

# Good News

*And give good news to those who do good (to others)*

-Holy Quran 22:37

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## Scientifically Verified Truths in the Holy Quran

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The Holy Quran was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s) more than 1400 years ago. Unlike previous scriptures, it is free of human interpolations and its original text has remained pure and intact ever since. The revelations from God were immediately committed to memory by the Holy Prophet (s) and his Companions and reduced to writing. Even, today, the entire Quran is memorized by heart by hundreds of thousands of Muslims across the world as it was memorized word for word by the Holy Prophet (s) and many of his

Companions and the early Muslims. It is also not uncommon these days to find children as young as seven years old that are known to be *hafiz* i.e. one who knows the entire Quran by heart.

Although many translations exist and one may come across a few differences in the pronunciation of certain words by *qaris* (reciters) from different parts of the world due to different dialects, this does not change the original Arabic text and its meanings. This is peculiar to the English language as well. The British and Americans pronounce and even spell certain English words differently, but the meanings remain the same. And thus when the English say ‘tomato’ differently to its American counterparts in both cases that delicious, red-coloured

fruit or vegetable we are all too familiar with, is meant. There are also many examples of different modes of spelling such as ‘honour/honor; labour/labor; program/programme and so forth that also do not affect the meanings in any way.

The Holy Quran consists of over 6000 verses. Each verse is referred to as an *ayat* or a ‘sign’ that signifies ‘a miracle’ in Islam. An *ayat* is defined as ‘a mark or a sign by which the existence of something is made known.’<sup>1</sup> In the Quranic context it refers to a ‘sign’ that makes the Power and Majesty of Almighty God known to us. The Holy Quran is thus the standing ‘miracle’ of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s). ‘It was the one miracle claimed by Mohammed – his standing miracle” he called it; and a miracle indeed it is.’<sup>2</sup>

This miracle is still with us in tangible form to ponder over, to reflect on, and to evaluate and study

in order to get a true understanding of the Creator and His creation. It is not a mere historical item as in the case of the previous prophets.

That such profound knowledge emanated from the lips of an unlettered mortal such as Muhammad (s), is sure proof of the Quran’s Divine origin. Everyone knows that the Prophet (s) was not schooled in reading and writing; as these were not characteristics the Arabs were famous for as were their Roman and Greek counterparts in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. The Arabs also never received a revealed book such as the Jews and Christians had.

In fact 7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Arabia was worse than the Dark Ages that still prevailed in Europe at the time. Literacy was near zero. Muslim historians refer to it as *Jahiliya*, the Age of Ignorance.

Therefore, the ‘miraculous’ nature of the Holy Quran can be partially ascribed to the fact that it contains so many scientific-back truths only fairly recently

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<sup>1</sup> Imam Raghīb

<sup>2</sup> Smith, Bosworth, *Life of Mohammed*, p. 290

discovered. These are just some of them:

### 1. The Big Bang Theory and the Expansion of the Universe

‘Do not those who disbelieve see that the **heavens and the earth were closed up, so We rent them (apart)** or We separated them with immense force’ – 21:30

‘And when the heaven is cleft asunder (*fatarat*).’ – 81:1

Interestingly, the Arabic *fatarat* comes from the same root *fa ta ra* used when reference is made to the Creator like when we say *Fatari samaa waati wal ard*, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. It also refers to nature or the natural laws as in 30:30 that mentions the *fitrata* or the ‘nature’ according to which creation takes place. Thus the verse (81:1) refers to a ‘process’ in the creation. This is made clear by the very next verse

‘And when the *stars become scattered or dispersed.*’ – 81: 2.

This refers to the ‘expansion’ further corroborated in another verse:

‘And the heavens (or the universe) We ***raised it high with great force*** and We are the Makers of ***its expansion*** (or We are its Expanders)’ – 51:47

Now, I am no scientist, but when we look at what are stated in all these verses about a forceful splitting asunder, scattering/dispersing of the stars, and ***a forceful expansion*** and compare it to the much talked about scientists’ ***big-bang theory*** that is regarded as the dominant theory of the origin of the universe by them, one have to admit it is by no means a co-incidence and indeed something to ponder over.

In essence, scientists aver that the universe began from an initial point or ***singularity*** (it was closed up –HQ) which burst or cleft asunder and has been expanding over billions of years and continues to do so as we speak. This, they say,

is how the universe or as they refer to it these days as the *multiverse* as more and more knowledge of the creation becomes known and keeps on unfolding, originated.

What is so amazing is the fact that whilst modern scientists attribute this phenomenon to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Holy Quran revealed the ‘bursting asunder’ and the ‘expansion of the universe’ 1400 years ago to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s).

Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking wrote in his book *A Brief History of Time*, ‘The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of *the great intellectual revolutions of the 20th century.*’ Hawking was an agnostic; some say an atheist, and definitely not a student of the Holy Quran. If he had been one, he would have known that the Holy Quran mentioned the expansion of the universe 1400 years ago long before the invention of sophisticated instruments such as the powerful telescopes we have these days. The

question is how did an unlettered 7<sup>th</sup> century Arabian prophet come to know of this?

## 2. Water – the origin of Life

‘We made from *water* everything living. Will they not believe? - [21:30]

The fact that living things consist mostly of water was discovered only after the invention of the microscope, around the **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.** Thus in today’s extra-terrestrial search for life, scientists are looking for any sign of *water* on other planets as it would serve, they say, as a definite indication of life. In the deserts of 7<sup>th</sup> century Arabia, the last thing someone would have guessed is that all life came from water.

## 3. Sky’s Protection

‘And We made the heaven a **guarded canopy**; yet they turn away from its signs!’ [21:32]

The Holy Quran points to the sky’s protection as a sign (*ayat*) i.e.

a miracle. It was only in 1913 that French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson discovered the protective ‘ozone layer’. The ozone layer refers to a region of the earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the sun's harmful UV Radiation. The atmosphere of which the ozone layer is a part in the heaven plays a crucial role in protecting the earth. It protects the earth from the lethal rays of the sun. Again, the obvious question is, if this knowledge only came to western scientists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, how did Muhammad (s) come to know of this in the 7<sup>th</sup> century?

#### 4. Mountains have roots like pegs

‘And We made firm mountains in the earth lest it be convulsed by them.’ – [21:31]

Have We not made the earth an expanse, And the mountains as pegs? [78:6-7]

Science verifies the truth of these statements that the mountains serve as stabilizing factors in the earth to avoid convulsion or simply put ‘earthquakes’.

A book entitled ‘*Earth*’ by Geophysicist Frank Press explains that mountains are like stakes, and are buried deep under the surface of the earth. Mount Everest, the height of which is approximately 9 km above ground, has a root deeper than 125 km.

Again, the fact that mountains have deep roots was not known, until after the development of the theory of plate tectonics in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5. Splitting of the Atom:

‘And not the weight of an *atom* in the earth or in the heavens is hidden from thy Lord, nor *anything less than that*’ – [10:61]

No sophisticated evidence that definitely proved the existence of

atoms existed in the 7th Century. It was only 12 centuries later that an English chemist, John Dalton performed experiments that showed matter was made up of small particles scientists refer to as atoms. Although he did not know about their structure, he knew that the evidence pointed to something fundamental. It was only in **1917** that a physics and chemistry scientist, Lord Rutherford of New Zealand is said to have successfully performed an experiment '*splitting the atom*' which verifies the Quranic assertion that something smaller than the atom exists. With the fairly recent discovery of sub-atomic quarks, photons, and bosons we now know for certain that what was revealed to Muhammad (s) is indeed true.

## 6. Iron

The Holy Quran states:

'We **sent down iron** which contains much power and

(other) advantages to men.'  
– [57:25].

Usually when the Holy Quran uses the word *nuzul* 'sending down' something it often should not be taken literally. For example when the Quran says 'He sends down (*nuzul*) clothing'- (7:26), it does not mean the clothes fall from the sky. But here, in connection with iron, scientific studies show that iron is not natural to the earth. They assert that it was not formed in the earth's crust but, literally, came down to earth from outer space. They found that billions of years ago the earth was struck by meteorites. These meteorites were carrying iron from distant stars which had exploded. The following is a quote from an online Encyclopedia;

'Most of the native iron on earth is actually not in fact "native", in the traditional sense, to earth. It mainly comes from iron-nickel meteorites that formed millions of years ago but

were preserved from chemical attacks by the vacuum of space, **and fell to the earth a relatively short time ago...**<sup>3</sup>

## 7. The Sun's orbit

‘And He it is Who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon. **All float in orbits.**’ - [21:33]

The belief that the sun was stationary was widespread amongst astronomers until the 20th century. It has only very recently become a well-established scientific fact that the sun is not stationary, but is moving in an orbit around the centre of our Milky Way galaxy.

The following, recently published statement, is taken from a NASA (**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**) website:

‘The sun – in fact, our whole solar system – orbits around

the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy.’

Again, we ask the question – how did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s) come to know of this in the 7<sup>th</sup> century?

## 8. Waves and darkness beneath the ocean:

‘Like darkness in the deep sea – there covers him a wave, above which is a wave above which is a cloud – (layers of) darkness, one upon the other.’ - [24:40]

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 of the ocean. These waves are invisible to the human eye, and can only be detected by specialist equipment.

The Holy Quran mentions darkness in a deep ocean and layers of waves. This description is not

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<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia

only remarkable because it describes the internal waves in the ocean, but also because it describes darkness deep down in the ocean. A human being can dive no more than 70 meters without breathing equipment. Light is present at that depth, but if we go down 1000 meters it is completely dark. 1400 years ago there were no submarines or specialist equipment to discover internal waves or the darkness deep inside the oceans.

## 9. Human Embryonic Development

‘We create man from an extract of clay,

Then We make him a small life-germ in a firm resting place.

Then We make the life-germ into a clot (*alaqah*) then We make the clot a lump of flesh, then We make (in) the lump of flesh bones, then We clothe the bones with

flesh, then We cause it to grow into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators! [ 23:12-14]

Literally, the Arabic word *alaqah* (a clot) means ‘a leech-like thing’ which attaches itself to or clings to something for its sustenance. This is so because the clot attaches itself to the mother’s womb in order to derive nourishment from it.

The whole of the embryonic development as described here in the Holy Quran is verified by science in exact detail stage by stage, represented here in abbreviated form<sup>4</sup>:

**‘The first stage:** The womb forms a spongy lining within which the embryo will attach or implant itself. To achieve **this**, the embryo burrows into the lining of the wall of the **womb. This begins 6 days after**

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<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia



**fertilisation and is completed within the next 7 days.**

### **The second stage:**

‘By 30 days the baby develops a brain of unmistakable human proportions, eyes, ears, mouth, kidneys, liver, an umbilical cord and a heart pumping blood he has made himself.’

*Compare the Holy Quran: ‘...then We make the clot a lump of flesh.’ (out of which body organs develop)’*

### **The third stage:**

"By 45 days **the baby's skeleton is complete in cartilage, not bone...** Around eight weeks the **baby's cartilage skeleton begins to turn into bone.** By the end of the twelfth week ... the baby's face, at first broad, now becomes narrower; the eyes are closed for protection from about 10 weeks until the sixth

month. Boyhood or girlhood is now obvious.

*Compare the Holy Quran: ‘then We make (in) the lump of flesh bones then We clothe the bones with flesh, then We cause it to grow into another creation.’*

The science of embryology is a fairly recent science. It was much enhanced during the 19th century with the introduction of advanced microscopy that allowed biologists to observe how embryos took shape **in a series of progressive steps.**<sup>5</sup> This knowledge was unknown in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and even several generations later.

**Conclusion:** These are just some of the many scientific facts we come across in the Holy Quran that point to its Divine origin. It is important, however, to note that the Holy Quran is not a book of science *per se*, rather, the main purpose of the Holy Quran is that it serves as a guide to mankind:

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<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia

‘I, Allah, am the best Knower. **This Book**, there is no doubt in it, **is a guide** to those who **keep their duty.**’ – [2:1, 2]

‘**Clear proofs** have indeed come to you **from your Lord**, so whoever sees, it is for his own good; and whoever is blind, it is to his own harm. ‘– [6:104]

Steingass best describes its miraculous nature; that it lies in the fact that it *‘created a civilized nation out of savage tribes’*<sup>6</sup> and will continue to do so as long as people observe its sublime teachings.



**The Good News**

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<sup>6</sup> Steingass – Hughes’ *Dictionary of Islam*, pp. 527, 528