

SCIENCE IN ISLAM



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"We will show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that this 'Quran' is the truth..."

The Clear Quran 41:53

The Quran, the book of Islam, is the final book of revelation from God to humanity and the last in the line of revelations given to the Prophets.

Although the Quran (revealed over 1400 years ago) is not primarily a book of science, it does contain scientific facts that have only been discovered recently through the advancement of technology and scientific knowledge. Islam encourages reflection and scientific research because understanding the nature of creation enables people to further appreciate their Creator and the extent of His power and wisdom.

The Quran was revealed at a time when Science was primitive; there were no telescopes, microscopes or anything close to today's technology. People believed that the sun orbited the earth and the sky was held up by pillars at the corners of a flat earth. Against this backdrop the Quran was revealed, containing many scientific facts on topics ranging from astronomy to biology, geology to zoology.

Some of the many scientific facts found in the Quran include:

Fact 1 – Origin of Life

"And We created from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?"

The Clear Quran 21:30

Water is pointed out as the origin of all life. All living things are made of cells and we now know that cells are mostly made of water. This was discovered only after the invention of the microscope. In the deserts of Arabia, it would be inconceivable to think that someone would have guessed that all life came from water.

Fact 2 – Human Embryonic Development

God speaks about the stages of man's embryonic development:

"And indeed, We created humankind from an extract of clay, then placed each 'human' as a sperm-drop in a secure place, then We developed the drop into a clinging clot 'of blood', then developed the clot into a lump 'of flesh'..."

The Clear Quran 23:12-14

The Arabic word "alaqah" has three meanings: a leech, a suspended thing and a blood clot. "Mudghah" means a chewed substance. Embryology scientists have observed that the usage of these terms in describing the formation of the embryo is accurate and in conformity with our current scientific understanding of the development process.

Little was known about the staging and classification of human embryos until the twentieth century, which means that the descriptions of the human embryo in the Quran cannot be based on scientific knowledge from the seventh century.

Fact 3 – Expansion of the Universe

At a time when the science of astronomy was still primitive, the following verse in the Quran was revealed:

"We built the universe with 'great' might, and We are certainly expanding 'it'..."

The Clear Quran 51:47

One of the intended meanings of the above verse is that God is expanding the universe (i.e. heavens). Other meanings are that God provides for, and has power over, the universe – which are also true.

The fact that the universe is expanding (e.g. planets are moving further away from each other) was discovered in the last century. Physicist Stephen Hawking in his book 'A Brief History of Time' writes, "The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of the great intellectual revolutions of the twentieth century."

The Quran alludes to the expansion of the universe even before the invention of the telescope!

Fact 4 – Iron Sent Down

Iron is not natural to earth, as it came to this planet from outer space. Scientists have found that billions of years ago, the earth was struck by meteorites which were carrying iron from distant stars which had exploded.

"...And we sent down iron with its great might..."

The Clear Quran 57:25

Fact 5 – Sky's Protection

The sky plays a crucial role in protecting the earth and its inhabitants from the lethal rays of the sun, as well as the freezing cold of space.

God asks us to consider the sky in the following verse:

"And We have made the sky a well-protected canopy, still they turn away from its signs."

The Clear Quran 21:32

The Quran points to the sky's protection as a sign of God, protective properties which were discovered by scientific research conducted in the twentieth century.

Fact 6 – Mountains

God draws our attention to an important characteristic of mountains:

"Have We not smoothed out the earth like a bed, and made the mountains as its 'pegs'..."

The Clear Quran 78:6-7

The Quran accurately describes the deep roots of mountains by using the word "stakes". Mount Everest, for example, has an approximate height of 6 miles above ground, while its root is deeper than 78 miles!

The fact that mountains have deep 'stake'-like roots was not known until after the development of the theory of plate tectonics in the beginning of the twentieth century. God also says in the Quran (16:15), that the mountains have a role in stabilizing the earth "...so that it would not shake," which has just begun to be understood by scientists.

Fact 7 – Sun's Orbit

In 1512, astronomer Nicholas Copernicus put forward his theory that the Sun is motionless at the center of the solar system and the planets revolve around it. This belief was widespread amongst astronomers until the twentieth century. It is now a well established fact that the Sun is not stationary but is moving in an orbit around the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

"And He is the One Who created the day and the night, the sun and the moon—each travelling in an orbit."

The Clear Quran 21:33

Fact 8 – Internal Waves in the Ocean

It was commonly thought that waves only occur on the surface of the ocean. However, oceanographers have discovered that there are internal waves that take place below the surface which are invisible to the human eye and can only be detected by specialized equipment.

The Quran mentions:

"Or 'their deeds are' like the darkness in a deep sea, covered by waves upon waves, topped by 'dark' clouds. Darkness upon darkness! ..."

The Clear Quran 24:40

This description is amazing because 1400 years ago there was no specialist equipment to discover the internal waves deep inside the oceans.

Fact 9 – Lying & Movement

There was a cruel oppressive tribal leader who lived during the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). God revealed a verse to warn him:

"But no! If he does not desist, We will certainly drag him by the forelock— a lying, sinful forelock."

The Clear Quran 96:15-16

God does not call this person a liar, but calls his forehead (the front part of the brain) 'lying' and 'sinful', and warns him to stop. Numerous studies have found that the front part of our brain (frontal lobe) is responsible for both lying and voluntary movement, and hence, sin. These functions were discovered with medical imaging equipment which was developed in the twentieth century.

Fact 10 – The Two Seas that Do Not Mix

Regarding the seas, our Creator says:

"He merges the two bodies of 'fresh and salt' water, yet between them is a barrier they never cross."

The Clear Quran 55:19-20

A physical force called surface tension prevents the waters of neighboring seas from mixing, due to the difference in the density of these waters. It is as if a thin wall were between them. This has only very recently been discovered by oceanographers.

Couldn't Muhammad Have Authored the Quran?

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known in history to be illiterate; he could not read nor write and was not educated in any field that could account for the scientific accuracies in the Quran.

Some may claim that he copied it from learned people or scientists of his time. If it was copied, we would have expected to see all the incorrect scientific assumptions of the time also being copied. Rather, we find that the Quran does not contain any errors whatsoever – be they scientific or otherwise.

Some people may also claim that the Quran was changed as new scientific facts were discovered. This cannot be the case because it is a historically documented fact that the Quran is preserved in its original language – which is a miracle in itself.

Just a Coincidence?

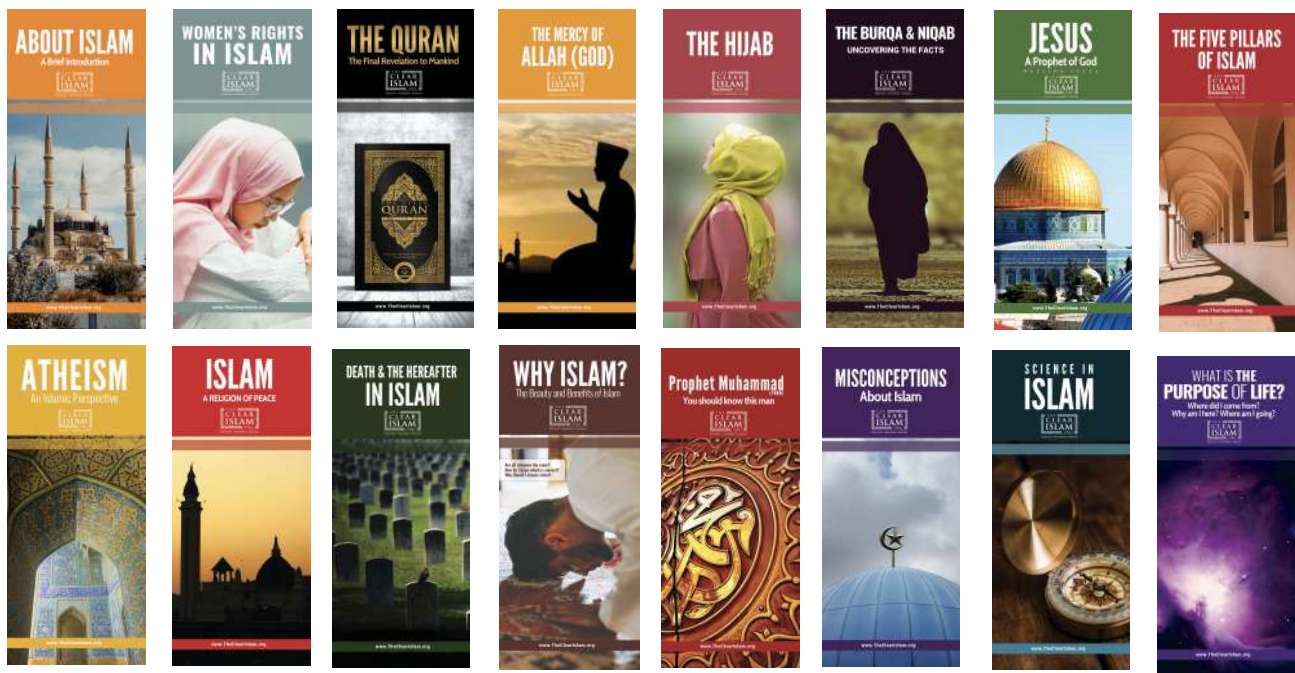
"We built the universe with 'great' might, and We are certainly expanding 'it'."

The Clear Quran 51:47

While this pamphlet has only focused on scientific miracles, there are many more types of miracles mentioned in the Quran: historical miracles; prophecies that have come true; linguistic and literary styles that cannot be matched; not to mention the moving effect it has on people. All these miracles cannot be due to coincidence. They clearly indicate that the Quran is from God, the Creator of all these laws of science. He is the one and same God who sent all the Prophets with the same message – to worship the one God only and to follow the teachings of His Messenger.

The Quran is a book of guidance that demonstrates that God did not create humans to simply wander aimlessly. Rather, it teaches us that we have a meaningful and higher purpose in life – to acknowledge God's complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness, and obey Him

It is up to each person to use their God-given intellect and reasoning abilities to contemplate and recognize God's signs – the Quran being the most important sign. Read and discover the beauty and truth of the Quran, so that you may attain success!



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