Holy Quran and Science Part 2

Dr. Abdul Haque

Excerpts from "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science"

By Dr. Maurice Bucaille

Dr. Maurice Bucaille (19 July 1920 – 17 February 1998) was a very famous French doctor and a specialist in the field of gastroenterology. He was family physician of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia (1973) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

His muslim patients often referred to Quran. Till that time he, like most Christians believed that Quran was copied from Bible with some additions and deletions. But when he listened to quotes of Quran, he felt that this was not true. His curiosity led him to learn Arabic at the age of 50.

During his study of Quran on the topic of Exodus of Hazrat Musa (Moses), verses 90-92 in Ch 10 (Surah Yunus) caught his attention.

Pharaoh when he asked for forgiveness and accepted Allah, was told that his body would be preserved to teach a lesson for disobedience to those who will follow

There were many similarities in the description of Exodus in Quran and Bible but Bible did not mention that Pharaoh's dead body would be recovered.

He requested Jehan Sadat, wife of President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat to allow him the access to mummies of the Pharaohs. Reluctantly, the permission was granted because he had successfully treated a family member. He studied the mummies of Remesis II and his son Mernptah, the two suspected Pharaohs related to Exodus. Later he was given special permission on the request of French President Giscard d'Estaing to transfer mummy of Remesis II to Paris for study and restoration.

His findings were startling and stunned everyone:

1. The Pharaoh of Exodus was Mernptah, not Remesis II as commonly believed.
2. The excessive salt on his body showed that he was drowned but quickly removed from the sea.

He published a book "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science" in 1976. The book contained multiple references to the Quran, relating science and Quran. *Dr. Bucaille concluded that the Quran is a divine revelation and that it was not written by any man.* First French edition of " The Bible, The Qur'an and Science" sold 120,000 copies. By 1987, 13 editions excluding pocket editions were published.

I had the fortune of meeting him in Osaka in 1989 when I was a student in Osaka University, Japan. He very kindly presented me a copy of "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science".

Photograph of Dr. Bucaille taken by myself in Osaka, Japan in 1989.

The other person in the photo is Mufti-e-Azam of Palestine.

Following are some excerpts related to scientific facts from “The Bible, The Quran and Science”. I have selected only those which were not quoted in Ist part of “Holy Quran and Science” based on Dr. Zakir Naik’s speech at Oxford Union. At some places, Dr. Maurice Bucaille has just given the reference of verses of Quran related to a subject, at other places, he has commented on the meanings of these verses.

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The sun and the moon

Sura 25 Al-Furqan Verse 61

Blessed is the One who placed the constellations in heaven and placed therein a lamp and a moon giving light.

Sura 71 NoohVerse 15-16

Did you see how God created seven heavens one above another and made the moon a light therein and made the sun a lamp?

Sura 78 An-Naba Verse 12-13

We have built above you seven strong (heavens) and placed a blazing lamp.

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The sequence of day and night

Sura 31 Luqman Verse 29

Hast thou not seen how God merges the night into the day and merges the day into the night?

Sura 39 Az ZumarVerse 5

He coils the night upon the day and He coils the day upon the night.

"To coil" or "to wind" are the best ways of translating Arabic verb "*kawwara*". It is used to refer to coiling a turban around the head. In this space age, it is easy to understand these verses because sun emit light continuously and earth rotates in front of it. The areas in darkness gradually become bright, i.e., merging of day into night and vice versa. But 1400 years ago such description could not be given without the concept of a round earth.

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The expansion of Universe

Sura 51 Adh-Dariyat Verse 47

The heaven. We have built it with power. We are expanding it.

'Heaven' is the translation of the word "s*ama*" and it is exactly the extra-terrestial world that is meant. 'We are expanding it' is the translation of the plural present participle *musi'una* of the verb *ausa'a* meaning to make wider, more spacious, to extend, to expand.

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Mountains

Sura 88 Al Ghashiya Verses 19-20

The mountains, how they have been pitched (like a tent), the earth how it was made even?

Sura 78 An-Naba Verses 6-7

Have We not made the earth an expanse and the mountains stakes?

The stakes referred to are the ones used to anchor a tent in the ground. Modern geologists describe the folds in the earth as giving foundations to the mountains, and their dimensions go roughly 1-10 miles.

Sura 79 An-Naziat Verse 32

And the mountains (God) has fixed them firmly.

Sura 31 Luqman Verse 10

(God) has cast into the ground (mountains) standing firm, so that it does not shake with you.

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Mountains of hails

Sura 24 An-Noor Verse 43

Hast thou not seen that God makes the clouds move gently, then joins them together, then makes them a heap. And thou sees raindrops issuing from within it. He send down from the sky mountains of hail. He strikes therewith whom He wills and He turns it away from whom He wills. The flashing of lightning almost snatches away the sight.

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Reproduction in the animal kingdom

Sura 53 An-Najm Verse 45-46

(God) fashioned the two of a pair, the male and the female from a small quantity of liquid when it is poured out.

The ‘pair’ is the same expression Quran has used for reproduction in vegetable kingdom. Here the sexes are given. The detail which is absolutely remarkable is the precision with which it is stated that a small quantity of liquid is required for reproduction. The word itself signifying ‘sperm’ is used.

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Evolution of embryo inside the uterus

Sura 23 Al-Mumenoon Verse 14

We fashioned the thing which clings into a chewed lump of flesh and We fashioned the chewed flesh into bones and We clothed the bones with intact flesh.

‘Chewed flesh’ is the translation of word “*mudga”*; intact flesh is “*lahm*”. This distinction needs to be stressed. The embryo is initially a small mass. At a certain stage in its development, it looks to the naked eye like chewed flesh. The bone structure develops into this mass called mesenchyma.The bones that are formed are covered in muscle; the word *lahm* applies to them.