

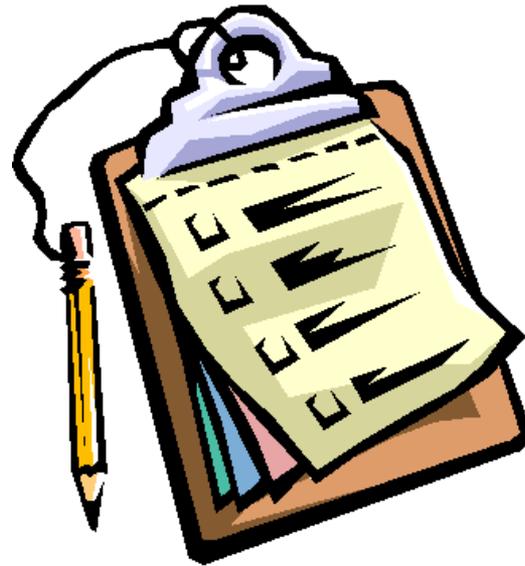
WHAT IS ISLAM?



1

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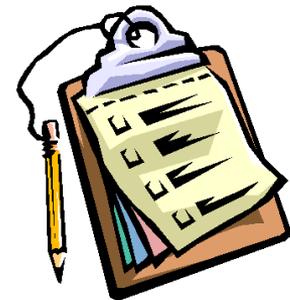
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WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



- It is NOT a violent religion.
- The word “Islam” comes from the root form of the word meaning Peace and Submission.
- “*As-Salamo Alaykum*” is the Muslim greeting, it means “Peace be with You”
- Islam is a way of life, it covers everything; it’s a guide to do good and live in peace.
 - **{As for those who strive for Us – We will surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed Allah is with the doers of good.}** (Al-Ankabut 29:69)

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT (CONTINUED)

- A great aspect of Islam is its tolerance of other religions; we respect everyone equally.
- Islam is perfect, people are not. Don't blame the religion for the mistakes of people.
- Islam asks people:
 - Fairness
 - Forgiveness
 - Respect
 - Love
 - Peace
 - Equality

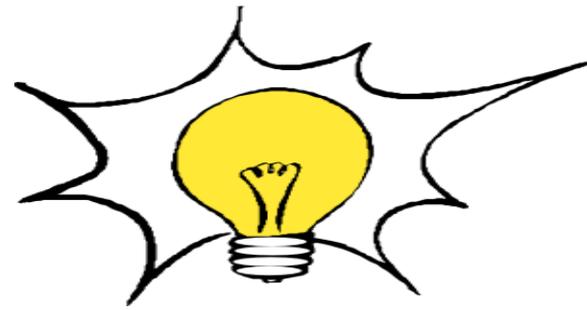




ETHICS AND VALUES

- Hospitality; the joy of honoring guests:
 - Having good manners.
 - Guests who visit our homes must be treated with
 - Kindness
 - Respect
 - Dignity
- Human rights:
 - Divine justice isn't for Muslims only. It secures the rights of all human beings, whatever their beliefs may be.
 - It's especially protective of the rights of belief and practicing one's belief.
- The environment:
 - A crucial point to the principle of equity is to leave a livable, viable planet for future generations; social justice.

A LITTLE ABOUT ISLAM



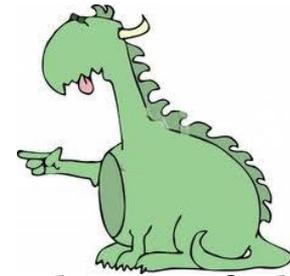
- The basic emphasis is the Oneness of God; the Creator and Sustainer of the whole universe is One.
- All humans whether white or black, brown or yellow are of equal status before God.
- All the so-called monotheistic religions come from the same source, since the origin is the guidance sent down from the One and Only God.

A LITTLE ABOUT ISLAM (CONTINUED)

- Muslims respect all the other religions and don't attack them.
- They honor all the prophets of God:
 - Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus (peace be upon them)
- There is a progressive revelation of divine guidance through the scriptures, culminating in the Last Testament (the Quran).
- The moon, or the crescent, is simply a symbol related to the lunar calendar Muslims use; we don't worship it.



SOME COMMON CRITICISM



- Muhammad was a terrorist because he fought many wars. → ○ Many prophets of the Bible fought wars too. People to this day start wars.
- He had nine wives. → ○ Abraham, David and Solomon had many wives.
- He married them for many reasons:
 - To pass on Islam to the next generations as a practical legacy.
 - To cement the relations of the budding nation; to seal treaties through marrying into tribes.
 - To teach Muslims compassion with women.
 - To offer a practical role model to Muslims.
 - Many of these women lost their husbands; they needed support and protection.

QURAN DOESN'T DEMAND MUSLIMS TO KILL NON-MUSLIMS



- The Prophet (peace be upon him) started preaching Islam in Makkah, being only one man in the midst of a lot of polytheists.
- Was it out of fear of being killed that all those non-Muslims embraced Islam?
- Would it have been possible ever since for his religion to be continuously attracting more people if it was only out of fear?

QURAN DOESN'T DEMAND MUSLIMS TO KILL NON-MUSLIMS (CONTINUED)

- Muhammad (peace be upon him) wasn't trying to replace the religion of Moses or Jesus Christ. It was the misinterpretations and distortions that happened to their religion that he wanted to replace back to their original authentic teachings.
- His mission was to restore the pure religion of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus (peace be upon them all).

For more information read following verses of the Quran, Surah 42, verses 13 – 15



QURAN DOESN'T DEMAND MUSLIMS TO KILL NON-MUSLIMS (CONTINUED)

- God in His Book permits fighting, but only as a last resort:
 - Fighting in the case of self-defense.
 - Fighting to defend the right of everyone to believe in God and practice His religion.
 - Fighting against brutal oppression and injustice.

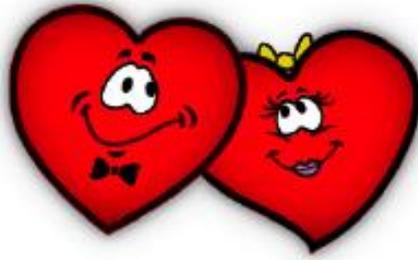


QURAN DOESN'T DEMAND MUSLIMS TO KILL NON-MUSLIMS (CONTINUED)



- The Prophet and his followers were ruthlessly persecuted and forced out of their homes. When they were accorded a grand welcome by the people in Madinah, his enemies wanted to destroy the new religion that was taking root in the deserts of Arabia by trying to eliminate the Muslims.
- In this context that the verses permits fighting: **{Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors}** (Al-Baqara 2:190)
- Islam does not approve the use of force in the propagation of religion: **{Let there be no compulsion in religion...}** (Al-Baqara 2:256)

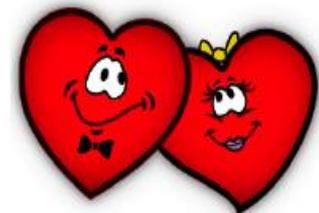
LOVE IN ISLAM



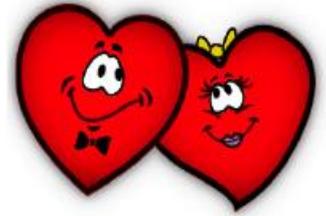
- **{Allah will love you and forgive your sins, for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.}**
(Aal-Imraan 3:31)
- **{And hold fast, all together, by the rope [the covenant] which Allah [stretches out for you], and do not be disunited; and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by his Grace, you became brethren}** (Aal-Imraan 3:03)

LOVE IN ISLAM (CONTINUED)

- **{On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, will the Most Gracious bestow love.}** (Maryam 19:96)
- **{And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between you [your hearts]; verily in that are signs for those who reflect.}** (Ar-Room 30:21)



LOVE IN ISLAM -- SAYINGS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD



- “The Compassionate One has mercy on those who are merciful. If you show mercy to those who are on the earth, He Who is in the heaven will show mercy to you.” (Abu Dawud)
- “None of you becomes a believer until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.” (Al-Bukari)
- “Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind.” (Al-Bukari)
- Read about Muhammad and Khadija for the greatest love story you’ll ever read: [Finding Comfort in Love](#)

THE QURAN



- It's a book of guidance, not a book of science, history, nor law. Although it has reference to science, history and law.
- It was revealed in different contexts to the Prophet throughout his 23 years of prophetic mission, to suit the needs of the developing Muslim society. Therefore, the context of the revelations became important in the proper understanding of the verses.
- For proper context of certain verses, one often has to take into consideration previous and following verses.

THE QURAN (CONTINUED)



- It was revealed in Arabic language.
- We don't refer to a translation as “the Holy Quran”
 - It is only a translation.
 - A translation by Arberry, Yusuf Ali, etc. is only a detractor almost invariably depend upon a convenient translation for their criticisms.
 - Often the so-called contradiction doesn't arise in the original Arabic version.
 - Arberry himself has mentioned the difficulty of finding the proper English words and phrases for conveying the correct meaning of the Quranic verses.

THE QURAN (CONTINUED)



- Parts of the Quran are supported, elaborated and explicated by other parts.
- The best interpreter of the Quran was the Prophet himself, who received the divine revelations.
- His life itself was a living model of the Quran.
- Thus the two sources of Islamic knowledge are:
 - The Quran.
 - The *Sunnah* (the exemplary life of the Prophet).

THE DIVINITY OF THE QURAN



- The Quran is the literal word of God; it wasn't written by humans.
- He revealed it to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the Angel Gabriel (peace be upon him) fourteen centuries ago
- It was memorized by Muhammad (peace be upon him) who dictated it to his companions, who then wrote it down and many of them memorized it.

THE DIVINITY OF THE QURAN (CONTINUED)



- It was reviewed by Muhammad (peace be upon him) with the Angel Gabriel (peace be upon him) once every year and twice in the last year of his life.
- The Quran has been memorized by so many people and until this day not one letter has been changed over the centuries.
- It mentioned facts that has been discovered by scientists using advanced equipment and methods many centuries later.

THE SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES OF THE QURAN



- The Quran on human embryonic development.
- The Quran on mountains.
- The Quran on the origin of the universe.
- The Quran on the cerebrum.
- The Quran on seas and rivers.
- The Quran on deep seas and internal waves.
- The Quran on clouds.
- Scientists comments on the scientific miracles in the Quran.

THE QURAN ON HUMAN EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT



- The stages of man's embryonic development:
 - **{We created man from an extract of clay. Then We made him as a drop in a place of settlement, firmly fixed. Then We made the drop into an *alaqah*, then We made the *alaqah* into a *mudghah*}** (23:12-14)
- Literally, the Arabic word *alaqah* has three meanings:
 - Leech
 - Suspended thing
 - Blood clot
- The Arabic word *mudghah* means “chewed substance”

THE QURAN ON HUMAN EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)



- Leech:
 - The embryo obtains nourishment from the blood of the mother, similar to the leech, which feeds on the blood of others (see figure 1 in the next slide).
- Suspended thing:
 - the suspension of the embryo, during the *alaqah* stage, in the womb of the mother (see figures 2 and 3 in the next slide).
- Blood clot:
 - The external appearance of the embryo and its sacs during the *alaqah* stage is similar to that of a blood clot.
 - This is due to the presence of relatively large amounts of blood present in the embryo during this stage.
 - Also the blood in the embryo does not circulate until the end of the third week. Thus, the embryo at this stage is like a clot of blood (see figure 4 in the next slide).

THE QURAN ON HUMAN EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

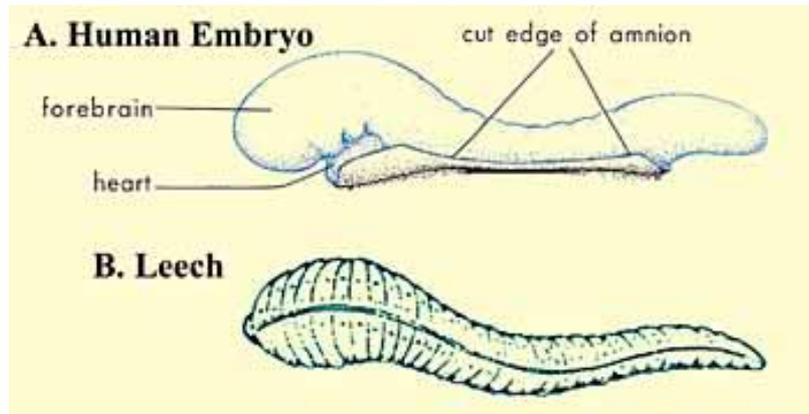


Figure 1

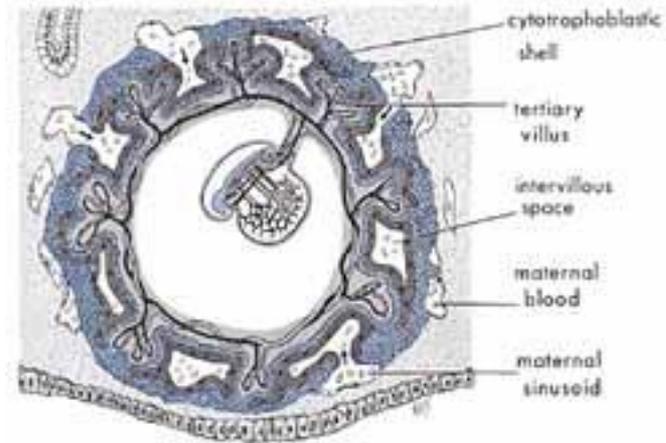


Figure 2

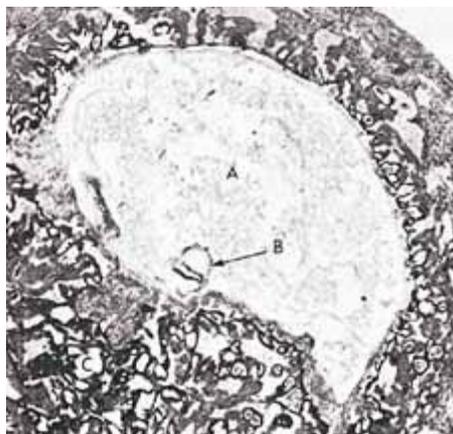


Figure 3

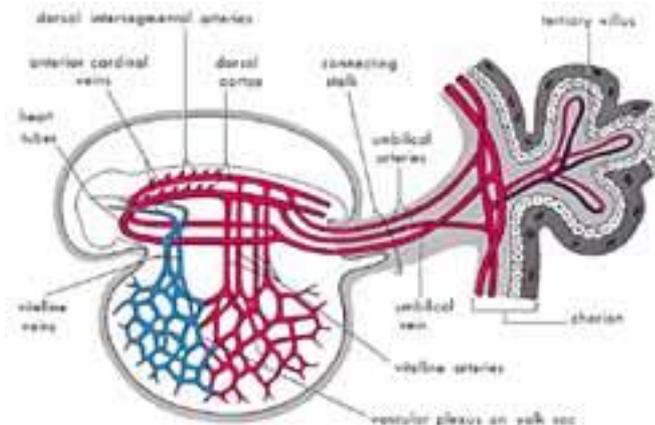


Figure 4

THE QURAN ON HUMAN EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)



○ The *mudghah* stage:

- Chew a piece of gum then compare it with an embryo at that stage
- You will then see that the embryo looks exactly like a chewed substance (see figures 5 and 6).
- This is because of the somite at the back of the embryo that “somewhat resemble teeth marks in a chewed substance.”

Figure 5

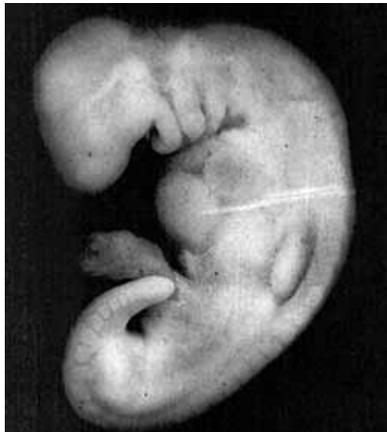
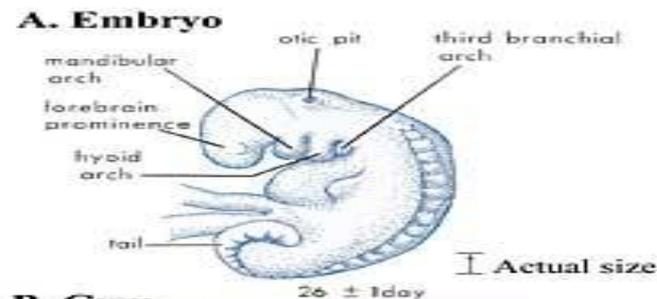


Figure 6



THE QURAN ON HUMAN EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)



- Aristotle was the founder of the science of embryology as he discovered that chick embryos developed in stages back in the fourth century B.C.
- Little was known about the staging and classification of human embryos until the 20th century.
- Hamm and Leeuwenhock were the first scientist to observe human sperm cells (spermatozoa) in 1677 – more than 1000 years after Muhammad.
- The only reasonable conclusion is: the descriptions in the Quran were revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him) from God. He could not have known such details with absolutely no scientific training or advanced technology.



THE QURAN ON MOUNTAINS

- Earth is a book used in many universities all over the world.
- One of its two authors is Professor Emeritus Frank Press.
- He was the Science Advisor to former US President Jimmy Carter, and for 12 years was the President of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC.



THE QURAN ON MOUNTAINS (CONTINUED)

- His book says that mountains have underlying roots that are embedded in the ground, thus, mountains have a shape like a peg. (see figures 7, 8 and 9)
- God has said in the Quran:
 - **{Have We not made the earth as a bed, and the mountains as pegs?} {78:6-7}**

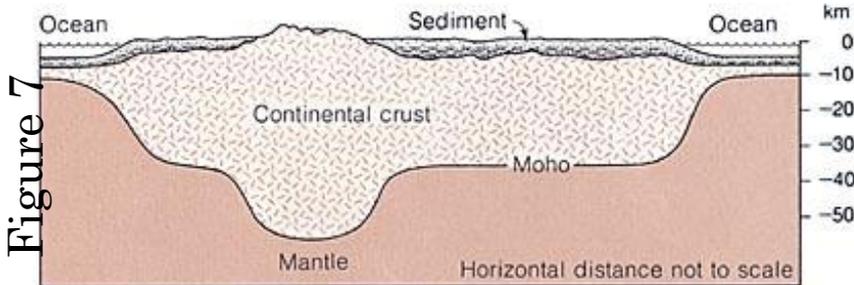


Figure 7

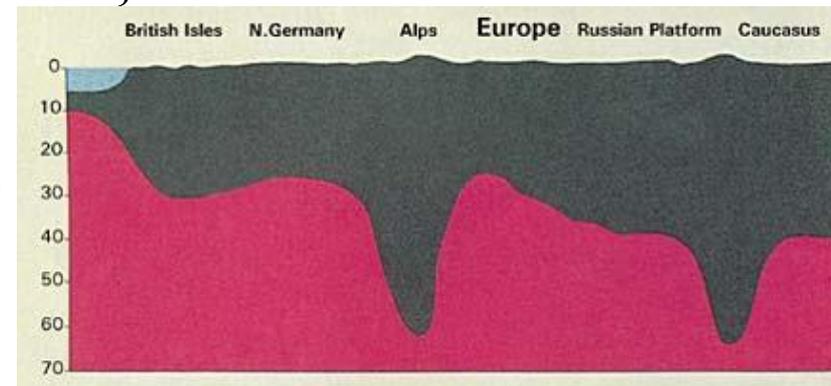


Figure 8

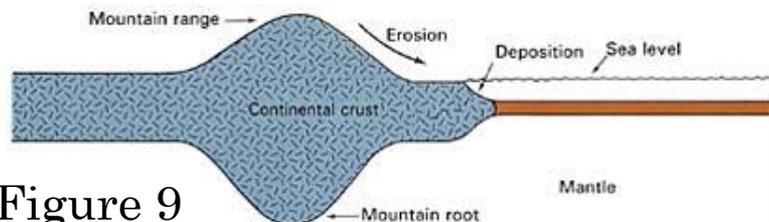


Figure 9

THE QURAN ON MOUNTAINS (CONTINUED)



- Modern earth sciences have proven that mountains have deep roots under the surface of the ground (see figure 9) and that these roots can reach several times their elevations above the surface of the ground.
- Most of a properly set peg is hidden under the surface of the ground, that's why the most suitable word to describe mountains on the basis of this information is the word 'peg.'
- The history of science tells us that the theory of mountains having deep roots was introduced only in 1865 by the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy

THE QURAN ON MOUNTAINS (CONTINUED)



- Mountains also play an important role in stabilizing the crust of the earth.
- They hinder the shaking of the earth.
- God has said in the Quran:
 - **{And He has set firm mountains in the earth so that it would not shake with you.} (16:15)**
- The theory of plate tectonics states that mountains work as stabilizers for the earth.
- Knowledge about mountains being stabilizers to the earth under the framework of plate tectonics began in the late 1960s.

THE QURAN ON THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE



- The science of modern cosmology (observational and theoretical) clearly indicates that at one point the whole universe was nothing but a cloud of ‘smoke’ (i.e. an opaque highly dense and hot gaseous composition)
- Scientists now can observe new stars forming out of the remnants of that ‘smoke’ (see figures 10 and 11).
- The illuminating stars we see at night were, just as was the whole universe, in that ‘smoke’ material.

THE QURAN ON THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE (CONTINUED)



- God has said in the Quran:
 - **{Then He turned to the heaven when it was smoke.}** (41:11)
- Since the earth and the heavens (sun, moon, stars, planets, galaxies, etc) have been formed from this same ‘smoke,’ we conclude that the earth and the heavens were one connected entity.
- Then out of this homogeneous smoke, they formed and separated from each other.
- The Quran states:
 - **{Have not those who disbelieved known that the heavens and the earth were one connected entity, then We separated them?}** (21:30)

THE QURAN ON THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE (CONTINUED)



Figure 10:

A new star forming out of a cloud of gas and dust (nebula), which is one of the remnants of the smoke that was the origin of the whole universe.

(The Space Atlas, Heather and Henbest, p. 50)



Figure 11:

The Lagoon nebula is a cloud of gas and dust, about 60 light years in diameter. It's excited by the ultraviolet radiation of the hot stars that have recently formed within its bulk.

(Horizons, Exploring in the Universe, Seeds, plate 9, from Association of Universities of Research in Astronomy, Inc)

THE QURAN ON THE CEREBRUM

- God has said in the Quran about one of the evil unbelievers who forbade the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from praying at the Kaaba:
 - **{No! If he does not stop, We will take him by the *naseyah* [front of the head], a lying, sinful *naseyah*!}** (96:15-16)
- Why did the Quran describe the front of the head as being lying and sinful?
- Why didn't God say that the person was lying and sinful?
- What is the relationship between the front of the head and lying and sinfulness?

THE QURAN ON THE CEREBRUM (CONTINUED)

- The prefrontal area of the cerebrum is located on the front of the head.
- What does physiology tell us about the function of the front of the head? (see figure 12).

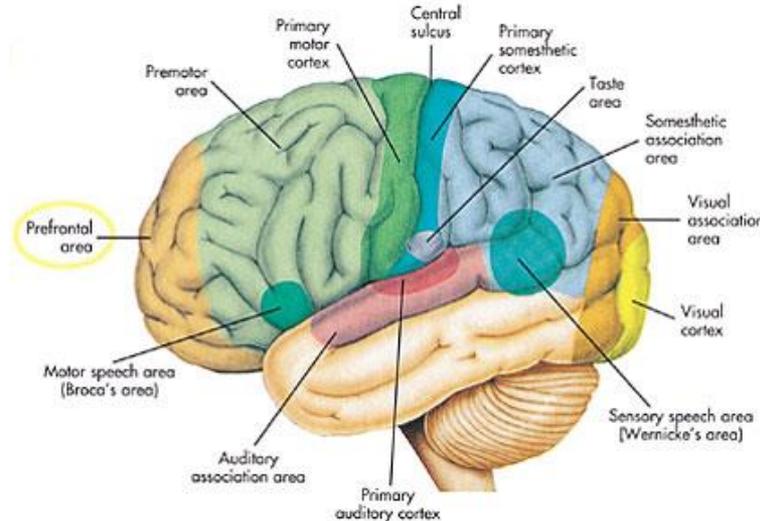


Figure 12:

Functional regions of the left hemisphere of the cerebral cortex. The prefrontal area is located at the front of the cerebral cortex. (Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology, Seeley and others, p. 210)

THE QURAN ON THE CEREBRUM (CONTINUED)

- A book called *Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology* says:
 - “The motivation and the foresight to plan and initiate movements occur in the anterior portion of the frontal lobes, the prefrontal area. This is a region of association cortex.”
 - “In relation to its involvement in motivation, the prefrontal area is also thought to be the functional center for aggression.”
- This area of the cerebrum is responsible for:
 - Planning
 - Motivating
 - Initiating good and bad behaviors
 - Speaking of truth and telling lies
- That’s why it’s proper to describe the front of the head as lying and sinful when someone lies or commits a sin.



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS

- Modern science has discovered that in the place where two different seas meet, there is a barrier between them.
- This barrier divides the two seas so that each sea has its own temperature, salinity, and density.
- Mediterranean sea water is warm, saline, and less dense, compared to Atlantic ocean water.



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS (CONTINUED)

- When Mediterranean sea water enters the Atlantic over the Gibraltar sill, it moves several hundred kilometers into the Atlantic at a depth of about 1000 meters with its own warm, saline, and less dense characteristics.
- The Mediterranean water stabilizes at this depth (see figure 13).

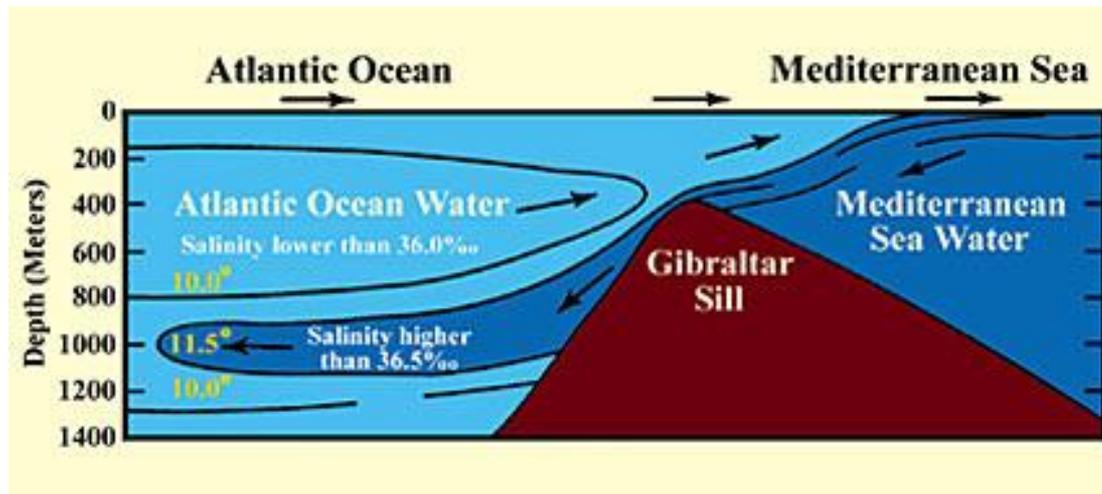


Figure 13:
(Marine Geology,
Kuenen, p. 43)



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS (CONTINUED)

- Although there are large waves, strong currents, and tides in these seas, they do not mix or transgress this barrier.
- The Holy Quran mentioned that there is a barrier between two seas that meet and that they do not transgress. God has said:
 - **{He has set free the two seas meeting together. There is a barrier between them. They do not transgress.}** (55: 19-20)



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS (CONTINUED)

- But when the Quran speaks about the divider between fresh and salt water, it mentions the existence of “a forbidding partition” with the barrier. God has said in the Quran:
 - **{He is the one who has set free the two kinds of water, one sweet and palatable, and the other salty and bitter. And He has made between them a barrier and a forbidding partition.}**
(25:53)
- One may ask, why did the Quran mention the partition when speaking about the divider between fresh and salt water, but did not mention it when speaking about the divider between the two seas?



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS (CONTINUED)

- Modern science has discovered that in estuaries, where fresh and salt water meet, the situation is different from what is found in places where two seas meet.
- It has been discovered that what distinguishes fresh water from salt water in estuaries is a pycnocline zone with a marked density discontinuity separating the two layers.
- This partition (zone of separation) has a different salinity from the fresh water and from the salt water (see figure 14).



THE QURAN ON SEAS AND RIVERS (CONTINUED)

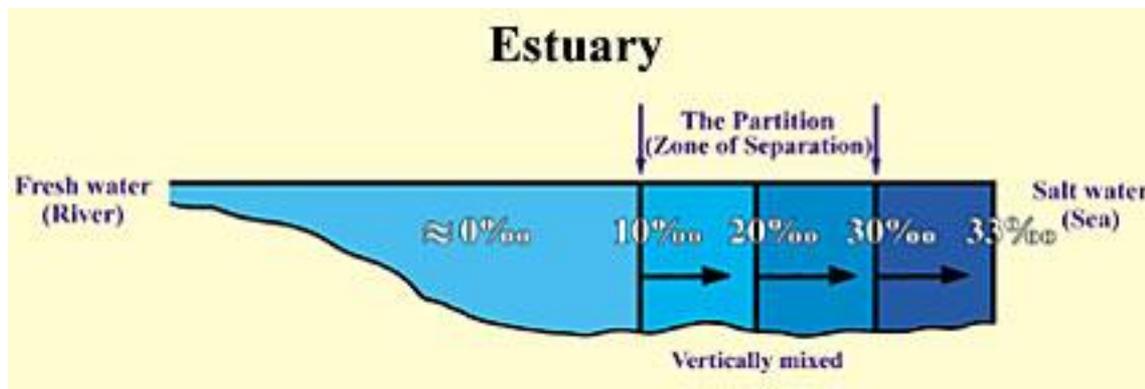


Figure 14: Longitudinal section showing salinity (parts per thousand ‰) in an estuary. We can see here the partition (zone of separation) between the fresh and the salt water. (Introductory Oceanography, Thurman, p. 301)

- This information has been discovered using advanced equipment to measure temperature, salinity, density, oxygen dissolubility, etc.
- The human eye cannot see the division of water in estuaries into the three kinds: fresh water, salt water, and the partition (zone of separation).

THE QURAN ON DEEP SEAS AND INTERNAL WAVES



- God has said:
 - **{Or [the unbelievers' state] is like the darkness in a deep sea. It is covered by waves, above which are waves, above which are clouds. Darkness, one above another. If a man stretches out his hand, he cannot see it.} (24:40)**
- This verse mentions the darkness found in deep seas and oceans, where if a man stretches out his hand, he can't see it.
- The darkness is found around a depth of 200 meters and below; there's almost no light.

THE QURAN ON DEEP SEAS AND INTERNAL WAVES (CONTINUED)



- We can understand from this verse “... *In a deep sea. It’s covered by waves, above which are waves, above which are clouds...*” the following:
 - Deep waters of seas and oceans are covered by waves, and above these waves are other waves.
 - The second set of waves are surface waves that we see, because the verse mentions clouds above them.
- What about the first set of waves?

THE QURAN ON DEEP SEAS AND INTERNAL WAVES (CONTINUED)



- Scientists have discovered:
 - Internal waves occur on density interfaces between layers of different densities (see figure 15).
 - The internal waves cover the deep waters of seas and oceans because the deep waters have a higher density than the waters above them.
 - They're just like the surface waves; they can also break.
 - They cannot be seen by human eyes.
 - They can be detected by studying temperature or salinity changes at a given location.

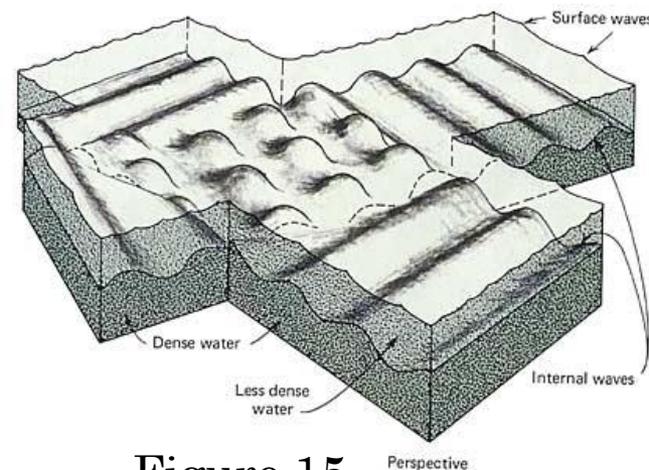


Figure 15

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS



- There are different types of clouds.
- Rain clouds are formed and shaped according to definite systems and certain steps connected with certain types of wind and clouds.
- One kind of rain cloud is the *cumulonimbus* cloud.

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- Scientists have found that cumulonimbus clouds go through certain steps to produce rain, hail and lightning:

- The clouds are pushed by the wind.
- Joining: the small clouds join together forming a bigger cloud.
- Stacking:
 - When small clouds join together, updrafts within the larger cloud increase.
 - These updrafts cause the cloud body to grow vertically, so the cloud is stacked up (see figure 16).
 - Vertical growth causes the cloud body to stretch into cooler regions of the atmosphere, where drops of water/hail formulate.
 - When the drops of water/hail become too heavy for the updrafts to support, they begin to fall.

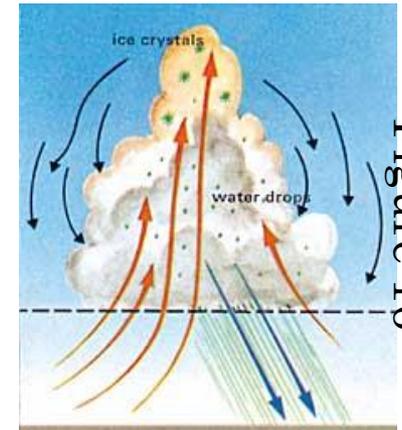


Figure 16

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- God has said in the Quran:
 - **{Have you not seen how God makes the clouds move gently, then joins them together, then makes them into a stack, and then you see the rain come out of it?} (24:43)**
- Meteorologists have discovered these details of cloud formation by using advanced equipments:
 - To study wind and its direction
 - To measure humidity and its variations
 - To determine the levels and variations of atmospheric pressure.

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- The verse after that mentions hail and lightning:
 - **{And He sends down hail from mountain [clouds] in the sky, and He strikes with it whomever He wills, and turns it from whomever He wills. The vivid flash of lightning nearly blinds the sight.} (24:43)**
- Meteorologists found out that cumulonimbus clouds that produce hail reach a height of 25,000 to 30,000 ft like mountains.
- You may wonder:
 - Why does the verse say “He strikes with it whomever He wills” in reference to the hail?
 - Does this mean hail is a major factor in producing lightning?

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- A book called Meteorology Today says that a cloud becomes electrified as hail falls through a region in the cloud of super-cooled droplets and ice crystals.
- When liquid droplets collide with a hailstone, they freeze on contact and release latent heat.
- This keeps the surface of the hailstone warmer than that of the surrounding ice crystals.
- When the hailstone comes in contact with an ice crystal, an important phenomenon occurs: electrons flow from the colder object toward the warmer object – hailstones become negatively charged.

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- The hail, left with a negative charge, falls towards the bottom of the cloud, thus the lower part of the cloud becomes negatively charged.
- These negative charges are then discharged as lightning.
- We can clearly see how hail is a major factor in producing lightning.

THE QURAN ON CLOUDS (CONTINUED)



- Aristotle's ideas on meteorology were major back in 1600 AD – he said that atmosphere contains two kinds of exhalation; moist and dry.
- He also said that:
 - Thunder is the sound of the collision of the dry exhalation with the neighboring clouds.
 - Lightning is the inflaming and burning of the dry exhalation with a thin and faint fire.
- How could have Muhammad (peace be upon him) known that hail is a main factor in creating lightning? Or any other information mentioned earlier?!

SCIENTISTS COMMENTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES IN THE HOLY QURAN

○ Scientists interviewed:

- Dr. T.V.N. Persaud is Professor of Anatomy, Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health, and Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA.

SCIENTISTS COMMENTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES IN THE HOLY QURAN (CONTINUED)

○ Scientists interviewed:

- Dr. E. Marshal Johnson is Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Developmental Biology at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.
- Dr. William W. Hay is a well-known marine scientist. He's Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado, USA.
- Dr. Gerard C. Goerginger is Course Director and Associate Professor of Medical Embryology at the Department of Cell Biology, School of Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA.

SCIENTISTS COMMENTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES IN THE HOLY QURAN (CONTINUED)

○ Scientists interviewed:

- Dr. Yoshihide Kozai is Professor Emeritus at Tokyo University, Hongo, Tokyo, Japan, and was the Director of the National Astronomical Observatory, Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan.
- Professor Tejatal Tejsen is the Chairman of the Department of Anatomy at Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand. He was previously the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the same university.

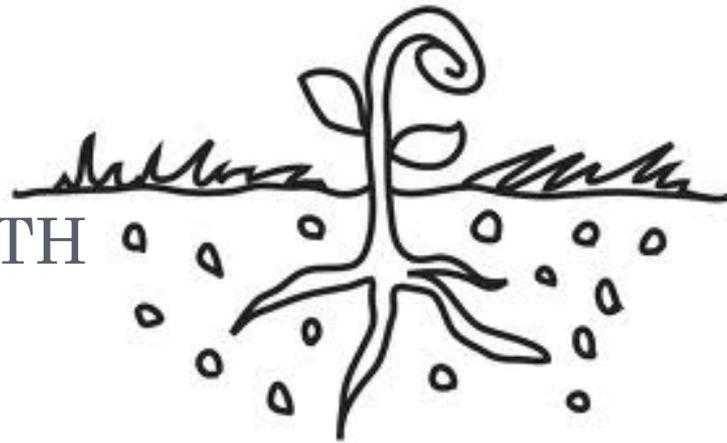
(check the reference page at the very end for the link to the video)

THE QURAN MENTIONING FUTURE EVENTS WHICH CAME TO PASS



- The book entitled History of the Byzantine State says that the Roman army was badly defeated by the Persian army at Antioch in 613.
- That's when Persians swiftly pushed forward on all fronts.
- Nine years later, in 622, the Romans were victorious against Persians when they met on Armenian soil.
- God has said in the Quran:
 - **{The Roman have been defeated in the nearest land [to the Arabian Peninsula], and they, after their defeat will be victorious within *bedd'* [3 to 9] years.}** (20:2-4)

SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH



1. Belief in Allah.
2. Belief in His angels.
3. Belief in His prophets.
4. Belief in His revealed Books.
5. Belief in the divine decree.
6. Belief in the Day of Judgment.

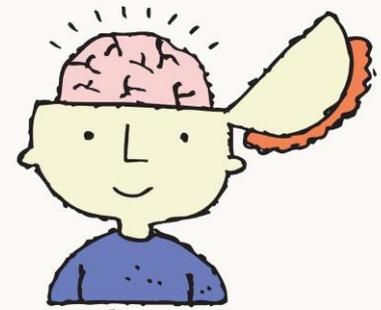
{Righteousness is not that you turn your faces to the East and West [in Prayer], but righteousness is of the one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Books and the Prophets.} (Al-Baqara 2:177)

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM



1. Faith of belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophet-hood of Muhammad (*Shahadah*).
2. Establishment of the five daily prayers (*Salah*).
3. Concern for and almsgiving to the needy (*Zakah*).
4. Self purification through fasting (*Sawm* Ramadan).
5. The pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime for those who are able (*Hajj*).

SOME IDEAS AND STEPS TO TAKE

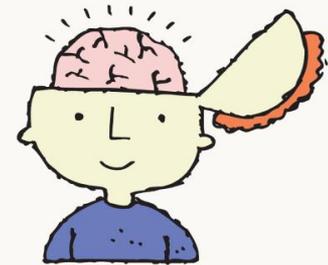


- Do the following with an *OPEN HEART* and a *CLEAR MIND*:
 - Try going to a mosque (don't worry, remember that Islam is a peaceful religion; you will be welcomed!):
 - Check the atmosphere.
 - Allow the atmosphere of the place to speak to you.
 - This can be done in the privacy of your own home:
 - Go to bed early, and set your alarm at around 4am (Allah tells us that at this time of the night He descends to the lowest of the seven heavens and actively seeks out those who want to speak to Him).
 - Take a shower, sit quietly in the silence of your home (bedroom or anywhere)
 - Reach out to God, say whatever you feel.

SOME IDEAS AND STEPS TO TAKE (CONTINUED)

- You might not find the answer you're looking for.
 - It can be a sign.
 - It can be a feeling.
 - You can find peace of mind.
 - For example: if you're doing this because you love someone; then you might find that person somehow closer to you, or more loving, considerate, or caring.

- It might not happen **THAT** night.



- Be patient, and keep your heart and mind clear.

HOW TO KNOW YOUR QUEST IS OVER

- It is different from one person to another; some people are drawn to Islam through:
 - Science
 - Beauty of Nature
 - Places or Events
 - Listening or Reading
 - Feel it in your Heart
- You should accept Islam for its message and not to please someone else.
- A religion should be something between you and God, no one else should interfere.



99 NAMES OR ATTRIBUTES OF ALLAH

- The Beneficent
- The Merciful
- The Eternal Lord
- The Most Sacred
- The Embodiment of Peace
- The Infuser of Faith
- The Preserver of Safety
- The Mighty One
- The Omnipotent One
- The Dominant One
- The Creator
- The Evolver
- The Flawless Shaper
- The Great Forgiver
- The All-Prevailing One
- The Supreme Bestower
- The Total Provider
- The Supreme Solver
- The All-Knowing One
- The Restricting One
- The Extender
- The Reducer
- The Elevating One
- The Honorer-Bestower
- The Abaser
- The All-Hearer
- The All-Seeing
- The Impartial Judge
- The Embodiment of Justice
- The Knower of Subtleties
- The All-Aware One
- The Clement One
- The Magnificent One
- The Great Forgiver
- The Acknowledging One
- The Sublime One
- The Great One
- The Guarding One
- The Sustaining One
- The Reckoning One
- The Majestic One
- The Bountiful One
- The Watchful One
- The Responding One
- The All-Pervading One
- The Wise One
- The Loving One
- The Glorious One
- The Infuser of New Life
- The All Observing Witness
- The Embodiment of Truth
- The Universal Trustee
- The Strong One
- The Firm One
- The Protecting Associate
- The Sole-Laudable One
- The All-Enumerating One
- The Originator
- The Restorer
- The Maintainer of Life
- The Inflictor of Death
- The Eternally Living One
- The Self-Subsisting One
- The Pointing One
- The All-Noble One
- The Only One
- The Sole One
- The Supreme Provider
- The Omnipotent One
- The All Authoritative One
- The Expediting One
- The Procrastinator
- The Very First
- The Infinite Last One
- The Perceptible
- The Imperceptible
- The Holder of Supreme Authority
- The Extremely Exalted One
- The Fountain-Head of Truth
- The Ever-Acceptor of Repentance
- The Retaliator
- The Supreme Pardoner
- The Benign One
- The External Possessor of Sovereignty
- The Possessor of Majesty and Honor
- The Just One
- The Assembler of Scattered Creations
- The Self-Sufficient One
- The Bestower of Sufficiency
- The Preventer
- The Distressor
- The Bestower of Benefits
- The Prime Light
- The Provider of Guidance
- The Unique One
- The Ever Surviving One
- The Eternal Inheritor
- The Guide to Rectitude
- The Extensively Enduring One

ONCE YOU ACCEPT ISLAM



- All past sins are wiped out.
- Bad deeds will be replaced with good deeds provided one fulfills Allah's requirements.
- **{And give glad tidings to those who believe and do righteous good deeds that for them will be gardens under which rivers flow [Paradise]} (Al-Baqara, Chapter 2, Verse 25)**
- **{His/her torment shall be doubled for him/her on the Day of Resurrection, and he/she will abide in it in ignominy – unless he/she repents and believes and does righteous works. For such, Allah will change their evil deeds into good deeds. Allah is forever forgiving, most compassionate. Whosoever repents and does good, he/she return to Allah in the manner that he/she should.} (Al-Furqan, Chapter 25 Verse 67-71)**

ONCE YOU ACCEPT ISLAM (CONTINUED)

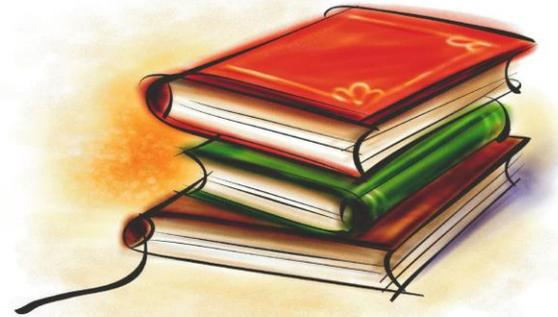
- Allah multiplies our good deeds.
- He minimizes our bad deeds. The Prophet (peace be upon him) once said:
 - “He who has intended a *good deed* and has *not* done it, Allah writes it down as a full good deed. But if he has intended it and has *done* it, Allah writes it down as from ten good deeds to seven hundred times, or many times over. If he has intended a *bad deed* and has *not* done it, Allah writes it as a full good deed. But if he has intended it and has *done* it, Allah writes it down as one bad deed.”

(Bukhari and Muslim)

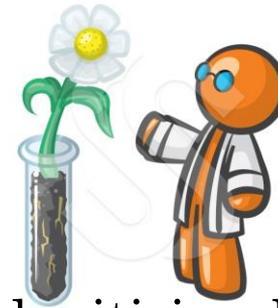


BOOKS TO READ

- The Quran
- Islam a Closer Look
- Life of the Last Prophet
- Servants of Allah
- Gender Equity in Islam
- Islam – Empire of Faith
- The Meaning of the Holy Quran
- Muhammad – Critical Lives
- The Hajj – One American’s Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Ramadan – Award Winning Children’s Book
- [A Brief Illustrated Guide Towards Understanding Islam](#)
- Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtum ([The Sealed Nectar](#))



REFERENCE AND DISCLAIMER



- I read a lot about the common questions and criticism by non-Muslims, and that's why I chose certain aspects to discuss and clear out.
- Please understand that a lot of the information quoted is from Muslims who are far more knowledgeable than I:
 - www.onislam.net
 - [Why Are So Many People Accepting Islam?](#)
- To checkout the video of scientists commenting on the miracles mentioned in the Quran please visit:
 - www.islam-guide.com/truth
- To read the full story of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Khadija please visit:
 - [Finding Comfort in Love](#)
 - [Prophet Muhammad\(SAW\) & Khadijah\(RA\): The Greatest of All Love Stories](#)

REFERENCE AND DISCLAIMER (CONTINUED)

- To read more about the five pillars of Islam please visit:
 - [What Is Islam?](#)
 - [What Is Islam All About?](#)
 - [Five Pillars of Islam](#)
- To understand more about the 99 names of Allah please visit:
 - [Calling Allah by His 99 Names](#)
 - [99 Names of Allah](#)
- To read more about the Quranic miracles and future events that has been foretold, please check:
 - [Quranic Miracles](#)
 - [A Brief Illustrated Guide to Understanding Islam](#)
- To learn how to pray:
 - [New Muslim Not Knowing Arabic: How to Pray?](#)
 - [How Do I Pray](#)



Thank
You



PREPARED BY: FARRAH AYMAN

Farrah Ayman is a 24 years old who was born and raised in Egypt, but moved recently to California, USA with her mom. She has two older brothers and a younger brother. She graduated from the German University in Cairo with double majors (Marketing and Human Resources), then she decided to do her post graduate studies in the American University in Cairo in Human Resources. Farrah loves playing sports, and she has been riding horses for the past 12 years.