

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

A BRIEF ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Second Edition

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PREFACE

This book is a brief guide to understanding Islam. It consists of three chapters.

The first chapter, “**Some Evidence for the Truth of Islam,**” answers some important questions which some people ask:

- Is the Qur’an truly the literal word of God, revealed by Him?
- Is Muhammad ﷺ¹ truly a prophet sent by God?
- Is Islam truly a religion from God?

In this chapter, six kinds of evidence are mentioned:

- 1) **The Scientific Miracles in the Holy Qur’an:** This section discusses (with illustrations) some recently discovered scientific facts mentioned in the Holy Qur’an, which was revealed fourteen centuries ago.
- 2) **The Great Challenge to Produce One Chapter Like the Chapters of the Holy Qur’an:** In the Qur’an, God challenged all human beings to produce a single chapter like the chapters of the Qur’an. Ever since the Qur’an was revealed, fourteen centuries ago, until this day, no one has been able to meet this challenge, even though the smallest chapter in the Qur’an (Chapter 108) is only ten words.



(1) These Arabic words ﷺ mean, ‘May God exalt his mention and protect him from imperfection.’

- 3) **Biblical Prophecies on the Advent of Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of Islam:** In this section, some of the Biblical prophecies on the advent of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ are discussed.
- 4) **The Verses in the Qur'an That Mention Future Events Which Later Came to Pass:** The Qur'an mentioned future events which later came to pass, for example, the victory of the Romans over the Persians.
- 5) **Miracles Performed by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:** Many miracles were performed by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. These miracles were witnessed by many people.
- 6) **The Simple Life of Muhammad ﷺ:** This clearly indicates that Muhammad ﷺ was not a false prophet who claimed prophethood to attain material gains, greatness, or power.

From these six kinds of evidence, we conclude that:

- The Qur'an must be the literal word of God, revealed by Him.
- Muhammad ﷺ is truly a prophet sent by God.
- Islam is truly a religion from God.

If we would like to know if a religion is true or false, we should not depend on our emotions, feelings, or traditions. Rather, we should depend on our reason and intellect. When God sent the prophets, He supported them with miracles and evidence which proved that they were truly prophets sent by God and hence that the religion they came with is true.

The second chapter, “**Some Benefits of Islam,**” mentions some of the benefits that Islam provides for the individual, such as:

- 1) **The Door to Eternal Paradise**
- 2) **Salvation from Hellfire**
- 3) **Real Happiness and Inner Peace**
- 4) **Forgiveness for All Previous Sins.**

The third chapter, “**General Information on Islam,**” provides general information on Islam, corrects some misconceptions about it, and answers some commonly asked questions, such as:

- What does Islam say about terrorism?
- What is the status of women in Islam?



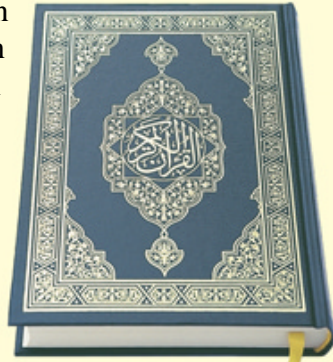
Chapter 1

SOME EVIDENCE FOR THE TRUTH OF ISLAM

God has supported His last Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with many miracles and much evidence which proves that he is a true Prophet sent by God. Also, God has supported His last revealed book, the Holy Qur'an, with many miracles that prove that this Qur'an is the literal word of God, revealed by Him, and that it was not authored by any human being. This chapter discusses some of this evidence.

(1) The Scientific Miracles in the Holy Qur'an

The Qur'an is the literal word of God, which He revealed to His Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through the Angel Gabriel. It was memorized by Muhammad ﷺ, who then dictated it to his Companions. They, in turn, memorized it, wrote it down, and reviewed it with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Moreover, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ reviewed the Qur'an with the Angel Gabriel once each year and twice in the last year of his life. From the time the Qur'an was revealed, until this day, there has always been a huge number of Muslims who have memorized all of the Qur'an, letter by letter. Some of them have even been able to memorize all of the Qur'an by the age of ten. Not one letter of the Qur'an has been changed over the centuries.



The Holy Qur'an

The Qur'an, which was revealed fourteen centuries ago, mentioned facts only recently discovered or proven by scientists. This proves without doubt that the Qur'an must be the literal word of

God, revealed by Him to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and that the Qur'an was not authored by Muhammad ﷺ or by any other human being. This also proves that Muhammad ﷺ is truly a prophet sent by God. It is beyond reason that anyone fourteen hundred years ago would have known these facts discovered or proven only recently with advanced equipment and sophisticated scientific methods. Some examples follow.

A) The Qur'an on Human Embryonic Development:

In the Holy Qur'an, God speaks about 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* (leech, suspended thing, and blood clot), then We made the *alaqah* into a *mudghah* (chewed substance)... ﴾¹ (Qur'an, 23:12-14)

Literally, the Arabic word *alaqah* has three meanings: (1) leech, (2) suspended thing, and (3) blood clot.

In comparing a leech to an embryo in the *alaqah* stage, we find similarity between the two,² as we can see in figure 1. Also, the embryo at this stage obtains nourishment from the blood of the mother, similar to the leech, which feeds³ on the blood of others.

The second meaning of the word *alaqah* is "suspended thing." This is what we can see in figures 2 and 3, the suspension of the embryo, during the *alaqah* stage, in the womb of the mother.

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- (1) Please note that what is between these special brackets ﴾...﴿ in this book is only a translation of the meaning of the Qur'an. It is not the Qur'an itself, which is in Arabic.
 - (2) *The Developing Human*, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 8.
 - (3) *Human Development as Described in the Qur'an and Sunnah*, Moore and others, p. 36.

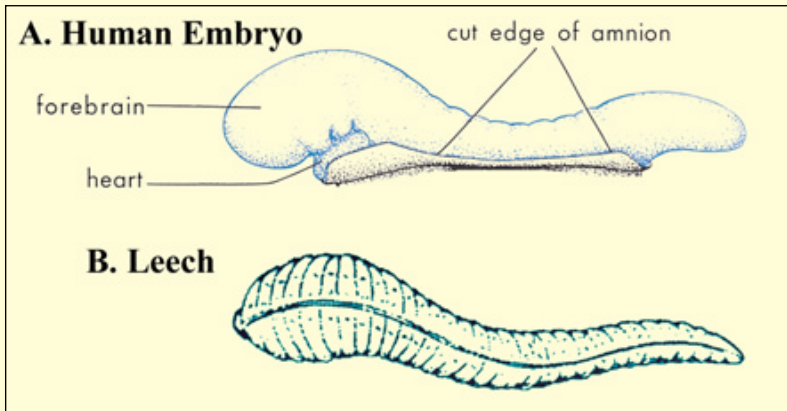


Figure 1: Drawings illustrating the similarities in appearance between a leech and a human embryo at the *alaqah* stage. (Leech drawing from *Human Development as Described in the Qur'an and Sunnah*, Moore and others, p. 37, modified from *Integrated Principles of Zoology*, Hickman and others. Embryo drawing from *The Developing Human*, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 73.)

Figure 2: We can see in this diagram the suspension of an embryo during the *alaqah* stage in the womb (uterus) of the mother. (*The Developing Human*, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 66.)

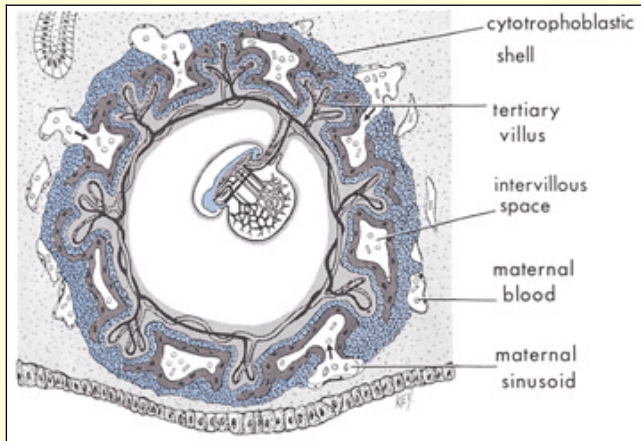


Figure 3: In this photomicrograph, we can see the suspension of an embryo (marked B) during the *alaqah* stage (about 15 days old) in the womb of the mother. The actual size of the embryo is about 0.6 mm. (*The Developing Human*, Moore, 3rd ed., p. 66, from *Histology*, Leeson and Leeson.)

