

Fast 30: Knowledge, science and the Holy Quran — 2

- We would say in response to Dr Neil DeGrasse Tyson that the Quran is like the teacher who doesn't tell his students the answers to questions but shows them how to reach the answers themselves.
- If the Quran had mentioned detailed modern scientific facts:
 1. People would have ridiculed the Quran because these facts are contrary to what people can see with their eyes. For example, the moon doesn't look as if it is a sphere thousands of miles across, nor does the sun look 90 million miles away.
 2. As these are unlimited, there is no way of selecting which facts to present.
 3. If people are thus spoon-fed, they wouldn't need to make any effort themselves or apply their reason.

We may, however, give the following examples of *indicators* in the Quran to future research by man.

- The Quran contains the following instruction:

<p>“Say: Travel in the earth then see how He makes the first creation, then Allah creates the latter creation. Surely Allah is Powerful over all things.” — ch. 29, v. 20</p>	<p>قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ بَدَأَ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ اللَّهُ يُنشِئُ النَّشْأَةَ الْآخِرَةَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">﴿٢٠﴾</p>
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One could say that Charles Darwin did exactly this: he “travelled in the earth”, and consequently he put forward the theory of evolution about how “the first creation” gradually evolved to become “the latter creation”.

- The Quran says that there exists creation of God which is not known to man:

<p>“And (He made) horses and mules and asses that you might ride upon them and as an ornament. And He creates what you do not know.” — ch. 16, v. 8</p>	<p>وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٨﴾</p>
<p>“Glory be to Him Who created pairs of all things, of what the earth grows, and of their own kind and of what they do not know!” — ch. 36, v. 36</p>	<p>سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنْبِتُ الْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾</p>

These verses tell us that at any stage in man's history there will be things in creation which he will not know. He will discover them later, thus showing that there had been creation which he was unaware of. The first verse also indicates specifically modes of transport that man will ride upon, to come into existence in the future. The second

verse speaks of creation unknown to man which also exists in pairs. An example of such pairs are charged particles like the proton and the electron.

- Scientific discoveries and advancement of technology are indicated as follows:

<p>“and when the books are spread, and when the heaven has its covering removed” — ch. 81, v. 10–11</p>	<p>وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ ﴿١٠﴾ وَإِذَا السَّمَاءُ كُشِطَتْ ﴿١١﴾</p>
<p>“and the heaven is opened so it becomes as doors” — ch. 78, v. 19</p>	<p>وَفُتِحَتِ السَّمَاءُ فَكَانَتْ أَبْوَابًا ﴿١٩﴾</p>

The first passage shows that knowledge will advance by means of the spread of books, and more particularly that the mysteries of the sky will be unveiled as a result. The covering of the heavens was removed with the invention of telescopes and then radio telescopes. Regarding the second verse, today the heaven is open due to space travel. The term “launch window” is used to refer to the ideal time, of the month or the year, for launching a space craft towards a particular object in the solar system.

- Man is asked to look again and again to find order in the laws governing creation:

<p>“...you see no anomaly in the creation of the Beneficent. Then look again: Can you see any disorder? Then look again and again — your sight will return to you confused, while it is fatigued.” — ch. 67, v. 3–4</p>	<p>مَا تَرَى فِي خَلْقِ الرَّحْمَنِ مِن تَفَوُّتٍ فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ ﴿٣﴾ هَلْ تَرَى مِن فُطُورٍ ﴿٤﴾ ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ حَاثِمًا ﴿٥﴾ وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ ﴿٦﴾</p>
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- It should be remembered that the rule with true prophecies is that the meaning of how exactly a prophecy is fulfilled is not known until its fulfillment actually takes place. A prophecy can only be understood comprehensively in retrospection, not beforehand.
- Finally, one must pay tribute to the nations and civilizations which encouraged the advancement of knowledge and created and supported the conditions for it, and one must equally pay tribute to the individuals who brought about the advancement of knowledge and science. These individuals devoted their lives to their studies in pursuit of the truth, made sacrifices for its sake and in many cases they had to face opposition and persecution from their own fellow countrymen. There was a time, till six or seven centuries ago, when Muslim nations followed these standards. Then they gave up and other nations took up the banner of advancing knowledge of the world.

*Lastly, Eid Mubarak to all readers of these Quran Studies,
Wishing all of you a very happy and blessed Eid!*