



AL HIDAAYAH

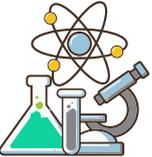
الهداية

The Guidance for Humanity

Based on the Glorious Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

STUDY GUIDE




Islam
SCIENCE
Part 2

BY DR ZAGHLOUL AL NAJJAR

From the series:
ISLAM AND SCIENCE

COURSE OUTLINE



■ Course Topics

1. The existence of oceanic currents
2. Existence of life deep within the ocean depths
3. The truth about oceans burning
4. Solving the issues of mankind
5. The similitude of mountains as pegs
6. Mountains – the stabilizers for Earth
7. Ka’bah – the center of Earth
8. Physical signs testifying the blessings of Makkah
9. Man’s primary sources of knowledge
10. The description of earthquakes in the Qur’an
11. The miracle of chlorophyll
12. The health benefits of olives
13. The plants as a source of energy

■ Course Objectives

1. Learn and understand about the various scientific miracles mentioned in the Qur’an
2. Learn about the primary sources of knowledge for man

COURSE OUTLINE



■ Question & Answer Bucket

■ Transcripts

■ Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions
Match the Columns
True or False

■ Course Duration

Video	–	2 hours 20 min
Study Guide	–	45 min
Assessment	–	10 min
Total Duration	–	3 hours 15 min

Lesson 1

Seas and Oceans

in the Qur'an and Sunnah





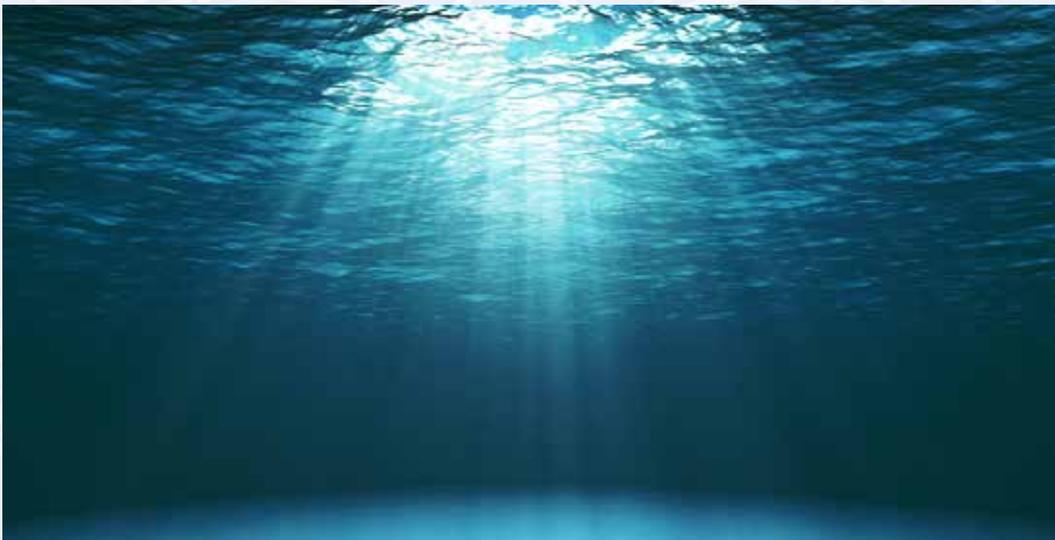
1

THE EXISTENCE of oceanic currents



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

Al Qur'an 24:40



The above verse describes the evil deeds of unbelievers using the similitude of layers of darkness at the bottom of the oceans, which is quite unique because it is one of the greatest scientific discoveries of man many years after the Qur'an was revealed.



Mankind has recently (towards the latest decades of the 20th century) discovered that the bottoms of the vast deep oceans are submerged in absolute darkness because of the inability of the sun rays to reach so deep into them.

The Qur'an explains that it is layers of darkness topped by layers, that is layers of waves topped by other waves, topped by clouds, and if one was to stretch out their hands in this darkness, they would not be able to see it.



Until 1950, none of the scientists or oceanographers believed in the possibility of the existence of currents within the water body. They believed that we have surface currents, surface waves, and further divided them into wind driven currents and tidal currents. It was only after the middle part of the 20th century, that oceanographers began to realise about the existence of oceanic currents (currents within the water body).



They further discovered that the light coming from the sun, 49% of its rays are reflected by the clouds. The remaining 51%, most of it is used up in the evaporation of the water for the enhancement of the water cycle, and only 10% of the rays penetrate the water body. Of this 10% too, according to different wavelengths, the rays (red being the shortest – absorbed at ten meters) are absorbed by the waves of the waterbody accordingly, and only 1% of the rays penetrate past the 100 meters level, and once we reach the oceanic currents, nothing can penetrate past them at all, leading to complete darkness.





2

EXISTENCE OF LIFE deep within the ocean depths



Further, the verse ending with ‘For any to whom Allah gives not light, there is no light,’ is not only a metaphoric expression explaining that anybody living on the surface of the planet can never be guided without receiving the divine guidance because man is in need of revealed knowledge as much as he needs the acquired knowledge, but also the explanation for another scientific wonder.



Oceanographers and scientists had always claimed that life is impossible at the greatest depths of seas and oceans because of the absolute darkness and water pressure deep under for any living being to withstand, but in recent times after the development of submarines and venturing down in the oceans, they were surprised to find a flourishing life much greater in size than the life in the upper 100 meters of the oceans.



After multiple researches and experiments, they found that each animal living in that darkness had a certain chemical compound and hormone in it that when the two mixed, the animal was able to illuminate itself and light up its way.

So, the verse 'For any to whom Allah gives not light, there is no light' though mentioned in a metaphoric way, is an absolute perfect explanation for the scientific wonders mentioned hundreds of years before mankind discovered it.

Lesson 2

The Sea

set on a Blaze





3

THE TRUTH about oceans burning



“And [by] the sea filled [with fire].”

Al Qur’an 52:6



Allah (swt) is far above his creation in status and does not need to swear an oath to them, but His swearing an oath for certain things is a way of directing our attention to the importance of the matter by which the oath is given.



Since water and fire are incompatible (water quenches the fire and fire evaporates water), the Arabs were unable to understand the scientific meaning (how water and fire coexist without one annihilating the other?) behind this verse due to their lack of knowledge about such matters.

They tried to understand the verse in the context and knowledge available to them.

Rather than understanding the word 'Masjoor' as something heated, they understood its alternate meaning as 'filled with water and restrained from further encroachment over land', with an explanation that Allah (swt) has stored a great quantity of that water on the two poles of the earth and on top of the peaks of mountains, so that there exists enough space for life to exist, plants, animals and humans.





However, recently when scientists began diving to the bottoms of the seas and oceans, they were surprised to know that all oceans are physically set on a blaze. Since the thickness of the crust under the seas and oceans is very thin (ranging between five to eight kilometres), and most oceans lie their axile part on deep rifts (depth of rifts ranging between 65 kilometres to 150 kilometres). When this crust is penetrated by deep falls, the troughs penetrate the outer rocky cover of the earth reaching the zone of weakness where rocks are in a semi molten stage at temperatures more than 1000 degrees centigrade causing magma and lava to gush out in millions of tons to infill these troughs and creating a mid-oceanic region. When the magma and lava make contact with the water, it causes the water to evaporate. The vapours come out to find a cold zone of water and condenses coming back to quench that magma a little bit, so that the new magma can come out and the cycle goes on making all the oceans of the time to be physically set on a blaze.





Water at the depths of the oceans has very low temperatures, and therefore Allah (swt) created volcanic activity at the bottoms of oceans and seas, to warm this water for life at these great depths of seas and oceans, which is why we usually find life binding around these volcanic events.





4 SOLVING THE issues of mankind



The differences between Muslims and non-Muslims are mainly concentrated around two issues:

i

They do not believe that the Qur'an is revealed by God

ii

They do not believe in the prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh)



If we are able to solve these two issues using the language that people understand (currently being the scientific language due to the age of science and technology), many of the problems of the world we live in today could be solved.



Let alone diving to the bottoms of the seas and oceans, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) never rode the sea in his lifetime. Who other than Allah (swt) could have informed him about such scientific miracles in the Qur'an long before humanity discovered them?

The only divine guidance in the hands of man today is the Qur'an and the Sunnah (traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)), making it an obligation on every Muslim capable of carrying that message to others to convey it to them in the only language they can understand.



“Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for your Lord knows best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.”

Al Qur'an 16:125

Lesson 3

Mountains

in the Qur'an and Sunnah





5

THE SIMILITUDE of mountains as pegs



“Have We not made the earth as a wide expanse,
And the mountains as pegs?”

Al Qur'an 78:6-7



Geology has proved that initially the Earth started with a very rugged topography, after which Allah (swt) through His knowledge, wisdom, and might created wind, running water, gravity, plants and animals to level the earth's topography to become accessible and suited to man. This process took place billions of years before the creation of man, and when man was created, they found the earth as an easily accessible expanse.



Allah (swt) addresses the unbelievers by showing His might, knowledge and wisdom that He made the earth which had a very rugged topography into an easily accessible level expanse proving that the universe is in need of a Creator and Sustainer for it.

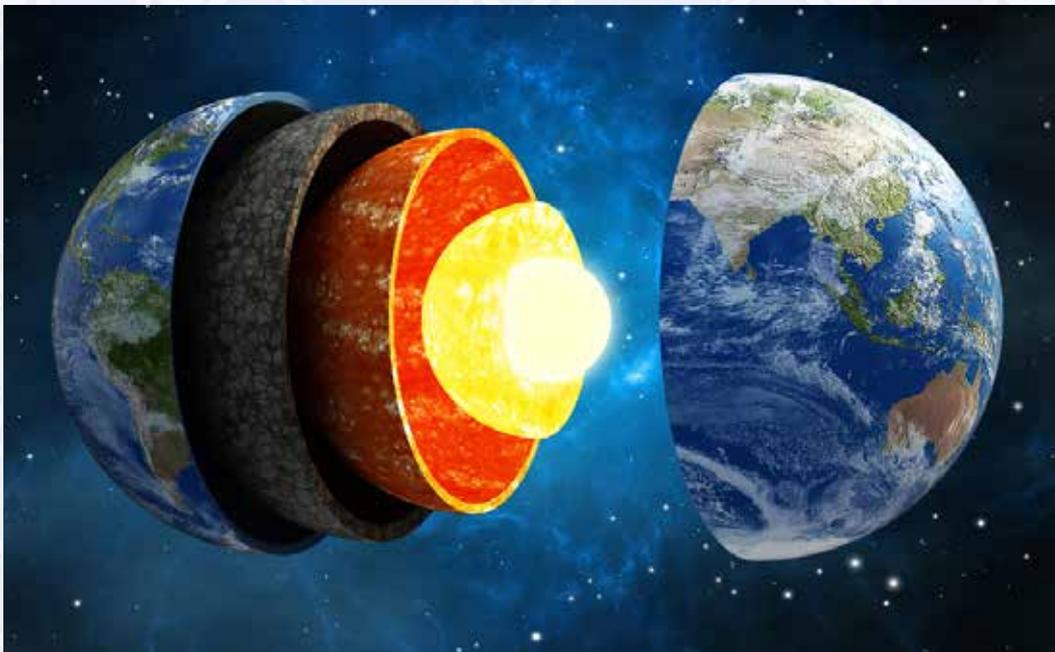
Further, the second verse describing the mountains as pegs is another proof of the Qur'an's scientific miracles.

Recent geological discoveries have proved that mountains are similar to pegs, wherein the greater part of a mountain is deeply buried in the ground, and only a small part of it (around 1/10th of that length) is exposed above the ground surface to simulate the function of holding down and stabilising the Earth exactly like that of a peg or the picket that holds the sides of a tent firmly to the ground.





When the Earth was initially created, there was a single continent known as Pangea, or the mother continent which was later split into plates. The outer rocky layer of the Earth and the oceanic bottom split into plates that are floating on top of a semi molten layer called the zone of weakness or Asthenosphere.



As the Earth rotates around its own axis, these plates glide towards and away from each other, but since this movement was very fast at the beginning of the creation, it would not allow any soil to accumulate, any plant or grow, or any elemental exist, making life virtually impossible during the early stages of creation.

It was only when Allah (swt) created the mountains, it helped link the content and mass with the ocean bottom, bringing this motion to a big halt and making the Earth suitable for life.



However, up until the year 1990, all available sources of knowledge and reference would describe the mountains as surface protrusions only. Nobody knew anything about the fact that these mountains actually had a much greater part of them buried deeply in the ground.

Only towards the last few decades of the 20th century, did mankind realise that mountains are deeply buried in the ground, and the so-called mountain roots are actually 10 to 15 times the length of the mountain's elevations above sea level.



6

MOUNTAINS – the stabilizers for Earth



“And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and rivers and roads; that you may guide yourselves.”

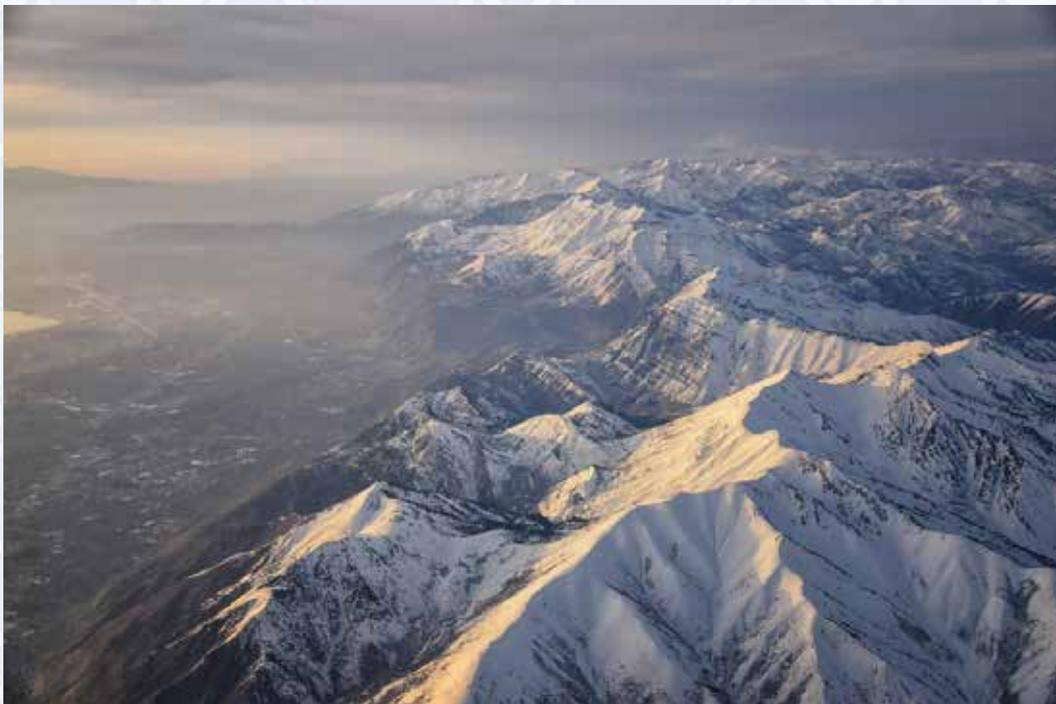
Al Qur'an 16:15



Allah (swt) describes the mountains as stabilizers for the Earth, to prevent it from shaking swiftly and preventing the existence of life due to instability.



We know that the breakage of the Continental masses and the oceanic floor into a large number of plates and their movement of drifting from each other before the creation of mountains was much faster than the rate of movement today, only after the creation of mountains as stabilizers life flourished.



So, Allah (swt) is showing His bounties upon man by civilizing the continental masses of mountains and using them as a means of dropping rain, which runs down cutting channels in them, and levels the ground making deltas and planes, so that the earth would be easily accessible to man.

Lesson 4

Makkah

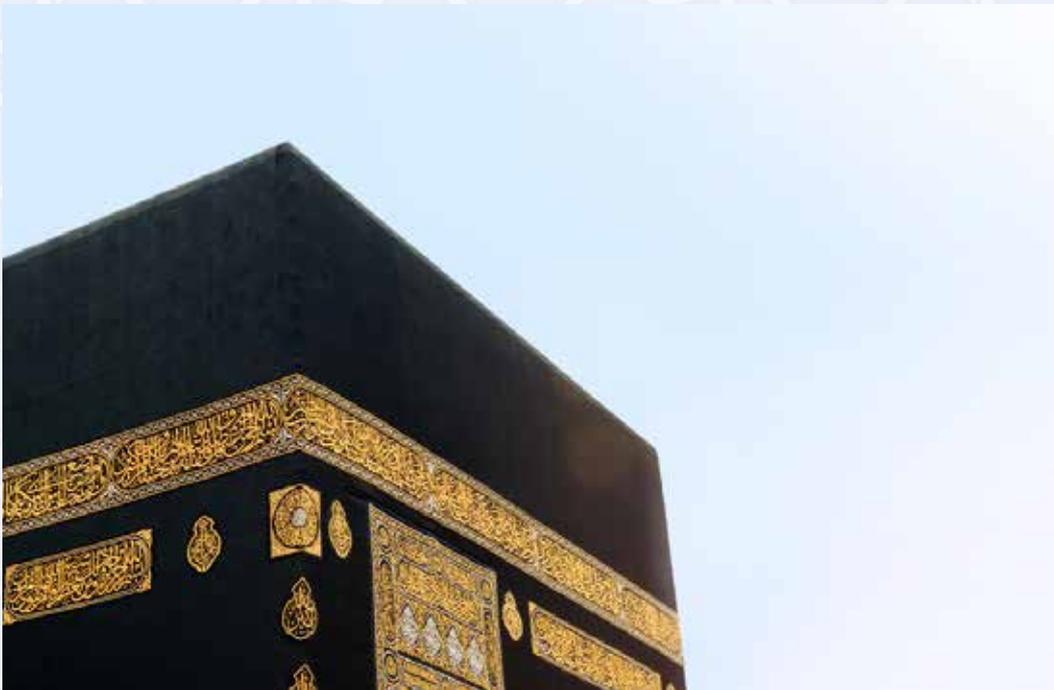
The Holy City





7

KA'BAH – the center of Earth



The Prophet (pbuh) said that the Ka'bah was a prominence above water, and from that prominence all the landmass was created through volcanic activity.

Modern science has recently proved what we knew through the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Muhammad (pbuh) long back, that all the continental masses were actually created from a single volcanic island and that Makkah was the oldest piece of land mass created by Allah (swt).



“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur’an 3:96



The Arabic word ‘Bakka’ mentioned in the above verse is another name for Makkah.

Further, the Qur’an explains that the Ka’bah wasn’t built by man, but rather built by angels at the moment of creation of this universe, several hundreds of billions of years before the creation of man, and the very first creation that circumambulated the Ka’bah were the angels.



Also, if we draw a circle circumambulating the Ka'bah, it encompasses every single landmass on the planet, both physically and materially proving the centrality of the Ka'bah with respect to the landmasses.





8

PHYSICAL SIGNS

testifying the blessings of Makkah



“In it are Signs Manifest; (for example), the Station of Abraham; whoever enters it attains security; Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to Allah,- those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures.”

Al Qur'an 3:97



Further, the Qur'an mentions about the physical signs therein that can testify for the blessings of Makkah. Among the signs that are mentioned are:

i

Maqaam Ibraheem – The piece of stone that has the imprints of Ibrahim's (pbuh) feet when he stood upon it while raising the foundations of the Ka'bah.

ii

Hajr Al Aswad – The Black stone, which the Prophet (pbuh) described as a stone from Jannah (Paradise).





Among some of the other physical signs in Makkah that can testify to the holiness of that place to any sane person are:

i

The well of Zamzam – Generally for water to be stored in such huge quantity in the rocks, they must be highly porous and permeable. But, water has been flowing from the well of Zamzam for more than 4000 years, and comes from highly impervious and impermeable igneous and metamorphic rocks that do not have any porosity.





ii

The four corners of the Ka'bah – All the four corners of the Ka'bah are in the four principal directions, the true east, the true west, true north and the true south. Also, the longitude of the Ka'bah is the only longitude that points to the exact north (the magnetic north and the geographic north coinciding with each other), and this is a unique case that cannot be applied to any other spot on the surface of our planet.

Lesson 5

Earthquake

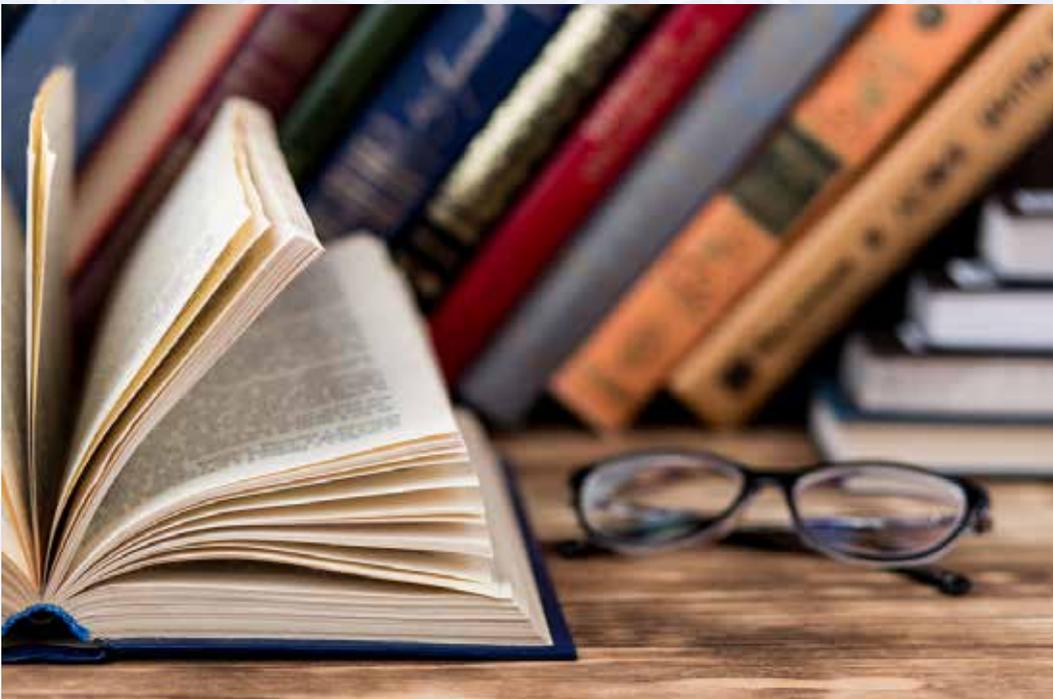
In the Qur'an and Sunnah





9

MAN'S PRIMARY sources of knowledge



Any knowledge that man gains is acquired from either of the two sources –

i

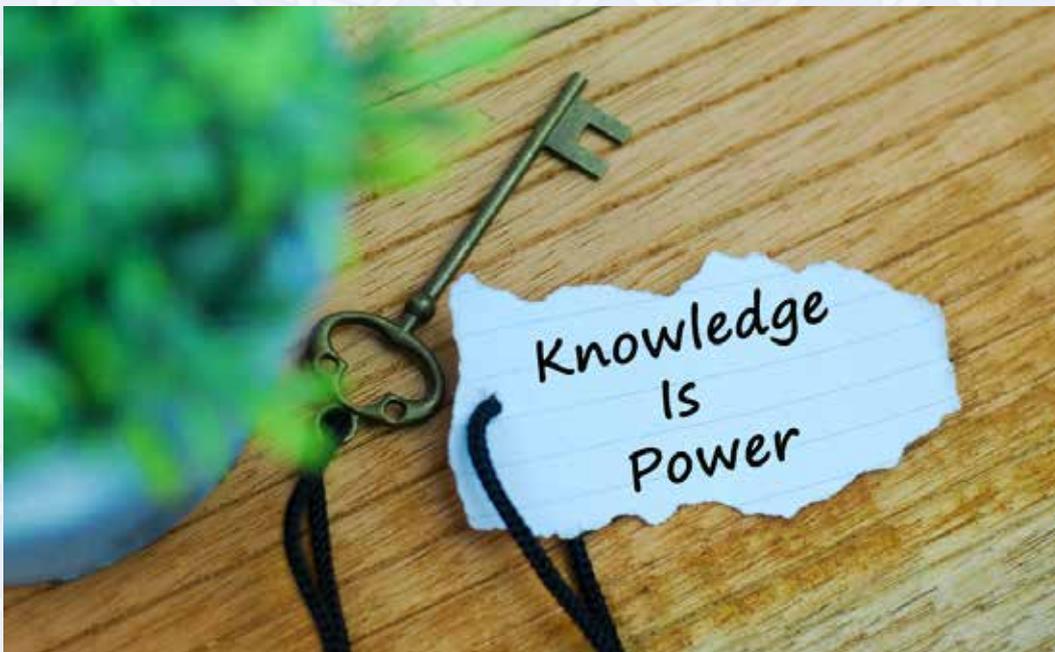
Revealed knowledge – Divine knowledge from God in areas that cannot be clearly addressed by the man.

ii

Acquired knowledge – Knowledge acquired by man through experimenting and learning.



And both these sources of knowledge must be integrated for the betterment of life, because acquired knowledge can help man to be a good vicegerent on earth, and the revealed knowledge helps him understand his/her true message in this world.



Also, the scientific notions mentioned in the Qur'an and the Sunnah did not come as pieces of scientific information for mankind, but rather in the context of testifying to the might, knowledge, and wisdom of the Creator. It testifies to the fact that as He created everything out of nothingness, He is capable of annihilating everything to nothingness, and resurrecting it back again.



10

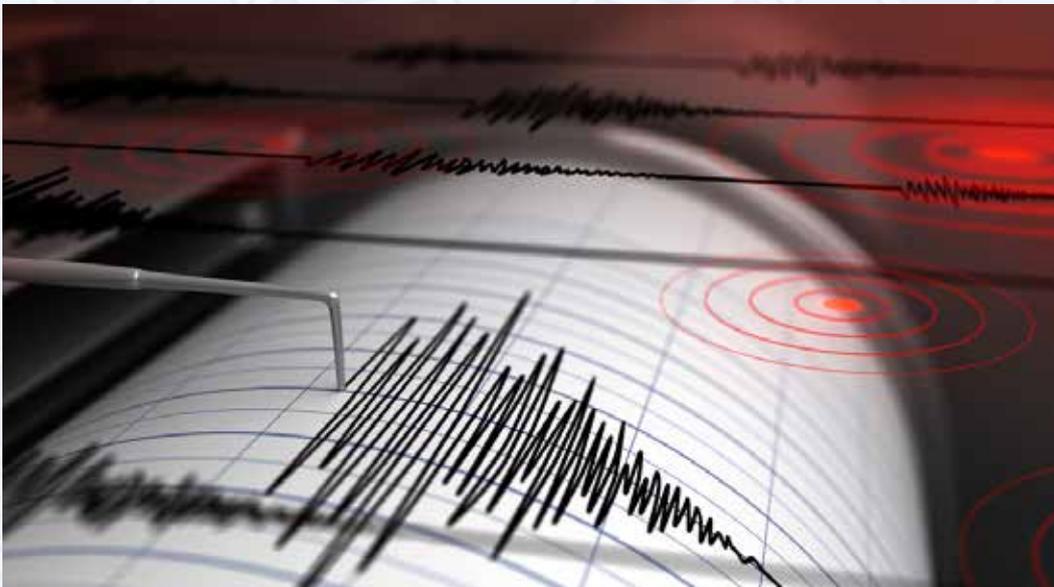
THE DESCRIPTION

of earthquakes in the Qur'an



“Those before them did also plot (against Allah's Way): but Allah took their structures from their foundations, and the roof fell down on them from above; and the Wrath seized them from directions they did not perceive.”

Al Qur'an 16:26



Adhering to the Islamic outlook, the Qur'an tells us that most of the natural catastrophes and disasters are the net product of man's misbehaviour.



Allah (swt) can instruct these natural disasters to strike anywhere, at any time, and at a certain people as a punishment for ill-doers, and a test for the righteous, also to serve as a good reminder to those who can be saved after the disaster.



The Prophet (pbuh) was asked:

“Shall we be destroyed while there are people who are Salih (righteous) amongst us?” The Messenger of Allah (pbuh), said, “Yes, if there is much wickedness.”





“Do then those who devise evil (plots) feel secure that Allah will not cause the earth to swallow them up, or that the Wrath will not seize them from directions they little perceive?

Or that He may not call them to account in the midst of their goings to and fro, without a chance of their frustrating Him?

Or that He may not call them to account by a process of slow wastage - for your Lord is indeed full of kindness and mercy.”

Al Qur'an 16:45-47



Though man may claim that he/she understands the mechanism of how an earthquake or volcanic eruption takes place, but we fail to realise that we have no say in their occurrence. Allah (swt) can impose His punishment on the evildoers anytime He wishes, and no one can stand in His way. Yet, people never seem to learn their lesson until a disaster/punishment strikes them.



Adhering to the Islamic outlook, the Qur'an tells us that most of the natural catastrophes and disasters are the net product of man's misbehaviour.



“Those before them did also plot (against Allah's Way): but Allah took their structures from their foundations, and the roof fell down on them from above; and the Wrath seized them from directions they did not perceive.”

Al Qur'an 16:26



The above verse is the best example of how an earthquake occurs. The seismic waves strike upon all the foundations of the structure causing it to weaken and collapse.



Finally, the notion of earthquakes in the Qur'an is mentioned in two contexts;

i

The earthquakes that occur in this world, causing destruction in the world.

ii

The earthquakes preceding the day of judgement, the discussion and description of which is beyond human imagination.



Lesson 6

Plants

in the Glorious Qur'an





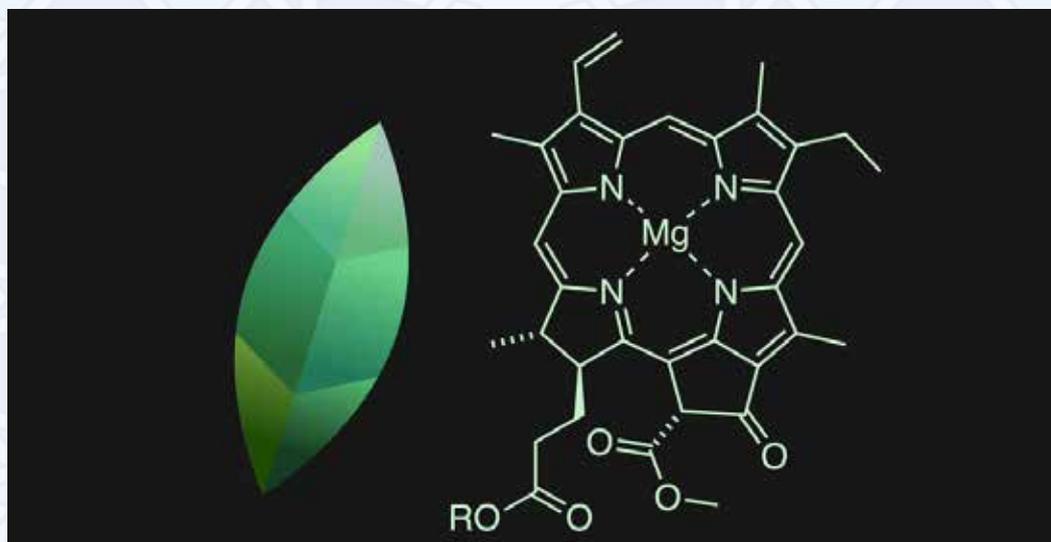
11

THE MIRACLE of chlorophyll



“And He is the One Who sends down rain from the sky — causing all kinds of plants to grow — producing green stalks from which We bring forth clustered grain. And from palm trees come clusters of dates hanging within reach.”

Al Qur'an 6:99



It is only recently that mankind discovered that the green pigment in plants known as chlorophyll is one of the greatest secrets of the creation of plants. It is due to this pigment that the plants have the capacity to store the solar energy from the sun, water from the humid air and soil, and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



This solar energy is then utilised to analyse carbon dioxide and water to their initial components (i.e. carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen), from which the carbon and hydrogen are retained and oxygen is released for the breathing of humans and animals. Further, it combines the carbon atom with the hydrogen atoms using solar energy to form chemical bonds that can produce a long chain of carbohydrates, including many kinds of sugars, starch, and cellulosic material.



12

THE HEALTH

benefits of Olives



“Also a tree springing out of Mount Sinai, which produces oil, and relish for those who use it for food.”

Al Qur'an 23:20



The above verse points toward the origins of the olive tree (Mount Sinai), its importance and its health benefits (that olive oil is the only oil with this quality proving to be a very important oil for human beings because it reduces the bad cholesterol and enriches the good cholesterol in the human body).



“By the Fig and the Olive, And the Mount of Sinai.”

Al Qur’an 95:1-2



Further, in another verse of the Qur’an, Allah (swt) swears an oath by the olives and figs, directing our attention to their importance.

The enzyme ‘fincin’, responsible for the safety and healthy nature of the human body is not found in any other fruit except the fig fruit.



13

THE PLANTS

as a source of energy



“The same Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, when behold! you kindle therewith (your own fires!)”

Al Qur'an 36:80



Allah addresses the unbelievers who negate the resurrection after death, accountability for their actions, and eternity in life to come to look at the green tree, a living entity out of which He has created an energy source for humans.



Early commentators explained that if one uses two branches of certain trees (Al Markh Wal 'lfaar) and strikes them together, a spark can be generated, and from that a fire. Further on, it was explained that even dry wood or the dry ash of the tree as a source of energy.

Recently, it was also discovered that torrential currents carry plants and deposit them along the shorelines, causing them to be buried down under for many years and getting converted into coal deposits. Also, if the heat and pressure are increased on the coal, it changes into gas or can be gasified to get cold gas.



Question and Answer Bucket





Q1

Mention the scientific research regarding the beneficial properties of fig and olives together.

Answer

During certain scientific research in Japan, an Egyptian student directed the attention of his professor to the fact of olives and figs being mentioned in the Qur'an in a certain proportion (olives mentioned seven times and the fig mentioned only once).

Generating curiosity in the student and the professor, they started experimenting with mixing seven quantities of olive oil to one quantity of fig and used it for treating several diseases.

They were surprised to find that this mixture was an excellent cure for many diseases, including cancer, and also lead the Japanese researcher to embrace Islam, Alhamdulillah.



Q2

What are the major points of differences between the Muslims and the non-Muslims concentrated on?

Answer

The differences between Muslims and non-Muslims are mainly concentrated around two issues:

i

The unbelievers reject the belief that the Qur'an is the word of Allah (swt), but rather claim that Muhammad (pbuh) wrote it himself or copied it from other religious scriptures.

ii

The unbelievers reject the prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh) and claim that he was a man just like any of them.



Q3

Explain the effect of Hajj on a Muslim's life.

Answer

Allah (swt) has made Hajj (pilgrimage) an Islamic obligation on every sane, adult, free, capable Muslim man or woman for at least once in his/her lifetime.

The idea to bring every Muslim to the most holy place on the surface of the planet, during the Most Holy 10 days of the year so that their good deeds can be multiplied many folds is a renovation of the Muslims life by reminding them of the fact that death is a reality of our time.

Dressing in Al Ihram is symbolising the piece of cloth in which a dead body is shrouded and covered, and the circumambulation of the Ka'bah is conforming to the movement in the universe. Every single creation in the universe is moving in that direction, and this conformity can bring a lot of blessings to the human being.



Further, the rest of the acts of Hajj are a symbolisation of the resurrection after death and gathering for the Day of Judgment. Standing in the plain of Arafat symbolises exactly the stand on the Day of Judgment and waiting for the judgment of every one of us.

The movement into eternity in life will come either in Paradise forever or in Hell forever, and going back to life is a process of purification of every Muslim man and woman who has performed this pilgrimage in the way recommended by Allah and by His messenger (pbuh).

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