprints, of two individuals are equal even in a million people'. No wonder the police, the CID, the CIA, the FBI they use the finger printing method to identify the culprit. Qur'an speaks about that 1400 years ago... Allah can not only reassemble the bones, he can even reconstruct in perfect order the very fingertips.

Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala is asking you in Surah Nisa, Chapter No. 4 Verse 82:

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْفُرْعَانَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانِ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

"Do not you consider the Qur'an with care? – Do not you ponder over the Qur'an with care? that if it had been from any one besides Allah, there would have been many contradictions, there would have been many discrepancies"

Qur'an is giving you a challenge... here is the Holy Qur'an, try and take out a single discrepancy, try and take out a single fault in the Holy Qur'an. It is giving you a challenge, an open challenge....

"Why don't you analyze the Qur'an with care had it been from anyone besides Allah, there would have been many contradictions"

I would like to end my talk by giving the example of Professor Tagatat Tejasen. Previously, the doctors they thought, that only the brain was responsible for feeling of pain. It's now we have come to know that there are certain receptors in the skin, called as 'pain receptors', which are also responsible for feeling of pain. No wonder when a patient of burn injury comes to a doctor, he takes a pin and he pricks it in that area. If the patient feels pain, the doctor is very happy. It means it is a superficial burn, the pain receptors are intact. If he does not feel pain, it's a deep burn, the pain receptors have been destroyed.

The Qur'an says in Surah Nisa, Chapter No. 4, Verse No. 56:

"As to those who reject our signs, We shall cast them into the hell fire, and as often as their skins are roasted, We shall give them fresh skins, so that they shall feel the pain."

Qur'an says... "If your skin is roasted, We shall give you fresh skin, so that you'll feel the pain".

Giving an indication... there is something in the skin which is responsible for the feeling of pain – Indication is the pain receptor.

When Professor Tagatat Tejasen, who is the head of the department of Anatomy, in Shanghai University in Thailand, he was given the translation of this verse. And he has spent a lot of time in doing research on pain receptors, he said... 'It is impossible that Qur'an can mention this. We discovered it recently, How is it possible?' He did not agree with it. Later on, after checking with the Holy Qur'an, after verifying the Holy Qur'an, he was so impressed, that in the 8th Medical Saudi Conference, in Riyadh in the Conference, he said the Shahadah...

"La Ilaha Ill Allah, Muhammadur Rasulallah" "There is no God but Allah, and Prophet Muhammed is the Messenger of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala"

Wa Aakhiru Dawana, Alhamdulillah Rabbil Alameen.

Lesson 9 – Question & Answer Session – Part 1

Dr Mohammed: Now we would be having the question and answer session. To derive more benefit for all of those present here, in the limited time that we have available, we would like the following rules to be observed. Your questions asked should be on the topic of the day, 'Qur'an and Modern Science - Conflict or Conciliation?' only. Questions not relevant to the topic will not be entertained. Kindly state your questions briefly and to the point. This is question answer time and not lecture time. Only one question at a time will be permitted, for your second question you would have to go behind the row and await your second chance. We have three mikes provided on the ground; two on my sides, right side, one left side, one these are for the gents. And we have one behind in the centre in the ladies section for the ladies. I am told there are people watching this programme in the Alma Latifi Hall which is full on the video screen. I would request those brothers if they have any questions, to kindly come down on the ground, the volunteers present at your end would assist you in it.

We will allow only one question on each of the mikes, in clockwise rotation. First the ladies, second the gent on my right, third the gent on my left, and so on in clockwise manner. Written questions on papers or slips which are available from our volunteers in the aisles would be given secondary preference after the open questions on the mikes are answered by Dr Zakir.

In the interest of having less time wasting, a more educative and an interesting question and answer session; our decision to allow or disallow irrelevant questions will be final. In the interest of eliciting a proper and clear answer from the speaker, kindly state your name and profession before putting forward your question, so his answer can be more appropriate to your understanding. May we have the first question from the ladies section - Member of audience.

Kausar Shaikh: Assalaamu Alaikum, I am Kausar Shaikh, a product of Darul Qur'an Kuwait, presently I am teaching Arabic in Anushakti Nagar. My question is, it is mentioned in the Qur'an that...one day in the sight of Allah is equal to a thousand years' and in another place it is mentioned that...one day is equal to fifty thousand years'. Isn't the Qur'an contradicting itself? Please explain.

Dr Zakir Naik: The Sister has asked a question that, it is mentioned in the Qur'an in a certain place, that...one day in the sight of Allah is equal to a thousand years and somewhere else it is mentioned that, one day in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is equal to a fifty thousand years, isn't this a contradiction? What the sister was referring to a verse of the Holy Qur'an from

Surah Al-Hajj, Ch. 22, V. No. 47, as well as Surah Sajdah, Ch. 32, V. No. 5, which does say that:

“One day in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is equal to a thousand years.”

And in Surah Maarij Ch. 70, V. No. 4, it says that:

“One day in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is equal to a fifty thousand years of your reckoning.”

Doesn't it seem to be a contradiction?

Sister, what these verses in the Holy Qur'an are referring to... it is giving an indication that time in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is incomparable to the earthly time. The earthly time, whether it is a thousand years or whether it is a fifty thousand years, whether it is thousands of years, it is somewhat equal to one day in the sight of Allah, or may be one second in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. It is just giving you a reference, that time in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is incomparable to the earthly time but even if you want to take these verses literally, still there is an explanation for that.

The Arabic word used in these verses is 'Yaum'. It has got two different meanings, it can be either translated as 'day' or as 'period' or as 'Epoch'.... very long period. So if you read this verse of Surah Sajdah, Ch. 32, V. No. 5, it says...

“It is Allah who rules the affairs from the Heavens to the Earth and all these go up to him on a day, which is equal to a thousand years of reckoning.”

If you translate this word correctly 'Yaum' as 'period', it will read that 'Allah rules all the affairs from the Heavens to the Earth, and all of them go unto him in a period which is equal to a thousand years of your reckoning'.

Surah Marijj, Ch.No. 70, V. No. 4, reads that...

“The spirits and the angels they ascend to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala in a day which is equal to fifty thousand years of your reckoning.”

If you translate it correctly, 'Yaum' as period - it will read that...

“The spirits and the angels ascend unto Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, in a period equal to fifty thousand years.”

The Qur’an is referring to two different periods therefore there is no contradiction.

For example, if I say I will take one hour to reach Vashi... I will take a period of one hour to reach Vashi, and then say I will take a period of fifty hours to reach Srinagar... to reach Kashmir, it’s not contradicting, because both are different periods. So one place the Qur’an says...

The period required for all the spirits and the angels to go up unto Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, is equal to fifty thousand years of your reckoning”

and the other place says... “The period required for all the affairs to go unto Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, is one thousand years”

There is no contradiction in that. I hope that answers the question.

Shakir: Assalaam Alaikum Zakir bhai, My name is Shakir, and I am a Mechanical Engineer student. I would like to ask you a question, that how can you prove to an Atheist scientifically the existence of God?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question, how can you scientifically prove the existence of God Almighty, the existence of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala... to especially to an Atheist, who does not believe in God.

The first thing I will do is that, I will congratulate that Atheist. I will congratulate him, you know why? If you look around us, he is a Hindu because father is a Hindu, he is a Christian because father is a Christian, some Muslims are Muslims because their fathers are Muslim. This person, though he may be coming from a religious background, he does not believe in the false god which his parents attribute to... so he does not believe in God. I am congratulating him because he has accepted the first word of the ‘Shahada’, the first part of the Islamic creed ‘La Ilaha’ - there is no god. Now my job is to prove ‘Illallah’, ‘but Allah’ which I shall do In Sha Allah. To the other people, I have to first remove the wrong concept of ‘god’ and then prove the right concept of the Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala. Here half my job is done, he has already said ‘La Ilaha’ - There is no God. Now I have to prove ‘Illallah’, ‘but Allah’ - which I shall do In Sha Allah.

You ask this Atheist, that suppose there is an object... an unidentified... may be a flying object which no one in the world has seen... no human being in the world knows about this object. If it is brought in front of you, and if you ask that who will be the first person who will be able to tell you the mechanism of this unidentified object, you have to ask him the question. Who is the first person, who will be able to tell you the mechanism of this new object which no one in the world has seen? After thinking for a while, he will give the answer, ‘the person who will be able to tell you the mechanism...the first person, is the Creator of that object’. Some may say ‘Manufacturer’, some may say ‘Producer’. Whatever they say, don’t grapple with the words...accept it. It will be somewhat similar. Either ‘Creator’, or ‘Producer’, or ‘Manufacturer’ but remember what he has told you ... keep it in your mind. Then ask

him the next question - How did the Universe come to existence... How was it formed? He will tell you by the Big Bang Theory. Tell him the Qur'an mentions in Surah Anbiya, Ch. 21, V. No. 30, about the Big Bang Theory. Who could have mentioned this in the Qur'an 1400 years ago?, he will tell you... 'May be it is a fluke'. Don't argue with him.

Next part of the question. We did not know the light of the Moon is reflected light we came to know recently, you ask him... he will tell you... 'Yes, yes the light of the Moon is reflected light, it is not its own light'. When we discovered? He will tell you... Recently, yesterday, fifty years back, hundred years back, yesterday in science. You tell him, the Qur'an mentioned that 'the light of the moon is reflected light', fourteen hundred years ago. Who could have mentioned that? Maybe somebody had a wild guess. Do not argue with him... Continue...

We thought the sun was stationary. You ask him, Is it stationary? He will say... No! it is rotating and revolving'. When did you learn this? He will tell you... Yesterday... fifty years back... twenty years back'. Qur'an mentioned this fourteen hundred years ago. He will hesitate, but may say 'May be, some intelligent person wrote it'. Don't argue with it... Continue... How was the universe initially, What is celestial matter? He will tell you 'it was Smoke'. How did you come to know? We have got proof, we have got evidence'. You tell him... Qur'an mentioned this fourteen hundred years ago. Who could have mentioned that? he will hesitate. Don't wait for a response... Continue... Keep on posing question after question.

All that I have given in the lecture... Keep on posing one question after the other that... 'water cycle', how did you come to know about it? Qur'an mentioned it fourteen hundred years ago. About every living thing made from water, who could have mentioned that? Qur'an speaks about Botany... the 'male and female'. Who could have mentioned that? Pose one after the other and ask the question who could have written that?

Then you tell him there is a theory known as 'Theory of Probability' that if you have two choice, out of which one is right the chances that you will make the correct choice... just at random, is one in two. For example, if I toss a coin it can be either heads or tails, the chances that I'll be right will be one in two. If I toss it twice, the chances I will be right both the times, will be $1/2$ multiplied by $1/2$ that is $1/4$... 25% chance. If I toss it thrice, chances I will be right all three times, $1/2$ multiplied by $1/2$ multiplied by $1/2$, it's $1/8$... 12½%.

A dice has got six sides. If I throw a dice, the chances that at random I will be correct is $1/6$. If I through it twice, the chances that both the times I will be right, will be $1/6 \times 1/6$ which is $1/36$. This is called the 'Theory of Probability'. If I throw the dice twice, and then toss a coin, all three being right will be $1/6$ by $1/6$ by $1/2$ is $1/72$.

So you ask him the chances may be if you ask, what is the shape of the earth? There are various shapes. Some may say it is flat, some may say it's triangular, some may say it is hexagonal, some may say pentagonal, some may say heptagonal, some may say square. Say there can be ten shapes. Some may say it is round, it is spherical, the chances that if any one makes a wild guess, it being correct, is $1/10$. 'The light of the Moon', it can either be its own light, or it can be

reflected light. The chances that you make a wild guess and it being correct will be 1/2. The chances that both 'shape of the earth' and 'light of the moon being reflected light' both being correct, if you make a wild guess it will be 1/10 multiplied by 1/2, it is 1/20.

What can the living creatures be made of? Some may say 'Sand', some may say 'Stone', some may say 'Aluminum', some may say 'Gold' say a thousand materials you can name. Some may say 'Water', some may say 'Silver', a thousand materials. The chances that you make a wild guess, and one of them being right according to mathematics, is 1/1000. The chances that all three being correct 'the earth is spherical', 'light of the moon is reflected light', and 'every living creature created from water'... is correct, will be 1/10 multiplied by 1/2 multiplied by 1/1000. Answer comes to 1/20,000 or 0.005 percent. Qur'an speaks about scientific science more than a thousand verses. In three verses, the chances come to .05 percent. If you apply probability theory to all these being at random, chance it will come to zero... negligible. And in Maths... anything one in 10 raise to 50, it is equal to zero. So you ask your Atheist friend... 'Who could have written this?' The only answer he can give you is, his first answer 'the Creator', 'the Manufacturer', the person who has produced it, that's the only answer. There is no other answer.

What Science is saying today is, they are not eliminating God... they are eliminating models of god. La Ilaha IllAllah. They are not eliminating god but models of god. I hope that answers the question.

Javed: My name is Javed , and I am a student, I would like to ask a question. At one place the Holy Qur'an states that... man is created from sperm which is in conciliate with modern science but at another place it also states that...man is made from dust, now isn't the Holy Qur'an contradicting itself ? Or is it conciliated with modern Science?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question that, at one place Holy Qur'an says that human beings have been created from sperm which conciliates with modern science, the other place... human being is created from dust. Can you prove it scientifically... 'it is created from dust?' And isn't there a contradiction... one place... 'sperm', one place it says... 'dust?'

The Holy Qur'an does say as I mentioned in my talk, in Surah Qiyamah, Ch.75, V. No. 37 to 39, it says that:

"Human beings have been created from sperm."

Which has been proved by Science.

The Holy Qur'an also says in Surah Hajj, Ch. No. 22, V. No. 5, that:

"We have created the human beings from a quintessence of dust."

Today Science tells us that all the elements that are there in the human body, they are present in lesser or greater quantity, in the soil, in the earth. So the statement that human beings have been created from earth is scientifically proven that

whatever components are there in the human body the constituent, the elements they are present in the Earth, in the soil, in lesser or greater proportion.

Your second part of the question. Isn't it a contradiction? One place the Qur'an says... 'man is created from sperm', one says... 'from dust', Isn't it a contradiction? See, a contradiction is two statements which are conflicting with each other, which cannot take place simultaneously. The Qur'an does not only say... 'Man has been created from sperm'... and the other place... 'from dust'.

It also says in Surah Furqaan, Ch. No. 25, V. No. 54, that:

“Man has been created from water.”

You will tell me there are three contradictions.

See, Science has proved that man has been created from dust, as well as from sperm, as well as from water. If I tell you in one statement, that to make a cup of tea, I require water, In the second statement, I say to make a cup of tea I require tea leaves or tea powder. It's not a contradiction, I require both. If I want to make sweet tea, I add sugar to it, if I want to make 'Pani kum' tea, I add less water and more milk. If I want to make 'Sulaimani' tea I add only water. So there is no contradiction when the Qur'an says... 'Human being is created from sperm and dust and water'. It is actually Contradistinction. What's the meaning of contradistinction? Contradistinction means, speaking two or more things about a subject, which are not conflicting with each other. For example, if I say that... 'this man, he is honest, he is kind and loving', it is contradistinction, but if I say... 'this man is always a liar and a truthful person' then it's a contradiction, because both are opposing. If it is not opposing, it's called as contradistinction.

Dr Mohammed: Next question from the ladies' section.

Farida Ansari: Assalaamu Alaikum brother, my name is Farida Ansari, I am a laboratory technician. Qur'an says... 'Allah is the Creator of the human being'. Does science agree with it ?

Dr Zakir Naik: The sister has posed a question, that the Qur'an mentions that Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is the Creator of the human beings... Does Science agree with it?

And Qur'an says in several places including the last verse of the Embryological stages, that is Surah Muminun, Ch. No. 23, V. No. 14, that:

“Allah is the best to create.”

Can we prove it scientifically that Allah is the Creator?

Qur'an gives the answer... Qur'an gives the answer in Surat Tur, Ch. No. 52, V. No. 35, it poses a question that...

“Were you created from nothing?”

See... the Arabic word used for 'Creator', in all the verses of the Qur'an, is 'Khaliq'... is derived from the Arabic word 'Khalafa'. Arabic word 'Khalafa' has got four meanings. One meaning is to create something from nothing... without any previous example. That's only possible for Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Second meaning of 'Khalafa' is... to create something new from pre-existing material. The third meaning is of 'Khalafa' 'Programming' or 'Planning'. And the last meaning is, 'to make smooth'.

So Qur'an poses the question in Surah Tur, Ch. No. 52, V.No. 35, that...

"Were you created from nothing?"

But natural, the answer is negative... No! Human beings aren't created from nothing.

They pose the next question – "Were you the Creators, or We the Creator?"

We know very well, that man cannot create another man. If he could do that, the moment he died he would have created himself back. If his relatives would have died, he would have got them back to life. Human beings cannot even create living creature as such as fly, leave aside human beings. Neither can you attribute the organs of the body, say... the reproductive organs, like testes or ovaries that they are the cause for our creation because if you say that the testes, the uterus, etc., are the cause, then you have to include your ancestors, their reproductive systems, their ancestors... their ancestors, all are responsible. So the answer is negative.

Qur'an poses the next question in Surah Waqiah, Ch. 56, V. No. 58 and 59, that...

"Do you not look at the sperm you have emitted. Were you the Creator or We the Creator?"

And but natural, all these questions that Qur'an poses the answer is negative. Some people can say... it is by chance... by chance we were created. They say... nature... nature... natural things, it happened by chance.

Let us analyse scientifically, whether the human beings can be created by chance. The protein molecule is a very important structure of the living cell, very important part in the living structure of the cell. The protein molecule consists of five elements: Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Hydrogen and Sulphur. And there are tens and thousands of Atoms required to make one Molecule. One Atom has five elements - Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Hydrogen and Sulphur. There are tens of thousands of Atoms, which make one Protein Molecule and there are approximately 92 free elements. The chances that out of these 92, the five will form an Atom... and these atoms will form tens and thousands of Atom, to form one Protein Molecule was calculated by Frank Alien and he said...the chances are 1 in 10 raised to 160. You know what is the meaning of 1 in 10 raised to 160? If I say 1 in 10 raised to 2, 10 raise to 2 means, one zero zero zero. 2 zero, one in hundred chance is one percent. If I say 1 in 10 raised to 3, it means one in a 1000 – That is .1%. If I say 1 in 10 raise to 4 it means 1 in 10,000... means point 0.01%.

So when the calculation was made, $(1/10)$ raised to 160. It means point zero zero zero zero zero... hundred and fifty seven zeros, then one, and mathematics tells, anything 1 in 10 raised to 50, is counted as zero.

Furthermore, this is talking about one molecule. And the substance required to form this one molecule of protein was calculated by another person... Charles Guy that it will require millions of times of substance as huge as our Galaxy. Millions of galaxies will be required to form this one molecule of protein. And the time was calculated by Charles Guy, the time taken for one protein molecule to be formed, will be 10 raised to 263 years. You know what is that? One zero zero zero zero zero zero, 263 zeros, it will take to form one protein molecule. And do you know there are how many protein molecules in one cell? And do you know how many other molecules are there in the cell? And how many cells are there in the human being? There are more than six billion molecules when a child is born. That's what doctors tell us today, six billion. One protein molecule takes 1 in 10 raise to 160 chances. Time taken is 10 raise to 243 years. To take six billion for one baby... imagine. And how many women are pregnant ? There are millions of women pregnant at a time and it takes only 9 months. 'The chances'... Science tells us, 'is zero zero zero, no chance at all'.

These things cannot take by chance; they have to be programmed by someone. Science tells us... 'There has to be Someone, some Supernatural force'. Therefore science as I said earlier, is not eliminating God' - It is eliminating models of god. 'La Ilaha IllAllah'. Hope that answers the question.

Ashfaq: Assalaamu Alaikum, my name is Ashfaq and I am a student. My question is, Qur'an in several places has mentioned that... "the Heavens and the Earth were created in six days" but in Surah Fussilat, it says... 'the Heaven and the Earth was created in eight days', Isn't this a contradiction? In the same Verse also says... 'that the Earth was created in six days, and then later on the Heaven in two days'. This is against the Big Bang Theory...that the Heavens and Earth were created simultaneously.

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has posed a very important question. The Qura'n says... 'the Heavens and the Earth were created in six days' and in Surat Fussilat, it says... 'eight days'. Isn't there a contradiction and also contradiction with the Big Bang Theory. I do agree with you brother the Qur'an says in several places that... the Heavens and the Earth were created in six days, in several places.

In Surah Araf, Ch. 7, V. No. 54;

In Sura Yunus, Ch. 10, V. No. 3;

In Surah Hud, Ch. 11, V. No.7;

In Surah Furqan Ch. 25, V. No.59;

In Surah Sajdah, Ch. 32, V. No. 4;

In Surah Hadid, Ch. 57, V. No. 4...

In several places the Qur'an says... 'the Heavens and the Earth were created in six days'. It is not the earthly days, It is 'Ayyaam', 'very long periods' which Scientists have got no objection to.

And I also agree with you, that in the Qur'an does speak about... the creation of the Heavens and the Earth... in Surah Fussilat. The verse you are referring to brother is Verses 9 to12, which says that...

"Do you not believe in the One who has created the Earth in two days... and do you join equals with Him... Do you join partners with Him, who is the Lord of the worlds?"

Verse No. 10 says...

"He has set on the Earth, mountains standing firm and given due nourishment on the Earth, in four days"

Verse No. 11 says....

"Moreover in His design, He comprehended the sky when it was smoke and He said to it and the Earth... come ye together willingly or unwillingly, and they said we come together in willing obedience."

This, He did in two days so if you read it just without thinking two plus four plus two is eight days. Qur'an gives the answer in starting of the Verse, that is... it says that... all those who will take out this fault, they are equal to those people who will join partners to God means, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala knew that there will be people who will take out fault in the Qur'an, in this verse...they will be the Mushrikhs. And today this verse is commonly used by the Christian missionaries against the Mulsims. If you go around... I have been travelling in the world, this question was posed to me even there... the Christian missionaries, they pose this question. Qur'an says... it predicts... that people will ask about this question, and these people will be those who associate partners with God.

Let's analyse the first two Verses, that is, Surah Fussilat, Ch. 41, Verse No. 9 to 10, says that...

"The Earth was created in two days, and then mountains were set on it, and nourishment was given in due proportion in four days."

So it says two days the Earth was formed mountains were set on it afterwards in four days total comes to six days.

Then Verse No. 11, starts with the Arabic word 'Summa'. Now the Arabic word 'Summa', can be translated in three different ways. One is 'Then', one is 'Moreover', and the other is 'Simultaneously'. I do know that many translations have translated the Arabic word 'Summa', as 'then'. If you translate 'Summa' as 'then'... then there is a contradiction. It says... 'then' the Heavens were made in two days. That means two plus four plus two is equal to eight days. But the exact translation should be 'Summa' should be translated as 'Moreover' or 'Simultaneously'. And Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Alhamdulillah in this place has translated 'Summa' correctly... as 'Moreover'. So

If you translate 'Summa', as 'Moreover' or 'Simultaneously' it will mean that when the Earth and the Mountains were created in six days, 'Simultaneously' the Heavens were created in two days.

For example, suppose a builder he gives in his brochure...that I have constructed a ten story building along with its surrounding and compound wall, in six months. When a person who wants to buy a flat in that building he goes to the builder and he asks for more details. So the builder says... 'It took me two months to make the basement of the building, and another four months to make the ten story. And while I was building the basement and the story, I simultaneously built the compound wall and the surrounding in two months', it's possible. So then he is not contradicting... total comes to yet six months.

So similarly when Surah Fussilat, Ch. 41, Verse No. 9 to 12, it says that...

"While the Earth was created along with the mountain in six days simultaneously the Heaven was created in two days."

There is no contradiction.

And similarly if you take 'then', it contradicts with Science, because Earth was created first, 'then' were created the Mountains. It is contradicting.

Similarly Qur'an speaks in Surah Baqarah, Ch. 2, Verse 29, that...

'Allah made the Earth, 'Summa' the Heavens'. But unfortunately, here Abdullah Yusuf Ali has translated 'Summa' wrongly, as 'then'. In Verse 29, of Surah Baqarah, Ch. 2, he translates 'Summa', as 'then'. Allah created the Earth, and then the Heaven then there is a contradiction.

Even here 'Summa' should be translated as 'Moreover' or 'Simultaneously'. If it is translated 'Simultaneously' then it is not a contradiction, because the Big Bang Theory tells us that, the Earth and Heavens were created simultaneously. No wonder in the Qur'an... the Qur'an says in many places... 'We created the heavens and the earth', in the other places it says... "We created the earth and the heavens".

Giving evidence to the verse of the Qur'an of Surah Anbiya, Ch. 21, Verse No. 30, which says:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا

That...

"Do not the unbelievers see that the Heavens and the Earth were joined together and We clove them asunder."

Gulam Mohammed: Assalamu Alaikum, I am Gulam Mohammed. I appreciate your explanation about the Bi-Sexual reproduction in animals. And my question is, can you support this change of sexes in animals and plants, with the change of Nutrients

and Environment, with the Qur'anic versions, and also the production of fruits without fertilization?

Dr Zakir Naik: That is right, brother has asked a very good question. He has asked a question that scientifically can you prove that there are certain plants he mentioned, and I can mention more few also... Bananas and Papayas they are bi-sexual plants. So if you heard in my talk brother, I made a statement that even the bi-sexual plants they have got distinct characteristics of male and female. Regarding your question of 'fruits', if you analyze the fruit is the product of reproduction, it is the end product of reproduction of superior plants... of superior plants. The stage before fruit is the stage of flower, the flowers have got both, male and female... stamen and ovules. Only after the pollen comes there do you get fruit, and then the fruit gives off seeds, etc. These are known as 'Parthenocarpic' fruits. Even in these, there is distinct characteristics of male and female.

And the Qur'an rightly says in Surah Rad, Ch. 13, Verse No. 3, that:

"We have created fruits in pairs, twos and twos"

Hope that answers the question.

Farzana Mulla: I am Farzana Mulla. My question is with regard to the evolution of Homo-Sepians, you have Charles Darwin in Science, giving an explanation that... it's because of the process of natural selection, that the human beings have evolved. Now this it seems to be in contradiction with the Islamic belief that we have...we are the children of Adam Alaihis Salaam, now how can this be reconciled ?

Dr Zakir Naik: This is a very important question. No lecture of mine on this topic of 'Qur'an and Modern Science', is complete without this question. I have given this talk in various places in Canada, in U.S.A, in U.K, in Saudi, never is this topic complete... never is the Question and Answer session complete, without this important question of Theory of Evolution... Charles Darwin. Sister has posed the question, how can you reconcile the Qur'an, with Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution'? Sister, I have not come across any book which says... 'Fact of Evolution'. All the books say 'Theory of Evolution', there is no book I have come across saying 'Fact of Evolution'. If you read the book by Charles Darwin 'The Origin of Species', it says that... Charles Darwin went on an island by the name of 'Galapagos' on a ship named as 'HMS Bequile' and there he found birds pecking at niches. Depending upon the Ecological niches they peck, the beaks kept on becoming long and short. This observation was made in the same species, not in different species.

Therefore, if I have to insult someone that if you were present at Darwin's time this theory would be proved right, trying to insinuate that he looks like an Ape. It is a joke we make. The reason that this theory in most parts of the world it is taught as good as fact, you know why? Even I was in school, I learnt about Darwin's theory and even today they are taught. You know what the reason is sister? The reason is because, that if you analyse, the Church... the Church was against Science previously and you know the incidence that they sentenced Galileo to death... they sentenced Galileo to death, Why? Because he said certain statements in the Astronomy, etc., which went against the Bible so they sentenced him to death , for

which the Pope apologized now. So when Charles Darwin came up with a theory which goes against the Bible, they didn't... they didn't want any sufficient proof... An enemy of my enemy is my friend. So all the Scientists... most of them, they supported the theory, because it went against the Bible not because it was true. They only supported it because it went against the Bible.

All the stages you have mentioned sister... all the stages... 'Lucy' there were four 'Homonites'. Science tells us today that there were four 'Homonites'... first is 'Lucy' along with its guide 'Dosnopytichest', which died about 3½ million years, the Ice Age. Then next came the 'Homosepians', who died about 5 hundred thousand years ago. Then came the 'Neanderthal Man', who died hundred to forty thousand years ago. Then came the fourth stage, 'the Cromagnon'. 'There is no link at all between these stages'. According to P. P. Grasse in 1971 who held the Chair of Evolutionary Studies in Paris, in Sojerion University. He said... 'It is absurd, we cannot say who were our ancestors based on fossils'. I can give you a list of hundreds of scientists and Nobel Prize winners who speak against Darwin's theory... hundreds. If you know of Sir Albert George who got the Nobel prize for inventing... for inventing the Vitamin 'C'. He wrote the book 'The Crazy Ape and Man', against Darwin's Theory. Again if you read Sir Fred Hoyle's work, he wrote several works against Darwin's Theory. If you know about Ruperts Albert, this person wrote a new theory of evolution against Darwin's Theory. It's unthinkable... you cannot think that we are created from the Apes. If you know of Sir Frank Salosbury... he was a biologist. He said... 'It is illogical to believe in Darwin's theory'. If you know about Whitmeat... Sir Whitmeat, he wrote a book against Darwin's Theory - He was also a Biologist. Several! You can give a list of hundreds. Today it is taught in the schools, Why? ... I told you... Media is in their hands. Otherwise there is no proof at all. There are certain proofs at lower level... an Amoeba, at lower species level... Amoeba can change to Paremishia. Qur'an does not say... 'Amoeba cannot change to Paremishia' - Qur'an does not say. If they have got proof... can be possible... it is not against the Qur'an. But there is no proof at all.

People talk about Molecular Biology Theory, they talk about Genetic coding. According to Hancis Craig who is an authority in this field, he said... It is unimaginable, again if you do that ratio, the probability of one DNA forming, 'from Ape to Human being, is again Zero'. If I start calculating, I think you will get bored again. You know the calculation I told you... for one Protein Molecule, it is somewhat similar from one DNA. It is not possible at all. You know there is theory recently... that Homosexuality is Genetic. And when I read in the Times of India, I thought, surely the moment I attend the next lecture on Sunday in IRF, I will be asked this question. If Homosexuality is Genetic, how can Allah blame us? Qur'an speaks against homosexuality and I said that see... This is a theory wait till it gets established... It is a theory, don't comment on that.

Within just a matter of span of just a few months it was proved to be illogical and the person who propounded this theory that... 'Homosexuality is Genetic', he himself was an Homosexual. Therefore I said, I am going to give my talk on scientific facts not on theories and assumptions. Darwin's theory has not been proven... We have not been created from Ape. There are hundreds of Scientists who speak against that and Qur'an speaks against that also. Qur'an says the first man was Adam (pbuh). In Sha Allah, they will discover it 100 years afterwards, or may be a 1000 years

afterwards. Today there are researches showing, that human beings have been created from one pair... again it's just a theory. It supports the Qur'anic verse that human beings have been created from one pair, male and female. It is just a theory, therefore I don't quote that in my talk. In Sha Allah it will be established 50 years afterwards, or 100 years afterwards. Then we will know that Qur'an conciliates with this part, so far it is not conflicting... it is not conflicting with established Science, at all. Hope that answers the question.

Lesson 10 – Question & Answer Session – Part 2

Dr Mohammed: The next question.

Abdul Samir: Assalaamu Alaikum, I am Abdul Samir, I am a student. In the Qur'an it is stated that the hearts of the unbelievers are sealed but according to Science it is the brain that thinks, and not the heart Your comment please.

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question, the Qur'an says that...

"The unbelievers hearts have been sealed by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala."

Today science tells us... 'it is the brain that thinks and not the heart' - and I do agree with him. So isn't the Qur'an unscientific, when it says that... 'the hearts have been sealed'. And I do agree that Qur'an says in several places, including Surah Baqarah, Ch. 2, Verse No. 7 that...

"Allah has sealed the hearts of the kafir people".

Its says... that the seal has been put on the hearts...

If you know, the Arabic word used here is 'Kalb'. The Arabic word 'Kalb' has got two meanings - one is 'heart', and the other is 'intelligence'. If you translate correctly the verse says... "Allah has sealed the intelligence of the unbelievers". And it is scientifically proven, that 'intelligence' has to be sealed not the organic heart.

There was a person who once posed me a question. Brother Zakir, I agree with you that 'Kalb' means 'heart' as well as 'intelligence'. But one verse in the Qur'an says... their 'hearts' are behind the breast then what you have to give the answer for that? And he was quoting a verse of the Qur'an from Surah Hajj, Ch. 22, Verse No. 46, which says...that..

"Their eyes are not blind, it is their heart which is in their breast which is blind."

So Qur'an says... 'the eyes are not blind - It is the heart which is within their breast which is blind'.

Today Science tells us... Eyes see, heart cannot see, so isn't this verse unscientific? Here the translation has to be 'heart', it cannot be 'intelligence'.

So I tell him, I agree with you that heart has got two translations, but the word used for breast is 'Sadar'. Sadar...Sadar also has got 2 meanings - One is 'Breast' and the other is 'Centre'. You know how we have the head of an institution, we say 'Sadar' of the institution, that how we have 'Centre'... if we have been to Pakistan. How in India we have 'Chowk', over there they have 'Centres'. 'Sadar' so and so... 'Sadar' so and so in Pakistan, 'Centre' so and so. 'Sadar' also means 'Centre'. So the correct translation is... 'the eyes is not which is blind, it is the intelligence which is within their centre which is blind'.

Same I started in my talk by quoting, the Verse of the Holy Qur'an from Surah Taha, Ch. 20, Verse No. 25 and 28 which says:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

“O my Lord increase my breast for me”

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي

يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

This was a Dua made by Moosa Alaihis Salaam, when he was asked by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, to go and deliver the message to the people. He asked Allah... 'O my Lord increase my breast for me'. See 'Breast' is not the correct the translation. What is the 'Breast', going to do with the message. It means... “O my Lord increase my centre for me”

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

“And make my task easy for me”

وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي

يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

“And remove the impediment from my speech so that they will understand me.”

As do you know Moosa Alaihis Salaam was a stammerer. And if you know whether fortunately or unfortunately, even I happened to be a stammered in childhood I was a stammerer. Therefore in the beginning of every talk, and even in the beginning of this talk, I said...and I made Dua to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, “Rabbish rahli Şadri ... O my Lord increase my centre for me I am asking help from Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Increase my centre, and remove the stuttering in my speech.

Even today, when I don't speak on the stage, I yet stutter. It's Allah who helps me out on the stage. "Rabbish rahli Şadri", O my Lord increase my centre for me, make my task easy for me and remove the barrier from my speech, and between me and the audience, so that they will understand me.

Therefore scientifically... scientifically if you analyse the words of Surah Hajj, Ch. 22, Verse No.46, it says...

"It is not their eyes which are blind, it is their intelligence which is within their centre is blind" because they are not blind, the unbelievers can see, saying... 'they are blind' is unscientific .

Like the Qur'an says in Surah Baqarah, Ch. 2, Verse No. 18. It says... It says... that:

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

صُمُّكُمْ عُمِّي فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ

"The deaf, the dumb, the blind, they will not return to the path."

It is not talking about physical deaf people. It is talking about the unbelievers, who hearing they cannot hear, seeing the signs of Allah, they do not accept the Qur'an. So Qur'an is more scientific. It says correctly... they can see, the eyes are not blind, it is their intelligence within their centre which is blind.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the brother on the left.

Kalim Shah: Assalaamu Alaikum to everybody who are present here. My name is Kalim Shah. I am in practicing interior designing, here in Bombay. Qur'an have given all the minute details of Embryology, apart from a miracle called Hazrat Adam Alaihis Salaam. Is it not a contradictory that Hazrat Isa Alaihis Salaam is born without a father's sperms, what is the exact scientific reasoning?

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has posed a question that, how can you prove scientifically the miracle of Jesus (pbuh), that he was born without a father, without male intervention . Brother as I said in my talk a miracle is an unusual event for which human beings cannot give an explanation. It is an unusual event which is attributed to Super Natural power to God Almighty. The miracles which took place in the past, most of them do not give an opportunity to analyse them today because we cannot go back in the past. We cannot go back in the past, there were few miracles, which give us an opportunity to examine. So all the Prophets of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, who came before Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), they were only sent for their people... only for their people, and the message was for a limited time period. Therefore even the miracle was for a limited time period. What miracles they did then, satisfied those people. Those miracles just by saying that Jesus Christ was born without any father, will not satisfy an unbeliever, Why? He cannot go back in time and verify. Because all the messengers that came before Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) they were meant only for their time not for eternity. But Prophet Muhammed

(pbuh), he is the messenger of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, who is the last and final messenger.

He was not only sent for the Muslims or the Arabs, he was sent for the whole of humanity and his message is till eternity. Therefore the miracle that he has brought, the Holy Qur'an, can be analyzed even today. It's a miracle till eternity. Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) has done hundreds of miracles... other miracles, which we Muslims believe but we never emphasize that, we Muslims do not boast of that. We Muslims only boast of this, because we cannot prove those miracles scientifically. But this living miracle of Prophet Mohammed (pbuh), which was given to him by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, can be analyzed by us even today.

So previous miracles... time does not allow us to go back in time. If we could go back in time we could have analyzed how was he born without a father, but yet brother... I can yet give you a scientific explanation. I can yet give you.

Today science tells us there are certain species which can be born without male intervention, and the best example is a male bee. The male Bee is the 'Egg' which has not been fertilized by a male. The Queen Bee which lays Eggs... which doesn't get fertilized by the male, they are born as male. The female Bee is the 'Egg', which are fertilized by the male. So there are several animals today in this world, who are born without fertilization. I do know that this thing takes place in lower animals, there is no proof in higher animals. Who does it? Science cannot tell us. Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, does it. So when Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, can make this possible to happen in Isa Alaihis Salaam.

When it is described in Surah Aali Imran, Ch. 3, Verse 45 to 47, it says:

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ
وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

“That behold the angels said to Mary, We give you glad tidings of a word from him , his name shall be Christ , son of Mary , who will be held in honour in this world and the hereafter, and he will be amongst the companies of those most righteous... those most righteous...”

The verse continues...

that... “he will speak to the people in childhood and in maturity, and will be among the people those who are righteous. So Mary (peace be upon her), asked... “How shall I have a son when no man has touched me”.

The answer is given...

إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ

“When Allah decrees a matter, He just says to it ‘Be’... and it is.”

I have given you a scientific explanation, when Allah can make it possible in a male bee, it is very much easy for Allah to make it possible, even in this... in Isa Alaihis Salaam, for Him... Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, to create a Jesus (pbuh)...

إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ

When He decrees a matter, He just says to it 'Be'... and it is. For Him to create a million people like that, it is just easy. It's a miracle, I am not telling you Jesus Christ (pbuh), was born like that... like the male Bee, I do not know. I have given you a scientific explanation, when it's possible there, why cannot Allah make it in the higher animal, the human beings. I hope that answers the question .

Sanya: Assalaamu Alaikum brother Zakir, my name is Sanya, I am a revert Muslim. The question is... in your lecture you mentioned the scientific facts from the Qur'an, which have been established, Can you mention a few Qur'anic verses which Science has not confirmed?

Dr Zakir Naik: Sister has posed a question that, I have mentioned in my talk, the Scientific facts which Science has already established, it is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. Can I mention some few points in the Qur'an, which Science has not established.

For example the Qur'an says in Surah Shura, Ch. 42, Verse No. 29, it says:

"It is Allah who has created the Heavens and the Earth, and put creatures... living creatures throughout them."

Qur'an says there is life besides this earth. Allah has put living creatures throughout the heavens and the earth, there is no scientific evidence... established scientific evidence, that there is life besides this earth.

Recently, they have been sending Rockets and Space Ships to different planets... different satellites, etc. And now, just a couple months earlier, we read in the newspapers that they got certain material from Mars which gives proof that life can be there in Mars. And in... I think day before yesterday's paper, I read in Times of India, that they have found water in the Moon... maybe a comet crashed and there is a big crater, and the water has been frozen to ice. So in future it will be easier to do investigation, we do not have to take water from planet Earth to Moon. Water is already present there, we can use that water and it will save a lot of trouble.

Science is saying there are high possibilities of life being there, besides earth. But since Qur'an says I believe in it. Maybe after one or two years, they may discover there is life besides this earth or may be after fifty years.

Today Scientists they have given various views... how will our earth end. Some Scientists have given a description that... the mountains will fall down. Some Scientists say the mountain and rock will become smooth when the earth is destroyed, some people say the ocean will swell up. Some people say the universe will go in a black hole ... several. Qur'an too gives a description about the Day of

Judgement, how will our creation end. Many of them match with the theories of Science... theories not established facts.

For Example, the Qur'an says in Surah Ahqaf, Ch. 46, Verse No. 3:

"It is Allah who has created the Heavens and the Earth for a limited period of time."

And Allah will surely... giving you an indication that this creation will be destroyed and gives various signs in the Qur'an.

For example, if you read Surah Qiyamah, Ch. 75, Verse No.8 and 9, it says that:

"The Moon will be buried in darkness, the Sun and the Moon will join together, before the world... our ends"

If you read Surah Takwir, Ch. 81, Verse No. 1 , 2, 3 and & Verse No. 6, it says that:

"The sun will be folded up, the stars will fall down, the ocean will swell up, the mountains will fall down in utter ruin."

Qur'an says in Surah Infitar, Ch. 82, Verse No. 1, 2 and 3, it says:

"The sky will be left asunder, the star will be scattered, the mountains will be fall down"

Various signs, how will the earth end is given. These are scientific points mentioned in the Qur'an, which Science hasn't established yet.

For example, the Holy Qur'an also says in Surah Ambiya, Ch. 21, Verse No. 104, that:

"As We created this creation...We will roll up the Heavens like a scroll is rolled up, and as We created the early creation, We shall create a new creation"

So Qur'an says...'there is one more creation that is going to be created after the world is destroyed', Science does not know about that. Qur'an says the first man on the earth was Adam Alaihis Salaam, Science has not discovered that yet.

Qur'an speaks about soul, Science hasn't established that human beings have got soul. The Holy Qur'an also speaks about Jinns, about Spirits, about Angels, Science hasn't been able to discover that. Qur'an speaks about life after death... Science has not discovered that. Qur'an speaks about 'Heaven' and 'Hell' Science has not discovered about that. But you may ask me the question, brother Zakir, you have given such a good lecture, speaking about scientific facts and you believe in 'Jinns', you believe in 'Angels', you believe in 'Soul', you believe in life after death aren't you illogical? I will say... 'No, I am not illogical', I have got a logic... why I believe. I do not blindly believe in life after death, in the 'Soul', in 'Heaven' and 'Hell', in 'Jinns' and 'Spirits', I have a logical belief.

I base my logical belief saying... that suppose there are scientific facts mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, out of which say approximately 80% have been proved to be 100% correct. 80% of the scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an, have been proved by Science till today to be 100% correct. The remaining 20% is ambiguous... unknown. Not even .001% have been proved false. Even if one verse is proved false, the Qur'an is not the word of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. So of these 20% I say goes in the ambiguous slot ... unknown. So my logic says ...when 80% is 100% correct, the remaining 20% is ambiguous, out of which not even .001% has been proved wrong... all are unknown, my logic says when 80% is correct, even those 20% will be In Sha Allah correct. It is not a blind belief, it's a logical belief.

Dr Mohammed: The next question please.

Mohammed Shahadat: My name is Mohammed Shahadat, I am a Chemical Engineer in Hindustan Petroleum. In Qur'an it is mentioned that...'It is Allah who decides the characteristics and the personality of a person inside his or her mother's womb'. In the field of genetics this field has advanced so much, that nowadays parents can tell or make their children, if they want to have a very bright student, they can have it by just having that genetic code change. Isn't this contradictory with Qur'an?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question that... today genetics field has advanced and it's possible that we can change the genetics of the child that is going to be born. Qur'an says that... Allah is One who shapes who forms and I do agree with that... Qur'an says in several places... so does it not mean it is contradicting the Qur'an? No brother, it is not. When it gives the statement ... the Qur'an says... 'Without the power of Allah, it is not possible... Without the power of Allah it is not possible at all'.

For example... Qur'an says in Surah Rahman, Ch. 55, Verse No. 33, that:

"With power and skill you will be able to penetrate the Heavens and the Earth, not without the permission of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala."

Means... you will penetrate the Heavens and the Earth, but only with permission of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. So today because people are going in the Heaven... that does not mean that the Qur'an is wrong. Qur'an says... you can do, but with the permission of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Without permission of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala... it's predicting that people will go in outer space, in Moon, etc... but if Allah does not wanted, it can not happen. And you know the incidence of 'Challenger'...'The challenger' tried to take off... What happened? It tried to challenge Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala... What happened?... Nothing.. Even today we say... 'Family planning'. Do you know there is no family planning which is perfect? Even if you do Tubectomy or Vasectomy... if Allah wants He can yet bring easy conception to that lady. Even if she practices permanent method like Tubectomy, or the husband does Vasectomy, still there are chances... but negligible chances, that the baby can be born. If Allah wishes no one can stop... you do any family planning method. In genetics also, if they are able to change, it is with Allah's permission, if Allah doesn't want, you cannot change at all. So few people are successful, all aren't successful. Those who are successful... are with the

permission of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Those who are not... Allah has not given them permission. Same way... 'Family planning', those who are successful, Allah gives permission... those who are not successful, Allah does not give permission. Hope that answers the question.

Questioner: Assalaam Alaikum, Zakir bhai, I was a Hindu first and I converted into Islam recently. What I would like to ask you a question is this that... when a woman is carrying a baby in her womb, Islam forbids abortion. But if a woman is facing some kind of a medical problem... if she is Anemic or if she has just delivered a baby recently... in recent months to come, and there is always a threat to her life, non-Muslim doctors say... 'to abort it', and the Muslim doctor say... 'It is Haram'. And someone who is little bit modern has said that... 'If the child is for 40 days in the womb... before 40 days you can abort... after 40 days it is not possible, you cannot do it under Islamic law, Is that right or is that wrong?

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has asked a question that...he is speaking today scientifically... the doctors who want to abort, etc. why does Qur'an not give permission to abort, if it's danger to the life of the mother?

Qur'an speaks about abortion in Surah Anam, Ch. 6, Verse No. 151. As well as in Surah Isra, Ch. 17, Verse No. 31, it says:

"Kill not your children for want of sustenance, for it is Allah that will provide sustenance to you and your children, for killing of infants is a major sin."

So abortion is Haram under normal circumstances. For example, pork is Haram, alcohol is Haram, having dead meat is Haram.

But same time the Qur'an says in four different places...

In Surah Baqarah, Ch. 2, Verse No. 173,

In Surah Maidah, Ch. 5, Verse No. 3,

In Surah Anam, Ch. 6, Verse No. 145, and..

Surah Nahl, Ch. 16, verse No. 115, it says that:

"If unwillingly... if you disobey Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, Allah is Rahman O Rahim."

If under compulsion, if you disobey Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, Allah is Rahman O Rahim. If you are dying of hunger... pork is the only dish that you can have, pork becomes Halal for you, it is perfectly allowed but do not have so much, and keep on having after you do not require it. If you are in a jungle if pork is the only thing that you can find to eat... or in a desert... pork becomes allowed for you only for that time. When you come back to the city it becomes Haram. So same way abortion, just because you do not want a child... it is Haram in Islam... it is a major sin. But if it is a danger to the life of the mother, it is totally allowed because in Islam the life of the mother is more precious than the life of the child which has not come in being on its

own. I do know there are certain people, who say... 'after 40 days it's not allowed before 40 it is allowed'. Qur'an is very clear cut on that... If it is a danger to your life... unwillingly if you disobey Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, it is totally allowed.' So if the doctor says that if you have certain heart problems and the labour pain will cause a strain on your heart... the mother will die you have to abort. You have to go ahead with it, because in Islam you cannot sacrifice a greater loss, to save a small loss. The life of the mother who is already alive and adult is more important than the child who cannot live on its own. In these cases if it is danger to the life of the mother, it is totally allowed in Islam. If it is not a danger, it is Haram. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the ladies side.

Questioner: Salamu Alaikum, brother Zakir. My question is, when Qur'an speaks so much about Science, then how come the Muslims are so backward in the field of Science?

Dr Zakir Naik: Sister has posed the question, that when Qur'an speaks so much about Science, how come the Muslims are backward. Sister I would mainly blame the media. The media today is in the hands of the Westerners, the Europeans, it is in their hand. They have the Satellite, they have the Television, they have the CNN, they have the BBC, it's in their hand. The media is in their hands and whatever you read in your school books, and books which we read in college you will read there that... 'From 8th to the 12th century it was the Dark Ages'. Dark ...for whom? It was dark for the Europeans not for the world. The Arabs and the Muslims were very much advanced... from 8th to the 12th century they were very much advanced. The Europeans were backward because... they were backward so they said... 'dark ages for the world.' It was not dark for the world, it was dark for the Europeans. With the limited instruments and technology what we had from 8th to 12th century, what discoveries the Muslim Scientists made... it's unbelievable. Today, because Science is advanced we are making so many discoveries. There with the amount of limited facilities we had, the amount of discoveries Muslim Scientists made, its unbelievable.

For example I quoted in my talk, that Ibn-e-Nafees, he discovered the blood circulation, but in the medical books and the books we read in school... who discovered blood circulation? William Harvey. Everyone knows William Harvey no one knows about Ibn-e-Nafees. Ibn-e-Nafees spoke about 'blood circulation', 400 years before, the Europeans they later on picked up the books of the Muslims and re-hatched it... and said we discovered it. See... if you see the discoveries that Muslims have made. For example if you know Al-Idrusi, In 1154, he drew the first map of Mediterranean, the Geography of the world... first. Mathematics... Muslims were far advanced in Mathematics. We introduced the Decimal point. Do you know what we call the digits 1, 2, 3? It's called as Arabic numerals, the other ones are called as Roman numerals, why it is called Arabic numerals?... Because the Arabs were the one who discovered it, the decimal points are the Arabic numerals. The person who first proved the Pythagoras Theorem, he was Al Thusi. We know about the Pythagoras Theorem, but we don't know about Al Thusi. He said that... "The square of the hypotenuse was equal to the sum of the opposite two sides of the

triangle". Al Beruni, he was an authority in Trigonometry. All these people, they were experts.

If you know of Al-Khindi... Al-Khindi, he was a Philosopher, a Mathematician and Astronomer. When great scientists like Galileo, Newton, etc., they said that all physical laws were absolute, he said that all physical laws are relative. And today we know that, 'Theory of Relativity' is proved by Albert Einstein. No one knows about Al-Khindi, he was the person who basically gave the idea of 'Theory of relativity'. Later on he did more research and talked about 'Theory of Relativity'. Who knows about the three brothers Mohammed, Shakir and Hassan? Who knows about them?... They toured the surface area of the earth from an angle at the Red Sea... when people thought the world was flat.

Chemistry, the Muslims were far advanced in Chemistry. Ibn-e-Hayyan, Jabir Ibn-e-Hayyan... they have Latinized the word Gebbar, so when we read in our textbooks Gebbar, we think it is an European, it is a Muslim. Jabir ibn-e-Hayyan... you know Gebbar, we do not know who is Jabir. He is the person who distilled Alcohol. 'Alcohol' comes from the Arabic word 'Algul' meaning 'Ghost', 'Evil Spirit'. 'Alcohol' is an Arabic Word. He wrote 2 thousand different pages only on Chemistry. Mohammed Zakariya Razi, he was famous in Medicine, he was an authority on the field of Smallpox and Measles. He was the first person who used Mercury ointment. He wrote books on children's disease. There are several Muslim Scientists. Ali-Ibn-e-Abbas, he wrote twenty volumes on Medicine. Ali-Ibn-e-Sina known as 'Avicina' ... 'Avicina', it doesn't not sound Muslim. Ali-Ibn-e-Sina ... haa Muslim, 'Avicina'... not Muslim. Who got the title of 'Aristole of the East?' He wrote the book 'Kanoon', which was referred as a textbook of medicine till as late as the seventeenth century. Who knows Ibn-e-Zuhar? He was the person after Alexander who did research on Paracytology. He described the Itch Mite... the Parasites. He described the Otydismidia... Intrycosetomy. Several medical doctors... Al-Zaharwi... Al-Zaharwi was the famous dentist, as well as surgeon... as well as Optician. He invented several instruments of Surgery, Gynecology as well as Dentistry. We all of us know the other thing but the media is in the hands of the Westerners.

The Muslims were far advanced but I do agree with you... today... today the Muslims are getting backward in Science. You know why? The Europeans are being advanced, You know why? The Muslims are becoming backward, because we are going away from the Holy Qur'an... we are going away from their Religion. And do you know why the Europeans are getting advanced? They too are going away from their Religion. The Europeans are also getting advanced, because even they are going away from their religion. We Muslims they are going backward because they are going away from their religion. I would request the Muslims brothers and sisters out here, as well as non-Muslims there are people reading the Qur'an... Why don't we read the Qur'an with understanding? Why don't we ponder over the verses? We have only kept the Qur'an... kissing, and keeping on top, that's all... the Qur'an was not meant for it to be kissed, and kept on top. It should be implemented in your daily life. If you implement the Qur'an in your daily life, read it with understanding, In Sha Allah again we will be on top of the world. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: Now we would... I would request our volunteers to give an opportunity to any non-Muslim brothers and guests we have here at our mikes, to give them a preference and opportunity, and then our other brothers.

K. Mahesh: I am K. Mahesh, lecturer from Saboo Siddique Polytechnic, in the computer department. I would like to ask regarding the Muslim marriage system. Why Islam allows more than one woman to be married with a man?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question that why does Islam allow a man to marry more than one wife? Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth, which says... 'Marry only one'. There is no other Religious book on the face of the earth. Whether you read the Ramanayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavad Gita, the Bible... no religious book says... 'Marry only one', except the Holy Qur'an.

The Holy Qur'an says in Surah Nisa, Ch. 4, Verse No. 3, it says:

"Marry women of your choice in twos, threes and fours, but if you cannot do justice, marry only one."

If you can't do justice, marry only one... otherwise if you can do justice, Qur'an has put an upper limit... two, three or four, maximum four... not more than that.

Previous religions, they gave permission for a man to marry as many wives. Qur'an put an upper limit restriction of maximum four. You know why? because if you think logically... if you analyse.

But it says at the same time, in Surah Nisa, Ch. 4, Verse 129...

"It is difficult to do justice between your wives... it is difficult, therefore do not turn away from them all together"

Marrying more than one wife, you do not get more 'Sawab', you do not get more blessings. There is no Hadith saying that if you marry more than one wife you will get more Sawab. There is a Hadith which says that if you marry, you complete half your Deen. So, somebody ask me at the question answer time... Does it mean that if I marry twice, I complete my full Deen. No... marriage takes you away from promiscuity, from fornication, therefore it is Fardh... but whether you marry one or two, yet you are only completing half your Deen.

The reason why Islam gives permission for Polygyny, that is the right word because if you analyse men and women are born in equal proportion. But in the pediatric stage itself, since the female is a stronger sex medically... if you ask any pediatrician, he will tell you... the female can fight the germs and disease much better than the male. So more female children live, than the male children. There are more deaths in the male children than female children. When you grow up there are accidents, death due to cigarette smoking, death due to war more male die than female. War in Afghanistan.. do you know, more than a million people died... mainly they were gents whatever it is... whatever you said... more men die than females. If you analyse the statistics, India is one of the few countries in which there is more male than female. You know why? Because of female infanticide. Every day 3

thousand fetuses are being aborted, when they identified that they are female. More than one million are aborted every year in India, on being identified they are female that's the reason. Otherwise if you see the statistics of America, there are more than 7.8 million females than males, in America alone. In New York alone, there is 1 million females more than male and out of the population of New York, 1/3rd are Gay... Sodomites... Kaum-e-Luth. There are more than 25 million gays in America. That means there are more than 30 millions females who cannot find husbands in America alone. In U.K alone, there are 4 million females more than male. In Germany alone, 5 million females more than males. In Russia alone, 7 million females more than males. And Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, alone knows there are how many million females more than males in this world.

I am asking you a question, that suppose my sister or your sister happens to be in America, and suppose everyone agrees with your philosophy, that every man should marry one wife and if every man in America marries a woman, still there will be 7.8 million females... and plus since the gays also do not get married there will be more than 25 to 30 million females, who can't find husbands. If my sister happens to be one of those unfortunate lady who has not been married, and the market is saturated... the only option remaining for my sister, is to marry a man who already has a wife, or become public property.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the brother on the left.

Adyar Anwar: Salam Alaikum! My name is Adyar Anwar, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, created everything... Some verses ... 'We created' ... 'We prepared' ... like this, Why plural is coming?

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has posed the question that, why has the word 'We' used in the Qur'an, for Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Is it more than one?

Brother 'We', in Arabic... they are 2 types - One is 'We' for plural, one is 'Royal Plural'. 'Royal Plural' like for example... if you know Rajiv Gandhi, how he used to speak... he used to say... 'Hum dekhna chahate hain' . 'Hum'... that 'Hum'... was not plural, it was Singular, it is a 'Royal Plural'... it is called. So the same way Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala... some places uses 'I', some places uses 'We'. The 'We'... in Arabic does not indicate plurality. It means Royal Plural, Active to Singular. So 'We'... When it says 'We' have created you, it means singular Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala.

Qur'an clearly states in Surah Ikhlas, Ch. 112, Verse No. 1:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

"Say: He is Allah one and only"

Allah is only one... not more than one. Hope that answers the question.

Questioner: Assalaamu Alaikum, brothers and sisters. I would like to know whether organ transplant and organ donation, are permitted in Islam?

Dr Zakir Naik: The sister has posed the question that... is organ transplantation or donation allowed in Islam or not. There is no verse in the Holy Qur'an directly saying that whether you should give or should not give, it is silent on that issue. There were various conferences taken place by various Ulemas throughout the world, including in Malaysia, in Jeddah, in Riyadh, even here on this issue, whether organ transplantation is allowed or not. By the consensus of Ulemas of the world... today they say that organ transplantation is allowed, if you satisfy 3 conditions.

First is the organ that you are going to give to the person... the person if he receives the organ, his life will be saved. Only if his life is in danger, and then if he wants the organ, then it's allowed.

Point number 2, the person donating the organ, he should not do it for economical reasons... not for money, not for getting 1 lakh rupees, or 2 lakh rupees.

Third is, after the person donates the organ, it should not cause loss of his life.

Today, science tells that there are certain organs in the body, for example the Kidney. One Kidney is sufficient for a human being to survive and lead a normal life, the second is an additional. Suppose my mother... if she has both the Kidneys failure and if I donate one Kidney... surely Allah will not hold me responsible but natural, if it does not cause a loss to my life. I can't say... 'I want to donate my heart'. If my heart is taken out, I will die, so I cannot donate my heart. I can only donate those organs which will not cause loss... loss to my life, and I should not do it for economical reasons... point number 2 and 3rd it should save the life. This is the consensus of Ulemas of the conference which took place in Malaysia, in Riyadh, in Jeddah, in India. In India, the Ulemas were reluctant but now if you ask the Fiqh Academy of India, even they say it should not be done but if it is used to saving the life as a last resort, you can give your organ as a donation. Hope that answers the question.

Lesson 11 – Question & Answer Session – Part 3

Dr Mohammed: The brother on my right.

Harsh Waghela: Good evening everybody, I am a student of Saboo Siddique, my name is Harsh Waghela. I want to ask the question, that after the death of human being, dead body should be burnt out or should be buried?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question that after human being dies, should his body be burnt or should it be buried? Let's analyze it scientifically, which is more appropriate. Brother as I told in my talk, during the question answer time I believe, that the elements, the constituent of human beings is present in lesser or greater quantity in the soil, in the earth. So we are created from earth we should go back to the earth, it's logical. It's more easier for us to go back into the earth... point number one.

Point number two is, that if we burn a body there is pollution, there is environmental hazard... environmental hazard is there. When you bury a body there is no environmental hazard. In fact, the place where you bury...

Point number three, the ground and the surrounding ground becomes more fertile.

Point number four, it is very cheap to bury. We do not require any money, earth is freely available, there are graveyards. But to cremate... to burn, you require tons and tons of wood.

Therefore, every year if you see statistics, our government goes in loss of millions of Rupees, because they are burning wood loss to environment, environmental problem, hazard, and plus waste of money. If you calculate the amount of people that are dying, the amount of people we are burning it is a loss of money, hazard to the environment, it is much more logical and scientific to bury the body than to burn. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: I would after the next 2 questions are over... I will allow some questions on slips. I am told that some ladies have written questions on slips, they would not like to ask on the Mike or there are some other people also... we will allow some questions. The questions which have come on slips, can be passed on to me after the question... and unless... if there is some brother who is a non-Muslim... I have told them they have not had enough opportunity, so that we will make an exception to it, so they can ask on the mike otherwise I read questions from the slip, after the next two questions are over.

Khalid: Assalaamu Alaikum, my name is Khalid, and I am a student. It is mentioned in Qur'an that... Sun and other planets revolve and rotate in a fixed orbit and at other place relating to the 'Doomsday'... it is mentioned that... Earth will collide with sun in some what a spiral form. When 'Revolution' and 'Rotation'... can then the phenomena of collision takes place, how is it possible?

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question that, it says that... The Sun and the Earth rotates... and in some place it says... 'Sun and the Earth will collide'. Some places it says that ... brother as I have told you, there are certain statements in the Qur'an talking about the signs of the Day of Judgment.

And I myself quoted in Surah Qiyamah, Ch. 75, Verse No. 8 and 9, that:

"The Sun and the Moon will joined together."

When? On the Day of Judgment... not today. It is giving you signs of the Day of Judgment. It is not telling you that today it will happen. The name of the Surah is Surah Qiyamah, Day of resurrection... and gives various signs, that the moon will be buried in darkness, the stars will fall down, the oceans will swell up, etc... These are signs of the Day of Judgement. Has it happened? No... But before the world ends it will surely happen. Hope that answers the question. No where does the Qur'an says...in normal circumstances it will happen.

Dr Mohammed: One question I will ask now on the slip, then on the mike, one on the slip, then on the mike.

Question: The question on the slip is... it is mentioned in one verse of the Qur'an that... Allah is the Lord of the two Easts and two Wests. How can you explain this verse of the Qur'an scientifically ?

Dr Zakir Naik: The question posed was that the Holy Qur'an mentions that...Allah is the Lord of two Easts and two Wests. How can you explain scientifically?

What the person is referring to the verse in the Holy Qur'an from Surah Rahman, Ch. 55, Verse No. 17, which says:

رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ وَرَبُّ الْمَغْرِبَيْنِ

That...

“Allah is the Lord of two Easts and two Wests.”

In Arabic word used here is... in Arabic, we have two types of 'Plural'. One is 'dual plural' and one is plural 'more than two'. Here 'Rabbul Mushrakaine' is dual plural. That Allah is the Lord of two Easts and Lord of two Wests.

Let's see what Science has to say about that... and we know that the Sun rises from the East and it sets in the West. But Science tells us today, that...the Sun rises from the due East only on two days...exact East. In the other times if you have noticed, this rising... the point of rising of the Sun keeps on varying. It rises exactly due East, only on two days, the two days of Equinox. All the other days it either rises, South or North, of East.

Similarly it rises from one extreme of the East in the Summer solstice, and rises from the other extreme of the East in the Winter solstice. Similarly the Sun sets in due West, only on two days... on two days of Equinox. All the other days it either sets South or North of due West. It sets in one extreme of West in the Summer solstice, and sets in the other extreme of west in the Winter solstice. So when the Qur'an says that Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, is the Lord of two Easts and two Wests, it is referring to the two extreme points of East and two extreme points of west.

But there is another Verse in the Holy Qur'an in Surah Maarij, Ch. No. 70, Verse No. 40, which says that:

“Allah is the Lord of Easts and Wests”

It is not dual plural, it is plural more than two . The Allah is the Lord of Easts and the Lord of Wests. Therefore Allah is the Lord of all the various points in the East. So in short, Allah is the Lord of two extreme points of East, two extreme points of the West and all the points in between in the West and all the points in between in the East.

Dr Mohammed: Next question from the ladies side please.

Malika Mohammed Islam: Salam Alaikum, brother Zakir, my name is Malika Mohammed Islam. My question is that, what does the Qur'an mean when it says that Allah sent down Iron from the Heaven?

Dr Zakir Naik: The sister has asked the question, what does the Qur'an mean when it says that Allah has sent down Iron from the Heaven.

The Verse that sister is referring to the Holy Qur'an is in Surah Hadith, Ch. 57, which means 'Iron', Verse 25, which says that...

"Allah has sent down Iron in which there is material for war and various benefits for the human beings."

The Arabic word used for send down.... is 'Anzala', it means... 'to send down'. Now 'Anzala' can be looked at in two different ways. One way is... 'Allah has sent down'... 'Allah has revealed'... So Allah has revealed that in 'Iron' there is a lot of use and material for mighty war, as well as benefits for the human kind. Allah has revealed this that in 'Iron' there is material for war and various benefits. And we know today that iron is one of the most important metals we know of... from it we get 'Steel'. And Steel and Iron is used for making instruments of war, like weapons, swords, spears, guns, etc. It's even used for making instruments of peace, like brick layer, instruments of an engineer, instruments of an architect, knife, fork, spoon, etc. So if you read the first meaning, it says that... 'Allah has revealed that in Iron there is various benefits and material for mighty war'.

The other way, if you take it literally, that... 'Iron has been sent down... been send down from Heaven'. This verse was shown to Professor Armstrong... that what you do have to comment on Surah Hadith, Ch. 57, Verse No. 25, which says that...

"Iron has been sent down from Heaven"

So he tells us that it is recently that the Scientists have come to know about the formation process of various elements. And they say that the energy required to make one Atom of Iron, it is so enormous that the energy of the whole Solar System is not sufficient. And a calculation was made that energy four times that of the Solar System is made to produce one atom of Iron. Means, the energy of the Moon, the Stars, the Sun all this energy... if we take of the planets, etc only the planets of the Solar System and the Sun and the Moon, it will not be sufficient to produce one Atom of Iron. Scientists today tell us that iron is an extra terrestrial metal, which is confirming the Qur'anic Ayat... if you take it literally, that Iron has been sent down from the Heaven.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the slip.

Question: There was a philosopher in six century B.C. who said that... The Earth rotates about its own axis, and the planets move around the Sun. The Qur'an also gives the indication of a similar scientific fact. Some people alleged that the Prophet copied these points from the philosopher. Please comment?

Dr Zakir Naik: The question posed was, that there was a philosopher in six century B.C. who said...‘the planets and the Earth rotates around the Sun’. May be the Prophet copied from this philosopher... Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). I do agree that in the six century B.C... the Pythagoreans - these people they defended the theory that...the Earth and the planets they rotate and they revolved around the Sun but to say that... ‘Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) copied from them’ is illogical, because these people failed to realize, that these same Pythagoreans, that they also defended the theory... ‘that the Sun was the centre of the Universe’. The Sun was fixed, it did not rotate, neither did it revolve. So to say that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, copied those two points... ‘Earth and planets rotate and they revolve’ and did not copy the point which says that... the Sun was centre of the Universe the Sun was fixed, it did not rotate, it did not revolve... is illogical.

I do know that there are various Philosophers, whose works of antiquity, gives us ideas... and they say several things. But if you analyze the works of Philosophers of antiquity their works is mixed with valid and invalid reasons... Invalid and valid ideas. People normally quote the valid ideas they forget that they even left behind invalid ideas. They were great thinkers the difference between these Philosophers who predicted and the Qur’an is... these philosophers only thought and predicted...and they made even false statements. The Qur’an, Alhamdulillah more than 1000 verses speak about science...and not a single is wrong. The difference is Qur’an gives a challenge. To say that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wa sallam) copied from these people... and did not copy the negative point may be one or two, it is possible, it was fluke but to say, that all the thousands of verses the Qur’an speaks about Science were copied is illogical.

Because Qur’an gives a challenge

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْفُرْعَانَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانِ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

in Surah Nisa, Ch. 4, Verse No. 82

“Do you not consider the Qur’an with care, had it been from anyone besides Allah, there would have been many contradictions”

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the brother on the right.

Faisal: Assalaamu Alaikum, my name is Faisal. How scientifically or logically can you explain that Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, being Omniscient... that is knowing the past, present, future and every thing, send Scriptures before the Qur’an. Why did not He send the Qur’an itself?

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has asked the question that... why did Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, did not send Qur’an earlier. Why did He send the other revelations first... and then the Qur’an? It is like you asking me, that... ‘Why didn’t you first teach me medicine? Why I had to go to standard one, standard two, standard three, and then do my medicine?’, You have to go in stage wise. All the previous revelations that came before the Qur’an, as I mentioned earlier were sent only for those people and for a particular time period. The Holy Qur’an is sent for the whole of humankind, and its message is meant till Eternity.

Therefore, the previous revelations that won't be preserved. Allah thought it right, He has Divine knowledge, He knows when to send the final Revelation, not that he could not send it earlier. Like the teacher knows how much to teach to a student... should not go beyond the level. So Allah thought it fit, that humankind may be had reached that level, where I can reveal the final Revelation. Allah knew that may be previously, the time was not right therefore all the previous revelations none of them have been preserved except the Holy Qur'an... because Qur'an is the last and the final Revelation and it proved itself to be 'Word of God'. It proved itself 1400 hundred years ago will prove today and will be able to prove till Eternity, In Sha Allah.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the slip.

Question: The Qur'an says that Allah has made the earth for you as a carpet, this gives an indication that earth is flat... which is contradictory with modern Science.

Dr Zakir Naik: The question posed was... and people are astonished out here... that the Qur'an says the earth was spread out like a carpet... So does it mean, it was flat?

What the person is referring to is an Aayat from the Holy Qur'an, in Surah Nur, Ch. 71, Verse no. 19 and 20, which does say that..

"We have spread out the Earth like a carpet."

But it gives the answer in the next verse, in Verse No. 20..

"So that you may walk and travel in the spacious path."

As I mentioned in my talk the Geologists they tell us today, the earth which we live on the surface is, hardly one to 10 miles, and less than 1% of the total radius of the earth which is 3750 miles. The top layer is a solid shell. The deeper layers are hot and fluid, and inhospitable for existence of life.

No where does the Qur'an say that the earth is flat. It gives a similitude that... "We have spread out the Earth like a carpet". People normally have a misconception that... A carpet can only be spread on a flat surface'... it's wrong. A carpet can also be spread on a spherical surface.

For example imagine that there is a big model of the earth, the globe... say about 10 feet in radius, very big... very well you can spread a carpet around it. It's possible because when we lay out a carpet, we normally spread out a carpet on the surface which is not comfortable to walk on. Carpet is normally spread out on a surface which is not comfortable to walk on.

So Science today tells us that if the outer crust was not spread out like a carpet around this spherical earth, we would not be able to live because the deeper layers are hot and fluid. So when Qur'an says 'we have spread out the earth', its referring to the earth's crust has been spread out like a carpet and the reason is given... So that you may walk in the spacious path of the Lord.

Qur'an says in other places also that...

'We have made the Earth, as spacious'.

Qur'an says in Surah Nabah Ch. 78, Verse No. 6:

"We have made the Earth as an expanse"

It is referring that the earth We have made as wide' You know why?

The answer is given in Surah Ankabut, Ch. 29, Verse, 56 which says:

"We have made the Earth as a wide expanse for you so that you will worship Me and Me alone"

So tomorrow you cannot say that, the situation where I lived in, may be Bombay, it was difficult circumstances, therefore I was prevented to do good deeds and I did evil deeds. Allah says... The earth is a wide expanse for you. It is spacious. You cannot give the excuse for doing evil deeds, because of your circumstances. Therefore worship Allah, and Allah alone. There is no place in the Holy Qur'an which says...The world is flat.

In fact, I told you in my speech the Qur'an says in Surah Luqman, Ch. 31, Verse 29, and Surah Al-Zumoor, Ch. 39, Verse No. 5, that...

'The world is spherical'

And specifically in Surah Naziyath, Ch. 79, Verse No. 30:

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ دَحَلًا

"We have made the Earth thereafter Egg shape"

Like an Ostrich Egg, which is exactly Geo spherical.

Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: Next brother on my left.

Abdul Subhan: Salaam Alaikum Wa Rahamtullahi Wabarakatuhu, my name is Abdul Subhan, I am an accountant. It is mentioned in Qur'an that Allah Tabarakahu Wa Ta'ala says... No one can say what is in the stomach of the mother... male or female. But on the other hand science says... is proving that male or female. So kindly give your bright light on this question.

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed the question, that the Qur'an says that... No one besides Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala can mention, what is the sex of the child in the mother's womb. And today Science is advanced you can come to know by Ultra Sonography, etc., the sex of the child.

What the brother is referring to, a verse in the Holy Qur'an from Surah Luqman, Ch. 31, Verse No. 34, which says:

“Only Allah has the knowledge of the hour... of when it is going to rain, what is in the womb of the mother, where will a person die, and what will he earn.”

The Qur'an says... ‘Only Allah knows what is in the womb of the mother’, it does not say... What is the sex of the child in the mother’s womb. I do know there are various translations, especially the Urdu translations they mention the word Sex. The word ‘Sex’ is not there in the Holy Qur'an. The Arabic verse of Surah Luqman Ch. 31, Verse 34, does not say, Sex. It says, no one besides Allah knows what is in the womb. It's only referring to the nature of the child. Whether the child that will be born will he be good, or will he be bad? Will he be boon for society... Will he be bane for society... What will he become a doctor or an Engineer... Will he go to Heaven or Hell. And no Scientist with the best technology can decipher that. Nowhere does the Qur'an say that... Only Allah knows the sex. It is saying, only Allah knows what will be the nature of the child and what will he do, and no scientist with whatever... with equipment they have can predict this.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the slip.

Question: We have talked about Astronomy, What is the reference towards Astrology, and effect of the position of Stars and Planets on human life. The Hindu mythology and belief, lays a lot of stress on Janampatri and Palmistry. Your comments please.

Dr Zakir Naik: Question posed is, the Qur'an speaks about Astronomy, what does the Qur'an speak about Astrology? Like looking at the stars and ‘Janampatri’, fortune telling, etc.

The Qur'an says in several places including Surah Maidah, Ch. 5, Verse No. 90, it says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

“O you have believe”

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ

“Most certainly intoxicants and gambling”

وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ

“Dedications of stones, divination of arrows”

رَجِسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“These are Satan’s handiwork”

فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper”

The Qur’an says that... do not indulge in fortune telling. It does not say whether fortune telling can be right or wrong, it says... ‘Do not indulge in it’.

And we know there are many people who can look at the palm and predict your future... by looking at the Stars, and we know most of it is fake. You know most of it is fake. You go to a computer... put your date of birth and you get the answer.

There was research done by a professor to just show to the people, what did he mean... He taught a class room of a hundred students for 7 days. At the end of the seven days he said... “I have come to know the nature of all the students. I will write each one’s nature on a piece of chit and give it to him and when I say open the chit, open it simultaneously and give your views”. So he wrote on a chit of paper, and gave to every student what his nature is and what has he done in the past, what has he done so far. So all the students, they opened the chit and do you know... that more than 90% said that ‘the teacher was 100% correct’. The remaining 10% said ‘he was 90% correct’. The experiment was... the teacher wrote the same thing for all the 100 students. You know there are certain things if I will tell you... In the next six months something good is going to happen to you. Even if 100 bad things happen, one good thing is going to happen. So it is no prediction. It is just making a fluery of the people. Most of these people who say that... We can predict. You know what they say... see... See, all the other people... all the other people who predict the future are false but the one which I go to is 100% correct. Everyone says that, and they take them for a ride just to make money. Qur’an does not say whether it is right or wrong. Qur’an says... ‘Do not indulge in fortune telling’. It does not say... ‘No one can tell about this or that’. It says.. don’t indulge, it will cause you more harm. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the slip is by Advocate Abbas Hetavkar

Abbas Hetavkar: He asks... The world is threatened with the menace of AIDS. It is not known how to deal with it, does Qur’an throw any light on its causes and prevention?

Dr Zakir Naik: The question posed was that we are threatened with AIDS, Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, Does Qur’an throw any light on that? If you happen to know that the first International Aids Conference it took place in our city of Bombay in 1994, in Hotel Oberoi Tower. First International Conference on AIDS... and Dr Michael Mercen, he was the person who headed it. He was from WHO... World Health Organization. At that time he said... There were about eleven million cases of AIDS detected, out of which 1.6 is present in India, and at the end of the century, there will be 40 million cases of AIDS in the world... out of which 11 million will be in India’. More than 25% will be in India and he said that... within 5 years time, the next 5 years, there is doubtful of any cure. No one will know how to cure this. Best is

prevention... prevention is better than cure. And the reason for this AIDS he gave as, one is homosexuality, other is heterosexuality, unsafe sex that is Adultery, 3rd is using needles for drugs, blood transfusion, etc., and fourth is associated with Alcoholism. If you analyze Qur'an throws lights on most of these topics.

Qur'an says in Surah Araf, Ch. No. 7, Verse No. 80 and 81 that:

We sent Lut Alaihis Salaam... Prophet Lut (pbuh) to the people, and he said to them..."Do you practice lewdness which no one has done before, you prefer in lust men over women, you have indeed gone far beyond the limits"

Lut Alaihis Salaam says that... these people used to practice homosexuality. And you know the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and how Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala sends brim stones on them. Homosexuality is prohibited in the Holy Qur'an. But now we find in the modern world, they have legalized Gay marriages. Do you know that? When I was in Canada it came in the front page 'Man and man kissing each other'... husband and wife, legalized Gay... Homosexuality.. legalized. The Gays, they take out a procession for their rights, 'Gay rights'. Headquarter at San Francisco, etc. One of the reasons of Homosexuality then comes adultery.

The Qur'an says in Surah Isra, Ch. No. 17, Verse No. 32, it says that:

"Come not close to adultery, it's an evil, opening other routes to evil."

Come not close to adultery... And do you know in America a man has eight different sexual partners on an average, before he settles down with one permanent life partner. On an average eight... some may have twenty, some may have thirty, some may have one, some may have two, on an average eight sexual partners, before they settle down with a permanent wife. Do you know this? It has been legalized there. Qur'an is against adultery... totally against adultery.

And one of the cause of AIDS it is prostitution, do you know what we medical doctors call them? 'CSW', you know what is 'CSW'? 'Commercial Sex Worker'. We give refined words for these. And according to Dr Gilada in that conference he said... '50% of the commercial sex workers of Bombay had AIDS by end of the century 90% will have AIDS.' There is no place for prostitution in Islam. And most of the people going to prostitutes, the report said... were between 15 to 24 years young people.

Our beloved Prophet Mohammed Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, (pbuh) he said, it is mentioned in Sahih Bukhari, Volume No. 7, Ch. 3, Hadith number 4, he said:

"O ye young people who ever has the means to get married, get married for it will help, to lower your gaze"

Marrying early is preferable in Islam. It will prevent adultery, it will prevent promiscuity, it will prevent Homosexuality.

Therefore our Prophet said: "Marriage completes half your Deen."

Coming to the last reason he gave... 'Associated to Tuberculosis, as well as Alcoholism' Major people that go to the prostitute 95% they have Alcohol ... Alcoholics.

Qur'an says, as I mentioned earlier in Surah Maidah, Ch. 5, Verse No. 90, it says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

“O you have believe”

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ

“Most certainly intoxicants and gambling”

وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ

“Dedications of stones, divination of arrows”

رِجْسٍ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“These are Satan’s handiwork”

فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper”

Today the medical doctors they say... ‘Don’t call them drunkards, alcoholism is a disease... treat them like patients’. You know that’s the terminology we use in the new books of medicine. Alcoholism is a disease. How you treat the patient of Tuberculosis, of Cancer... don’t blame the Alcoholics... treat them as patients, it is a disease. I tell them that if Alcohol is a disease, it is the only disease sold in bottles. It’s the only disease advertised in the Newspapers, in the Magazines, in the Radios, as well as the Television.

Our government has a law that you cannot advertise anything like Alcohol. So, you know what they do?, Bagpiper Soda... who drinks Bagpiper Soda? It is there, people know it is Bagpiper whisky, it is not Bagpiper Soda. I saw an Ad, London Pilsner or some other Alcohol company, Glass... Glass... Ad for Glass. Any logical person will know it is an Ad for that Alcohol. So they are taking our government for a ride, these Ads are allowed even on the television you see.

If alcohol is a disease, it is the only disease which gets revenue for the government. It is the only disease which has got licensed outlets. It is the only disease which has

got no viral or germ cause. It's the disease which causes violent deaths on the highways. It is the disease which destroys the family.

The Qur'an says, it is not a disease. It says...

رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“These are Satan’s handiwork”

فَأَجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper”

Dr Mohammed: The next question please.

Questioner: Assalam Alaikum, brother Zakir Naik. Educated people does not believe the ‘Qayamat’, the last day which is Judged by Allah. Obedient of Allah goes to Heaven, disobedient that is sinners goes to hell.

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother has posed a question, that educated people do not believe in ‘Qayamah’...the Day of resurrection and life after death, etc., that the world is going to end, etc. So, how will you prove to them logically or scientifically about ‘Qayamah’, about life after death, etc.

Brother one way as I said earlier, that if 80% of the Qur’an has been proved to be 100% correct , and the remaining 20% is ambiguous... my logic says that even this 20% will be correct. That is the answer that I gave earlier. There is another way you can prove to these educated people , by asking them a simple question. You ask him the question...‘Is robbing good or bad? Robbing... is it good or bad?’ The brother is saying... ‘It is bad’. Is raping good or bad? ‘Bad’ the brother is saying ‘Bad’. What I ask the question to these educated people, who do not believe in Qayamah, who do not believe in life after death. I tell them... ‘Can you give me one logical reason why robbing is bad?’ Only one, Can you give me one logical reason why it is bad?

Questioner Answers: ‘Because people like to live in simple way that is what they would like to do bad things.

Dr Zakir Naik: People will do bad things?...

Questioner Answers: People like to live in simple way that is why they would like to do the bad things.

Dr Zakir Naik: I did not get the answer, whatever it is. If you ask a person...Why not to rob? they give various reasons. That if you rob it hurts the feeling of the other person. See I am telling you, I am a smuggler... suppose I am a smuggler, you prove to me why robbing is bad. See I am not bothered whether it is harming the other person or not... no one can harm me. If I rob, if I take out a thousand Rupees from the wallet of a man passing by... I can go to Delhi Darbar, I can have dinner, I can

have lunch, I can go to movie, I can enjoy life... it is good... why it is bad? Some people will say... 'If you rob someone else, someday someone will rob you'. No one can rob me, I am a Mafia. I have just a example... I am Mafia... I have got thousand bodyguards all with AK47... all with AK47. No one can harm me, I can harm them... I have got thousand bodyguard, all with AK47... no one can harm my family... my family is guarded. I want to ask the question you prove to me robbing is bad. One logical reason, not two, why it is bad, and I will stop it immediately. I am a logical person I believe in science, as you said I am a logical person I believe in science. You prove to me why it is bad.

Some may say that... See, it's against humanity. I ask... Who wrote this book called humanity?... Who wrote it? I do not believe in it. I am enjoying life. When I rob thousand Rupees, when I rob 1 lakh Rupees, I can enjoy life, I can buy a new flat, I can go abroad... and no one can harm me because I am a Mafia. Some people will say... 'The police will catch you and put you in the jail'. I say... I have got the police in my pocket, I have got the ministers in my pocket. And we know that throughout the world, there are various top smugglers who have got the police in their pockets... they have got ministers in their pockets, no one can harm them, throughout the world you have got a example. I am saying... I am such a Mafia, you prove to me why it is bad and I will stop robbing. And this question I have posed to thousands of people in audiences. Whatever answer they give it does not satisfy logically. So I tell them... Okay, now you become that Mafia... and I will try and convince to you why robbing is bad, why raping is bad. So he is happy... now Zakir took me for a ride, now we will take Zakir for a ride.

So I tell them the reason why robbing is bad. Maybe you are a Mafia, no one can harm you, I agree with you. No one can harm your family, but if you rob you go against the commandments of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala and in the Hereafter you will get punishment. In this world you may have the police in your pocket, you may have the minister in your pocket but in the Hereafter you will be held responsible.

I am asking you a question that your human law... you talk about a human law... now I am speaking as a Muslim... now you are the Mafia. I am speaking as a Muslim, and convincing you of 'Qayamah', and life after death. I am telling you that if you are a Mafia and you kill many people, you may get saved in this world, not in the Hereafter. I asked a question that suppose there is a smuggler, who has killed hundreds of people... don't you think he requires punishment? He requires.. Where will he get it? We see many smugglers lead a luxurious life, they have got palaces... they enjoy life and they die a very good death. Some people die a bad death, some people die a good death. Don't you think they require a punishment? Hitler, Do you know Hitler?... Hitler incinerated 6 million Jews. He burnt 6 million Jews alive, do you know that? Even if you say 6 lakh, I agree with you. You say 6 thousand I agree with you. I am asking the question, if your law catches Hitler, what punishment can you give him? What punishment? Worst you can do is incinerate him, you can burn him but that will compensate only for one death. What about the other 5 million 9 hundred thousand nine hundred and ninety nine deaths. But in my logical case, in the Hereafter, Allah will put him in the Hell.

And Qur'an says in Surah Nisa, Ch. 4, Verse 56:

“As to those who reject Our signs, We will put you in hellfire, and as often as your skin will be roasted, We shall give you fresh skins.”

If Allah wants, He can burn Hitler 6 million times, He can even burn Hitler 12 million times. Therefore without a Hereafter, there will be no morality in this world. So raping is bad... Why? because if you get saved in this world... you will pay in the Hereafter. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: The next question from the ladies side.

Questioner: Assalamu Alaikum. Can you please comment on artificial insemination and test-tube babies?

Dr Zakir Naik: Sister has posed a question, can I comment on artificial insemination and test-tube babies, whether it is allowed or not in Islam? that is what she means.

Sister, artificial insemination is of two types, one is ‘Homogeneous’ and the other is ‘Heterogeneous’. ‘Homogeneous’ means using the sperm and the ovum of the husband and wife.

If suppose the wife or the husband has certain medical problems and if you know by doing Homogeneous artificial insemination they can give birth to a child, it is perfectly allowed. But Heterogeneous artificial insemination in which you get a sperm from a sperm bank, it is totally Haram. How you have ‘Blood Bank’, here today you also have ‘Sperm Bank’. You cannot go to a sperm bank and get a sperm, and use it in your wife, that is Haram. So Homogeneous artificial insemination is allowed, Heterogeneous is not allowed.

Same way, for the test tube babies or whatever, if it is of the husband and wife, it's totally allowed. If it is not of husband and wife, it is not allowed. It is as good as adultery. Hope that answers the question.

Dr Mohammed: I would request the audience for another three minutes. You have borne so much of your time with us. Thank you for your patience. Just give us three more minutes... three to four minutes, to complete the programme in a proper format. We thank Almighty Allah for making this evening's programme possible for all of us here. On behalf of the Islamic Research Foundation, I thank all our esteemed guests of honour, brothers and sisters present here today, for their rapt attention and enthusiasm we have had throughout the programme. Believe me you all have encouraged Dr Zakir to strive on harder and give better performances... you have!

We appreciate and thank all the persons involved in the professional video recording of the programme today. Mostly from the Star TV network, so that, the many millions to whom this programme may go over Satellite Television, would be able to appreciate it too. We are especially thankful to the Press who is present here today. Again they have responded very well. We have noticed in the past that the press has given objective reportage to most of our programmes that we have had, and not as some of the Muslims have advised us...‘No... No, they write against you all’. They have been not kind they have been objective... I would say.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate and thank all the many volunteers, who have assisted us, and supported us in handling such a vast audience. It is not possible without... so in... with just one or two people of us, we are the one whose faces are seen on the stage their efforts are there behind all these curtains and chairs. Until we meet again for such regular special programmes, In Sha Allah we hope you would keep in touch with the IRF, and its regular programmes. We end the programme today with a short Dua by Ashraf Mohammedy... Brother Ashraf Mohammedy.

Ashraf Mohammedy:

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

“O Lord give us the best in this world and the best in the Hereafter, and save us from the torment of Hellfire”

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ وَثُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ

“O Lord accept this service from us, for you are All Hearing All Knowing and forgive us for you, are Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful”

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

“O Lord let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from You”

Aameen Ya Rabbil Aalamin.

Lesson 12 – Question & Answer Session – Part 4

Esa Washigton: Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahamatullahi Wa Barakatuhu! JazakAllah Khair, Dr Zakir Naik. Before I begin the Question & Answers little bit about myself. In 1996 I accepted Islam at the University of Saudi Arabia; California, Berkeley and the lecture which facilitated my acceptance of Islam was a fraction of this lecture. Had I heard this I probably would have been overblown and Masha Allah, some people are just given that gift and you have been given that gift I Shouldn't praise people in their presence but...

Now back to the question & answers. In order to make this run as smoothly and as quickly as possible I would ask everyone in attendance tonight to please keep your questions strictly to the topic. To ask your question briefly, to be orderly at the mikes and queue in a line and do not bunch. And I would also like to remind everyone in the audience that we are brothers and sisters in humanity and for those non-Muslims who are with us tonight you are our brothers & you are our sisters & we will give you a priority at the mikes so if you have a question we ask that the volunteers facilitate

those people in getting to the microphones and they have the priority. Brothers and sisters if you came with a non-Muslim guest and they are slightly shy please do motivate them to ask their question because we have people who can give the best answers, In Sha Allah. And for those Muslims here you have many opportunities so please do let the non-Muslims ask their questions.

We have 3 microphones, 1 in the rare for the brothers, in the front for the brothers and 1 in the sisters section here. So if you have a question, try to make your way to these 1, 2, 3, microphones. Written questions will receive second priority. Those questions at the microphones will be answered first. I know that we have 1 very patient brother who is a non-Muslim and he waited this entire talk to ask his question. So at this time I'll go to the front mike in the male's section and ask the brother to please state your name, your occupation & then briefly state your question.

Aditiya: Good Evening everyone. Ah... my name is Aditiya and I'm doing my final year engineering in Chennai. Ah.. though I'm a Hindu I've been having this question about Islam that I wanted to ask and no better a person than Dr Zakir Naik. As you said in your speech many times that the Holy Qur'an was written 1400 years ago and is considered the most worthy and latest revelation given by Allah so I have 2 questions to you.

Allah who knows all, why didn't He give his best of revelations the first time itself to the first of messengers and why did God take so many times to give his best of knowledge?

And my second question which is related to this is even before the Holy Qur'an was written that is 1400 years ago human beings have lived in the earth for thousands of years. So why did Allah the Most Merciful didn't give them the best knowledge which He has given us for the last 1400 years? Thank you.

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother has asked a very good question, a very relevant question, two questions both the questions are overlapping the answers. He said that why did Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, give this last and final revelation 1400 years ago. Why not in day one when human beings were there? And the second part which is a part of the same question that what about the people who lived before 1400 years ago, they were deprived of the Qur'an. So, if Allah is Most Merciful, Most Gracious, Most Beneficent, so isn't it that the people earlier before 1400 years ago were deprived. A very good question.

To reply to your question, my son he tells me that Abba... father, you want me to become a doctor, why do you put me in nursery, 1st standard, 2nd standard then school then college why don't you put me into medical college directly? If I want my son to become a medical doctor I don't have to put him into medical college directly, I've to first make the grounds very clear. First he goes in the pre primary school then goes into the school 1st standard onwards... passes school then goes to the higher school then college then when he's fit then he enters a medical college. Similarly Almighty God, who has knowledge of the unseen, has knowledge of everything. He even has knowledge of the human beings.

So it is mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Ra'd Chapter No. 13 Verse No. 38, Allah says:

That...

“We have sent a revelation in every age... in every period.”

By name 4 are mentioned in the Qur'an... Torah, Zaboor, Injeel and the Qur'an. But there were several revelations sent the 1st revelation, Almighty God knew that the human beings have to develop. If He would have revealed the Qur'an at the first time; at the time of Adam (pbuh), He knew the human beings won't be able to grasp it. That's the reason in the revelation that came before the Qur'an that is the Injeel today we have the Bible, though we don't consider the Bible to be the Injeel but some parts of the Bible may be the word of God.

It's mentioned in the Bible in the Gospel of John Chapter No. 16 Verse No. 12 to 14, Jesus Christ (pbuh), says:

“I have many things to say unto you but cannot bear them now for he when the spirit of truth shall come, he shall guide you unto all truth. He shall show you the way to come, he shall glorify me.”

So here Jesus Christ (pbuh), he knew but yet he said that you will not be able to grasp it, therefore when the last and final Messenger will come he will show you things to come. So, similarly Almighty God, He knew very well that when is the right time for the human beings to receive the last and final revelation, the Qur'an and that was about 1400 years ago.

As far as your second part of the question is concerned, what about the people that came before the Qur'an was revealed? I will tell them that if my son goes to standard one, he will not be given the medical question paper. He'll be given the question paper of standard one. If he goes to higher school, he'll be given the question of higher school then junior college. Fine... So, similarly the basic message of Almighty God in all the scriptures, in all the revelations from the first revelation till the last revelation the Qur'an was the same that you have to believe in One God. That you have to worship Him and no one else. So all the messengers right from the first messenger Adam (pbuh) right down to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, peace be upon them all, all of them taught the basic message of oneness of God and about Tawheed. And about this message of oneness of God and Tawheed In Sha Allah, I'll be discussing in detail on the last day of this conference, on the last Sunday that's the 20th of January, In Sha Allah. Hope that answers the question.

Esa Washigton: Thank you for the question. Do we have another question from a guest here, non-Muslim. Okay we'll go to the gentlemen's section rare microphone. Gentleman could you please state your name and your occupation please?

Sanjeev: Good evening everyone, my name is Sanjeev. Ah.. I'm working here in LAN Marvel company as an Admin executive. Ah.. I got few questions but I'll ask only 2 questions regarding this Islam. First question is, do Islam believe in rebirth?

And second question is, in Islam its not allowed to commit suicide but many people that's in Pakistan, in Arabic countries they are blowing themselves up and they are killing many people so who.. Who are the peoples who are motivating them whether they are really following the Islam or who is motivating them, that is my question sir.

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother's asked two questions.

The first question, does Islam believe in rebirth? And the second question that if suicide is prohibited in Islam how come people in Pakistan and other parts of the world they are blowing up themselves and killing themselves? They're two questions.

As far as the first question is concerned that does Islam believe in rebirth? If you ask only in rebirth, yes... Islam believes in rebirth. What we believe is that the human beings come to this earth once. The Qur'an says that...

'We give you life and you come on this earth then We cause you to die and then We resurrect you again in the next life.'

This is exactly what is mentioned in the Vedas, if you read Rig Veda Book No. 10, it speaks about 'Punar Janam'. 'Punar' means next, 'Janam' means life. So the Veda speaks about the 'Punarjanam', about the next life. But unfortunately, most of the Hindus, they misunderstand the meaning of Punarjanam. 'Punar' means next, 'Janam' means life, we believe in the next life. You say Punarjanam, you say rebirth, we've got no problem but most of the Hindus, they believe in a Philosophy known as 'Samskara'. It's a Sanskrit word 'Samskara' which means birth, death... birth, death. A cycle of reincarnation, a cycle of birth, death... birth, death... birth death. This cycle of birth, death... birth, death or Samskara or reincarnation is nowhere to be found in the Vedas.

What they quote is a verse of Bhagavad Geeta Chapter No. 2 Verse No. 22, which says that:

"Like a human being takes off the old clothes and puts on new clothes, same way the soul throws away the old body and puts on the new body."

As far as this is concerned I've got no objection with the Bhagvat Geeta.

It's further mentioned even in the Upanishads that:

"Like a caterpillar walks up a grass of blade, it jumps onto the new grass."

I've got no problem. Now as far as the scriptures are concerned if you take the literal meaning of the Veda which does not speak about the cycle of birth, death... birth, death but only speaks about Punarjanam... next life, Islam speaks the same. But most of the scholars of Hinduism, they could not understand that, how can a human being be born with some congenital defect. How can he be born as a handicapped? Some are born healthy, some are born handicapped, some are born in rich family, some are born in poor family, so they thought this was injustice so how could God be unjust? Therefore they propounded the theory of Samskara which is nowhere to be found in the Vedas.

The Vedas are considered to be the highest Hindu scriptures. In the Hindu scriptures you have the Smirti and you have the Shruti. 'Smirti' means scriptures written by the human beings and 'Shruti' are the Vedas and the Upanishads considered to be the word of God. Now because they could not justify, why some people are born in rich family, some in poor family, some are born healthy, some with congenital defect they propounded this theory of Samsara.

As far as Islam is concerned, Allah says in the Qur'an, in Surah Mulk Chapter No. 67, Verse No. 2:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ

"It is Allah, Who has created death and life to test which of you is good in deeds."

This life you are leading is a test for the hereafter. And we believe that every child is born sinless, is born Masoom. Irrespective whether he's born handicapped or healthy, whether rich family, poor family all these things are a test for the human beings.

As Allah says in the Qur'an, in Surah Baqarah Chapter No. 2, and Surah Anfal Chapter No. 8 Verse no. 28, He says that:

"Surely We will test you with fear and hunger, with loss of life and loss of what you have earned."

It's mentioned in Surah Anfal Chapter No. 8 Verse no. 28, that:

"Your children and your wives are a test for you."

Now here we realize that the Qur'an says your children are a test for you. Now if a child, suppose is born handicapped it's a test for the parents. The parents may be very good, they may be pious, maybe Allah wants to test them more, after giving them a child which is handicapped yet do they have faith in Allah or not? It's a test. So whenever any calamity befalls on human beings, it's either a punishment or a test. Whenever a good thing happens in your life it's either a reward or it's a test. That does not mean that if something bad happens it has to be a punishment. It can be a punishment, it can be a test. If something good happens in your life, it can be a reward or it can be a test. So here Almighty God is testing the parents that do they have faith in Almighty God? So if a handicapped child is born the parent may be an average Muslim and if he say, 'oh why my child only has to be born handicapped? Why my child has to be born with congenital heart disease?' Allah is testing them. The people who are good Muslims they'll say Allah has destined, no problem yet we thank Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, and more difficult the test, more higher is the reward. To pass a simple graduation of BA is easy but to pass MBBS is difficult. The moment you pass MBBS in front of your name you get Doctor 'Dr.' higher status. Examination is difficult, the honor is more.

So Almighty God tests different people in different way. The child that is born what the Hindus said, the Hindu scholars, in his previous Janam, in his previous birth he

did a sin therefore he was born handicapped. They didn't have any other justification. If you do good deeds then you're born healthy. So what the Hindu scholars, they propounded that every living creature it keeps on changing. According to them the universal brotherhood of Hinduism is that all living creatures are your brothers. So sometimes you're born as an animal, sometimes as a bird, sometimes as a rat, sometimes as a cockroach, sometimes as human being. And the human being is the highest level. And you're born as a human being 7 times. So they came with this philosophy because they could not justify. Why a child is born rich or poor, handicapped or healthy.

Similarly for a person who is born poor, it's a test for him. So the rich people, he has to give Zakaat. Every rich person who has a saving of more than the Nisaab level, 85 grams of gold, he or she should give 2.5% of every lunar year in charity. For the poor person, for him, he gets full marks in Zakaat. He is poor so he has to give no Zakaat, 100 out of 100. but we say 'array garib aadmi hai', poor man, ... poor man... Poor man! He's got 100 out of 100 in Zakaat. The rich man if he gives proper Zakaat he may get 100 out of 100... he says okay fine I've got so much wealth this part is exempted from Zakaat, he may give 50% of Zakaat. So he's getting negative points. He may not give Zakaat at all. So imagine suppose there's a questioner.... suppose there's a question in your question paper which is very easy. Should you be happy or sad? So when a person is born poor actually in Zakaat he gets 100 out of 100.

Therefore our beloved Prophet said that it's easier for a poor man to go to Jannah than a rich man. But we say 'arey garib aadmi hai, poor man.. how sad!' Not sad, 100 out of 100 in Zakaat. For the rich man he has to give charity, he has to give Zakaat, he has to give donation, he'll be accountable for his wealth. So what.... in Islam we are born in this world once and once is sufficient. Once we die we are resurrected on the Day of Judgment. You want to call it rebirth, I have got no problem, you want to call Punarjanam I have got no problem. We say life after death but surely if I agree with you for the sake of argument... for the sake of argument what the Hindu scholars propound that, you know that sometime you are born as an animal, sometime bird, sometime human being. I want to ask you a question brother, in this world as every year is passing on, is the population of the human being increasing or decreasing brother? Increasing or decreasing?

Questioner: Increasing.

Dr Zakir Naik: Increasing, very good. Is the sin in the world increasing or decreasing? I can't hear you. Increasing or decreasing?

Questioner: It's increasing sir.

Dr Zakir Naik: Sorry.

Questioner: Increasing.

Dr Zakir Naik: Increasing. Human beings are increasing and even sin is increasing. If I agree with the philosophy of the Hindu scholars, the more sin increases the population of human beings should decrease. So therefore I believe in going to the higher scriptures, the Vedas. When I talk which I had given a talk earlier in Chennai

during the first peace conference that was in 2004, 'Similarities between Islam and Hinduism' and there I showed and compared that even in Veda it speaks about One God, no idol worship and everything. So what is common between the scriptures we follow. So this the cycle of Samskara, birth,death... birth,death is nowhere to be found in the Vedas. It's ta philosophy of the Hindu scholars to justify because they could not justify why human beings are born poor or healthy which I have given you the answer in Islam.

As far as your second question is concerned that, if suicide is Haram in Islam, it is prohibited, if yes then why do people commit suicide? Is someone instigating them, Suicide bombing.

The Qur'an says in Surah Baqarah Chapter No. 2, Verse No. 195, that:

“Do not make your own hands the cause of your destruction.”

So according to the Qur'an committing suicide is Haram, it is prohibited. So as far as committing suicide, it is prohibited.

As far as killing any other innocent human being, the Qur'an says in Surah Maidah Chapter No. 5 Verse No. 32, that:

“If anyone kills any other human being, whether it be a Muslim or a non-Muslim, unless it be for murder or for spreading corruption in the land it is as though he has killed the whole of humanity. And if anyone saves a human being it is as though, he's saved the whole of humanity.”

So killing any innocent human being whether it be a Muslim or a non-Muslim it is prohibited in Islam. So if anyone whether he puts a bomb without killing himself or with killing himself, if he kills innocent human being, it is prohibited. So as far as killing innocent human being is concerned, it is prohibited. If you use it as a strategy of war, you know, the Japanese used to do this suicide you know initially, where do you get suicide bombing from? According to a professor who wrote a book 'Dying to Win' in America, he says that the first people who did suicide bombing were the LTT, Tamil Tigers but yet the blame is put on Muslims, I don't know why. It's the media. Have you ever heard of any Muslim doing suicide bombing it was first the LTT and then the Americans and may be some of the Muslims, black sheep may have picked up, but who were the originators? But yet when suicide bombing comes the terrorists are labeled as Muslims. In Chennai a few years back I had also given a talk on 'Terrorism and Jihad – An Islamic Perspective', where I have described in detail about this answer of suicide bombing as far as Islamic perspective is concerned. But killing innocent human being and committing suicide is Haram. Hope that answers the question brother.

Esa Washigton: Thank you for the question. We'll go to the front mike with the males. If there are any other non-Muslims at the back mike or the sister's mike just have the volunteers raise their hands.

Dr Zakir Naik: Any non-Muslims ladies they are most welcome to ask their question and if any non-Muslims in the audience please feel free to come on the microphone.

It's your opportunity and as previous times I have come to Chennai, Alhamdulillah. All the questions were asked by non-Muslims, so I hope even now the non-Muslims of Chennai, Masha Allah, they are bold enough. You can ask any question even if it is a criticism; even if you disagree in whatever I say no problem. Come up and ask the question. Believe me I'm young but I can take it. You can criticize the Qur'an, you can criticize Islam, you can ask, this is your opportunity. Please come up on the microphone and have the doubt cleared. This is your opportunity.

Esa Washington: And there you heard it from the man himself so your name and occupation please.

Ramakrishnan: Hello everybody. My name is Ramakrishnan. I'm a software engineer. I have 2 questions for you. The first is, what does Islam say about donating organs after death? Is it okay or is it prohibited? Second question is, what does Islam say about Atheists? That's it.

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother asked 2 questions. I think the non-Muslims... one and they are asking two. No problem. The first question is what does Islam say about donating organs? Second question is about Atheist.

As far as the first question is concerned what does Islam say about donating organs. There is no direct verse in the Qur'an or any Sahih Hadith which says whether organs can be donated or not. But there were various conferences that were held in Saudi Arabia, in Malaysia and various different parts of the world and the scholars have come to a common consensus that if three things are fulfilled then organs can be donated.

No. 1, the person who requires an organ but natural, it should be a major benefit to his health, he can receive an organ as long as it's a major benefit or saves his life.

Point no. 2, the person donating the organ after he donates the organ, it should not be a major loss to his health. For example, if I donate my heart, I will die. So I can't donate my heart. But the doctors say that out of 2 kidneys present the person can even survive with one kidney. So if my mother has a kidney failure, both the kidneys have failed. I can very well donate my one kidney to my mother, even she lives and even I live. But natural, after a person dies if he wants to donate any other organ that is permissible but if he is alive he should not donate any part of the body which will cause a major damage to his health or a loss of life.

And the third criteria is; it should not be for money. No one should sell organ. If all these three conditions are fulfilled then organ donation very well can be done.

As far as your second question is concerned what does Islam have to say about atheist. As far as I'm concerned whenever I meet an atheist... are you an atheist brother?

Esa Washington: He said... No.

Dr Zakir Naik: Whenever I meet any atheist the first thing I do is I congratulate that atheist. People may wonder that, why is Zakir congratulating an atheist.

The reason I'm congratulating an atheist is because most of the human beings, they usually do blind belief. He's a Hindu because his father is a Hindu. He's a Christian, father is a Christian. Many Muslims are Muslims because father is a Muslim. Now this atheist, he is thinking. He may be coming from a religious background his father may be pious but he does not believe that, how can there be a God who requires to eat, a god who can die, a god who can lie. So the reason I congratulate the atheist is because he has said the first part of the Islamic Shahadah, Islamic creed 'La ilaha' that there is no God. The only thing that I have to do is 'ill Allah', but Allah. Which I shall do In Sha Allah. So half my job is done, to a non-Muslim who believes in some other God, first I have to prove to him that the God he's worshipping is wrong and after I prove to him that the God he is worshipping is wrong then I have to prove to him about the correct God. Here the atheist, half my job is done. He already agrees in the first part of the Islamic Shahadah La ilaha, there is no god, the only thing I have to do is Ill Allah, which I shall do In Sha Allah.

The first question I ask to the atheist is that, what is the definition of God? If anyone says there is no god, to say there is no god he should know the definition of God. If he does not know the definition of God, he cannot say there is no God. For example if I say this is a pen. Is this a pen? No. it's a book. To say this is not a pen you should know the definition of a pen. Some people say no Zakir I know this a book so I can say it's not a pen. I said no, if you know the definition of pen I'll say is this a kitaab, you say no it is not a Kitaab because he does not know the definition of Kitaab. To say it's not a Kitaab you should know the definition of Kitaab. Because Kitaab and book is the same. So to say it is not a pen; you have to know the definition of a pen. You may or may not know the definition of a book. Correct?

So similarly to say there is no God, you should know the definition of God. So now this person who is an atheist he's believing... oh that god he requires to eat, he can lie, he fights and he loses, he does not believe in a God. So I say even I don't believe in such a god. La ilaha. Then I tell to him the correct concept of God.

And the correct concept of God is mentioned in Surah Ikhlas Chapter No. 112 Verse No. 1 to 4, which I shall discuss in the last day of conference, In Sha Allah, that is on 20th of January.

So what he's doing, he is rejecting the false Gods.

Then I ask the question to the atheist that, if suppose there is an equipment which is brought in front of you who no one in the world has ever seen, no one knows about it and if I ask the question that who will be the first person, who will be able to tell you the mechanism of that equipment. So the atheist will tell the first person who will tell the mechanism of this equipment, who no one in the world has seen, it is the creator. Some may say the manufacturer, some may say the inventor, some may say the person who has made it, the maker. He may say creator, maker, inventor, manufacturer whatever he says it will be somewhat similar. Don't grapple with the words, whatever he may say accept it. Then ask him that repeat the lecture which I gave which I don't intend repeating. That, how did the universe come into existence, he'll tell you about the big bang, then I'll tell him that when did you come to know. He will tell you in 1973, yesterday in science, 30 years back, 40 years back. I will say

what you are talking about the big bang you came to know 30 years back is mentioned in the Qur'an 1400 years ago. Who could have mentioned it? He will say maybe it's a fluke. Don't argue with him, continue. What's the shape of the earth? He will tell you previously people thought it was flat, now we know it's spherical. When did you come to know? He'll tell you in 1577 when Sir Francis Drake sailed around the earth. When? 300 years back, 400 years back, 450 years back. The Qur'an mentions 1400 years ago. Who could have mentioned it? He'll say oh maybe your Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) he was an intelligent man.

Don't argue, continue. Light of the moon is its own light or reflected light. He will tell you previously we thought light of the moon was its own light. Recently we have come to know a couple of 100 years back, its reflected light.

It's mentioned in the Qur'an Surah Furqan, Chapter No. 25, Verse No.61:

"Light of the moon is reflected."

1400 years back, who could have mentioned it? Now he'll pause.

Don't wait for the answer, continue. In school I was taught that the sun was stationary, it did not rotate about its axis. He'll ask you is that mentioned in the Qur'an. I say no... that's what I learnt in school. But the Qur'an says the sun and the moon rotate, which we have come to know recently. In school 25 years back I was told that the sun did not rotate. The Qur'an says 1400 years back that the sun rotates which science has discovered today. Who could have mentioned that? There will be a pause, don't wait for the reply, continue.

So all the scientific things I mentioned in my talk after each scientific fact ask him, who could have mentioned it before. And finally he will tell the creator, the manufacturer, the inventor, the maker. This creator, this manufacturer, this producer, this inventor, we in Islam call as Allah. That's the reason today science is not eliminating God, La ilaha, it is eliminating models of God, Ill Allah. Therefore Sir Francis Bacon, a very famous philosopher, he said that 'little knowledge of science makes you an atheist, in-depth knowledge of science makes you a believer in God'. So with this help of this lecture Qur'an and Modern Science, you can prove the existence of God scientifically. Hope that answers the question brother.

Esa Washington: JazakAllah Khair.

Lesson 13– Question & Answer Session – Part 5

Esa Washington: Brother go ahead and state your question. I remind the sisters, In Sha Allah, to motivate those non-Muslim sisters may be amongst you to ask their questions. This is an excellent opportunity for them. So you should really try to motivate them to come to the microphones. Brother...

Ritesh: My name is Ritesh and I'm a student studying in 11th Std. My question is, all the religions have limitations of clothing. Let me be specific to the women ah... but they have changed with time but why is the Burqa still the same? Why hasn't that changed with time? And one more question... ah.. I'm sorry ah... during Ramazan I've seen all the Muslims will be fasting...

Dr Zakir Naik: The brother said that by the passage of time every religion has got clothing for women but by the passage of time the clothing keeps of changing but why the Muslim women yet wear the Burqa? As far as the clothing is concerned brother, in Islam there are 6 criteria for clothing. For the man it's from the navel to the knee. That is the extent it should be covered. For the women the complete body should be covered. The only part that can be seen are the face and the hands up to the wrist. There are certain scholars who say that even this should be covered. The remaining 5 criterias are the same for the man and the women.

The second is, that the clothes they wear, it should not be so tight so that it reveals the figure, it should be loose.

The third is, it should not be translucent or transparent so that you can see through.

The fourth is, it should not be so glamorous so that it attracts the opposite sex.

Fifth, it should not resemble that of the unbeliever and...

Sixth, it should not resemble that of the opposite sex.

These are basically the six criteria. And most of these six criterias are even mentioned in the other scriptures.

If you read the Bible, it's mentioned in the Bible in the Book of Deuteronomy Chapter No. 22 Verse no. 5, it says that:

"The women shall not wear clothes that which pertaineth to a man. And a man shall not wear clothes that which pertaineth to a woman. All those who do this they are creating an abomination."

It's further mentioned in the Bible in the 1st Timothy Chapter No. 2 Verse No. 9, that:

"The women should be dressed up with shame facedness and sobriety, they should not wear costly array, pearls and gold."

And further it is mentioned in the first Corinthians Chapter No. 11 Verse No. 5 to 6, that:

"The woman that prayth with the head uncovered, her head should be shaved off."

There is no verse in the Qur'an or the Ahadith which says that the woman who does not cover her head should be shaved off. But the Bible is stricter. Bible is stricter

than the Qur'an. That if the woman that prays does not cover the head, the head should be shaved off.

The same thing in the Hindu scripture. If you read the Hindu scriptures it's mentioned in Ramayaan that...

"When Parsuram... when he comes to Ram he says to his wife Sita that he is our elder therefore lower your gaze and guard your modesty."

It's further mentioned, if you read Rig Veda Book No. 10 chapter No. 85 Verse No. 30, it says that:

"The woman who wears the clothes of that of a man, she is defiling it. She should not wear the clothes of a man."

Further it is mentioned that in Rig Veda, Book No. 8, that:

"Brahma has ordered that the woman should cover her head."

So Hindu scriptures, Christian scriptures, Muslim scriptures modesty is there, covering the head is there. By the passage of time I do agree with you... that Christianity now, you only see the nuns covering the head, they are called pious. If Muslim women cover their hair, they are called as subjugated. Why? Double standards. If you see a nun covered properly. Therefore you see the photograph of Mother Mary. Have you seen the photograph of Mother Mary? Like a Muslimah. And she was a Muslimah. Muslim woman. Properly covered to the wrist, only the face seen. What I do agree with you even if you stick to the six criteria by fashion the types of Hijaab, the Burqa, Abaya has changed. As long as you follow the six principals of Islam and you change the colour from black to blue to brown, no problem. As long as you don't break any of the six criteria. Therefore you see new-new styles of Hijaab. But some styles of Burqa, they're so fashionable that they break the laws of Islam. There are so many shiny sequences coming that you are attracting the opposite sex. So that is Haram. But otherwise you want to wear red, you want to wear black color, no problem. People think black is compulsory. Black is not compulsory. If you wear black may be you may have to wash the Burqa once in a week. If you wear white you may have to wash everyday. The choice is yours. You wear white and wash it everyday, you wear black and wash it once a week, the choice is yours. As long as it doesn't break any of the criteria, 6 criteria of Hijaab. So now there are new types of Hijaab coming as long as it doesn't break, you are allowed. But it should be modest. If it is modest, it is accepted.

Second question, that you see in Ramadhaan the people fast, when they fast in the day in the evening they feast. And I would like to thank you for asking this question. See, why do we fast?

Allah says in the Qur'an, in Surah Baqarah, Chapter No. 2, Verse No. 183, that:

"Fasting has been prescribed to you as it was prescribed to people who came before you. So that you may learn self restraint, you may learn Taqwa."

And today the scientists, they tell us if you can control your hunger, you can control almost all your desires. So if you can fast you can control your other desires but I do agree with you, if not all, many Muslims if you would say most also... I would not mind agreeing with you... that they fast and when they break the fast, they feast. So that defeats the purpose, I do agree with you. And many of them convert the day into night and the night into day. They sleep the full day and the full night they're playing cricket. In India... cricket. So you have to lead a normal life... like a normal life, you have to do more Ibadah, you have to worship God more. So normally when you fast but natural your meals are reduced. It is medically beneficial. But if you over eat then there will be a problem. But if you do it the correct way there are various medical benefits of fasting which you can refer to my video cassette and I have given 64 episodes on fasting, which comes during Ramadhaan. And In Sha Allah you can watch it, there are various benefits of fasting. Hope that answers the question.

Esa Washington: Sister's side, if you have a question from a non-Muslims sister could you please state it.

Vandana: Assalaamu Alaikum! This is on behalf of a non-Muslim, sister Vandana. She says I'm new to this concept, have limited knowledge therefore asking a basic question. If out of 6000 verses, 1000 are about scientific facts then what really is the essence of the Qur'an.

Dr Zakir Naik: The sister's asked a very good question that, if the Qur'an contains more than 6000 verses and more than a1000 speak about science, what is the essence of the Qur'an?

Sister as I mentioned in my earlier answer the basic essence of the Qur'an is Tawheed. Believing in One God and worshipping Him alone and no one else. And the Qur'an as I mentioned it's not a book of science, S-C-I-E-N-C-E. It's a book of signs, S-I-G-N-S. It's a book of Ayaats. The Qur'an is a book which shows you how your life should be led.

And when I had a debate with Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, I said that this is the best book on art of living. If there is any book there's on art of living, which is the best, it is the Qur'an. Best book on art of living. And it has a membership of more than 1.3 billion people. So this book shows you how to lead your life. Now many a times you understand that because the Qur'an is the word of Almighty God. One verse of the Qur'an has got multiple angles. Now the same 1000 verses which are speaking about science, it doesn't mean it only speaks about science, it speaks about various other aspects also. That's the beauty of the Qur'an. When a lay man sees it, he understands it, when a scientific man sees it, he sees it in a different angle. It satisfies both. So that's the beauty of the Qur'an. That does not mean Qur'an is the book of science.

Yes but there is not a single verse of the Qur'an which goes against established science. Because it's a book of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, Almighty God, so this book is a book of guidance. How our life should be led. It shows a person to believe in the oneness of God, how to worship Him and how to lead the life. The pros and cons, the Faraiz what a human being should do and the prohibited things he should abstain from. It's mentioned in the Qur'an. Hope that answers the question sister.

Esa Washington: Sister if you have another question, go ahead. If it's from a non-Muslim.

Questioner: Your presentation is an impressive but could you just ask this group to raise their hands who knew some of the information that you mentioned now. The thought here is, why is general education and the learning of the Holy Qur'an not integrated?

Dr Zakir Naik: Sister's asked a question that, from the audience how many of you knew the major portion of what I've said in the lecture? Please raise your hand. Major portion of what I have mentioned. Masha Allah, you can say most of them. At least more than 50% if not all. And the reason is that, I have written a book also 'Qur'an and Modern Science – Compatible or Incompatible' which is being distributed in the conference. If those who have not got a copy, In Sha Allah, on your way out, the copy of my talk 'Qur'an and Modern Science' will be distributed, In Sha Allah. It's a 4 color book.

Regarding the part of your question, the second part that, why isn't education been given to the Muslims, so I expected this sister would have thought that maybe 1% or 10% less than 10% who'd raise their hand. So here you see Masha Allah, majority knew it. And yet they came for the talk, Alhamdulillah. Maybe they came for the question and answer session. That is the best part of the programme.

Sister as far as Islam is concerned the first guidance given by Al mighty God in the Glorious Qur'an in the last and final revelation to human beings it was not to offer Salaah, it was not to perform Hajj or pilgrimage, it was Iqra... read recite, proclaim. So the first guidance given by Almighty God given in the last and final revelation it was to read, it was education. And that's the reason the major stress that the Muslims should put is on education and Alhamdulillah, the people of the south I know from Kerala and even of Madras, Masha Allah, of Chennai as far as the percentage is concerned in the other parts of India, Alhamdulillah, the Muslims in Kerala are 100% educated. Not Muslims, all Keralites whether Muslim or non-Muslim they're educated. So even culture counts into it. As far as the religion of Islam is concerned, every Muslim, he should be educated. So that's a message for those who are not educated that acquiring education is important and that is the first guidance given by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, in the last and final revelation, the Glorious Qur'an. Hope that answers the question.

Esa Washington: If the sister could please stay at the microphone I'll come back to you after I take a question from the gentleman's side. If you have more questions from the non-Muslims. If there is another sister who has a question, non-Muslim then please allow her to come to the mike and ask her question as well. But until then I'll go with the brother in the front.

Questioner: Good evening again everyone. Ah.. it was amazing to see how much science that the glorious Qur'an contain after your talk. But in most of the examples from the Qur'an which you gave it is very difficult to comprehend what the Qur'an tells before actually the science discovers or invents that particular phenomena. For example, you said in the honey there is healing of humanity in the Qur'an and you

mentioned it as its about may be say if a person is poisoned with a plant, the honey of the plant should be taken so what is the use so say of a Almighty holy scripture talking about things which are only able to comprehend after the real invention is made by science. So can you tell me now something from the Qur'an which will be invented by science later or later be invented?

Dr Zakir Naik: Brother asked a very good question that I have mentioned many things about science indirectly saying all this was already discovered earlier and if Qur'an says something and after science has discovered so what's the use? Can you tell me something which science hasn't discovered? Brother that's the reasons the Arabs were advanced in the field of Astronomy. Why? Because they read the Qur'an. The Qur'an has a lot of information on astronomy. So when they read the Qur'an they try and do more investigation. They do more research and that's how they come to know. Qur'an is a telegraphic message. See the book of science only on one subject. In medicine one subject, requires volumes. So in that way the Qur'an is, this Qur'an most of the human beings they don't like to read. Oh such a big book. So if God Almighty wrote in detail then even a big building, you'll require thousands of buildings to contain the message of the Qur'an. Qur'an is telegraphic message. So in telegraphic message, many of the Muslims they read the Qur'an and they made advances in Science. That's the reason we find if you go back into history. The Muslims are advanced in science and technology but you posed a question, forget about the past, what about today? All what I have mentioned has been discovered earlier but many of them were discovered by Muslims, some by non-Muslims, some by Europeans what about things which science has not discovered? Fine, first I'll tell you those things which science hasn't established but yet there are high chances which Qur'an has testified and I believe in it.

For example, Qur'an says in Surah Shooraa Chapter No. 42 Verse No.29, that:

"It's Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, who has created the creatures in the heavens and in the earth and has placed creatures in them."

So Qur'an says there is life besides this earth. Today science hasn't proved there is life besides this earth, scientists say there are high possibilities that life will be there besides this earth. So they are sending rockets, spaceships, moon, mars. Qur'an says there is life besides this earth, I believe in it. Science may discover it tomorrow, after 5 years, after 10 years, after 100 years. Qur'an says, I believe in it.

Today there are many hypotheses how the world will end. It says that the sun will become big and the world will end, the mountains will fall down, the mountains will become smooth, the oceans will swell up, the world will enter into a black hole, many hypotheses. Many of these hypotheses, not all they match with the Qur'an.

Qur'an says in Surah Qiyaamah Chapter No. 75 Verse No. 8 and 9, that:

"the sun and the moon they will join together, the sun will be buried in darkness."

If you read Surah Takweer Chapter No. 81 Verse no. 1, 2 and 3, it says that:

“The stars will fall down and lose their luster, the mountains will fall down in utter ruin, the oceans will swell up.”

It's mentioned in Surah Infitar Chapter No. 82 Verse No. 1 and 2 and 3 again...

“The oceans will swell up, the stars will fall down”

Similar to many of the hypotheses, but Qur'an says, I believe in it.

Qur'an further says in Surah Anbiya Chapter No. 21 Verse no. 104:

“We have created this creation; We will destroy it and create a new creation.”

Science hasn't discovered that yet. Qur'an speaks about life after death, science hasn't proved that yet. Qur'an speaks about heaven and hell, science hasn't proved about that. Qur'an speaks about Jinn, today physiologies say extra terrestrial power. There are some people who get possessed with Jinns. Qur'an speaks about that.

Qur'an speaks about first man on earth was Adam (pbuh), science hasn't proved. There are high possibilities that science will prove.

Now you may ask me that brother Zakir you gave such a good talk on science and technology with 100% solid proof, you believe in life after death? You believe in Jinn? You believe in Heaven and Hell? You are a doctor, isn't this unscientific? I said no brother, I believe, that it is scientific.

Suppose whatever the Qur'an has mentioned 80% has proved to be 100% correct, I spoke about astronomy, about geology, water cycle, oceanography, botany, biology, zoology. So just hypothetically 80% what the Qur'an has mentioned suppose has been proved to be 100% correct. The remaining 20% is ambiguous, neither right neither wrong. Not even point .1% of that 20% which is ambiguous has been proved to be wrong. There is not a single verse of the Qur'an which can be proved false by established science. Hypothesis... so my logic says when 80% is 100% correct and the remaining 20% is ambiguous but not even point .1% of that 20% is proved wrong. So my logic says that even that 20%, In Sha Allah, will be correct. If not today, tomorrow, after 50 years, after 100 years, after 1000 years, Allahu Alam, God knows. They'll prove there is life after death, they will prove there is Jinn, they will prove there is Hell, they will prove there is Heaven and so on and so forth, I can give another lecture on things which science hasn't proved but In Sha Allah, will prove. Hope that answers the question.

Esa Washington: Thank you for the question. Sister's side if you have an other question from a non-Muslim sister could you please state it.

Vandana: This is the last question from sister Vandana. Your memory and grasping is phenomenal. Is there any mention about better memory power?

Dr Zakir Naik: Sister asked a question that my memory is phenomenal; it's the Grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Is there any verse in the Qur'an which speaks about memory? As far as people keep on asking me that, what is the secret? Do you

have a computer chip? What's the secret? The secret, it is given in the Qur'an. And in my Daw'ah training programme which I take for my students, I say there are 3 things required.

No. 1, The Qur'an says in Surah Aali Imran Chapter No. 3 Verse No.160, that:

"If Allah helps you none can overcome you, if Allah forsakes you, who is there then who can help you? so let the believers put their trust in Allah."

Number 1 is, trust in Allah.

No. 2, the Qur'an says in Surah Ankabut Chapter No. 29 Verse No.69:

"If you strive in the way of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, if you struggle and do Jihad in the way of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, Allah will open up your path ways."

Number 2 is, hard work and...

No. 3 is, Allah says in Surah Anbiya Chapter No. 21 verse no. 7 and Surah Nahl Chapter No. 16 Verse No. 43:

فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

"If you don't know, ask the person who is knowledgeable."

The third is the technique.

The technique which we train in our Daw'ah training programme, people ask me brother Zakir what is the technique? I tell that's the third and the least important. Number 1 is faith in Allah, with all your techniques in the world. You know many of my students have done MBA and memorizing technique... triangle and horse. I don't know whether you know about the triangle technique and this and that and pegging. Initially they are good students, towards the end they come at the bottom. Allah's help is the best. Better than any pegging or any triangle or anything No. 1. How do you get Allah's help? If you strive in his way. You strive in his way, you have to get success. If you don't get success you are not striving correctly in the way of Allah Subhanahu Wa ta'ala.

Regarding technique of memory etc. that is least important we have a training course, where we have a 40 days training course, where we train people and Masha Allah, you'll be shocked that even my students, Alhamdulillah, they quote Chapter No. ... Verse No., Chapter No. ... Verse No. We have Da'wah training programme where we students from different parts of the world and we train them in how to give lectures, how to handle question and answer session. It's training and hard work.

As far as the verse of the Qur'an is concerned before the beginning of my talk I always quote a verse of the Qur'an from Surah Taa Ha Chapter No. 20 Verse No. 25 to 28, which says:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

This was the Dua when Almighty God, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, tells to Moses, that go and deliver the message and before delivering the message, Moses who was a stutter, he used to stammer. And those who know me personally even I was a stammerer when I was a child and in my dream, a person can dream anything in the world. In my dream I could have dreamt of becoming the best surgeon in the world but I couldn't have dreamt of speaking in front of 25 people because I was a stammerer. People used to ask me what is your name, my name is Za.. za.. za.. za...Zakir, that was me. Now coming in the way of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, maybe it was 10-15 years back when I got involved in the field of Da'wah. When I started doing Da'wah, stammering wasn't there. When I spoke with Christian missionaries stammering used to vanish. I never thought of becoming a speaker. I came on the stage because my colleague was cold feet, I came, it clicked. And now I'm on the stage. And now by Allah's grace I give lectures to tens of thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of people, the largest gathering is a million people live, Alhamdulillah.

That comes back to the verse of the Qur'an. When Moses was asked by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, to deliver the message to Firaun and his people he read a Dua, a Dua, a prayer from...

Surah Taha Chapter No. 20 Verse No. 25 to 28, which says:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

“Oh my Lord expand my breast for me, expand my center for me”

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

“And make my task easy for me”

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي

يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

“And remove the impediment from my speech”

Because Musa Alaihis Salaam, was a stammerer, I also was a stammerer, remove the impediment from my speech so that they will understand me. So the people to whom I'm delivering the message, I ask Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, to expand my breast for me, to make my task easy for me, remove the impediment from my speech so that the people will understand me. So this is the Dua which can also be

used for memory but the main is having faith in Allah, second is striving hard and third is technique. Hope that answers the question.

Esa Washington: That would be the last question for the evening and with that we would like to end this, the second night of the 10 day international conference and exhibition brought to you by Peace vision of Islam for harmony, awareness and education. JazakAllah Khair for your attendance.