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Conference to
discuss Dawah
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Development and Promotion of Islamic Science

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The rivalry between religion and science is centuries old. The controversy, which started between the Christian Church and scientific community, reached its peak in 1859 following the publication of Darwin's book *Origin of Species*, which proposed a theory of chance-driven evolution of organic beings demolishing the need for Creator God. The fight still goes on unabated. A resolution passed by the National Academy of Sciences, USA, in 1981 states: "Religion and science are separate and mutually exclusive realms of human thought whose presentation in the same context leads to misunderstanding of both scientific theory and religious belief". The stand of Britain's Royal Society is not different either: "creationism has no scientific basis and should not be part of the science curriculum." Several verbal battles and confrontations between the clergy and scientists had taken place in the past. Scopes case or 'monkey trial' of 1925 in the USA marked the beginning of legal battles. After the Scopes trial, the laws banning the teaching of human evolution remained in effect for more than 40 years. But teaching students about Darwin's general principle of evolution with reference to non-human organisms has never been illegal in the United

States. In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned an Arkansas state law banning the teaching of evolution. And in 1987, it ruled against balancing evolution lessons by teaching creationism. Attack on evolution is however on the rise once again in the USA. School boards in Kansas, Pennsylvania and other states had either restrained the teaching of evolution in science classes or introduced alternative explanations that were essentially religious in character. Creationism took a different form under the new name "intelligent design" (ID). Teaching of ID in classrooms was legally challenged in 2005. Intelligent design lost the legal battle because the court ruled the idea was not scientifically sound.

It will not be too difficult to find there is deep-rooted conspiracy going on to promote atheism through science. It is possible to distinguish two broad domains in science. These are technology-oriented domain and technology-not-oriented (or non-tech) domain. Scientific knowledge in the technology-oriented domain is self-correcting and directional as otherwise the targeted technology will not result. This domain has therefore factual content. On the other hand, non-tech domain lacks mechanism for self-correc-

tion. Since this space does not contribute to the development of technologies, it does not attract much attention and remains not of immediate concern to the people. Obviously, this domain can be easily manipulated and is being manipulated. It is this non-tech domain of science that nurtures theories against theism. Steady state cosmology, Darwin's theory of biological evolution, theories of origin of life, etc., are some of them. Despite their inherent inadequacies and weaknesses, these theories are retained as scientific theories by the powerful forum-controlling atheist lobby with the sole intention of imparting credence to atheism and thereby labelling theism as irrational doctrine. Entry of such pseudoscientific theories in science not only takes science in the wrong direction but more importantly misleads people from the divine righteous path. As these theories are included in science curriculum, the children are exposed to atheistic theories at a young age in the schools and colleges, which can do serious damage to their religious outlook and theistic perception of the universe and purpose of their life.

The Qur'an and Science

Muslim community cannot stand

as mute witness to what is happening in science and in the name of science to demolish theistic doctrine and religion. It is the bounden duty of every believer to thwart satanic designs and sustain the divinity and veracity of knowledge. The Christian conflict is limited to evolutionary theory only. However from the Qur'anic standpoint, the issue is far more serious with wider implications and consequences.

The controversy has only helped to create the wrong impression that religion and science are mutually contradicting ideologies. The general notion about religion and science among people is both religion and science are man-made ideologies. Although Muslims believe that Islam is divine religion, they generally consider science as man-made. The debate on Islam and modern science is now more than a hundred years old. Attempts to Islamize knowledge or to develop Islamic science have not been successful because the Muslim world is not a homogenous community with uniform religious rites and observances but a mixture of factions with varied concepts and ideologies. Nevertheless, the Quran unites them all and bring them under one umbrella. The Quran is from God (3:3, 12:2) and it is under His protection (15:9). Clearly therefore, Islamic science should be developed within the framework of the Qur'an. It is on that basis Islamization of knowledge is conceptualized here.

Conformity of science with the Qur'an

Knowledge has no boundaries. Like the Quran, science is also from Allah. It is Allah who gave us knowledge (96:5, 2:255, 2:31). Both the Qur'an and science originated from the same source – Allah. That is why we find the Qur'an and science mutually compatible and complementary. The non-compatible portion of science must be of satanic origin. The Qur'an is not merely a text of religious information; it also contains revelations about the creation of the universe, its organization, purpose of creating man and the universe, fate of the universe, future of mankind, etc. Many Quranic revelations about the universe and man have been found to agree well with the scientific findings made during the past century. This indicates that Allah did intend to give evidences of the divinity of the Quran to the non-believers through science. This is quite evident from the verse 21:30, which addresses the non-believers: "Do not the unbelievers see that the skies and the earth were joined together before We clove them asunder? We made from water every organism. Will they not believe then?" (21:30). "With hands (power and skill) did We construct the sky: For it is We who create the vastness of space." (51:47). These two verses indicate that the components of the universe were together at some point of time in the past before they were separated and the universe has been expanding ever since. The people of Prophet Muhammad's time had no scientific knowledge to understand the implication of these verses. Obviously the mes-

sage was meant for future generation when the required scientific knowledge is made available by God. The Qur'an informs us that the knowledge we get is what Allah releases to us (2:255). In 1924 American astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered that ours was not the only galaxy; there were some hundred thousand million galaxies spaced far between and they all have been moving away from us. This observation confirmed the expansion of the universe implying that the galaxies were together in the distant past as given in the Qur'an. It is these findings that provided sufficient proof to the big bang cosmology, which describes the origin of the universe and time.

There are several other verses in the Qur'an that have scientific significance. This does not mean that the Qur'an is full of science and whatever discoveries are to be made in the future are already there in the Qur'an. Maurice Bucaille and Keith Moore were the pioneers in bringing to light the agreement between the Quranic revelations and modern science. The Qur'an-science conformity does help Muslims of modern era of science and technology to strengthen their belief in Islam. To an unprejudiced unbiased non-believer it proves that the Qur'an is scientifically sound, rational and divine, though Islam bashers may refute the Quran-science compatibility. Effectively, the Qur'an-science compatibility is a proof of scientific veracity of the Qur'an based on Carl Popper's criterion of falsifiability. Much like a scientific theory can be proven by

confirming its predictions, the Quran's divinity and credibility can be proven through scientific confirmation of its revelations about the universe and man. A detailed discussion of these aspects has been made in my book *Scientific Foundation of Islam*. Scientific basis of the Quran has to be revealed to the world particularly in the context of atheists' organized move against theism.

Some of the revelations in the Qur'an have not yet been subjected to experimental verification. They can be treated as scientific theories. These include revelation of the organization of the cosmic space as seven skies one above the other (67:3, 71:15-16), the creation of earth as the first component of the universe (41:9-12), etc. It is hoped that further advancement in science will throw light on these phenomena.

Scientific interpretation of the Qur'an

The Quran-science mutualism led to the development of a computer model of the universe by me. This concept was first published in my book *The Divine Expert System* in 1998. It explains the self-propelled and self-regulated functioning of the universe. The universe is information-laden system and the information carried by it is the divine command as Allah says: "So He completed them as seven skies...and inspired in each sky its duty and command..." (41:12). In computer parlance, the divine commands or instructions form the programs that drive the system. There are several other verses also in the Quran that sug-

gest a computerised set-up of the universe. Accordingly, the universe was described as a system designed, programmed and created by God. The subject was discussed in detail in my two recent books *The Computer Universe: A Scientific Rendering of the Holy Quran* (2006), and *An Introduction to Islamic Science* (2007). Now there are more than four books on this subject published mainly by US scientists from purely scientific angle. The basic change that the computer concept of the universe brings into our present knowledge of the universe and cosmology is that it is the patterns of divine information (instructions) rather than matter and energy per se that represent the fundamental units of reality. Although the knowledgebase created by science covers almost every aspect of the universe from subatomic level to galaxies and beyond, questions like how the various components of the universe acquired their characteristic properties and behaviour have not yet been addressed in science. The computer model enables us to answer such fundamental questions about the universe in the light of the Quranic revelations.

Biologists consider life as a physical phenomenon assuming that the genetic program is constituted by DNA molecule (the molecular gene or the genome concept). This means an organism is merely a bundle of chemical molecules. The Quran on the other hand reveals that the phenomenon of life is non-physical. Life is created by non-material rooh. The non-physical nature of life can be explained

convincingly with the help of computer model of organism.

Atheism-based theories

It is high time that the Muslim world realized that there is an organized move by the powerful and influential atheistic lobby in the scientific community against theism. It is not particularly against any religion but its aim is to uproot the belief in God from the society. When the big bang model was proposed, there was a lot of hue and cry made by the atheist lobby against it for the only reason that it implied the need of Creator God for the universe. Consequently, the atheists wanted to replace the big bang theory with another theory that did not have such divine implication. While discussing the big bang model, Stephen Hawking wrote: "Many people do not like the idea that time has a beginning, probably because it smacks of divine intervention....There were therefore a number of attempts to avoid the conclusion that there had been a big bang. The proposal that gained widest support was called the steady state theory....Another attempt to avoid the conclusion that there must have been a big bang, and therefore a beginning of time, was made by two Russian scientists, Evangenii Lifshitz and Isaac Khalatnikov, in 1963." The steady state model was proposed by Hermann Bondi and Thomas Gold (two Austrian scientists) along with the British astronomer Fred Hoyle in 1949. According to that theory, the universe did not have a beginning nor will it end. The theory held the centre stage

for nearly two decades but could not be proved. It is almost rejected now in favour of the big bang theory, which upholds theism.

The failure of the steady state theory has, as expected, shifted the attention of the atheist lobby completely to theories in biology namely, molecular gene and genome concepts, evolutionary theory, and theories of origin of life. Today biology has become the breeding ground for atheism-based pseudoscientific theories. What we find is the deliberate attempt of the atheist lobby to fabricate and plant theories in the garb of science to suit their agenda. This is nothing but exploitation of the credibility and confidence reposed by the public in science and scientific community.

Pseudoscientific theories can be identified by evaluating the theories in the light of the Qur'an. Being the truth from Allah, the Qur'an unquestionably lends itself as the reference standard for assessing the veracity of information from other sources. This means that any information including scientific theories that is contradictory to the Quranic message will be false. In other words, by bringing science within the framework of the Quran, it will be possible to purify science. The Quran reiterates that falsehood will not last, it will disappear (17:81). Theories of origin of life from non-life, molecular gene (genome) theory, theory of evolution of species by chance, steady state cosmology, etc. are against the Qur'an and what we find is such theories either face problems or have become controversial.

This is clear-cut evidence that any theory opposed to the Creator will fail as implied in the Quranic verses 17:81. Any scientific theory that is against the Quran should be rejected by Muslims.

Development of Islamic Science

True science and the Qur'an can harmoniously blend with each other as they are compatible and mutually complementary knowledge systems. The product of fusion of science with the Qur'an constitutes the Revealed Knowledge or the totality of knowledge about the universe and man, which Allah wants to convey. This holistic knowledge can be aptly called "Islamic Science". A beginning has been made by me in this field in my book *An Introduction to Islamic Science*. It is an area requiring inputs from both Qur'anic scholars and scientists. The Qur'anic scholars and scientists in various fields have to work together to develop Islamic science.

It has become imperative that we separate the grain from chaff in science in the light of the Qur'an and exclude pseudoscience from the academic curricula and research agenda. Exclusion of these theories will not hamper advancement of science and progress of any country as these theories do not contribute to the development of any technology. Further they also do not offer any useful or factual information. Science curricula in schools and colleges have to be restructured and revamped in the light of the Qur'an. This should receive top priority in Muslim countries. Scientific theories based on the Qur'an have

also to be developed to replace atheism-based theories now being taught in classes.

Modern science does not assign any purpose to the universe and human life. The Qur'an is the only source that reveals to us the purpose of creation and the divine mission with the human species and the universe. Going by modern science, which declares there is no purpose for the universe and man, one will be totally misled and misguided. This means that modern education is deficient in several important respects. This calls for the development of Islamic science, which alone can provide holistic view of the universe and human life in the light of divine purpose.

The false propaganda being made by the scientific community that the theistic doctrine is superstitious and unscientific has to be countered effectively by the Muslim community. This can be best done by explaining the Quranic revelations about the universe and human life scientifically and proving the compatibility between the Qur'an and science. Efforts should also be made to convince the people that both the Qur'an and science originate from God. Development of Islamic science and its inclusion in science curriculum in the educational institutions can bring the modern education system into theistic fold.

A detailed project can be prepared in this subject and submitted.

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