



The Quran

A MIRACLE FOR ALL TIMES

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

"All of the prophets were given such miracles as inspired people to believe. And the miracle that I have been given is the Quran." (Bukhari)

These words of the Prophet make it clear that the Quran which the prophet Muhammad (SAW) presented to the people as having been revealed to him, word by word, by God is itself a compelling proof of his being a true prophet.

What are those features of the Quran which prove it to be the word of God? There are many but here we will look at only three of them:

1. *The Quran and Modern Science.*
2. *The Prophecies in the Quran.*
3. *The Difference between the Quran and the Ancient Divine Scriptures.*

The Quran and Modern Science

The Quran was revealed at a time when people knew very little about Nature. At that time it was thought that the source of rain was a river in the sky and the water flowing from it dropped onto the earth. It was also thought that the earth was a flat ground and the sky, its ceiling, was resting on the mountain peaks; that the stars were shining silver nails which were studded in the dome of the sky or that they were very small lamps which were suspended at night using ropes. The ancient people of India used to believe that the earth was resting on the horn of a cow and when the cow shifted it from one horn to the other, the movement of its head caused earthquakes. The ancient religious books e.g. the Bible, which could not be protected from human alteration and re-interpretation had come to include popular beliefs and points of view prevalent in different times.

Later on, due to advancement in knowledge, many new discoveries were made and a lot more information became available. There was no field of life and no branch of knowledge where subsequent research did not disprove accepted and proven theories held previously. As a person can only speak in the light of his knowledge and consciously or unconsciously he will echo only the information available to him in his times, there can be no human word which can be almost 1400 years old and still today be completely accurate in respect of the facts to be found in it. It is different in the case of the Quran. Its accuracy has withstood the test of time and this is the absolute proof that its source is the Being whose vision encompasses time from its beginning to its end, who knows all the realities in their true form and whose knowledge is not restricted by time or circumstances. If the Quran had been the word of a human being who naturally has limited vision, then the passage of time would have proved at least some aspect of it wrong, as is the case with any human word which has so often been proved inaccurate in subsequent times.

The basic theme of the Quran is salvation in the life Hereafter. That is why it does not fall into the category of any of the known arts and the science of the world. However as it addresses itself to humankind, it does touch upon every field of knowledge that in any way effects humans. This is of course a very vulnerable situation to be in because even if a person does not speak in depth on any subject in his conversation but simply touches upon it, if his knowledge is deficient, he will definitely use words which do not reflect the correct picture. For example Aristotle in his efforts to prove that a woman is inferior to a man, said that she had less teeth than a man.

Naturally this was a metaphorical statement, but despite this, it is a statement that proves the speaker's ignorance in matters related to physiology because it is a well-known fact that both men and women have the same number of teeth. However, the surprising thing about the Quran is that although it touches on many fields of science in some way or the other, in no place in the entire narration is there anything which subsequent in-depth scientific research could prove is the word of someone who is talking in the light of defective knowledge.

The renowned French doctor, Dr. Maurice Bucaille learnt Arabic and then studied the Quran. He conducted a detailed investigation of the Quran in the light of modern day scientific knowledge and in his internationally acclaimed book "The Bible, The Quran and Science," he writes:

1. "The Qur'an did not contain a single statement that was assailable from a modern scientific point of view." (pp-9)

2. "It is an established fact that at the time of the Qur'anic Revelation, i.e. within a period of roughly twenty years straddling Hegira (622 A.D.), scientific knowledge had not progressed for centuries and the period of activity in Islamic civilization, with its accompanying scientific upsurge, came after the close of the Qur'anic Revelation. Only ignorance of such religious and secular data can lead to the following bizarre suggestion I have heard several times: if surprising statements of a scientific nature exist in the Quran, they may be accounted for by the fact that Arab scientists were so far ahead of their time and Muhammad was influenced by their work. Anyone who knows anything about Islamic history is aware that the period of the Middle Ages which saw the cultural and scientific upsurge in the Arab world came after Muhammad, and would not therefore indulge in such whims. Suggestions of this kind are particularly off the mark because the majority of scientific facts which are either suggested or very clearly recorded in the Qur'an have only been confirmed in modern times." (pp-83)

3. "The above observation makes the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of the Quran quite untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merit, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at the time, and all this without once making the slightest error in his pronouncements on the subject?" (pp-86)

Here, two examples are being given from which we can assess that even when simply touching upon a particular branch of knowledge, the Quran is amazingly accurate about things which were not known at the time of its revelation, but were in fact discovered later. It must be borne in mind that there were many things about the universe which the people of the earlier times knew, but the extent of their knowledge was very faulty and incomplete when compared to the facts that came to light in the period of scientific advancement. The problem was that the Quran was not a book of science, and hence if it had suddenly started revealing new and startling discoveries, arguments would have broken out its real purpose which was to reform the mind. It is yet another miracle of the Quran that much before the advancement of scientific knowledge it has spoken of such things and used words and terminology for them which did not cause anxiety for the people of those times and yet could be applied to later discoveries.

The Sun's Journey

Allah tells us:

"And the Sun runs his course for a period determined for him: that is the decree of (Him) the exalted in Might, the All-Knowing." (Quran: 36-38)

In the 16th century the famous astronomer Copernicus announced that the sun is stationery and that the earth revolved around it and this created a stir in the corridors of knowledge. When this was also confirmed by the famous German astronomer Kepler, the world thought the Copernicus discovery a reality.

According to the Quranic verse, the sun is moving and so this caused a wave of great consternation in the Islamic world. At that time Muslims had no knowledge, observatories or telescopes, so they could not refute this 'discovery'. Finally Allah, the Lord of Honour who has Himself undertaken to protect the Quran, arranged to corroborate the words of the Quran. Europe produced such astronomers who after years and years of observation and study announced with full confidence that the sun travels towards an unknown destination. At the top of this list was William Herschel who from studying the proper motion of stars, was the first to realize that the solar system is moving through space, who said: "The sun is travelling in space." What is the sun's destination? No clarification was given by the Quran or Herschel, but the West had to accept the claim the Quran made more than 1400 years ago.

Human Development

In the news published on 22nd November, 1984, the Canadian newspaper "The Citizen" wrote:

"Ancient Holy Book 1300 years ahead of its time."

Similarly, on 10th December 1984, "Times of India", the New Delhi based newspaper published the same news with the following headline: *"Quran scores over Modern Science."*

The Quran was revealed in the 7th century A.D. and at that time no one in the world knew the stages that the foetus passes through in the womb of the mother. Dr Keith Moore, one of the world's prominent scientists of Anatomy and Embryology and a professor in the University of Toronto has compared the same verse of the Quran (23:14 and 39:6) with the modern scientific discoveries and found that the narration in the Quran was amazingly in conformity with modern-day discoveries. He was astonished that the Quran contains these facts which the Western world has come to know only in the 20th century. On this subject, he wrote an article in which he writes:

"The 1400 years old Quran contains messages so accurate about embryonic development that Muslims can reasonably believe them to be from God."

The concluding paragraph of the book, "The Quran, The Bible & Science," by Dr. Maurice Bucaille reads:

"In view of the level of knowledge in Muhammad's day, it is inconceivable that many of the statements in the Quran which are connected with science could have been the work of a man. It is, moreover, perfectly legitimate, not only to regard the Quran as the expression of a Revelation, but also to award it a very special place, on account of the guarantee of authenticity it provides and the presence in it of scientific statements which, when studied today, appear as a challenge to explanation in human terms." (pp-164)

The Prophecies in the Quran

Whenever a person speaks about something it is immediately apparent that he is speaking about the present and that he has no knowledge of the future. As no one knows the future, one cannot speak about it with confidence. Events related to it cannot be predicted accurately and human beings have always failed on this count. In contrast to this, if we look at the Quran it seems that the author of the Quran is a higher being whose vision simultaneously encompasses everything from the past to the future. He not only knows the events of the present but also those that will be known by humans only in the future. We will refer to two of the Quranic prophecies which have amazingly come to pass in precisely the way foretold in the Quran.

Throughout history we find the prophecies of many intelligent and daring people. Whose earlier successes in predicting events led them to make tall claims which were subsequently negated by forthcoming events. In contrast to this, even in the face of what appeared to be totally contradictory and unimaginable situations, the predictions of the Quran came to be proved so accurate that they defy explanation by any field of human science. We will never be able to explain them in the light of human experience and the only way one can explain them is to accept that they are from Allah.

The Mummy of Merneptah

According to historical accounts, the King of Egypt that drowned in the times of Moses was the son of Ramesses II. His family title was Pharaoh and personal name was Merneptah. At the time the Quran was revealed his mention was to be found only on the Biblical scriptures and even in these, only this was written:

"The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained." (Exodus 14:28)

At that time, the Quran amazingly announced that the Pharaoh's body had been preserved and that he was to be a lesson for the people. Allah tells us in the Quran:

"This day shall We save you in your body that you may be a Sign to those who come after you! But verily many among mankind are heedless of Our Signs!" (10:92)

It was considered strange when this verse was revealed in the Quran as at that time no one knew that Pharaoh's preserved body was present somewhere. After the revelation of this verse, nearly 1300 years passed in this state of ignorance. Professor Loret was the first person who discovered Pharaoh's body in an ancient pyramid in Egypt in 1898 at Thebes in the King's Valley from where it was transported to Cairo. Elliot Smith removed its wrappings on the 8th of July 1907; he gives a detailed description of this operation and the examination of the body in his book, *"The Royal Mummies"* (1912). It was proved that the corpse was that of the Pharaoh who had been drowned 3000 years ago in the time of Moses.

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, the author of *"The Bible, The Quran and Science"* examined the corpse of Pharaoh and then wrote in his book:

"His earthly remains were saved by the Will of God from destruction to become a sign to man, as it is written in the Quran. Those who seek among modern data for proof of the veracity of the Holy Scriptures will find a magnificent illustration of the verses of the Quran dealing with the

Pharaoh's body by visiting the Royal Mummies Room of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo." (pp-157)

Victory of the Roman Empire

An important prophecy of the Quran

The Roman Empire was a Christian kingdom and the Persians were sun worshippers. Khusrau Parviz (Chosroes II), the King of Persia had fled the country due to a rebellious uprising in his country and Maurice, the Roman emperor at the time gave him refuge, practically adopted him as a son and restored him to the Persian throne with Roman arms. Khusrau took this as a great favour regarding Maurice as a benevolent father. In 602 A.D., 8 years prior to prophet Muhammad (SAW) prophet-hood, Phocas a military leader rebelled against the Roman Emperor Maurice, ruthlessly killed him and his family and ascended the throne. On the pretext of avenging his benefactor, Khusrau attacked Rome in 603 A.D. and his armies even conquered Jerusalem. After conquering Roman territory, the sun-worshipping Persian kingdom started committing extreme acts of oppression and cruelty to wipe out Christianity.

Right at that time when the Romans Empire was at the brink of extinction between life and death, Heraclius, a Roman governor in Africa, rebelled against Phocas who had become a tyrant and sent his son, also called Heraclius to take over the reins of the crumbling Roman Empire in 610 A.D. Khusrau should have been grateful to Heraclius for killing Phocas, the murderer of his benefactor Maurice, but the Persian Emperor had a change of heart. Even Heraclius was not successful in curbing the tide of the Persians and by 616 A.D., the Romans, outside of their capital had lost control of the entire eastern and southern part of their empire. The Roman Empire had become limited to the four walls of Palestine. Being surrounded all the ways were closed and hence there was famine in the city and the problem was further compounded by the outbreak of infectious diseases. These circumstances made Heraclius totally despondent and he decided to run away. His ships loaded with wealth and treasures from the royal palace were ready to sail, but at the last moment the chief priest of the Roman Church was successful in convincing him against doing so on religious grounds and by boosting his morale. The extent of defeat of the Roman Emperor and his pitiable condition can be gauged from the fact that he sent a Persian messenger and some responsible Roman office bearers with a message to Khusrau appealing for forgiveness and peace but this was rejected.

On the one hand these events were unfolding and on the other hand in Makkah, the central city of Arabia, located between Persia and Rome, they created an uproar. The sympathies of the Muslims were of course with the Roman Christians. When in 616 A.D. it became obvious that the Persians had the upper hand and all the eastern territories of the Romans had come under Persian control, the opponents of Islam took advantage of this opportunity. They started to say that in the same way that the polytheists had overcome the followers of a religion similar to Islam, they too would wipe out Muslims and their religion from the face of Arabia. Considering the helpless and weak state of the Muslims in Makkah in those days, these words were like salt on sore wounds. Right around that time, the following verses were revealed:

"The Roman Empire has been defeated in a land close by; but they (even) after (this) defeat of theirs will soon be victorious within a few years. With Allah is the Decision, in the Past and in the Future: on that Day shall the

Believers rejoice with the help of Allah. He helps whom He will and He is Exalted in Might, Most Merciful. (It is) the promise of Allah. Never does Allah depart from His promise: but most men understand not." (30:2-6)

The Arabic word 'Bid'i' used in the Quran for quantifying the time period 'within a few years' means 3-10 years.

The manner and ring of finality in this prophecy shows that it has been presented as another proof of both the veracity of the Quran and a miracle of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Edward Gibbons writes "At the time when this prediction is said to have been delivered, no prophecy could be more distant from its accomplishment, since first twelve years of Heraclius announced the approaching dissolution of the empire."

(The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, pp 79-80)

But naturally this news was being prophesied by none other than the Being who has sole control over all the ways and means and in whose hands are the hearts of all humans. So while the angel of Allah through the tongue of an unlettered prophet gave the good news, at the same time Heraclius was undergoing an incredible transformation. Historians are amazed at how Heraclius, who for 12 years had been the picture of cowardice, had suddenly become such an expert in war strategy. In 622 A.D., when Heraclius departed with his forces from Constantinople, people thought they were seeing the last military contingent of the Roman Empire. But after successive Roman victories, one after the other, the Persian Empire was overturned. The Romans planted their flag in the heart of the Persian Empire and in 625 A.D. i.e. in the second year after Migration of the prophet from Makkah to Madinah, on the occasion of the battle of Badr, exactly within 9 years this great prophecy came to pass. This, although at the time it was foretold there were no apparent signs that it would come to pass.

The Difference Between the Quran and the Ancient Divine Scriptures

Western Orientalists use this against the Quran that the events narrated in the Quran were (We seek refuge with Allah) replicated by the Prophet (SAW) from the Taurat (Old Testament) and the Injeel (New Testament). All three books, the Quran, the Taurat and the Injeel are still present and can easily be compared with each other to disprove this statement. The Quran and the Bible have different versions for the same incident. Additionally, the Quran has also presented the characters of the prophets as pure and blemish-free which is in accordance with their mission and exalted status. In fact, the Quran has rejected these accusations which were leveled at the prophets by their enemies or foolish friends.

1. When a person reads in Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 102 in the Quran:

"The blasphemers were, not Solomon, but the evil ones." he is astonished why the negation of kufr (disbelief) by a prophet was necessary. But when he reads in the Taurat (1 Kings, Chapter 11, 4-6):

"For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not completely follow the Lord, as his father David had done."

then it becomes clear to him that the Quran is repudiating the injustice done to Solomon in the present version of the Taurat.

2. Dr. Maurice Bucaille in his book, 'The Bible, The Quran and Science' writes:

"The existence of such an enormous difference between the Biblical description and the data in the Quran concerning the Creation is worth underlining once again on account of the totally gratuitous accusations leveled against Muhammad since the beginnings of Islam to the effect that he copied the Biblical descriptions. As far as the Creation is concerned, this accusation is totally unfounded. How could a man living fourteen hundred years ago have made corrections to the existing description to such an extent that he eliminated scientifically inaccurate material and, on his own initiative, made statements that science has been able to verify only in the present day? This hypothesis is completely untenable. The description of the Creation given in the Quran is quite different from the one in the Bible." (pp-100)

3. When Allah called out to Moses in the valley below the Mountain of Sinai, He gave him certain miracles. In the Quran we are told:

"Now draw your hand close to your side: it shall come forth white (and shining), without harm (or stain), as another Sign." (20:22)

The same thing in the Bible is narrated like this:

"And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as 'snow.'" (Exodus: 4:6)

The Bible terms the whiteness of Moses' hand as 'leprosy', but in the Quran the addition of the words "without harm," when narrating this miracle, clearly shows that the Quran is not drawing its facts from the Bible but it is in fact directly from the Lord who is the Knower of the Unseen and who is correcting the changes made in the Bible by humans.

Innumerable instances like this can be given which show that due to alterations made in the Taurat by humans, the incidents narrated in the Bible are very different from the Quran. In fact, the Quran gives many other important details related to these incidents which are not even mentioned in the Bible.

LASTLY

By just normal reflection on all this evidence, every intelligent person will come to the conclusion that the Quran is the word of God. If despite learning so much, he still does not want to accept this fact and continues to remain heedless to it, not read or act upon it, nor lead his life according to it, then he is angering his Lord. For limited pleasure in this transient world he is incurring the risk of punishment in the eternal world to come. If he does not even bother to open the letter which Allah has so lovingly written, then to what extent is he true in his claim of love for his Creator? His Master has sent this book of guidance so that a person can make even this very world a paradise, but it is sad that a person is insistent on destroying his life, both in this world and the Hereafter. He continues to lead his life according to his own suppositions in the manner that the Quran tells us:

"And there are among them illiterates who know not the Book, but (see therein their own) desires, and they do nothing but conjecture." (2:78)

May Allah bestow upon us the guidance and ability to read the Quran, understand and act upon it, and to convey it to others. Ameen



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