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The salamander is a reptile which is from the same family as newts. At first sight this animal is in no way different from any other amphibian. Its features are a distinctive, smooth moist skin that is richly supplied with mucous glands, a head, thorax and abdomen with the tail tapering at the end.

One might be deceived by these apparently ordinary features, and overlook its amazing capability when injured.

If this animal loses one of its legs, the whole leg regenerates, with all tissue and bone. The scientific explanation for this phenomenon is the reversal of the process of degeneration of tissues. Each individual cell remembers the process of growth at birth and performs this function once again to recreate the whole leg.

The human embryo has a similar ability, whereby tissues divide and grow into different specialized tissues like bone, blood, brain cells, etc. The ability of tissue to grow in this way is lost at the time of birth.

However, if a human severs the tip of his/her finger, the finger will grow it again. This is contradictory to what we learned earlier, i.e. that tissue cannot regenerate in humans. However, God tells us in the Quran:

Does the human being think that we will not reconstruct his bones? Yes indeed; we are able to reconstruct his finger tip. (75:3-4)

These verses are a reminder of the Day of Resurrection, when we shall be brought out of dust, alive and with all of our faculties. The reconstruction of the

finger tip is an example where the human imagination must stretch beyond what is logical to us today. It is only feasible for a submitter to believe from this example. The disbeliever cannot see this as a sign until the real thing happens, i.e. the Day of Resurrection, and then it is too late to believe and receive the rewards of righteousness.

This happens because humans tend only to believe in what they see. Once again, God tells us in the Quran:

...He created everything in exact measure; He precisely designed everything. [25:2]

But the human being tends to believe only what he sees in front of him. [75:5]

Ijaz Chaudry / England

Dear Readers:

We would like to hear from you. If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please let us know. If you would like to contribute an article based on the Quran, Islam (Submission), or related topics, please send them to ICS/Masjid Tucson, PO Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA. You can also fax them to us at (520) 323-7636.

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Universe Itself Proves God's Existence

Among His proofs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors. In these, there are signs for the knowledgeable. [30:22]

Today, we have discovered a powerful and elegant way to understand the universe. We call it science. We live in an enlightened world, every day of which brings forth new and exciting discoveries attesting to the existence of the one creator. Science is clearly revealing to us the unmistakable fingerprints of God—providing mute but clear testimony of His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence.

The size and age of the cosmos are beyond ordinary human understanding. Our earth is lost in its immensity, and yet from this terra firma, humans have made astonishing discoveries of the cosmos and our place within it.

These discoveries remind us that we have to continue to question, to always keep an open mind and use the knowledge thereby acquired to understand the role of the creator and the purpose of our creation.

The Quran, the Final Testament, was written 1400 years ago; and the Bible 2000 and more, yet, when we look at the scriptures and at the recent scientific discoveries we see astonishing similarities.

Up until the mid twenties, the universe was considered to have always existed, to

be neither expanding nor collapsing, but standing still. It was only in the 1940's that Hawking and Penrose put forth the mathematical calculations which showed that the universe had to have an origin—that there was a beginning in which all matter was concentrated in a single point (popularly known as a singularity), that there was a Big Bang in which this point emerged and exploded, creating our universe, space and time. It is a well known fact that at the singularity all the known laws of science and the normal concepts of space and time break down—they no longer apply.

Proof that their calculations of the origin were accurate was provided by Robert Wilson and Arnold Penzias in 1964. Their accidental finding of background microwave radiation of low intensity distributed evenly throughout the universe was correctly interpreted as a relic of the Big Bang. In other words, a primordial explosion of enormous proportions that began the whole process was expected to leave just such a residue, or 'echo' from a 'smoking gun'.

It is amazing that this very scenario is spelled out in the Quran:

Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they believe? [21:30]

The modern picture of Genesis, confirmed by scripture, therefore is of a cos-

mos starting out in an utterly featureless state and then progressing in a very orderly fashion, or more specifically, expanding:

We constructed the sky with our hands, and we will continue to expand it. [51:47]

We are witnessing, and indeed participating in a creative act that is taking place throughout time.

That the universe is expanding was directly confirmed by Edwin Hubble's measurements of the light emitting from various galaxies. These measurements proved that they were moving away from each other at a rate directly proportional to their distance from the Milky Way. The expansion is so precisely set that it neither runs away in an accelerating manner, resulting in a universe long since dissipated, nor will it give way to recompression for a final Big Crunch.

There is no ambiguity in the above scriptural statements. They are clear and precise. They were written in the 'dark ages' and only in the light of recent scientific data are we able to understand and interpret their meaning accurately.

It is obvious, even at a casual glance, to any observer that the universe is remarkably ordered on all scales. At the Big Bang, just enough non-uniformity was included in the original chemistry to allow

continued on the next page

Universe... continued

galaxies to distill and form. With less non-uniformity we could conceive of a homogeneous cosmos—a thin soup swirling through space. More non-uniformity, and the initial entropy would have been too high for the development of the universe and for life to exist.

The universe is composed of matter and energy organized into coherent, identifiable structures, frequently of great complexity, arranged in a harmonious and ingenious interdependence. Its precision clearly bespeaks an expanding universe, constructed with consummate skill, being operated in a perfect manner. To state that the universe was created and then left to operate on its own is laughable!

He created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose, designed you and perfected your design, then to Him is the final destiny. [64:3]

... Not even an atom's weight is out of your Lord's control, be it in the heavens or the earth.... [10:61]

Science is simply a knowledge of what already is. It is a tool for us to realize the unique and infinite power of the Almighty Creator. It points out to us with great clarity how infinite God is and how infinitesimal the human being is. And how irrational, how devoid of all common sense it is to attribute creative powers to humans—be they saints or prophets.

Yet, they set up idols beside Him gods who do not create anything—they themselves are created—and who possess no power to even harm or benefit themselves, nor do they possess any power to control life, death, or resurrection. [25:3]

We have come full circle. It is time to face the reality that we are a people steeped in

tradition and dogma that has no basis in fact or religion! We must have the courage to acknowledge this. We have broken ourselves into sects and congregations when it is abundantly clear that we have only one Creator. Common sense tells us that we must all be equal in His eyes.

...God knows best about your belief, and you are equal to one another, as far as belief is concerned.... [4:25]

...The best among you is the most righteous.... [49:13]

With the precision with which He created the universe, He could not but be equitable. Let us therefore not hold on to worthless traditions, but recognize the One God, discard our prejudices, kill our egos and be united in His worship.

In the words of William Paley: "There cannot be a design without a designer, contrivance without a contriver, order without choice, arrangement without anything capable of arranging."

...He created everything in exact measure; He precisely designed everything. [25:2]

The One who created you, designed you, and perfected you. [82:7]

They can never fathom the greatness of God. The whole earth is within His fist on the Day of Resurrection. In fact, the universes are folded within His right hand. Be He glorified; He is much too high above needing any partners. [39:67]

God bears witness that there is no god except He, and so do the angels and those who possess knowledge. Truthfully and equitably, He is the absolute god; there is no god but He, the Almighty, Most Wise. [3:18]

Shakira Karipineni, M.D.

New Area Code For Tucson

Effective March 19, 1995, the telephone area code of Tucson has been changed from 602 to 520. Because of many complaints from the people and businesses that they are experiencing problems with this new area code, the grace period to use the old code has been extended by the telephone company from July to October.

Therefore, if you encounter problems while trying to reach us by phone or fax using the new area code, try the old code to see if it works. We will appreciate it if you report such problems to us.

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We have cited in this Quran every kind of example ...

[17:41, 18:54]

As you know every verse of the Quran is called *a'yah*, a sign, a proof and an evidence from God, a proof of His majesty, His power and His mercy. Thus we are always reminded to study the Quran and to reflect on it as God will continue to give us better and better understanding of its contents.

Among His proofs are the ships that sail the sea with sails like flags. If He willed He could have stilled the winds, leaving them motionless on top of the water. These are proofs for those who are steadfast, appreciative. He can annihilate them, as a consequence of their works. Instead, He overlooks many (of their sins). [42:32-34]

In classical Arabic, another meaning of the word *al-'alam*, flags, is "mountains." Using this meaning of the Arabic word, the above verse may be translated as "among His proofs are the ships that sail the seas like mountains." Now scientifically we have a potent and powerful verse, and one more reason as to why each verse of the Quran is a proof, an evidence and a sign from God.

In the above verse, God makes a comparison between the ships that sail smoothly and freely through the oceans, through a sea of water and the mountains that float, that sail through a sea of space. As has been alluded to in verse 27:88, this fact was not known at the time of the Quran's revelation and for sometime after that. Scientifically, this comparison is accurate and fits exactly. Furthermore, if God were to stop the operative forces, the winds in the case of ships and gravity in the case the earth and mountains, they would absolutely stop motionless and remain so forever. This is a concept that is once again, scientifically correct and is clearly brought out in the Quran by the use of the word *yad'ialna*, whose verbal root has the meaning "to continue to be always in the same state," motionless in this case, as stated in the verse above.

Only one with detailed knowledge of earth's movement in the vastness of space (and not just some vague ideas as some may have had) would have used

this particular example is further proof that this verse and this chapter and this Quran is indeed from God, Lord of the Universe. A book through which we have mathematical proof that God has sent many prophets and many messengers throughout the world and throughout history, all conveying the identical message: worship God Alone, follow God's guidance alone. It is a book with mathematical proof that Muhammad was the last prophet (33:40), and that Rashad was the messenger of the covenant (3:81).

Reflecting further on the verses 42:32-34, we see that they appear to be linked by the use of prepositions, forming a paragraph. One possible explanation of this connection between the three verses is that they may be describing the three types of reaction people show when given God's message and guidance.

There are those who readily accept and follow God's guidance, in our case the Quran alone, absolutely and submissively. These fortunate few will go through life, sail smoothly and free from any dependence on other than God, happy here and now and in the Hereafter.

Then there are those who waver between belief and doubt, between submission and arrogance. They accept some parts of the Quran, and reject others. They are like ships in the ocean of life, with no wind to their back, no true force of God's guidance to lead them on, to propel them forward and to take them out of the darkness and danger that surrounds them from all sides. They will remain in this state, stagnant and motionless, unless they decide to unconditionally accept God's guidance.

Finally, there are those who deliberately and arrogantly reject God's message. Due to God's predetermined plan, these people may not be annihilated immediately as they deserve. Rather they continue to sail in misery. But eventually their ship will sink or death will catch up with them, and they will be doomed forever.

Praise be to God.

Hossein Kowsari

**Register Now
1995 Conference
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God willing, this year's United Submitters Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona. The dates of the conference are August 18-20, 1995.

The conference is by invitation only. If you have not attended one of our conferences before and would like an invitation, please contact us.

We have made the hotel and conference site arrangements, and are beginning to accept registrations for the conference. The registration fees are \$57 for each adult and children over 12 years of age, \$29 for children of ages 5-12. Children under 5 are free.

The registration fee includes two lunches and two dinners on Friday and Saturday, and child care costs for all three days.

The registration fee does not include the lodging. Hotel rooms are \$57 a night inclusive of tax, full breakfast, and shuttle service to and from the airport. Children 18 and under stay free with their parents. If you are single, you may share a room with other submitters. If you need us to make arrangements for a roommate, please let us know. We will get you the hotel information as soon as we receive your registration fee.

Therefore mark your calendar, and start making your plans to attend the conference. Remember that this is a great opportunity to be with the submitters from all around the world.

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