



QUESTION AND ANSWER BUCKET

Q & A

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Q1 There were many versions of the Qur'an, all of which were burnt by Uthmaan (ra) except for one. Therefore, is it not true that the present Qur'an is the one compiled by Uthmaan (ra) and not the original revelation of God?

Answer

It is completely wrong to say that there were several versions of the Qur'an, and Uthmaan (ra) burnt all the different versions after authenticating and compiling one Qur'an. There was only one Qur'an that was authenticated and compiled under the personal supervision of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

1 **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself supervised and authenticated the written texts of the Qur'an**

Whenever the Prophet (pbuh) received a revelation, he would first memorise it himself and later declare the revelation and instruct his Companions who would also memorise it. The Prophet (pbuh) would immediately ask the scribes to write down the revelation he had received, and he would reconfirm and recheck it himself. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an Ummi i.e., one who could not read and write. Therefore, after receiving each revelation, he would repeat it to his Companions.



They would write down the revelation, and he would recheck it by asking them to read what they had written. If there was any mistake, the Prophet (pbuh) would immediately point it out and have it corrected and rechecked. Similarly, he would even recheck and authenticate the portions of the Qur'an memorised by the Companions. In this way, the complete Qur'an was written down under the personal supervision of the Prophet (pbuh).

2 Order and sequence of the Qur'an was divinely inspired

The complete Qur'an was revealed over a period of 22½ years portion by portion, as, and when it was required. The Qur'an was not compiled by the Prophet (pbuh) in the chronological order of revelation. The order and sequence of the Qur'an too was Divinely inspired and was instructed to the Prophet (pbuh) by Allah (swt) through Archangel Jibreel. Whenever a revelation was conveyed to his companions, the Prophet (pbuh) would also mention in which Surah (Chapter) and after which Aayah (Verse) this new revelation should fit.

Every Ramadhaan all the portions of the Qur'an that had been revealed, including the order of the Verses, were revised, and reconfirmed by the Prophet (pbuh) with Archangel Jibreel.

During the last Ramadhaan, before the demise of the Prophet (pbuh), the Qur'an was rechecked and reconfirmed twice.



It is therefore clear that the Qur'an was compiled and authenticated by the Prophet (pbuh) himself during his lifetime, both in the written form as well as in the memory of several of his Companions.

3} Qur'an copied on one common material

The complete Qur'an, along with the correct sequence of the Verses, was present during the time of the Prophet (pbuh). The Verses, however, were written on separate pieces, scrapes of leather, thin flat stones, leaflets, palm branches, shoulder blades of camels, etc. After the demise of the Prophet (pbuh), Abu Bakr (ra), the first caliph of Islam ordered that the Qur'an be copied from the various materials on to a common material and place, which was in the shape of sheets. These were tied with strings so that nothing of the compilation would be lost.

4} Uthmaan (ra) made copies of the Qur'an from the original manuscript

During the period of Uthmaan (ra), the third Caliph of Islam, disputes arose about the correct manner of reciting the Qur'an, due to different dialects. Since Islam had spread into different regions, the pronunciation of the Qur'an differed in different regions. Hence the need arose to circulate the correct text, pronunciation, and dialect of the Qur'an in different parts of the world.



Many Companions of the Prophet (pbuh) used to write down the revelation of the Qur'an on their own whenever they heard it from the lips of the Prophet (pbuh). However, what they wrote was not personally verified by the Prophet (pbuh) and thus could contain mistakes. All the Verses revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) may not have been heard personally by all the Companions. There were high possibilities of different portions of the Qur'an being missed by different Companions.

Uthmaan (ra) borrowed the original manuscript of the Qur'an, which was authorised by the beloved Prophet (pbuh), from Hafsa (ra), the Prophet's wife. Uthmaan (ra) ordered the four Companions who were among the scribes who wrote the Qur'an when the Prophet (pbuh) dictated it, led by Zaid bin Thabit (ra) to rewrite the script in several perfect copies. These were sent by Uthmaan (ra) to the main centers of Muslims. Uthmaan (ra) only appealed to the people to destroy all those copies which did not match the original manuscript of the Qur'an in order to preserve the original text of the Qur'an. Two such copies of the copied text of the original Qur'an authenticated by the Prophet (pbuh) are yet present to this day, one at the museum in Tashkent in erstwhile Soviet Union and the other at the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul, Turkey.



5 Diacritical marks were added for non-Arabs

The original manuscript of the Qur'an does not have the signs indicating the vowels in Arabic script. These vowels are known as Tashkil, Zabar, Zair, Paish in Urdu and as Fathah, Dhamma and Kasra in Arabic. The Arabs did not require the vowel signs and diacritical marks for correct pronunciation of the Qur'an since it was their mother tongue. For Muslims of non-Arab origin, however, it was difficult to recite the Qur'an correctly without the vowels. These marks were introduced into the Qur'anic script during the time of the fifth 'Umayyad' Caliph, Abdul Malik bin Marwaan (66-86 Hijri / 685-705 CE) and during the governorship of Al Hajjaaj in Iraq.

Some people argue that the present copy of the Qur'an that we have along with the vowels and the diacritical marks is not the same original Qur'an that was present at the Prophet's time. But they fail to realise that the word 'Qur'an' means a recitation. Therefore, the preservation of the recitation of the Qur'an is important, irrespective of whether the script is different or whether it contains vowels. If the pronunciation and the Arabic are the same, naturally, the meaning remains the same too.



6 Allah Himself has promised to guard the Qur'an

Allah has promised in the Qur'an:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ



“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly Guard it (from corruption).”

Al Qur'an 15:9



Q2

Why do certain Surahs in the Qur'an begin with 'Alif Laam Meem', 'Haa Meem', 'Yaa Seen' and what is the significance of such terms or phrases?

Answer

1 Abbreviated Letters

Alif Laam Meem, Yaa Seen, Haa Meem, etc. are known as Al-Muqatt'aat i.e. the abbreviated letters. There are 29 letters in the Arabic Alphabet (if Hamza and Alif are considered as two letters) and there are 29 Surahs i.e. Chapters in the Glorious Qur'an that have the abbreviated letters prefixed to them. These abbreviated letters sometimes occur singly, sometimes in a combination of two letters and sometimes in a combination of three, four or five letters.

a Three Surahs are prefixed with only one letter:

- i Surah Saad Chapter 38 with Saad
- ii Surah Qaaf Chapter 50 with Qaaf
- iii Surah Noon or Al Qalam Chapter 68 with Noon



b The combination of two letters occurs in ten Surahs:

Three of them occur only once each:

- i** Surah Taa Haa Chapter 20 has Taa Haa
- ii** Surah An Naml Chapter 27 has Taa Seen
- iii** Surah Yaa Seen Chapter 36 has Yaa Seen

Haa Meem occurs in seven consecutive Surahs from Surah 40 to Surah 46:

- i** Surah Ghaafir or Al Mu'min Chapter 40
- ii** Surah Fussilat or Haa Meem Chapter 41
- iii** Surah Ash Shoora Chapter 42
- iv** Surah Az Zukhruf Chapter 43
- v** Surah Ad Dukhaan Chapter 44
- vi** Surah Al Jaathiyah Chapter 45
- vii** Surah Al Ahqaaf Chapter 46



C There are three combinations of three letters each occurring in 13 Surahs.

Alif Laam Meem occurs in six Surahs:

- i** Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2
- ii** Surah Aali 'Imran Chapter 3
- iii** Surah Al 'Ankaboot Chapter 29
- iv** Surah Ar Room Chapter 30
- v** Surah Luqmaan Chapter 31
- vi** Surah As Sajdah Chapter 32

Alif Laam Ra occurs in five Surahs from Surah 10 to Surah 15 except Surah 13:

- i** Surah Yoonus Chapter 10
- ii** Surah Hood Chapter 11
- iii** Surah Yoosuf Chapter 12
- iv** Surah Ibraaheem Chapter 14
- v** Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15



Taa Seen Meem occurs in two Surahs:

- i Surah Ash Shu'araa Chapter 26
- ii Surah Al Qasas Chapter 28

d Combination of four letters occurs twice:

- i Surah Al A'raaf Chapter 7: Alif Laam Meem Saad
- ii Surah Ar Raa'd Chapter 13: Alif Laam Meem Raa

e Combination of five letters occurs twice:

- i Surah Maryam Chapter 19 begins with Kaaf Haa Yaa 'Ayn Saad
- ii Surah Ash Shoora Chapter 42 begins with Haa Meem 'Ayn Seen Qaaf

Surah Ash Shoora Chapter 42 has a double combination of abbreviated letters, one set of two letters followed by one set of three letters.



2 Meanings of these abbreviated letters

The meaning and purpose of these letters is uncertain. There have been a variety of explanations offered by Muslim scholars through the ages. A few among them are:

- i** These letters might be abbreviations for certain sentences and words for instance, Alif Laam Meem means 'Ana-Allahu-a'Lam' or Noon meaning Noor (light), etc.
- ii** These letters are not abbreviations but symbols and names of Allah or something else.
- iii** These letters were used for rhyming.
- iv** These letters have some numerical significance as the semitic letters also have numerical values.
- v** These letters were used to attract the attention of the Prophet (and later his audience). Several volumes have been written on the significance of these abbreviations.



3 Best explanation of abbreviated letters

Of all the explanations given by various scholars, the one which is authentic and also supported by Tafsir of Ibn Katheer, Zamakshari and Ibn Taiyimiyyah (ra) is the following:

The human body, clay and dust are composed of the same fundamental elements. Yet it would be absurd to say that a human being is exactly the same as the dust. We can all go to the market and purchase or have access to the elements that are found in the human body and add a few gallons of water. This is the constitution of the human body. We know the elements in the human body and yet we cannot understand the secret of life.

Similarly, the Qur'an addresses those people who reject its Divine authority. It tells them that this Qur'an, is in your own language, and composed of the same letter over which the Arabs took pride. The Arabs were very proud of their language and Arabic was at its peak when the Qur'an was revealed. With the letters Alif Laam Meem, Yaa Seen, Haa-Meem, etc., (in English we would say A, B, C, D) the Qur'an challenges mankind to produce a Surah at least somewhat similar to the Qur'an in beauty and eloquence, if they doubt its authenticity.



Initially, the Qur'an challenges all the men and Jinn to produce a recital like the Qur'an and adds that they would not be able to do it even if they back each other. This challenge is mentioned in Surah Al Israa' Chapter 17 Verse 88 and in Surah Al Toor Chapter 52 Verse 34. Later the Qur'an repeats the challenge in Surah Hood Chapter 11 Verse 13 by saying produce ten Surahs like it and later in Surah Yunus Chapter 10 Verse 38 produce one Surah like it and finally the easiest challenge is given in Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verses 23 and 24.

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ
وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ
فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ ۖ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ



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

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

Al Qur'an 2:23-24



To compare the skill of two artisans, they must be given samples of the same raw material and their performance is evaluated in performing the same task. If they are tailors, they must be provided with the same fabrics.

The raw materials of the Arabic language are these letters Alif Laam Meem, Yaa Seen (in English it is A, B, C, D, etc.) The miraculous nature of the language of the Qur'an does not lie only in the fact that it is the Word of Allah, but also in the fact that although it is made up of the same letters in which the pagan Arabs took pride, it has not been rivalled. The Arabs are noted for their rhetoric ability, eloquence, and meaningful expression. Just as the constituents of the human body are known to us and can be obtained by us, the letters comprising the Qur'an, such as Alif Laam Meem are known to us, and used frequently to formulate words. Life cannot be created by us, even if we possess knowledge of the constituents of the human body. Similarly, we cannot produce the same eloquence and beauty of expression that we find in the Qur'an, despite knowing the letters that constitute the Qur'an. The Qur'an thus proves its Divine origin.



4 Miraculous quality of the Qur'an mentioned immediately after these broken letters

Therefore, immediately after these broken letters are mentioned in the Qur'an, the following Verses speak about the miracle of the Qur'an, and its authority, e.g. in Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verses 1-2:

آلَمْ- ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ



"Alif Laam Meem. This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah."

Al Qur'an 2:1-2



Q3

According to Arun Shourie, there is a mathematical error in the Qur'an. In Chapter 4 Verses 11 and 12 when you add up the different parts of inheritance given to the heirs, it is more than one. Therefore, the author of the Qur'an does not know mathematics.

Answer

The Qur'an mentions about inheritance in many places,

in: Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 180

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 240

Surah An Nisaa' Chapter 4 Verses 7 to 9

Surah An Nisaa' Chapter 4 Verses 19 and 33

Surah Al Maa'idah Chapter 5 Verses 105 and 108

Surah Al Maa'idah Chapter 5 Verses 105 and 108

Regarding the share of inheritance it is clearly given in Surah An Nisaa' Chapter 4 Verses 11, 12 and 176. Let us examine these Verses quoted by Arun Shourie:



يُوصِيكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي أَوْلَادِكُمْ لِلذَّكَرِ مِثْلُ حَظِّ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ ۚ فَإِنْ كُنَّ
نِسَاءً فَوْقَ اثْنَتَيْنِ فَلَهُنَّ ثُلُثَا مَا تَرَكَ ۚ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ وَاحِدَةً فَلَهَا
النِّصْفُ ۚ وَلِأَبَوَيْهِ لِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا السُّدُسُ مِمَّا تَرَكَ إِنْ كَانَ
لَهُ وَلَدٌ ۚ فَإِنْ لَّمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ وَلَدٌ وَوَرِثَهُ أَبَوَاهُ فَلِأُمِّهِ الثُّلُثُ ۚ فَإِنْ
كَانَ لَهُ إِخْوَةٌ فَلِأُمِّهِ السُّدُسُ ۚ مِنْ بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ يُوصِي بِهَا أَوْ
دَيْنٍ ۚ وَأَبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ لَا تَدْرُونَ أَيُّهُمْ أَقْرَبُ لَكُمْ نَفْعًا ۚ
فَرِيضَةٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنْ اللَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

وَلَكُمْ نِصْفُ مَا تَرَكَ أَزْوَاجُكُمْ إِنْ لَّمْ يَكُنْ لَهُنَّ وَلَدٌ ۚ فَإِنْ كَانَ
لَهُنَّ وَلَدٌ فَلَكُمْ الرُّبْعُ مِمَّا تَرَكَنَّ ۚ مِنْ بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ يُوصِيَنَّ بِهَا أَوْ
دَيْنٍ ۚ وَلَهُنَّ الرُّبْعُ مِمَّا تَرَكَتُمْ إِنْ لَّمْ يَكُنْ لَكُمْ وَلَدٌ ۚ فَإِنْ كَانَ لَكُمْ
وَلَدٌ فَلَهُنَّ الثُّمُنُ مِمَّا تَرَكَتُمْ ۚ مِنْ بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ تُوصُونَ بِهَا أَوْ دَيْنٍ



“Allah (swt) (thus) directs you as regards your children’s (inheritance): to the male, a portion equal to that of two females: if only daughters, two or more, their share is two-thirds of the inheritance; if only one, her share is a half. For parents, a sixth share of the inheritance to each, if the deceased left children; if no children, and the parents are the (only) heirs, the mother has a third; if the deceased left brothers (or sisters) the mother has a sixth. (The distribution in all cases is) after the payment of legacies and debts. You know not whether your parents or your children are nearest to you in benefit. These are settled portions ordained by Allah; and Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”

“In what your wives leave, your share is a half, if they leave no child; but if they leave a child, you get a fourth; after payment of legacies and debts. In what you leave, their share is a fourth, if you leave no child; but if you leave a child, they get an eighth; after payment of legacies and debts.”

Al Qur’an 4:11-12



Islam explains the law of inheritance in great detail. The broad and basic outline is given in the Qur'an and the minute details are given in the Ahadith i.e., the tradition and sayings of the Prophet (pbuh). A person can spend his full life only on the research of the Islamic law of inheritance with its various permutations and combinations. Arun Shourie expects to know the law only by superficially reading two Verses of the Qur'an without knowing the criteria.

It is similar to a person who wants to solve a mathematical equation but does not know the basic rule of mathematics, i.e., BODMAS which says that in a mathematical equation, irrespective of which mathematical sign appears first, you will first solve BODMAS: 1st Brackets Off, 2nd Division, 3rd Multiplication, 4th Addition and 5th Subtraction. If Arun Shourie does not know mathematics and first does multiplication then subtraction, then brackets off, then division and finally addition, the answer that he will obtain is bound to be wrong.

Similarly, when the Qur'an mentions the law of inheritance in Surah An Nisaa' Chapter 4 Verses 11 and 12, even though the children's share is mentioned first and then that of the parents and spouses, according to the law of inheritance in Islam after paying off the debts and liabilities first, the share is given to the spouses and the parents depending on whether the deceased has left children or not, and whatever portion of wealth is remaining is divided between the sons and the daughters according to their respective shares.

So where does the question arise of the total coming to more than one? So, it is not Allah who does not know mathematics, but it is Arun Shourie himself who is ignorant about mathematics.



Q4

The Qur'an says that Allah has made the earth for humans as a carpet, which gives an indication that the earth is flat. Does this not contradict modern science?

Answer

1 Earth made as a carpet

The question refers to a Verse from the Qur'an in Surah Nooh:

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ بِسَاطًا



"And Allah has made the earth for you as a carpet (spread out)."

Al Qur'an 71:19

But the sentence in the above Verse is not complete. It continues in the next Verse, explaining the previous Verse. It says:

لَتَسْلُكُوا مِنْهَا سُبُلًا فِجَاجًا



"That you may go about therein, in spacious roads."

Al Qur'an 71:20



A similar message is repeated in Surah Taa Haa:

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَسَلَكَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا



“He Who has made for you the earth like a carpet spread out; has enabled you to go about therein by roads (and channels)...”

Al Qur'an 20:53

The surface of the earth i.e., the earth's crust is less than 30 kms or 18 miles in thickness and is very thin as compared to the radius of the earth, which is about 6371 kms or 3959 miles. The deeper layers of the earth are very hot, fluid, and hostile to any form of life. The earth's crust is a solidified shell on which we can live. The Qur'an rightly refers to it like a carpet spread out, so that we can travel along its roads and paths.

2 Carpet can also be spread on other than an absolute flat surface

Not a single Verse of the Qur'an says that the earth is flat. The Qur'an only compares the earth's crust with a carpet. Some people have a misconception that carpet can only be put on an absolute flat surface. It is very possible to spread a carpet on a large sphere such as the earth. It can easily be demonstrated by taking a huge model of the earth's globe covering it with a carpet. Carpet is generally put on a surface, which is not very comfortable to walk on.



The Qur'an describes the earth's crust as a carpet, without which human beings would not be able to survive because of the hot fluid, and hostile environment beneath it. The Qur'an is thus not only logical, but also mentioning a scientific fact that was discovered by geologists centuries later.

3 Earth has been spread out

Similarly, the Qur'an says in several Verses that the earth has been spread out.

وَالْأَرْضَ فَرَشْنَاهَا فَنِعْمَ الْمَاهِدُونَ



"And We have spread out the (spacious) earth: how excellently We do spread out!"

Al Qur'an 51:48

Similarly, the Qur'an also mentions in several other Verses that the earth is an expanse:

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهْدًا
وَالْجِبَالَ أَوْتَادًا



"Have We not made the earth as a wide expanse."

"And the mountains as pegs?"

Al Qur'an 78:6-7



None of these Verses of the Qur'an contain even the slightest implication that the earth is flat. It only indicates that the earth is spacious and the reason for this spaciousness of the earth is mentioned. The Glorious Qur'an says:

يَعْبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّ أَرْضِي وَسِعَةٌ فَإِنِّي فَأَعْبُدُونِ



"O My servants who believe! Truly, spacious is My Earth: therefore, serve you Me – (And Me alone)!"

Al Qur'an 29:56

Therefore, none can give the excuse, that he could not do good and was forced to do evil because of the surroundings and circumstances.

4 Earth is Geospherical in Shape

The Qur'an mentions the actual shape of the earth in the following Verse:

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ دَحَاهَا



"And we have made the earth egg shaped."

Al Qur'an 79:30



The Arabic word 'Dahaha' means egg-shaped. It also means an expanse.

'Dahaha' is derived from Duhiya, which specifically refers to the egg of an ostrich, which is geospherical in shape, exactly like the shape of the earth. Thus, the Qur'an and modern established science are in perfect harmony.



Q5

The Qur'an says that Allah has put a seal on the hearts of the Kaafirs and they will not believe. Science tells us today that the brain is responsible for understanding and believing and not the heart. Isn't this contradicting Science?

Answer

1 Allah has set a seal on the heart of the Kaafirs

The Glorious Qur'an says:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَأَنذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ
خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ
وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ



"As to those who reject Faith it is the same to them whether you warn them or do not warn them; they will not believe.

Allah has set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a veil - Great is the penalty they incur."

Al Qur'an 2:6-7



2} The word 'Qalb' in Arabic means heart as well as intelligence

The Arabic word 'Qalb' used in these Verses means the heart. It also means intelligence. Thus, the above Verses also mean that Allah has put a seal on the intelligence of the Kaafirs (unbelievers) and they will not understand and believe.

3} In the Arabic language heart is also used as a centre of understanding

In the Arabic language the word 'Qalb' which means 'heart' is also used for one's centre of understanding.

4} Several words used in English language whose literal meaning is different

Even in English language there are several words which are used to explain something, though the literal meaning of these words is different. Consider the following examples:

a} Lunatic - struck by the moon

The word 'lunatic' literally means 'struck by the moon'. Today people use the word lunatic for a person who is insane or mentally unstable. People very well know that a mad or a mentally unstable person is not struck by the moon. Yet even a medical doctor uses this word. This is how a language is developed.



b Disaster – An evil star

The word 'disaster' literally means an evil star. Today the word disaster is used for a great or sudden misfortune or calamity. We know very well that a misfortune has nothing to do with an evil star.

c Trivial – three roads meet

The word trivial literally means where three roads meet. Today the word trivial is used for something of small nature or little importance. We know very well that something of small value has nothing to do with where three roads meet.

d Sunrise and Sunset

Sunrise literally means rising of the sun. Today when the word sunrise is used most of the people know that the earth is rotating and is moving in relation to the sun. Most of us know that the sun does not rise during sunrise. However even an astronomer uses the word sunrise. Similarly, we know that during sunset, the sun does not actually set.



5 In the English language heart is the centre of love and emotion

In the English language heart means an organ in the body which pumps blood. The same word heart is also used for the center of thought, love, and emotion. Today we know that brain is the center of thought, love, and emotion. Yet while expressing emotions a person is likely to say, 'I love you from the bottom of my heart'. Imagine a scientist telling his wife, 'I love you from the bottom of my heart' and the wife replies, "Don't you even know the basics of science, that the brain is responsible for the emotions and not the heart?" In fact, you should say, "I love you from the bottom of my brain."

6 Arabs know that heart is also used for centre of thought and understanding

No Arab will ever ask the question as to why Allah has sealed the hearts of the Kaafir because he knows that in this context it refers to the center of thought, understanding and emotions.



Q6

At one place the Qur'an mentions that man is created from sperm and in another place, it mentions that man is created from dust. Doesn't the Qur'an contradict itself?

Answer

1 Man created from sperm and dust

The Qur'an mentions that the human beings are created from sperm, in several Verses including the following Verse from Surah Al Qiyaamah, Chapter No. 75, Verse No. 37:

أَلَمْ يَكُ نُطْفَةً مِّن مَّنِيِّ يُمْنَىٰ



"Was he not a drop of sperm emitted (in lowly form)?"

Al Qur'an 75:37

The Qur'an also mentions in several places that humans were created from dust. The following Verse makes a reference to the origin of humans:

فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُم مِّن تُّرَابٍ



“(Consider) that We created you out of dust.”

Al Qur'an 22:5

We now know that all the elements present in the human body, i.e., the constituents of the human body are all present in the earth in small or great quantities. Scientifically it gives weightage to the Qur'anic Verse that says that man was created from dust. In certain Verses, the Qur'an says that man was created from sperm, while in other Verses it says that man was created from dust. However, this is not a contradiction. Contradiction means statements, which are opposite or conflicting and cannot both be true simultaneously.

2 Man created from water

In certain places the Qur'an also says that man was created from water. For instance, in Surah Al Furqaan it says:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا



“It is He Who has Created man from water...”

Al Qur'an 25:54



Science has proved all the three statements to be correct. Man has been created from sperm, dust as well as water.

3 It is a Contradistinction and not Contradiction

Suppose I say that in order to make a cup of tea one needs water. One also needs tea leaves or tea powder. The two statements are not contradictory since both water and tea leaves are required in order to make a cup of tea. Furthermore, if I want sweet tea, I can even add sugar. Thus, there is no contradiction in the Qur'an when it says that man is created from sperm, dust and water. It is not a contradiction but a contradistinction. Contradistinction means speaking about two different concepts on the same subject without conflict. For instance, if I say that a man is always honest, kind, and loving, it is a contradistinction, but if I say that the man is always truthful and a habitual liar then it is a contradiction.



Q7

The Qur'an says that only Allah knows the sex of the child in the womb of the mother but now science has advanced, and we can easily determine the sex of the child in the womb by Ultrasonography. Isn't this Verse of the Qur'an conflicting with Science?

Answer

1 Allah has knowledge of all things

Many people believe that the Qur'an claims that Allah alone knows the sex of the child in the mother's womb. The Glorious Qur'an says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي
الْأَرْحَامِ



"Verily the knowledge of the Hour is with Allah (alone). It is He who sends down rain, and He who knows what is in the wombs...."

Al Qur'an 31:34



A similar message is given in the following Verse:

اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَحْمِلُ كُلُّ أُنْثَىٰ وَمَا تَغِيضُ الْأَرْحَامُ وَمَا تَزْدَادُ
وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ عِنْدَهُ بِمِقْدَارٍ



“Allah doth know what every female (womb) does bear, by how much the wombs fall short (of their time or number) or do exceed. Every single thing is before His sight, in (due) proportion.”

Al Qur'an 13:8

2 Sex can be determined by Ultrasonography

Today science is advanced, and we can easily determine the sex of the child in the womb of a pregnant mother, using ultrasonography.

3 The word 'sex' is not mentioned in the Verse of the Qur'an

It is true that many translations and commentaries of this Verse of the Glorious Qur'an say that only Allah knows the sex of the child in the mother's womb. If you read the Arabic text of this Verse, there is no Arabic word corresponding to the English word 'sex'. In fact, the Qur'an says the knowledge of what is in the womb is with Allah alone. Many commentators have misunderstood it to mean only Allah knows the sex of the child in the womb which is a mistake.



4 No one besides Allah can determine the nature

This Verse does not refer to the sex of the child in the womb, but it refers to how the child in the mother's womb will be. How will his nature be? Will he be a blessing or a curse to his parents? Will he be a boon or a bane of the society? Will he be good or evil? Will he go to heaven or hell? The complete knowledge of all things is with Allah alone. No scientist in the world, no matter how advanced his equipment is, will ever be able to accurately determine the knowledge of these things about the child in the mother's womb.



Q8

A particular Verse of the Qur'an says that one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 1000 years. In another Verse of the Qur'an, it says that one day is equal to 50,000 years. Isn't the Qur'an contradicting itself?

Answer

1

Time of Allah is incomparable to earthly time

The Qur'an says in two Verses, (22:47 and 32:5), that the measure of one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 1,000 years of our reckoning. In another Verse (70:4) it says that the measure of one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 50,000 years of our reckoning. These Verses generally mean that the time of Allah (swt) is incomparable to the earthly time. The examples given are of one thousand years and fifty thousand years of the earthly time. In other words, thousands of years or a very, very long time of the earth is equal to a day in the sight of Allah.



2 'Yaum' also means Period

The Arabic word used in all these three Verses is 'yaum', which, besides meaning a day also means a long period, or an epoch. If you translate the word yaum correctly as 'period' there will be no confusion.

a The Verse from Surah Al Hajj reads as:

وَيَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَلَنْ يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ ۖ وَإِنَّ يَوْمًا
عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ مِّمَّا تَعُدُّونَ



"Yet they ask you to hasten on the Punishment! But Allah will not fail in His promise. Verily a Day in the sight of your Lord is like a thousand years of your reckoning".

Al Qur'an 22:47

When the unbelievers asked to hasten the punishment, the Qur'an says that Allah will not fail in His promise. Verily a period in the sight of Allah is like a thousand years of your reckoning.



The Verse from Surah As Sajdah says:

يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يَعْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ
مِقْدَارُهُ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ مِّمَّا تَعُدُّونَ



“He rules (all) affairs from the heavens to the earth: in the end will (all affairs) go up To Him, on a Day, the space whereof will be (as) a thousand years of your reckoning”.

Al Qur'an 32:5

This Verse indicates that a period required for all the affairs to go up to Allah (swt), is a thousand years of our reckoning.



b A Verse from Surah Al-Maa'arij says:

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ
أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ



“The angels and the spirit ascend unto Him in a Day the measure whereof is (as) fifty thousand years”.

Al Qur'an 70:4

This Verse means that the period required for angels and the spirits to ascend unto Allah (swt) is fifty thousand years.

c The period for two different acts need not be the same. For example the period required for me to travel from Mumbai to destination 'A' say Panvel is one hour and the period required for me to travel to destination 'B' i.e. Srinagar is 50 hours. This does not indicate that I am making two contradictory statements. Thus the Verses of the Qur'an not only do not contradict each other, they are also in perfect harmony with established modern scientific facts.



Q9

The Qur'an in several places says that Iblees was an angel, but in Surah Al Kahf, it says that Iblees was a Jinn. Isn't this a contradiction in the Qur'an?

Answer

1

Incidence of Iblees and Angel mentioned in the Qur'an

The story of Adam and Iblees is mentioned in the Qur'an in various places in which Allah (swt) says,

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ



"We said to the angels bow down to Adam: and they bowed down: not so Iblees."

Al Qur'an 70:4

This is mentioned in:

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 34

Surah Al A'raaf Chapter 7 Verse 11

Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15 Verses 28-31

Surah Al Israa' Chapter 17 Verse 61

Surah Taa Haa Chapter 20 Verse 116

Surah Saad Chapter 38 Verses 71-74



But in Surah Al Kahf Chapter 18 Verse 50, the Qur'an says:

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنِّ



“Behold! We said to the angels, ‘Bow down to Adam.’ They bowed down except Iblees. He was one of the Jinns...”

Al Qur'an 18:50

1

Arabic Rule of Taghleeb

The English translation of the first part of the Verse ‘We said to the angels bow down to Adam: they bowed down except Iblees’, gives us the impression that Iblees was an angel. The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic. In Arabic grammar there is a rule known as ‘Taghleeb’, according to which, if the majority is addressed even the minority is included. If for example, I address an audience of 100 people of whom 99 are doctors and one is an engineer, and if I say in Arabic that all the doctors should stand up, it includes the engineer as well. I need not mention him separately.

Similarly in the Qur'an, when Allah addressed the angels, even Iblees was present, but it is not required that he be mentioned separately. Therefore, according to that sentence Iblees may be an angel or may not be an angel but we come to know from Surah Al Kahf Chapter 18 Verse 50 that Iblees was a Jinn. Nowhere does the Qur'an say that Iblees was an angel. Therefore, there is no contradiction in the Qur'an.



2 Jinns have freewill and can disobey Allah

Secondly, Jinns have a freewill and may or may not obey Allah, but angels have no freewill and always obey Allah. Therefore, the question of an angel disobeying Allah does not arise. This further supplements that Iblees was a Jinn and not an angel.



QUESTION AND ANSWER BUCKET



Dr Zakir Naik



Q10 According to Darwin's theory of Evolution, man has evolved from apes. Doesn't the Qur'an conflict with this theory?

Answer

1 There is no book which says, 'Fact of Evolution'

I have not come across any book which says, 'Fact of Evolution'. All the books say, 'Theory 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 Beagle' and there he found birds pecking at niches. Depending upon the Ecological niches they pecked, their beaks kept on becoming long and short. This observation was made by him in 14 different species of birds. After making these observations Charles Darwin writes in his book, 'The Origin of Species', Chapter No. 6: 'Difficulties on the Theory' –

"Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms?"

Charles Darwin himself agreed that there were missing links. If one species had evolved from the other species, then there ought to be 'Transitional Forms' like half-fish / half-reptiles etc.



In school we used to joke and say, "If you were present at Darwin's time this theory would have been proven to be right!" Trying to insinuate that he looks like an Ape!

2 An enemy of my enemy is my friend

The reason that this theory in most parts of the world is taught as good as fact, is because in the past the Church was against science whenever it went against the Bible. So, when Charles Darwin came up with a theory which goes against the Bible, they didn't want any sufficient proof - An Enemy of my Enemy is my Friend. Most of the Scientists supported the theory because it went against the Bible, not because it was true. We know the incidence when Galileo was kept under house arrest for 8 years until he died, because he said certain statements in the field of Astronomy, which went against the Bible. Pope John Paul II apologised for this in the end of 20th century more than 350 years after the Roman Catholic Church condemned Galileo. "After 350 years, Vatican Says Galileo Was Right" read the Newspaper Headline of New York Times, 31st October 1992.



3 Stages of 'Homonoids'

Science tells us today that there were four 'Homonoids' - first is 'Lucy' then next came the 'Homosapians', who died about five hundred thousand years ago. Then came the 'Neanderthal Man', who died hundred to forty thousand years ago. Then came the fourth stage, the 'Cro-magnon'. '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 Sorbonne University. He also said, "It is absurd, we cannot say who were our ancestors based on fossils."

4 How did the First Cell come about?

Darwin never mentioned the origin of life in his book. In his time, it was believed that bacteria came about from inanimate matter. Spontaneous generation was widely embraced since medieval times because they had a primitive understanding of science: that maggots emerged from meat, mice from wheat, and insects from leftover food.

Five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur's groundbreaking findings shattered this very cornerstone of evolution. He designed an experiment to test whether sterile nutrient broth could spontaneously generate microbial life, and this experiment refuted the notion of spontaneous generation.



Evolutionists refused to accept his findings for a long time. Pasteur said, 'Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment.'

How, then, did the 'first cell' originate? Scientific progress has revealed how complex the structure of a cell is, and that it could not have evolved coincidentally. The theory of evolution is confronted with this insurmountable obstacle at the first step, exposing the collapse of Darwinism at its very roots.

5 Mutation as an Evolutionary Mechanism?

Mutations are replacements in the DNA molecule, owing to external factors like radiation or chemical action. Evolutionists seeking refuge in mutation make it appear like a magic wand transforming organisms into superior beings. For decades, evolutionists have sweated over the creation of a single useful mutation, but without success. The only instance evolutionary biologists present for beneficial mutation is sickle-cell anemia, which greatly reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood; so, people with sickle-cell anemia suffer increasing respiratory problems. Sickle cell disease gives the carrier partial immunity against malaria. Darwinists claim that this protection by those with this illness is a 'gift of evolution'. Using the same logic, one could say that since people born with genetic leg paralysis are unable to walk, hence saved from traffic accidents, paralysis is a 'useful genetic feature'. This is absurd and unfounded.



Needless to say, a process that leaves organisms crippled and impaired cannot be an 'evolutionary mechanism'. Pierre-Paul Grassé, former president for the French Academy of Sciences compared mutations to 'making mistakes in the letters when copying written text.' Can letter mistakes give rise to useful information, instead of simply damaging the information that already exists? Grassé adds, "No matter how numerous they may be, mutations do not produce any kind of evolution."

6 The Pleiotropic Effect

The most substantial proof that mutations lead only to damage and disarray is the process of genetic coding: nearly all of the genes in a fully developed organism control more than one genetic feature, for example, height and eye color. This means that any coincidental change in any gene will not be restricted to one organ, but it will exhibit more of its destructive impact elsewhere too. Even if one of these impacts does miraculously turn out to be beneficial, the effects of the other damage will outweigh it by far. Thus, mutation leading to evolution is an established impossibility.



7 Natural selection doesn't change Species

One of the key components of the evolution theory is natural selection, or the 'survival of the fittest'. For example, in a herd of deer under threat from predators, the ones that can run the fastest will survive. Consequently, the surviving deer will only comprise the fast runners. We do not deny the presence of natural selection. However, no matter how long this process goes on for, it will never transform the deer into another species.

The senior paleontologist Collin Patterson states, 'No one has ever produced a species by the mechanism of natural selection. No one has ever gotten near it, and most of the current argument in neo-Darwinism is about this question.'

8 Inadequacy of the Fossil record

One of the clearest pieces of evidence pointing against the evolution theory is the plain truth presented in the fossil record. According to the theory, every living species sprung from its predecessor, over millions of years; so, the existence of intermediary species like half-fish / half-reptiles is critical. Why then, is there no trace whatsoever of these imaginary creatures in the fossil record? Evolutionists world over have toiled hard to uncover these 'transitional forms', only to have their hopes shattered: all the fossils unearthed show, that life appeared all at once and fully formed. But the drowning man clutches at straws. Some 140 years ago, Darwin argued that the fossil record was inadequate, and further research would reveal the required fossils. Is this argument valid today?



The sheer wealth of the fossil record will surely answer this question. Billions of fossils have been excavated all over the planet, bearing striking similarity to today's species, and not a single transitory form has been found, contrary to Darwin's assumptions, and the assumptions of his followers.

The scientific discoveries of the past two decades have sent shockwaves among the campaigners of Darwinism. One of them, Jerry Coyne, remarks, 'My own reaction resembles the dismay attending my discovery, at the age of six, that it was my father and not Santa who brought the presents on Christmas Eve.'

9 Probability of a Coincidental Origin

In a desperate attempt to override the very powerful argument that life could never arise by chance, Richard Dawkins said, "If the odds of life originating spontaneously on a planet were a billion to one against ..." A billion to one is only 1 in 10⁹. But the probability of the formation of only one protein molecule is "1 in 10³⁰⁰! The probability of this "1" occurring is practically nil. In practice, probabilities smaller than 1 over 10⁵⁰ are thought of as "zero probability". Even if the whole universe was packed with amino acids combining frantically for billions of years, it would not produce even one such protein molecule let alone produce a living cell.



10 More than a Hundred Scientists have spoken against Darwin's Theory

There is a list of more than a hundred scientists and Noble Prize winners who have spoken against Darwin's Theory. Albert Szent-Gyorgi who got the Noble prize for inventing the Vitamin 'C' wrote the book, 'The Crazy Ape', against Darwin's Theory. Sir Fred Hoyle wrote against Darwin's Theory. Commenting on 'Coincidental Origin' he said,

"The chance that higher life forms might have emerged in this way (time and chance) is comparable with the chance that 'a Tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein.'"

Sir Frank Salisbury who was an American Plant Physiologist said,

"It is illogical to believe in Darwin's theory."

In the field of Molecular Biology, according to Nancy Craig who is an authority in this field said,

"It is unimaginable and the probability of one DNA forming from an Ape to Human being, is Zero."

11 Darwin's Theory – A Media Propaganda

Today Darwin's Theory is taught in the schools - Why? because Media is in their hands. Otherwise, there is no proof at all. There are certain proofs at lower level that an Amoeba can change to Paramecia. Qur'an does not say, 'Amoeba cannot change to Paramecia'. It is not against the Qur'an.



12 Conclusion

Those who believe in the theory of evolution are deluded by the bigoted and short-sighted notion that a few atoms accidentally thrown together into a huge vat could produce intellectuals like Galileo and Newton, artists such as Da Vinci and Picasso, as well as antelopes, lemon trees and carnations. Darwinism is thus, arguably the most potent spell in history. Never has a dogma so ensnared people's powers of reason, barred them from thinking rationally, and compelled them to reject the truth while in plain sight.

13 Modern science, evidently, is one of the staunchest critics of Darwinist ideology, and the most ardent advocate of monotheism.

There are hundreds of Scientists who speak against that, and the Qur'an speaks against that as well. Qur'an says that the first man was Adam (Peace be upon him). In Sha Allah the scientists may discover it 100 years afterwards or may be 1000 years afterwards but so far it is not conflicting with established Science.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Fussilat, Chapter 41, Verse 53,

سَنُرِيهِمْ ءَايَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ



“Soon will We show them our Signs in the (furthest) regions (of the earth), and in their own souls, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the Truth.”

Al Qur'an 41:53



Q11

The Qur'an mentions in several places that the heavens and the earth were created in 6 days but in Surah Fussilat it says that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days. Isn't this a contradiction? The same Verse also says that the earth was created in 6 days and then later on the heavens were created in 2 days. This is against the Big Bang theory that the heavens and the earth were created simultaneously. Doesn't the Qur'an conflict with modern science?

Answer

1 Heavens and the Earth created in Six days

I do agree that the Qur'an says that the heavens and the earth were created in 6 days i.e., 6 - epochs and it is mentioned in several places including:

Surah Al A'raaf Chapter 7 Verse 54

Surah Yoonus Chapter 10 Verse 3

Surah Hood Chapter 11 Verse 7

Surah Al Furqaan Chapter 25 Verse 59

Surah As Sajdah Chapter 32 Verse 4

Surah Qaaf Chapter 50 Verse 38

Surah Al Hadeed Chapter 57 Verse 4



The Verses of the Qur'an which according to you say that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days are Surah Fussilat Chapter 41 Verses 9 to 12:

قُلْ أَنتُمْ لَتَكْفُرُونَ بِالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَتَجْعَلُونَ لَهُ أَندَادًا ۚ
ذَٰلِكَ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رُوسَىٰ مِنْ فَوْقِهَا وَبَرَكَ فِيهَا وَقَدَّرَ فِيهَا
أَقْوَامًا فِي أَرْبَعَةِ أَيَّامٍ سَوَاءً لِّلسَّائِلِينَ ثُمَّ أَسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ
فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ آتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ فَقَضَاهُنَّ سَبْعَ
سَمَوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَأُوحِيَ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرُهَا ۚ وَزَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا
بِمَصْبِيحٍ وَحِفْظٍ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ



“Say: Is it that you deny Him Who created the earth in two days? And do you join equals with Him? He is the Lord of (all) the Worlds; He set on the (earth) mountains standing firm, high above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, in four days, in accordance with (the needs of) those who seek (sustenance).” Moreover, He comprehended in His design the sky, and it had been (as) smoke. He said to it and to the earth. “Come you together, willingly, or unwillingly. They said: “We do come (together), in willing obedience.”



So, He completed them as seven firmaments in two days and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command and We adorned the lower heaven with lights, and (provided it) with guard. Such is the decree of (Him) the exalted in might, full of knowledge.

Al Qur'an 41:9-12

On the face of it, it seems that these Verses of the Qur'an give the initial impression that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days. Allah says in the beginning of this Verse that those who exploit this information contained in this passage to raise doubts about its authenticity are equally interested in promulgating blasphemy and denying His unity. Allah is telling us that in course of time, there will emerge unbelievers who will make use of this apparent contradiction.

2 'Summa' means moreover

If you analyse these Verses carefully, it speaks about 2 different creations: the earth and the heaven. The earth excluding the mountains was created in 2 days and the mountains were set on the earth standing firm and blessed and measured its sustenance in 4 days. Therefore, the earth along with the mountains were created in 6 days according to Verses 9 and 10. Verses 11 and 12 say, moreover the heavens were created in 2 days. The Arabic word used in the beginning of Verse 11 of Surah Fussilat is 'Summa' which means; 'then', 'moreover' or 'simultaneously'.



There are certain Qur’anic translations, which have used ‘then’ for the word ‘summa’ which, indicates ‘afterwards’. If ‘then’ is wrongly used for ‘summa’ then the total of the creation of heaven and earth will be 8 days which will conflict with other Verses of the Qur’an which say heavens and the earth were created in 6 days and will also conflict with the Big Bang Theory as well as the Verse of the Qur’an Surah Al Ambiya Chapter 21 Verse 30 which says that heavens and the earth were created simultaneously. Qur’an mentions in Surah Al Ambiyaa’, Chapter No. 21, Verse No. 30,

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا



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

Al Qur’an 21:30

Therefore, the correct translation of the word ‘Summa’ in this Verse would be ‘moreover’. Abdullah Yusuf Ali has rightly translated the word ‘Summa’ as moreover which clearly gives an indication that while the earth along with the mountains, etc. were created in 6 days, simultaneously the heavens were created in 2 days. Therefore, the total does not come to 8 days but 6 days.

If a builder says that he will construct a 10-storey building and surrounding compound wall in 6 months and after completion of his project, he gives a more detailed account saying that the basement of the building was built in 2 months and the 10-storeys took 4 months.



Simultaneously, while the basement and the building was being constructed, he also constructed the surrounding of the building along with the compound wall which took 2 months. Therefore, both his first and second descriptions are not contradicting but the second statement gives a more detailed account for the construction.

3 Heavens and the Earth created simultaneously

The Qur'an describes the creation of the universe in several places, sometimes it says the heavens and the earth (7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 32:4, 50:38, 57:4) while in other places it says earth and the heaven (49:9-12, 2:29, 20:4) thus further supplementing the Verse of Surah Al Ambiya Chapter 21 Verse 30 which speaks about the Big Bang and that the heavens and the earth were created simultaneously. Similarly in Surah Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 29:

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ أَسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَسَوَّاهُنَّ
سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ ۚ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ



“It is He Who has created for you all things that are on earth; Moreover, He turned to the heaven and made them into seven firmaments. And of all things He has perfect knowledge.”

Al Qur'an 2:29



Here also if you wrongly translate 'Summa' as 'then', only then would this Verse contradict the Big Bang theory and other Verses of the Qur'an. Therefore, the correct translation of the word 'Summa' is 'moreover' or 'simultaneously'.



Q12 If Islam does not contradict with science and it encourages new scientific discoveries and inventions, how much contribution do Muslims have in the field of Science?

Answer

The media today is in the hands of the Westerners. We read in the textbooks that from 8th to 12th centuries it was the Dark Ages. It was dark for the Europeans not for the world. The Arabs and the Muslims were very much advanced. Today, because Science is advanced, we are able to make so many discoveries. Back then, the number of facilities were limited. With the limited instruments and technology, the discoveries that the Muslim Scientists made were unbelievable. Let me give you the names and achievements of Muslim scientists of the 'Dark Ages':

1 Ibn Nafis (1210 to 1288 CE)

He discovered blood circulation. However, the credit is given to William Harvey who made it famous to the western world four centuries later.

2 Muhammad Al Idrisi

He completed World Geography and Map of Mediterranean in 1154 CE. Muslims drew the map with North Pole down and South Pole on top. Western Cartographers came and turned the map upside down, but amazingly, Ka'bah is yet in the centre of both the maps.



3 Mohammed Al Khowarizmi

Zero was learnt from the Indians and made its way to the Middle East. Mohammed Al Khowarizmi (780 to 850 CE) was the first who synthesised Indian Arithmetic and showed how the zero could function in Algebraic equations, and by the 9th century the zero had entered the Arabic Numerals system in a form of resembling the oval shape we use today.

4 Al Tusi

He proved Pythagoras Theorem in the 13th century.

5 Al Biruni

He was an expert in Trigonometry.

6 Al Kindi

He wrote around 200 works on Mathematics, Geometry and Logic. Galileo, Descartes and Newton believed all Physical phenomena to be absolute. Al Kindi said they are relative. Later Albert Einstein propounded the theory of relativity.

7 Mohammad, Ahmed and Hasan Shakir

They calculated the size of the earth from the measurement of a degree on the shore of the Red sea.



8 Jabir Ibn Hayyan

He compiled 2000 pages on various Chemical phenomena. The word Alcohol is derived from the Arabic word 'Al Gul'. Alkali etc. are Arabic words.

9 Mohammed Zakariya Ar-Razi (865 to 925 CE)

He wrote 200 medical works. His findings on smallpox and measles were at one time an authority on the subject. He wrote a book on children's disease. He also prepared mercury ointment.

10 Ali Ibn Abbas

He wrote 20 volumes on the theory and practice of medicine.

11 Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (980 to 1037 CE)

He was a Philosopher, Astronomer and a Physician. He was given the title 'Aristotle of East'. He wrote the book 'Al Kanoon' (The Canon) and it was the main text book of medicine till the 17th century.

12 Ibn Zuhor (1162 CE)

He was the first to concede the idea of Bronchotomy.



13 Az Zahrawi

He was a surgeon, dentist and obstetrician. He did treatment for deformities of mouth and dental arches. He invented several instruments of Surgery, Gynaecology as well as Dentistry.

I do agree that today Muslims are getting backward in Science. The Europeans are very much advanced. The Muslims are getting backward, because we are going away from the Glorious Qur'an and our religion, Islam. The Europeans are getting advanced because they too are going away from their religion. If Muslims read the Qur'an with understanding and implement it in their daily lives, then In Sha Allah, again we will be on top of the world.



Q13

There was a philosopher in 6th Century BC 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. People allege that Prophet (pbuh) copied these points from the Philosopher?

Answer

I am aware that in the 6th century BC the Pythagoreans defended the theory of the rotation of the earth on its own axis and the movement of planets around the sun. This theory was confirmed later by modern science. People may allege that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) copied these points from the Pythagoreans. It must be remembered that the same Pythagoreans also defended the theory that the sun was fixed in space, and they also believed that the sun was the center of the universe. To imagine that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) copied only those points, which were to be proved later by modern science to be correct and left out those points, which were to be proved as false, is highly difficult.

It may be probable for a few points but considering more than 1000 verses in the Qur'an speaking about science it is impossible if the theory of probability is applied. It is quite common in the works of great Philosophers of antiquity to find a mixture of valid and invalid ideas about the universe and other phenomenon.



These people were great thinkers and were brilliant in their works, but one should not overlook the other wrong and mistaken concepts, which they left behind. People boast about the fulfilled prophecies of Nostradamus but do not speak about several inaccuracies in them, which were totally false.

From a strict scientific point of view, this is what distinguishes them from the Qur'an where the works of the philosophers contain mixed valid and invalid points whereas in the Qur'an there is not a single statement or verse which conflicts with established modern scientific facts.

Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an in Surah Al Nisaa' Chapter 4 Verse 82 :

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا
كَثِيرًا



“Do they not consider the Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy.”

Al Qur'an 4:82



Q14 Does Science agree with the concept of the Qur'an that God or Allah is the Creator of human beings?

Answer

The Qur'an describes the various embryological stages of the human beings in Surah Al Mu'minoon Chapter 23 Verses 12 to 14 which have been confirmed scientifically today. At the end of Surah Al Mu'minoon Chapter 23 Verse 14 it is mentioned:

فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ



“So blessed be Allah, the best to create!”

Al Qur'an 23:14

The Arabic word used i.e. 'Khaaliq', is derived from 'Khalaqa' which has four meanings:-

- i } Creation from nothing and without a previous example which is only possible for Allah (swt)
- ii } Creation of something new from a pre-existing material
- iii } Planning or Programming
- iv } Making smooth



The Qur'an poses the question in Surah At Toor Chapter 52 Verse 35:

أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ



“Were they created of nothing...”

Al Qur'an 52:35

The answer is obviously 'No' because nothingness cannot originate anything. One of the basic principles of Modern Science is to find a cause for every observation. The second question is posed in the same Verse of Surah Al Toor Chapter 52 Verse 35:

أَمْ هُمْ الْخَالِقُونَ



“Or were they themselves the creators?”

Al Qur'an 52:35

The answer is again negative. If man could create himself then he would have brought himself back from the dead. We know it is impossible for man even to create a fly. Moreover, one cannot imagine that the origin of man was the work of the reproductive system, the testes, ovaries, uterus or genes, etc. The creation of the new individual is not possible without the work of all vital systems in the father and the mother, which enable the reproductive system to function and this further includes the system of our ancestors.



Therefore neither nothingness nor parts of man can give rise to a new individual, nor can man create himself. The Qur'an poses another question in Surah Al Waaqiyah Chapter 56 Verses 58 and 59:

أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تُمْنُونَ ؕ أَأَنْتُمْ تَخْلُقُونَهُ ؕ أَمْ نَحْنُ الْخَالِقُونَ



Do you then see?- The (human Seed) that you throw out,- Is it you who create it, or are We the Creators?

Al Qur'an 56:58-59

The only option remains is that as some people may say that the origin of man was the result of random chance. Let's analyse the probability of the creation of man as a result of random chance.

Protein molecules are an important constituent of the structure of living cells. They are made up of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur. These molecules are structures that may contain tens of thousands of atoms. There are about 92 naturally occurring elements which are randomly scattered. The probability of union of 5 elements of protein molecule to form one protein molecule by chance was calculated by Frank Allien as only 1 in 10^{160} that is once in one zero, zero, zero, zero,...160 zeros and the quantities of interacting substances to produce this molecule have been estimated to be so colossal as to be millions of times bigger than the universe. According to Charles Ugene Guy, the time required was calculated to be 10243 years.



If one calculates how many protein molecules are there in one cell, how many molecules of other compounds and how many molecules are there in all the cells of the body, the total comes to about 6 billion at birth. The making of all this takes only 9 months. Does this process repeat itself in millions of embryos by a mere chance?

Al-Nutfah Al-Amshaaj (the zygote) develops into billions of cells by the end of the term. Each group of cell carry out specific function and are directed to specific position in body of the embryo with perfect timing during the complex process of ever-changing creation. Each of these organs has been constructed physically and chemically for the physiological and biochemical functions for which it was planned. Furthermore, each organ system has been closely related and connected with other systems for coordinations of their functions. Can all of this occur by chance and repeat itself regularly and consistently in human embryos and those of animals and plants?

It is far more logical to assume that all the alphabets and words in an encyclopaedia containing 1000's of pages along with its chapters, headings and figures alongwith 1000's of its similar copies have come together by chance. If you can imagine that all the millions of alphabets present in the encyclopaedia some of which are capital, others are small, some bold, some italics, some normal etc. are all mixed together then an alphabet is picked up at random and placed one after the other. The probability of it forming the same huge encyclopaedia of 1000's of pages can be imagined. This act is repeated 1000 times is still more logical and easier coming by chance than the creation of a human being.



The creation of a human being surely does not take place by chance or by nature but is surely planned and programmed by the Creator. Furthermore, this Creator creates all the living creatures in the world and you see His signs throughout the universe, the sun, the moon, the stars etc., all of these are programmed by the same Creator. The Qur'an calls this Creator i.e., 'Khaaliq' as Allah (swt) and in English language it's referred to as 'God'. Science is not eliminating God but eliminating models of God which in Arabic means 'La ilaaha ill-Allah'.



Q15

How can you prove scientifically the statement of the Qur'an that Jesus (pbuh) was born without a father?

Answer

The birth of Jesus (pbuh) without any male intervention is a miracle. A miracle is anything that takes place out of the normal course of life for which humankind has no scientific explanation. All the miracles, which took place previously, only a few can be proved scientifically today. Majority of them cannot be analysed or verified by us today because these miracles happened in the past. If a miracle takes place today, then it is a phenomenon for which there is no scientific explanation.

Regarding the birth of Jesus (pbuh) the Qur'an mentions in Surah Aali Imraan Chapter 3 Verses 45 to 47:

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَأِكَةُ يَمْرُؤِمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ
عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ وَيُكَلِّمُ
النَّاسَ فِي الْمَهْدِ وَكَهْلًا وَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ قَالَتْ رَبِّ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي
وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ يَمَسِّنِي بَشَرٌ قَالَ كَذَلِكَ اللَّهُ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ إِذَا قَضَىٰ
أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ



Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah gives you glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah; "He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be (of the company) of the righteous."

She said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?"

He said: "Even so: Allah creates what He wills: When He has decreed a plan, He but says to it, 'Be,' and it is!

Al Qur'an 3:45-47

Since the Qur'an mentions very clearly that Jesus (pbuh) was born without any male intervention i.e., without any father, all the Muslims believe in it. Though a similar message is also given in the Bible in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 1 Verse 35 and Gospel of Matthew Chapter 1 Verse 18, there are many modern-day Christians who do not believe that Jesus (pbuh) was born without any male intervention.



If you ask me today, how can I prove it scientifically, I can only give you a simile, and an example that scientifically it is a proven fact that this thing takes place in certain animals and beings. Modern Science has confirmed that many animals are born and reproduced without fertilization from the male of that species. For example, a male bee is no more than an egg which has not been fertilized by the male. Moreover, male bees are created from the eggs of the Queen but without fertilization by a male. On the other hand, the egg which has been fertilized by the male functions as a female bee.

Today we also have scientific means of stimulating the female's egg of some organism (species) so that the egg develops without fertilization by a male. According to Prof. G. C. Goeringer who is a Prof. of Anatomy at Georgetown Medical School Washington, USA, he says "In another type of approach unfertilized eggs of many species of invertebrates, amphibians and lower mammals can be activated by mechanical (such as pricking with a needle), physical (such as thermal shock) or chemical means by any of several different chemical substances and continue to advance to stages of development. In some species, this system of parthenogenesis development is natural."

I personally do not know how Jesus (pbuh) was born without any male intervention. I have only proved to you that scientifically it is possible in animals and other species.

This is due to the plan of Allah (swt). Similarly, it is only Allah's will and desire that it happened as the Qur'an says:

قَالَ كَذَلِكَ اللَّهُ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ ۚ إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ



“Allah creates what He wills: When He has decreed a plan, He but says to it, 'Be,' and it is!”

Al Qur'an 3:47

For Allah (swt) to create a human being without male intervention is very easy. If He wishes, it's easy for Him to even create a million human beings without male intervention. Previously it was the age of miracles therefore the previous Prophets performed miracles to prove that they were from God. But most of these miracles do not hold good today since it does not give us the option to verify them today.

All the Prophets that came before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) were only sent for their people and their message was meant only for a particular time. Therefore, the miracles they performed may not be applicable for all times. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger of God and was not sent only for a group of people but for the whole humankind and the message revealed to him i.e., the Glorious Qur'an is applicable till eternity. Though Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself performed several miracles he only emphasised on the Glorious Qur'an. Even though the Muslims believe in the miracles performed by him, we boast about the ultimate miracle i.e., the Glorious Qur'an which satisfied the people of that time, can even be proved to be a miracle today scientifically, as well as in future. It is a miracle of all times.



Q16 Since you claim that there are more than a thousand scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an 1400 years ago, which are discovered recently by Science, can you mention some 'scientific facts', which are mentioned in the Qur'an that science hasn't discovered?

Answer

1 Life in the universe besides earth

According to the Scientists there are possibilities of life besides the planet Earth. No wonder they are sending rockets and spaceships to nearby planets such as Mars etc. Till today there is no authentic scientific proof that life exists besides the Earth.

The Glorious Qur'an says in Surah Al Shoorā, Chapter 42, Verse 29:

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَتْ فِيهِمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ ۚ وَهُوَ
عَلَىٰ جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ



“And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the living creatures that He has scattered through them: and He has power to gather them together when He wills.”

Al Qur'an 42:29



From the above verse we come to know that life is not confined to our little planet earth and Allah has scattered living creatures throughout His universe i.e, through out the heavens and the earth. Science may discover after a 100 years or a 1,000 years regarding life on other heavenly planets. Scientists wonder and analyse to find out if there are any similar earth as ours, elsewhere in the Universe. A Mathematician Scientist by the name Frank Drake has worked out a probability equation that earth similar to ours does exist.

The Glorious Qur'an says in Surah At Talaq Chapter 65 Verse 12:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَوَاتٍ وَمِنَ الْأَرْضِ مِثْلَهُنَّ



“Allah is He Who created seven Firmaments and of the earth a similar number...”

Al Qur'an 65:12

2 End of the Universe

Several scientists have given their prediction and hypothesis regarding the end of the universe. Some of these hypothesis are as follows:-

- a The mountains will collapse, and the face of the earth will change.



- b** The mountains and rocks will become smooth.
- c** There will be excessive heat and the oceans will dry up.
- d** Few scientists say that the sun will increase in size and all living beings on earth will vanish while many say that the sun will shrink in size and vanish. Thus, extinguishing life on earth.
- e** Some say that the earth and the planet will come to an end by entering into a black hole. Many theories of the scientists regarding the end of the Universe are compatible with the Qur'anic concept of the end of the world. The Qur'an describes several factors and signs regarding the end of the world.

i In Surah Al Ahqaaf Chapter 46 Verse 3

مَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى



“We created not the heavens and the earth and all between them but for just ends, and for a Term Appointed.”

Al Qur'an 46:3

The above verse indicates that the universe is created for a specified time period and will come to an end.



- ii Surah Al Qiyaamah Chapter 75 Verses 8 and 9 describes a few signs of the end of the world.

وَحَسَفَ الْقَمَرُ وَجُمِعَ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ



“And the moon is buried in darkness, And the sun and moon are joined together.”

Al Qur'an 75:8-9

- iii In Surah Al Takweer Chapter 81 Verses 1, 2, 3 and 6

إِذَا الشَّمْسُ كُوِّرَتْ وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ انْكَدَرَتْ وَإِذَا الْجِبَالُ سُيِّرَتْ
وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ سُجِّرَتْ



“When the sun (with its spacious light) is folded up; When the stars fall, losing their lustre; When the mountains vanish (like a mirage);... When the oceans boil over with a swell.”

Al Qur'an 81:1-3 and 6



iv In Surah Al Infitaar Chapter 82 Verses 1 to 3

إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انفَطَرَتْ وَإِذَا الْكَوَاكِبُ انْتَثَرَتْ وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ



“When the Sky is cleft asunder; When the Stars are scattered; When the Oceans are suffered to burst forth.”

Al Qur'an 82:1-3

- e In a Universe that expands for all future time, the galaxies get even further apart. Astronomers think that about 1012 years (about a hundred times the present age of the Universe) all the hydrogen and helium in the interstellar medium will have been used up. At that stage star birth stops and the galaxies flicker out as the final generation of star dies.

3 New Creation

i In Surah Al Ambiyaa' Chapter 21 Verse 104

يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجِلِّ لِلْكُتُبِ ۚ كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعِيدُهُ ۚ
وَعَدًا عَلَيْنَا ۚ إِنَّا كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ



“The Day that We roll up the heavens like a scroll rolled up for books (completed),- even as We produced the first creation, so shall We produce a new one: a promise We have undertaken: truly shall We fulfil it.”

Al Qur'an 21:104

ii In Surah Ibraheem Chapter 14 Verse 48

يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ ۖ وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ



“One day the earth will be changed to a different earth, and so will be the heavens, and (men) will be marshalled forth, before Allah, the One, the Irresistible.”

Al Qur'an 14:48

From the above verses it is clear that a new creation has been promised by Allah on the Day of Judgement. He will repeat the creation based on the memory of the previous creation. The new creation will be different from the world that we know now and our life will be eternal.

The Qur'an described this new creation with symbols and metaphors because it is impossible to have a concept of the new world in our present life on earth.



4 First man Adam (pbuh)

5 The soul

6 Jinns and angels

7 Life after death (Hereafter)

The Qur'an has mentioned in several verses that there is life after death which science has not yet proved.

8 Hell and heaven

9 Its not a blind belief but a logical belief

If 80% proved correct then even 20% will be correct.



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