

## Wonders of the Omnipotent Creator: An analysis based on Quranic Verses on Creation

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### **ABSTRACT**

Man has been interested in the universe and its wonders since long. Existence of the universe itself is a puzzle and people from different aspects tried to solve the riddle. When we talk about the religious seminaries, their approach is towards divine revelation i.e. Holy Quran from Islamic point of view. According to the Quranic teachings, existence of the universe isn't a coincidence, Almighty Allah is the creator of the heavens, earth, all which are inside and outside them. Even He is the creator of the things people know and what they know not. This paper aims to identify the Quranic verses regarding wonders in the creation of universe and what inside is, so that people may think and recognize their Creator and His might instead of the misconception of origin of universe by chances and coincidences. Because by saying or accepting the existence of universe by chance and living beings through evolutionary process means to violate the belief on creation, which leads towards the denial of the Creator.

**Key Words:** *Islam, creation, universe, wonders, origin.*

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## Introduction

This universe and its wonders divert peoples' attention towards several queries regarding their existence and origin. i.e. Is there any creator behind it? If so who is the creator? Or is it because of any coincidence and chance? People try to answer such queries based on their thoughts and beliefs. Mainly there are two views; one is based on religious belief while other one on secular thought. In religion there is a very clear concept of creator. Especially in Islam there is no god except Almighty Allah, who is the only creator of the universe. While secular thoughts promote all those attempts where there is denial of creation or creator. This denial of creator is actually the denial of religion and all its teachings and ethics. Moreover, apart from religion and its doctrines, we have found research papers and books related to different fields of science which support creation and show doubts on evolution and evolutionary process. Considering the concept of Islam, following is an analysis based on the Quranic verses regarding creation and the wonders of the creator.

### Creation of the Universe

Allah Almighty is not only the creator of man but the creator of the whole universe. According to the teachings of Islam He is the creator of the universe and whatever exists. No matter people know about their existence or know not, as some of the verses in Holy Quran highlights that people don't know about all the creation.<sup>1</sup> There are several verses in Holy Quran to divert the attention of man towards the diversified creation of the Lord. So that he may think and recognize his creator without any doubt. There are several verses related to creation in Holy Quran, following is an overview:

1. *Creation of the earth and the heavens is greater than man's creation.*<sup>2</sup>
2. *The earth and the heavens were joined together and were separated by Almighty Allah.*<sup>3</sup>
3. *Floating of the moon and the sun in an orbit and creation of days and nights by Almighty Allah.*<sup>4</sup>
4. *Creator of the rising sun and adorned stars and all which is in between the earth and heavens.*<sup>5</sup>
5. *Heavens are created without the pillars (that) you see, and strong mountains to maintain the balance.*<sup>6</sup>

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1Sura Al-Nahl: 16/8

2Sura Al-Ghafir: 40/57

3Sura Al-Anbiyaa: 21/30

4Sura Al-Anbiyaa: 21/33

5Sura Al-Saaffaat: 37/5-7

6SuraAl-Luqman: 31/10

6. *The earth and the heavens were created in six days. His is the creation and commandment.*<sup>1</sup>
7. *Seven heavens are created one above another, no one can see any rift in this creation.*<sup>2</sup>

The above-mentioned overview of some verses highlights several aspects of the creation. Such as, in the beginning the earth and the sky were combined and it was Almighty's command that separated and arranged. In other words, it is not the outcome of any coincidence but due to the command of the Creator. In scientific perspective universe is the result of 'big bang' and the age of this universe is approximately 15 billion years.<sup>3</sup>

For the creation of earth and sky Almighty Allah said that these are created within six days. This one is another debate that what the term 'six days' refer to? Do these days refer to the days like our days or different? Scholars have two different opinions in this issue, one is, the six days were the same as our days<sup>4</sup> and the other opinion is, these six days were very long as compared to our days. This concept of long days is derived from Holy Quran where one day is mentioned as 'equals to our one thousand days'<sup>5</sup> and one day can also represent 'fifty thousand days'.<sup>6</sup> Actually we have the calculation of days and nights, after the creation of our solar system. As days and nights are caused by the rotation of earth and we haven't any tool to measure a day before the creation of earth. That's why when we talk about the creation of universe in six days; we can say that it may be same as our days or different from these days. However, so far as this discussion is considered, the actual purpose to describe these verses is to clarify that the earth and the sky are created by Almighty Allah.

The earth was formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago<sup>7</sup> and due to the high temperature, it was unsuitable for life. It is supposed that after 10 billion years of big bang, the solar system was formed from a nebula which was adorned with several chemical compounds. Some of them could form rocky planets. Carbon, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Iron, Sulphur

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1Sura Al-Araaf: 7/54

2Sura Al-Mulk: 67/3-4

3Space Studies Board, Committee on Planetary Biology and Chemical Evolution, National Research Council, and Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences. *The Search for Life's Origins: Progress and Future Directions in Planetary Biology and Chemical Evolution*. Washington: National Academies Press, 1990. p. 2

4Salahuddin, Hafiz. "Creation of the Universe: A Religious and Scientific Study." *The Dialogue*8, no. 2 (2013), 208-216.

5Sura Al-sajdah: 32/5

6 Sura Al-Maarij: 70/4

7 Space Studies Board. p. 78

and all the compounds which could be helpful for life were present there in sufficient amount.<sup>1</sup>

The above-mentioned overview of Quranic verses also diverts one's attention towards an organized system. The whole system of the universe is not working randomly but each part of the universe is as per the rules and regulation set by Almighty and are designed perfectly. That's why, Almighty Allah openly invites people to critically observe His creation and find the flaws in His creation. Then He Himself describes that Allah is the best designer and, in His creation, man can't find any fault even using his all efforts. Moreover, He highlights man's attention towards the mystery in the creation of sky and its pillars and if man can't even see these pillars then it is obvious that to find any fault from His creation is not more than a pipe dream.

### **Creation of Various Organism**

The creation of different living beings is described in Holy Quran. Such as:

*Almighty Allah brings forth the living beings from the dead ones and dead ones from the living.*<sup>2</sup>

Considering the scientific notion of life, one can say that life is only possible from life, but a verse mentioned above highlights, creation of living organisms from dead ones. The interpreters of Holy Quran explained it by giving different examples. Such as, man is created from clay, which is lifeless and without any sense and intellect<sup>3</sup> or Almighty Allah is consistently bringing into reality numerous organisms by breathing life into dead, while the substances themselves which make up these living organisms are totally without life.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Kamal al-Deen al-Batanony's interpretation in terms of modern science is very interesting. He says that decomposition starts in an organism after its death and the products of decomposition again become the part of environment again. For example, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) returns into the air, water to its initial state, some of the decomposed products are absorbed by plants which then become the part of food for animals and human beings. This clears up the cycle of substances like carbon dioxide, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur and so on, as

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1Pouplana, Lluís R. *The Genetic Code and the Origin of Life*. Berlin: Springer Science & Business Media, 2007. p.1

2Sura Al-Anaam: 6/95

3Karam Shah, Peer. *Zia ul Quran* (Urdu) Vol. 3. Lahore: Zia ul Quran publications, 1995. 1995. p. 567

4Maudoodi, Syed A. *Towards Understanding the Qur'ān: Surah Rum. Verse 19*. Lahore: Lahore: Islamic Publications Ltd, 2013.

the non-living substances are produced when living organisms decompose.<sup>1</sup>

What science refers to as 'nutrient cycling' is a basic procedure in an ecosystem where the usage of nutrients, their movement and recycling process is discussed. The nutrients include oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and phosphorus. This recycling is required for the existence of organisms. Nutrient cycles comprise of biological, geological and chemical processes where apart from living organisms, non-living organisms are also involved. It seems that 'giving life from dead and death from living being is the indication of this nutrient cycling.

Holy Quran also highlights Almighty's creation into pairs, as mentioned in the following verse:

*... and of every kind of fruits He made two in pairs.*<sup>2</sup>

In past, man was not much aware about the growth in plants and their indispensable role in life cycle but the creator of everything knows perfectly about its creation. Similarly, Allah makes to know the human beings about the male and female in plants. In some plants, reproduction takes place asexually while in some other plants the sexual reproduction occurs. The above-mentioned verse also reveals that Almighty Allah had created things into pairs.<sup>3</sup> Nowadays we can observe pairs in several things, electricity for example, where atoms consist of negative and positive charged electrons and protons or other different things.<sup>4</sup>

Another important aspect of creation is, water and its composition which is mentioned in Holy Quran as:

*Almighty Allah have made from water every living thing.*<sup>5</sup>

Similarly, scientists discuss the importance of water for life as; man couldn't evolve without water and will die without it.<sup>6</sup> The only difference in Quranic verse and scientific notion is the word 'create' and 'evolve'. According to Islamic belief man is created while in science were there isn't any concept of creator, one can find the word 'evolve' instead of creation. Our earth is called as 'water planet' in our solar system. On earth water is

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1Al-Deen al-Batanony, Kamal. *The life of plant in the light of Qur'an and Sunnah and Modern Science*. n.d. <http://www.quran-m.com/firas/en1/index.php/life-sciences/162-the-life-of-plant-in-the-light-of-quran-and-sunnah-and-modern-science.html>

2Sura Al-Al-Raad: 13/3

3Sura Al-Yaseen: 36/36

4Naik, Zakir. *The Qur'an & Modern Science: Compatible or Incompatible?* Peace Vision, 2007.

5Sura Al-Taha: 20/31

6Chaplin, Martin F. "Water: its importance to life." *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education* 29, no. 2 (2001), 54-59

essential component of life and a human body is 60 percent of water that's why man can't live more than 4 to 5 days without water.<sup>1</sup>

### Creation of Animals

There is variety of animals in this world, having different colors and structure. The question may arise, who spread these animals in the earth and why? The verses of Holy Quran answer the question in following manner:

1. *Almighty Allah have created livestock for them*<sup>2</sup>
2. *Some of the animals walk on two or four legs, some creep on their bellies.*<sup>3</sup>
3. *Living being on earth communities like human beings.*<sup>4</sup>
4. *Almighty Allah upholds the birds over them*<sup>5</sup>

Creation of different animals is mentioned in Holy Quran. For example: reptiles, birds and those having four legs etc. It is also mentioned about the animals that all of them live in groups too. Apart from that what the term group means here? The only concern to mention here is, animals are also created by Almighty and some of them live quite organized life, we have a very common example of ants.<sup>6</sup> There is wide variety of parenting system in the animals.<sup>7</sup> They do care the children from the enemies and environmental effects. For example, male and female penguins put their all efforts for the survival of their offspring. Male penguin stands still for four months without having any food to protect the chick from cold and the female penguin feed her baby by bringing food from the sea. Some questions arise here. Why male penguin sacrifices for the young one (the weak penguin)? Who taught the parent penguins that the young one can't survive in the cold? And for their survival the parent penguin must lift them up on their feet? Such questions can't be answered in terms of coincidence and chances, just because their existence is based on the creation of an intelligent design.

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1Vandas, Steve, Thomas C. Winter, William A. Battaglin, United States. National Park Service, United States. Army. Corps of Engineers, United States. Forest Service, and Geological Survey. *Water and the environment*. 2002.

2Sura Al-Yaseen: 36/71

3Sura Al-Sabaa: 24/45

4Sura Al-Anaam 6/38

5Sura Al-Mulk: 67/19

6Anderson, Carl, and Elizabeth McMillan. "Of Ants and Men: Self-Organized Teams in Human and Insect Organizations." *Emergence* 5, no. 2 (2003), 29-41.

7Bales, Karen L. "Parenting in Animals". *Current opinion in Psychology* 15 (2017), 93–98

Another verse, which shows flight in birds, is also a good example of intelligent design. In the above-mentioned verse birds are discussed in the sense of their flight. Like the wonders in their flight, migration is some birds is also a mystery. Some of the birds are long distance migrants. Birds fly for many days during their migration. A seabird, Manx shearwater in its 50-year life is calculated to have flown 8 million kilometers.<sup>1</sup> Mutton-bird is found in Pacific-Ocean; it completes its journey of 15,500 miles within six months. The route of the voyage of this bird is in the shape of digit '8'.<sup>2</sup> Scientists are also wondered that how do the birds know about this complex route.

### **The Creation of Giants**

Giants were created by Almighty Allah before the creation of man. There are several verses in Holy Quran related to their creation and existence, which it is quite different from man. Like:

*Giants were created from a smokeless flame of fire.*<sup>3</sup>

*Giants and humans are created to worship Almighty Allah.*<sup>4</sup>

Natural sciences discuss the things based on matter and their existence. Anything beyond matter such as supernatural beings are out of the domain of science. Normally super natural beings are discussed in the religious doctrine. Similarly, Islamic perspective of giants is obvious; their existence is not a myth in Islam rather they are created by the Almighty before the creation of man. Even the purpose of their creation is discussed in Holy Quran, which is nothing else but to worship the Creator.

### **The Creation of Angels**

Angels are another wonder of Almighty's creation. No one can see them except the chosen one's of Almighty Allah. Their existence is the part of belief, not only in Islam but in some other religions too. Following is the Quranic description of their creation.

1. *Angels are the slaves of the Most Gracious.*<sup>5</sup>

2. *Angels are the messengers of Almighty Allah and are created with two, three or four wings.*<sup>6</sup>

3. *They worship Almighty Allah.*<sup>7</sup>

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1CNN. "Oldest bird clocks 5 million miles." April 18, 2002. Accessed April 21, 2019. <http://edition.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/europe/04/18/britain.bird/index.html>

2Bucaille, Maurice. *The Bible, the Qur'an and Science: The Holy Scriptures Examined in the Light of Modern Knowledge*. 1982.

3Sura Al-Rahman: 55/15

4Sura Al-Zariyaat 51/56

5Sura Al-Zukhruf: 43/19

6Sura Al-Fatir: 35/1

7Sura Al-Nahl: 16/49-50

Like giants, angels are also super natural beings and out of the domain of natural science. The above-mentioned verses clarify the creation of angels very clearly. According to a saying of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace be upon him), angels were created from *Noor* (light).<sup>1</sup> The Holy Quran also mention number of their wings. Like birds, angels have wings, but the number of wings is different in different angels, as Allah can create what He wants. These angels work as messengers of Almighty, worship Him and don't show any single act of arrogance and pride. In addition, there is a hidden message for human beings that what Creator likes from its creation is nothing but obedience without any conceit.

### **Unusual Ways of Creation**

The entire systems in the universe including human body are under the guiding principles of Almighty Allah. Such as, the sun rises and sets on its time, a little seed germinates and converts into a tree etc. However, Almighty Allah is not bound with these rules. These rules are formed by the creator to facilitate His creation including human beings. While Allah can go beyond these rules; whenever and whatever He wishes He can do. We have several examples of Allah's prophet that whenever people from their nations demanded proofs from them for being the prophet then they observed different miracles from the prophets by Almighty's will. These miracles not only proved the Messengers' authenticity but diverted peoples' attention towards their only God, the Creator of the universe. Following are some examples in Holy Quran where life and death are discussed in some unusual manners.

#### **(a) Bird from Clay**

Almighty Allah sent Jesus Christ, Hazrat Esa (peace be upon him), as His prophet and granted him some miracles. These miracles are mentioned in different verses of Holy Quran. Even the birth of Hazrat Esa (peace be upon him) itself is an excellent example of unusual way of creation. However, it was a great miracle by Hazrat Esa (peace be upon him) that:

*Birds designed from clay were converted into living birds.*<sup>2</sup>

*Clay birds become living birds with Allah's permission.*<sup>3</sup>

The verses of Holy Quran highlight the miracle of Hazrat Esa (peace be upon him) and proving him Allah's messenger as well. Apart from that one can observe a quite unnatural phenomenon of life, where life

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1Nawawī, and Nawawī. Riyad As-salihin. *The Gardens of the Righteous*. New Jersey: Tughra Books, 2014

2Sura Aaal-e-Imran: 3/49

3Sura Al-Maaidah: 5/110



begins from clay. Scientific notion of life is different, where life can only begin with life. In this miracle, the 'creation of bird' from clay means life emerges by Almighty's commandment, whenever and wherever He wills.

**(b) Restoration of life**

Life of the dead ones can also be restored by their Creator, Almighty Allah, and this restoration is not limited to the Day of Judgment only. Following are such examples, where Almighty restored life after death and this one is a sign for all those who deny restoration of life.

*A person passed by a township and it had stumbled above its roofs. The man said: "Oh! How will Allah ever bring it to life after its death?" Allah caused him to die for a hundred (100) years, then raised him up (again). He (Almighty Allah) said: "How long did you remain (dead)?" The man replied: "(Perhaps) I remained (dead) a day or part of a day". He said: "Nay, you have remained (dead) for a hundred years, look at your food and your drink, they show no change; and look at your donkey! And thus We have made of you a sign for the people. look at the bones, how We bring them to gather and clothe them with flesh."*<sup>1</sup>

The above described verse clarifies, Almighty Allah had restored the life of a man after 100 years of his death. However, name of the person isn't mentioned in Holy Quran. There are different opinions by the scholars regarding his name.<sup>2</sup> However, one of them suggests that he was the Prophet Uzair (peace be upon him).<sup>3</sup> When he saw a destroyed area and said how Allah would make it alive? On this Allah made him observe His might, therefore, He made him dead and restored his life after 100 years' death. According to scientific point of view, a person's life can be restored after the suffering from coma or faint, but it is impossible to restore life after one's death. While Allah is Almighty, being the creator, He knows every aspect of His creature. Therefore, whenever He wants He give death or life.

In this event word 'death' is clearly used. Hazrat Uzair (peace be upon him) was not placed in the condition of Coma or faint but he was in a sound sleep of death for 100 years. Similarly, the last part of the verse shows the condition of donkey of Hazrat Uzair (peace be upon him). Dead body of the donkey was spoilt badly and there were only bones lying here and there. Then he observed, how Almighty Allah again covered those

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1 Sura Al-Baqr: 2/259

2 Naeem, Gulnaz. "Restoration of Life from Dormancy and Death: A Scientific Interpretation of Two Events in Holy Quran." *British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 21, no. 1 (2018), 24-27

3 Kathir, Ibn. *Story of the Prophets*. Saudi Arabia: Darussalam, n.d. (Translated by Muhammad Mustapha Geme'ah, Al-Azhar)

bones with flesh and made the donkey alive. This one is also a sign for the people of understanding. If we review the verse again, there is another wonder, when Almighty Allah says, ‘*look at your food*’. Unlike donkey, there was no change in the food, means it was not spoiled even after 100 years.

Another miracle is associated with Abraham, Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him), a verse in Holy Quran describes the event as:

*‘And when Ibrahim (peace be upon him) said, “My Lord! Show me how will You give life to the dead.” He (Allah) said: “Do you not believe?” He (Ibrahim, peace be upon him) said: “Yes (I believe), but to be stronger in Faith.” He said: “Take four birds, then cause them incline towards you (then slaughter them, cut them into pieces), and then put a portion of them on every hill, and call them, they (birds) will come to you in haste.”’<sup>1</sup>*

As per Almighty Allah’s directives, Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) killed the birds and scattered their pieces onto different hills then he called them, and the birds returned towards him lively. It’s what Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) wants to know, how the dead ones will get life again. The verse indicates that there will be no any long and difficult process in the restoration of the dead bodies but only a call by their Lord and they will return towards the Lord. This is what no one except the Creator can do, even we can’t fully understand its nature and phenomenon due our limited sense and knowledge. Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) although had no any doubt in Allah’s power in restoration of dead ones into living beings but he requested Allah just for self-satisfaction.

By this event of Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) a simple method of the creation of living things can be seen. The verse also clears the myth that there will be no life after death. Surely, there will be life after death. It will be their Creator who will restore their lives, whom some of the people were denying in this world. So, the human beings should not go in doubts that after death when they will become dust, who will make them alive. For Allah’s power and greatness, this isn’t a difficult task. Furthermore, it is quite an unusual phenomenon of giving life to an organism. These birds neither evolved nor they got life from their parent but only with Creators command.

### **Conclusion**

This beautiful universe isn’t a coincidence, but Almighty Allah is its only Creator. The whole system of the universe is working under the rules and regulations set by Almighty Allah and it is designed perfectly. That’s why, the Creator openly invites people to critically observe His

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<sup>1</sup>Sura Al-Baqr: 2/260

creation. But they wouldn't find any flaw in His creation. One without biasness can even see intelligent design in the creation of animals and birds. While in the creation of angels and giants there is another mystery of the creation where natural science is quite silent. In addition to this, Creator showed several unusual practices of life and death through His messengers, where one can observe a quite unnatural phenomenon of life. Such as 'birds from clay' were not evolved from any of their existing species. Similarly, in restoration of life after 100 years' death and life in dead birds by calling them are the signs for all those who deny restoration of life.

*This is the creation of (Almighty) Allah. So show Me that (of the creation) which these (gods or people whom do you worship) besides Him (Almighty Allah) have created. Indeed, the Zalmoon (the wrong doers) are in clear error.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>Sura Al Luqman: 31:11

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