

Verses Of Scientific Nature In The Bible And The Qur'an: A Response To Robert Spencer's Allegations Of Scriptural Borrowings

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Abstract

The Orientalists have produced a lot of literature to engender doubts in the minds of the believers. To undermine the very foundation of Islam, they have unceasingly reiterated that the holy Quran is a blend of ideas copied from the then prevalent religious scriptures. There is a long list of such writers who endeavor to prove that the holy Qur'an is not based on genuine revelation and Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the author of this book. Robert Spencer is one of them; he is an American author, he is quite popular for his criticism of Islam and the prophet of Islam. He has published twelve books so far. He is a member of Melkite Greek Catholic Church. He maintains that the author of the holy Qur'an has fashioned his religion in accordance with the available Judeo-Christian scriptures. This research article is a part of my trilogy on the comparative studies of the holy Bible and the holy Qur'an. The holy Bible is claimed to be the inspired word of God. As an inspired word of God, it should be 'flawless' but it is a sad reality that the holy Bible is brimful of scientific errors. The article highlights scientifically unsound ideas in the Bible to prove that such a book cannot be the source for the holy Quran as the latter is absolutely free from unscientific statements. The last part of the article encapsulates the views of a few scientists who subjected the verses of the holy Qur'an to scientific inquiry and found that the information provided by the Holy Qur'an is substantiated by modern scientific data.

Key words: Scientific nature verses, Bible, Quran, allegation, and Robert Spencer

Introduction

Robert Spencer argues that the holy Qur'an is not a divine book as some of its narratives and facts conspicuously resemble the material found in Judeo-Christian scriptures, hence plagiarized. He takes pains to identify and prove parallels between Quran and Jewish and Christian sources. Seeing similarities in the holy Quran and the Judeo-Christian sources, Spencer concludes that the Bible, being chronologically earlier, is the source on which Muhammad (peace be upon him) depended for writing his book. According to him: "One of the most severe and lingering challenges to Muhammad's claim to be a prophet, both during the twenty three years of his career and throughout the

history of Islam, was his apparent dependence on Jewish, Christian, and other sources."ⁱ

He explains the reason for similarities between the holy Qur'an and the holy Bible remarking: "Muhammad no doubt had extensive contact as a young merchant, as well as fledging prophet, with the powerful Jewish tribes in and around Mecca."ⁱⁱ He further adds: "Along with the Biblical prophets, the Quran is full of stories from the Bible."ⁱⁱⁱ According to his analysis "One might expect, if Muhammad is trying to present himself as a prophet in the Biblical line, that he would repeat at least some Biblical stories. But some of the Qur'an's stories and details about biblical characters are actually from sources other than

the Bible itself—notably, the Talmud.^{iv} He further emphasizes his view “... the Qur’an suggests to numerous readers across the centuries that the Qur’an’s author or compiler was depending on the Jewish sources.”^v The same notion is further stressed in his book entitled ‘Did Muhammad Exist?’ in which he maintains: “This prophet would also need a sacred scripture to lend him authority. Much of the Qur’an shows signs of having been borrowed from the Jewish and Christian traditions, suggesting that the founders of Islam fashioned its scripture from existing material.”^{vi}

The very first revelation of Islam directed man to cultivate science,^{vii} resultantly Muslim scientists made phenomenal advancement in science from which the pre-Renaissance West derived tremendous benefits. Although the holy Qur’an is not a book of science, yet it describes many scientific facts which are well in keeping with the modern scientific knowledge. These facts were not known at the time of the holy Qur’an’s revelation. At the time of Qur’an’s revelation, the Arab society held a multitude of superstitious beliefs about several scientific issues. These groundless beliefs of the Arabs were eradicated by the holy Qur’an. The holy Qur’an revealed many scientific facts that were beyond the ken of Arab society as they lacked the prerequisite knowledge and technology to examine the universe and nature.

The holy Bible itself considers flawlessness to be the essential attribute of the Holy Scriptures. It says “as for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is flawless.”^{viii} It is further emphasized in the Proverbs as “Every word of God is flawless.”^{ix} But on some exceedingly significant points, incompatibilities between Biblical texts and the modern scientific knowledge do occur. The Bible, for instance, describes the creation of the universe in Genesis and tells us:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.”^x

At primary stage of the creation of this universe, gaseous mass existed. It is scientifically erroneous to mention the existence of water at the initial stage of the formation of the universe.^{xi}

The Bible further tells us:

And God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”^{xii}

It is highly illogical to mention the cause of light (the sun and the stars etc) on the fourth day and the light on the first day. In addition, the existence of morning and evening is inconceivable without the sun.^{xiii}

The bible further informs us:

“And God said, Let there be firmament in the midst of the water, and let it separate the waters from the waters’. And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.”^{xiv}

Here again the bible continues with its untenable description of the separation of waters into two layers. Such division of waters in two masses is unscientific.^{xv}

“And God said let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its own kind upon the earth. And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its own kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.”^{xvi}

The appearance of meticulously organized vegetation without the existence of the sun is scientifically indefensible.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmaments of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth. And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to

rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.^{xvii}

We know that Earth and Moon have emerged from the Sun. placing the creation of the Sun and the Moon after the creation of the earth is scientifically unacceptable.^{xviii}

As for as the end of the world is conserved, scientists put forward different hypotheses. Some argue that it will perish while others hold that it would have perpetual existence. However, it is illogical to believe that both of the concepts can be simultaneously true. But the Bible presents these mutually exclusive concepts and that is undoubtedly unscientific approach. The following verses of the Bible inform us that the earth will perish:

“And, Thou, Lord in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish; but Thou remainest: and they shall wear old as doth a garment.”^{xix}

“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wear old like a garment; as vesture shalt thou change them, and they shalt be changed.”^{xx}

The following verses contradict the aforesaid verses:

“And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.”^{xxi}

Of the above conflicting verses, one must be unscientific.

The Bible says in Job: “The Pillars of heaven tremble”^{xxii}. The following verse of Surah Luqman informs us that heavens are without any pillars.

He created the heavens without any pillars that ye can see; He set on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and He scattered through it beasts of all

kinds. We send down rain from the sky, and produce on the earth every kind of noble creature, in pairs.^{xxiii}

According to the Bible not only the heaven has pillars, but the earth also supported by pillars.

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to sit them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and he hath set the world upon them.”

Similarly the Bible says in Job:

“Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.”^{xxiv}

The same idea finds expression in Psalm:

“The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it.”^{xxv}

About diet and nutrition the holy Bible contains scientifically absurd suggestions. The Bible says:

“And God said, behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”^{xxvi}

New international Version of the Bible says: “The seed bearing plants and the trees bearing fruits bearing seeds are food for you, all of them.” We know very well that there are numerous species of plants that harbor lethal poison. For instance, Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) is considered as “the most violently toxic plant in North America.” It causes abdominal pains, painful convulsions, nausea and even death. Similarly, Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) contains scopolamine and atropine which, if eaten, causes paralysis in the involuntary muscles of the body. White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*) causes the following: nausea, loss of appetite, abdominal discomfort, weakness, high acidity of the blood and death. Only one or two seeds of Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*) can kill a child; an adult can die if he swallows up to eight seeds. Rosary Pea (*Abrus Precatorius*) contains abrin which prevents protein synthesis and can cause organ failure. Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) if eaten can cause erratic pulse,

vomiting, coma, seizures and death.^{xxvii} If some plants can be so menacing then such unscientific suggestions can never be termed as the inspired word of God.

The bible suggests a bizarre method for disinfecting a house inflicted by plague of leprosy.

And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet an hyssop: and he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water: and he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet and the living bird and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times: and he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop and with the scarlet: But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and make and atonement for the house: and it shall be clean.^{xxviii} This novel method is unscientific because we know the blood is a good media of bacteria, germs and toxin.

It is written in the book of Leviticus:

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: speak unto the children of Israel, saying if a woman have conceived seed, and born a male child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of separation for the infirmity shall she be unclean. And the in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall the continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thin, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. But if she bears a maid child, then she shall be made unclean two weeks as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days.”^{xxix}

According to the above verses, a woman remains unclean for seven days after she gives birth to a male child and this period continues for thirty three days more. But if a woman gives birth to a male child, she will remain unclean for a period of two weeks and her uncleanliness will persist for sixty six days. In brief, a woman remains unclean for forty days, if she delivers a male baby and she remains unclean for eighty days if she gives birth to a female baby. Examined in the light of medical science, it turns out to be completely absurd.^{xxx}

The Bible recommends an illogical and unscientific test for confirming adultery:

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them if any man’s wife go aside, commit a trespass against him. And a man lie with him carnally, and it be hid from the eye of her husband, and be kept close, and she be defiled, and there be no witness against her, neither she be taken with the manner; and the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, an she be defiled: or if the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be not defiled: then shall the man bring his wife unto the priest, and he shall bring her offering for her, the tenth part of an ephah of barley meal; he shall pour no oil upon it, nor put frankincense thereon; for it is an offering of jealousy, an offering of memorial, bringing inequity to remembrance. And the priest shall bring he near, an sat her before the LORD: and the priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel; and of the dust that is in the floor of the tabernacle the priest shall take, and put it into the water and the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman’s head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse: and the priest shall charge her by an oath, and say unto the woman, if no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness with another instead of thy husband, be thou free from this bitter water that causeth the curse: but if thou hast gone aside to another instead of thy husband, and thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband: then the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing, and the priest shall say unto the woman, The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among the people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot and thy belly to swell; and this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot : And the woman shall say, Amen, amen.”^{xxxi}

“And the priest shall write these curses in a book, he shall blot them out with the bitter water: and he shall cause the women to drink the bitter water that causeth the curse: and the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her and become bitter. Then the priest shall take the jealousy offering out of the woman’s hand and

shall wave the offering before the lord, and offer it upon the altar: and the priest shall take a handful of the offering, even the memorial thereof, and burn it upon the altar, and afterward shall cause the woman to drink the water. And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, that, if she be defiled, and done trespass against her husband, that the water did causeth the curse shall enter into her, and become bitter and her belly shall swell, and her thing shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people. And if the woman be not defiled, but be clean: then she shall be free, and shall conceive seed. This is law of jealousies, when a wife goeth aside to another instead her husband, and is defiled: or when the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him and he be jealous over his wife, and shall set the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute upon her all this law. Then shall the man be guiltless from inequity, and this woman shall bear her inequity.”^{xxxii}

The test suggested in the above verses of the Bible is inconvertibly unscientific. Had it been scientifically valid, people would have used it to resolve hundred of adultery cases pending in various courts of the world.

In contrast to the description provided in the Bible, the holy Qur’an does not give us a continuous narration of the creation of the universe. The passages pertaining to the creation are scattered all over the holy Qur’an. For many European writers, the description of the creation of the universe given in the Bible and the holy Qur’an are similar in the content but, in fact, there are obvious differences in the two accounts. From scientific point of view, the holy Qur’an provides significant subjects whose equivalents are not found in the Bible.^{xxxiii} Contrarily, the Bible is full of various unscientific descriptions whose equivalent cannot be pointed out in the holy Qur’an.

Both, the Bible and the holy Qur’an, describe the creation of the universe to have taken place in six days (periods). The Biblical account has been analyzed above now we proceed to examine the Qur’anic description of the same phenomenon. The holy Qur’an says:

Your Lord is God who has created the heavens and the earth in seven days (Ayyam)

“Your Guardian-Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority): He draweth the night as a veil o’er the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession: He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, (all) governed by laws under His command. Is it not His to create and to govern? Blessed be Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds!”^{xxxiv}

The word ‘ayyam’ has been translated by many as ‘days’ which has led many Westerner commentators to believe that the Biblical and Qur’anic descriptions are identical. However, the word ‘yaum’ plural ‘ayyam’ in Arabic means not just a day but it can also mean a long period of time or an indefinitely long span if time.^{xxxv} In the following verses of the holy Qur’an the word ‘yaum’ (plural Ayyam) has been used in the meaning of ‘period of time’, not day or days.

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.
^{xxxvi}

On another occasion, the holy Qur’an says:

“The angels and the spirit ascend unto him in a Day the measure whereof is (as) fifty thousand years.”^{xxxvii}

Some of the earlier commentators of the holy Qur’an translated the word yaum as day but the modern ones, such as Abdullah Yusuf Ali insisted on the interpretation of the word as ‘Aeons, or ages or very long periods.’^{xxxviii}

Modern science has not established it so far the formation of the universe took place in six periods; but it has shown that its formation has taken very long periods. And to conceive that the formation of the universe took six ‘days’ would be nothing but ridiculous.^{xxxix} The following verses of the holy Qur’an shed further light on the creation of the universes:

Say: Is it that ye deny Him Who created the earth in two Days? And do ye 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 measure 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 ye 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.^{xi}

The word 'dukhan' in Arabic is to be interpreted as a gaseous mass having fine particles.^{xii} This verse of the Qur'an is to be read with the following verse of surah Al-Anbiya:

Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder? We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?^{xlii}

'Fataq' refers to a separation process of a single mass whose diverse elements were initially blended together. In other words, splitting asunder the elements of a primary mass which previously existed in a state of rataq i.e mixed form. The word 'fataq' in Arabic language implies the coming of something into existence by devastating the structure of 'rataq'^{xliii} the modern science maintain that the made up of gaseous mass which was composed of helium and hydrogen. This nebula ultimately split up into numerous fragments with large masses and dimensions.^{xliv} Seen

in the light of the modern scientific knowlege, the Qura'nic expression(Rataq and Fataq) are in congruity with the latest findings.

The twelfth verse of surah Ha Meem Sajda, as cited above, also reveals intriguing scientific information. "He completed them as seven heavens within two days and inspired in each heaven its command." The Arabic word 'Sama' refers to everything thing that exists up and above.^{xlv} Given this meaning, the atmosphere may also be termed as 'sama'. We know that Allah has endowed the earth with all those attributes which are necessary for life. Atmosphere is one of these essential attributes. Atmosphere functions as a protective shield. It is scientifically established that the atmosphere consists of seven layers lying on one another. Scientists have discovered that the atmosphere consists of the following layers: Troposphere, Stratosphere, ozonosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, ionosphere, and exosphere.^{xlvi} The last part of the above stated verse reveals yet another wonderful scientific fact. It says that Allah gave every 'sama' its command or a task. This part of the verse should be read with following verse of the holy Qur'an:

And We have made the heavens as a canopy well guarded: yet do they turn away from the Signs which these things (point to)!^{xlvii}

This verse directs our attention to a marvelous attribute of heaven (Sama). It protects the earth from damaging things and plays a pivotal role in preserving the continuity of life. The atmosphere serves the crucial function of filtering the harmful rays travelling from the space. Intriguingly, the atmosphere allows to pass useful and innocuous rays such as visible light, radio waves and near ultraviolet rays. The atmosphere lets the near ultraviolet waves pass only partially. They are necessary for the survival of living creatures and particularly essential for the photosynthesis of plants. There is more to the protective function of the atmosphere. It prevents the freezing cold of the space from approaching the earth. The freezing cold of the atmosphere is measured to be approximately 270 C. Scientists have discovered the protective function of the atmosphere recently, but Allah had described it explicitly in the holy Qur'an centuries ago.

The description of the sun and the moon in the holy Qur'an differs from that of the Bible; in the latter, if we consult the Hebrew text, they are described as 'lamps' which possess light of their own. However, the Holy Qur'an employs two distinct words for each. The sun is described as shining glory (dhiya) and the moon as a light (Nur). The following Qur'anic verse are cited to differentiate the meanings more explicitly.

"Blessed is the One Who place the constellations in heaven and placed therein a lamp and a moon giving light." ^{xlvi}

"Did you see how God created seven heavens one above another and made the moon a light therein and made the sun a lamp." ^{xlvi}

"We have built above you seven strong heavens and placed a blazing lamp." ^{xlvi}

Here the sun has been described as a blazing lamp, and the moon is described as a light giving body (Munir). In addition, the sun is compared to a torch (Arabic: Siraj). The modern science tells that the sun generates bright light and intense heat due to its internal combustion and that the moon has no light of its own; it is an inert body which only reflects the light received from the sun. ^{li} Unlike the Biblical description of the sun and the moon, the holy Qur'an says nothing about these two celestial bodies that contradicts modern scientific findings.

The holy Qur'an provides further scientific information about the sun and the moon which we one cannot find in the Bible. The holy Qur'an tells us that both, the sun and the moon, move in a definite orbit.

It is He Who has created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. They swim along, each in a definite orbit. ^{lii}

And the sun runs to its resting place, that is the decree of Al-Mighty, the All-Knowing. ^{liii}

The fact that the sun and the moon move in their definite orbits was unknown to the Arab society. These facts have recently been discovered by astronomical

observation. Experts on astronomy say that the sun is travelling at the tremendous speed of 720,000 Km/hr toward the Vega in an orbit known as Solar Apex. Not only the sun, all satellites and planets within the gravitational system of the sun cover the same distance. ^{liv} The holy Qur'an informs us that the whole universe is full of orbits and paths.

"By the heaven containing pathways." ^{lv}

There are approximately two hundred billion galaxies in our universe; each galaxy consists of two hundred billion stars, most of them have their planets and most of the planets have their satellites. All of them travel in precisely computed orbits. The galaxies also move at enormous speed in their assigned orbits.

The holy Qur'an communicated this scientific information about the movement of heavenly bodies in their precisely computed orbits when there was no technology or sophisticated telescopes to observe the space.

The Bible tells us that the heaven has pillars. ^{lvi} The Arabs had also superstitious beliefs which they had inherited from past generations. They believed that the heaven was supported by the mountains. The holy Quran was revealed when people knew a little about astronomy but it communicated facts which were only recently discovered. The holy Qur'an says:

He created the heavens without pillars that you see and has cast into the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with you, and dispersed therein from every creature. And we sent down rains from the sky and made grow therein [plants] of every noble kinds. ^{lvii}

This verse invalidates the false belief upheld by the Bible that the heaven has got pillars.

In addition, the holy Qur'an provides important scientific facts about many other subjects. It tells us about the expansion of the universe [51:47], Big Bang [21:30], the roundness of the earth [39:5], the important function of mountains [21:31][78:6-7], the continental drift [27:88], the origin of iron [57:25], pairs in creation [37:36], the relativity of time

[22:47][32:5][70:4], the proportion of rain [43:11], the formation of rain [30:48][24:43][15:22], the properties of seas [55:19-20], darkness in the oceans and internal waves[24:40], human brains [96:15-16], the birth of humans and sperms [56-57-59][75:36-37][76:2], the determination of masculinity or femininity [53:45-46], development of the embryo [23:14][39:6] the identity through finger prints[75:3-4]

Numerous experts have examined scientifically relevant verses in the holy Qur'an and acknowledged the accuracy of the divine word. Keith L. Moore,^{lviii} claims that he collaborated with the King Abdul Aziz University's Embryology Committee and translated Qur'anic passages and traditions pertaining to human reproduction and development. He admits that the truthfulness of the assertions made in the seventh century AD startled him. He remarks that he has read the distinguished history of Muslim scientists in the 10th century AD and knows about some of their significant contributions to medicine, but he confesses that he knew nothing about the religious truths and beliefs found in the Quran and Sunnah. Keith claims that Muhammad (peace be upon him) must have been a divinely appointed messenger because the scientific veracity of the Quranic passages and the fact that the information expressed in these passages was only uncovered decades later.^{lix}

Keith thinks that a new system of categorization may be devised utilizing the phrases provided in the Qur'an and Sunnah because the staging of human embryos is complicated due to the ongoing process of change during development. The system, as described in the holy Quran, is straightforward, complete, and in line with current understanding of embryology.^{lx}

The holy Qur'an accurately discusses both the exterior and interior stages of the embryonic development and highlights significant events that were unknown to scientists fairly recently. During his extensive research of Islamic literature, Keith was astounded by the precise scientific knowledge contained therein. He claims that the holy Quran and sunnah disclose a method of classifying human embryos that is astonishing since the book was written in the 7th century AD... The Qur'anic depictions cannot be grounded in the scientific understanding of the seventh century.

E. Marshall Jonson,^{lxi} a developmental biologist and expert in embryology, accepted the supernatural provenance of the holy Qur'an, stating that if he were to time travel to the era of the prophet (peace be upon him) and explain things on the basis of what he knows today, he could not describe the things the way they were detailed in the holy Quran. No evidence that he can find supports the idea that Muhammad (peace be upon him) must have acquired this knowledge from some human source. He concludes that what Muhammad (peace be upon him) wrote was based on divine inspiration.^{lxii}

T.V.N Persaud^{lxiii} writes that it is a known fact that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was an 'ordinary' and 'illiterate' man but in spite of that he makes profound scientific statements. In view of these scientifically accurate statements, there is no difficulty in "my mind reconciling that this is a divine inspiration or revelation that led him to these statements."^{lxiv}

Joe Leigh Simpson^{lxv} has similar views. The scientific assertions in the holy Qur'an astounded Joe Leigh Simpson. Scientifically based verses made him realize they had to be from God. According to the scientific knowledge present at the time of the "writer," these Hadiths (Muhammad's sayings) could not have been produced. It follows that not only are genetics and religion (Islam) not at odds, but that religion (Islam) may actually influence science by adding revelation to some of the established scientific paradigms. There are Qur'anic passages that have been validated decades later that support the idea that God is the source of all knowledge.^{lxvi}

According to Gerald C. Goeringer,^{lxvii} the holy Qur'an is significantly more advanced than the conventional scientific literature in its descriptions of the many phases of human embryonic and foetal development. According to him, the Qur'anic verses offer a pretty thorough picture of human development from the moment the gametes mix to organogenesis in a relatively small number of ayahs. There was previously no such clear-cut and comprehensive record of human progress in terms of classification, vocabulary, and description. This account predates the standard scientific literature's descriptions of the various phases of human embryonic and foetal

development. In this connection, the holy Quran appears to be several millennia ahead of its time.^{lxviii}

Alfred Kroner^{lxix} The opinions of Alfred Kroner are noteworthy. He writes that when he considers the fact where Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born, he believes it to be extremely unlikely that he could have been aware of things like the common origin of the universe, as scientists have just recently discovered this to be the case using highly intricate and sophisticated technical means. It is incredible that Muhammad (peace be upon him) made a number of claims concerning the creation of heaven and earth that none of his contemporaries at the time could not understand. According to Kroner, a person who was unfamiliar with nuclear physics 1400 years ago would not have been able to independently determine, for example, that the earth and the sky shared a common origin.^{lxx}

According to Yashidi Kusan,^{lxxi} the holy Quran offers direction for further cosmological research. He maintains that contemporary astronomers have only been able to investigate a relatively limited portion of the cosmos. He explicitly states that he is highly amazed by the discovery of real astronomical truths in the Qur'an. He thinks that the focus of contemporary astronomers has been on comprehending a relatively tiny portion of the universe. Because of this, they can only view a relatively small portion of the sky with telescopes without considering the entirety of the cosmos. In his opinion, he may determine his future path for cosmological inquiry by reading the Qur'an and responding to the questions.^{lxxii}

After analyzing the verses pertinent to his area of expertise, Professor Armstrong^{lxxiii} said that he was really astonished at how remarkably some of the ancient writings seem to connect to present modern Astronomy.^{lxxiv}

According to William Hay,^{lxxv} although he does not know anything about the origin of the holy Quran, he finds it quite intriguing that this kind of knowledge may be found in centuries old writings. However, I find it quite intriguing that they are present and that there is ongoing research into the significance of some of the sections. When asked about the likely source of

the book, William Hay responded that it must have been a divine being.^{lxxvi}

Durja Rao,^{lxxvii} remarks that it is impossible to figure out that this sort of knowledge was available around 1400 years ago. People in that ancient society may have had a basic understanding of certain topics, but it would be exceedingly challenging to describe them in great detail. Therefore, it is clear that this is not common knowledge. A typical person in old Arab society was unable to describe this occurrence in such depth. Thus, he assumes that the knowledge must have originated from a supernatural source.

When professor Siaveda^{lxxviii} remarked after hearing the verses referring to numerous geological events that it struck him as being really mysterious. He believes that the book is really incredible.^{lxxix}

The scientific veracity of the Qur'anic assertions so astounded Professor Tejatat Tejasen^{lxxx} that he eventually converted to Islam. Narrating his story, he writes that he became interested in the Qur'an three years ago. He thinks that everything that was written in the Qur'an fourteen hundred years ago must be the truth that can be demonstrated by scientific methods. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) must have been a messenger who delivered this truth since it was given to him as enlightenment by the one who is a marvelous creator. Tejasen argues that since Muhammad was unable to read or write, it must be God or Allah who inspired this knowledge.

The entire discussion shows that the Bible contains many scientific errors whereas the holy Quran does not have such statements as contradict established scientific facts. The views of the scientists also prove that when it comes to Islam, science and religion are 'twin sisters'. On the contrary the Bible gives numerous descriptions of natural phenomena which are incompatible with modern science. In view of these facts, we can safely conclude that Muhammad (SAW) had not drawn on Judeo-Christians sources. If he had used them as a source, he would have necessarily incorporated the unscientific statements in the holy Qur'an. In brief, the holy Qur'an is the inspired word of Allah not borrowed from any other religious scriptures.

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