

Evolution in the Scriptures

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ABSTRACT

The clash between evolution and creationism is perhaps the best-known example of the interaction between science and religion. With the publication of Darwin's "On the origin of species" in the 1850's, the polarity between the two widened as scientist's looked upon religion as something dogmatic and fatalistic, devoid of any hypothetical construction that can be verified by physical research. Religionist's on the other hand looked upon science as a materialist philosophy that advocates "Reductionism" and "Nothing buttery" thereby reducing faith (or God) as "...mere delusion."

This paper will show that science and religion with regard to evolution are not demarcated as agnostics advocated or as Darwinist's and Creationist's polarized. Rather, by invoking the Bible and Quran, this paper will show that science and religion are friends rather than foes. Are the six days of creation to be taken literally or does it signifies epoch of evolution? Is Adam a human created in Eden or the first living cell representing all created life? Does Darwinism mean Atheism? Do humans evolved along the evolutionary ladder or are they special creation, created de-novo? Five centuries before Darwin, Ibn Khaldun in his monumental book "Muqaddimah" proposes a theory of evolution starting from minerals arguing that the essence of creation (in modern terminology: genetic code) passes through various changes (mutations) generating one species after another (descent with modification). But Darwin's leading supporter, Huxley, gathered a band of vociferous contenders for the supremacy of science and foists an atheistic overtone on the theory in the name of Darwinism. Darwin himself has never been an atheist and according to his own words "*Another source of conviction in the existence of God, connected with the reason, and not with the feelings, impresses me as having much more weight....*"

INTRODUCTION

Absolute certainty is hard to come by, but one thing we can be absolutely certain of is that everything we know, have ever known or will know—be it cosmic, biological or social—ran its course under evolutionary pattern i.e. from single, simple entities to a multi-complex level. It will be clear that science and religion with regard to evolution are not demarcated as the agnostic advocated or as the Darwinist's and Creationist's polarized. By using the Bible and Quran, this paper will try to show that science and religion are friends rather than foes. As John Houghton said "*Science and religion are not poles apart, both are searching for reality and truth.*"¹

1 John Houghton, "*Search for God*" Lion publishing, 2007, p237.

DOES DARWINISM MEANS ATHEISM?

First, we need to dispel some misconceived notions, because the way we do science today is as if it is an Atheistic enterprise. Looking back at the history of modern science it is quite clear that all the giants in promoting the scientific enterprise were theists, from Bacon to Galileo, Darwin to Descartes and Newton to Einstein. Darwin himself has never been an atheist and according to his own words *“Another source of conviction in the existence of God, connected with the reason, and not with the feelings, impresses me as having much more weight. This follows from the extreme difficulty or rather impossibility of conceiving this immense and wonderful universe, including man with his capacity of looking for backwards and far into futurity, as the result of blind chance or necessity. When thus reflecting I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist.....I cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems. The mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic.”*²

COSMIC AND BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

Cosmic and biological evolution seems to be happening concurrently, even though the former precedes the later. Does the description in the scriptures tallies with modern science? God declares Q21:30 *“Do not the unbelievers see that the heaven and the earth were joined together as one unit of creation (Singularity) before we clove them asunder (Big Bang)”*³. This declaration, as scientific as it is, is not appealing to the 7th century wild tribes of Arabia, but to the modern day atheists (Dawkins and Co) that are vigorously trying to eliminate God from the scheme of things.

Atheists say this universe created itself out of randomness, but kindergarten mathematics prohibits that in its fundamental assertion that $0+0=0$. Therefore creation ex-nihilo is a mathematical impossibility. The process of how the universe emerged may perhaps be fairly understood, but is it a complete picture.

Francisco Ayala says *“The creation or origin of the universe involves a transition from nothing into being. But a transition can only be scientifically investigated if we have some knowledge about the state of entities on both sides of the boundary. Nothingness, however, is not a subject for scientific investigation or understanding, therefore, as far as science is concerned, the origin of the universe will remain forever a mystery”*⁴.

The further back scientist probe our origin the closer they get to the so called Planck’s time which is 10^{-43} seconds after the big bang. Anything beyond Planck’s time is imaginative physics as all the known physical laws we know broke at that moment hitting what the scientist called the “The quantum gravity wall”. Some scientist hopefully look forward to the discovery of the “Theory of everything”, the grand unified theory that will

2 Charles Darwin, *“Life and Letters”* 1964, pp.15–64.

3 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

4 Francisco J Ayala, *“Debating Design, Dembski & Ruse, Cambridge, 2004.*

eventually unify gravity with other forces as Martin Rees said “*One of the challenges of 21st-century physics, in my opinion, is to understand the relationship of gravity to the other forces and thereby give us a firmer picture of the initial tiny fraction of a second of our Big Bang. When we have that understanding, we will know whether our Big Bang has unique properties or whether it was part of some ensemble which could display variety. I think it will be attractive if it turns out that there is a multiverse allowing a variety of big bangs*”⁵.

DOES LIFE COMES OUT OF NOTHING?

What about life? No one can actually say what literally kick start life on this planet despite the knowledge of how it could have emerged and no one can create life out of nothing despite several attempts that only managed to produce some amino acids. Atheism, by invoking Darwinism, maintained that evolution is guided by chance, as mutation is too random without discernible direction, that it is too cruel and indifferent to the welfare of the forms it produced, and the process will eventually ends in futility therefore rendering God superfluous. In refutation of those claims, God began with *Q21:30* “*We have created every living thing from water: will they still not believe?*”⁶ It is not chance that produce the universe and all the life forms we see existing were put in place by an intelligent being with a purpose. For those who deny his existence and role as the architect of life, the burden of proof is on them as God rightly challenges them in the Quran *Q22:73* “*O men here is a parable set forth listen to it. Those on whom, besides God, you call cannot create even a fly, if they all met together for the purpose*”.⁷ Life is surely explicable in terms of the laws of physics and chemistry and all the various steps involved on how life evolved on this planet is very well understood, except for the origin which is marred by stumbling blocks and crevasses. DNA is the basic building block of life on this planet and it is *extremely* sensitive to how it is compiled.

THE DNA ENIGMA

For instance, moving one adenine out of place in a DNA sequence and an entire species fails to emerge and here we are on planet earth with approximately 9 million species. The probability of forming DNA by random chance, capable of forming a basic living organism like the fly as God challenged, is $1:10^{40,000}$. This is what I call stupid number, being the largest number ever assigned to anything, and it is our DNA. “*There is nothing that you can present with greater certainty than this, unless you can come up with a value that has a certainty of $10^{40,001}$* ”⁸ “*No matter how large the environment one considers, life cannot have had a random beginning. . . there are about two thousand enzymes, and the chance of obtaining them all in a random trial is only one part in $(10^{20})2000 = 10^{40,000}$, an outrageously*

5 Martin Rees, “*Encarta Interview*” Encarta Reference Library, 2009

6 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

7 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

8 William J Bray, “*Quantum Physics, Near death experience, Eternal consciousness,*

small probability that could not be faced even if the whole universe consisted of organic soup.”⁹ The problem of the origin of life “Has turned out to be much more difficult than I, and most other people, envisaged”¹⁰ says Stanley Miller, the leading experimentalist on the origin of life. Simon Conway also said “life cannot be created in the laboratory, nor is there any clear prospect of it happening... ..It was effectively a fluke-like happening, a one in a trillion chance, perhaps the emergence was almost a miracle”¹¹

Likewise Francis Crick says “An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle”¹². Darwin theory of evolution, had of course, and quite remarkably too, explained descent with modification but it doesn’t explain the genesis of it. Darwinism starts with life already here and Darwin accepted that organisms are “*designed*” for certain purpose, that is they are functionally organized. Darwin himself sought to sidestep the issue of the origin of life by placing it outside of his explanatory framework, maybe realizing that that is jumping into teleology.

ADAM: HUMAN BEING OR JUST A BEING?

Like most researchers in the evolution of humans, the most difficult part to crack was the place of Adam in the evolutionary ladder. If he was the first man how did human evolution fit into Darwinism? Is Adam injected out of nowhere into the system? It took me several years and comparing many religious sources before it dawn on me by reading two verses separated by centuries. Having known that all life shares the genetic code whose basic building blocks are the same, I realized that was what God alluded to in the scriptures when he says in Genesis 2:19-20

“And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air and to every beast of the field”¹³ and also in the Qur’an 2:31 “And He taught Adam the nature of all things”¹³

Eureka! Thus Adam was that first living cell that was programmed with the basic building blocks that will subsequently gave rise to all living forms on earth, the progenitor of all life. I became convinced with this theory because unlike the Bible, nowhere in the Qur’an has God mentioned Adam as a human being, the only reference was the generic term “Sons of Adam” applied to you, me and every human. But no reported history or life of Adam as a man on earth. The next hurdle is how did God created Adam on earth?

Religion and Human Soul” PDF, p378

9 Dean L. Overman, “*A case against accident and self organization*” Rowman & Littlefield pp59. 2001.

10 Miller, Stanley and Horgan, J 1991, *Citation* note 15, p101.

11 Simon Conway Morris, “*Life’s Solutions*” Cambridge University Press. 2003.

12 Francis Crick, “*Citation*” is in note 88, 1982 p88.

13 Thomas Nelson, “*The Holy Bible*” New King James Version, 1985.

THE IMAGE OF GOD

In Genesis 1:26 God says

*“Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness”*¹⁴ What is the image of God? Is he like me or you? Or is he like an amoeba? Is he like a fish or an amphibian? We all know that the underlying theological perception is God does not look exactly like any of his creation. So what is the image of God alluded to in the creation of man? We have seen in John 4:24 *“God is a spirit”*¹⁵ And in Genesis 2:7 *“And the lord formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostril the breath of life: and man became a living being”*¹⁶ This breath of life, popularly known as the soul, is what literally kick start the process of life on this planet. This biblical statement was corroborated centuries later in the Quran 32:9 *“But he fashioned him in due proportion, and breathed into him something of his spirit”*.¹⁷ The endowment of the spirit of God (The soul) is what God is referring to *“our likeness”*, which becomes manifest through material matter.

WHO IS THERE FIRST IBN KHALDUN OR DARWIN?

Ibn Khaldun was the first scientist to coherently bring out the idea of evolution but scientific stagnation in the Islamic world led to total disregard for this novel idea. Ibn Khaldun, responding to the Quranic command to travel and observe flora, fauna and earth environment enables him to discover the process of evolution, as Darwin and Wallace did independently centuries later. He proposes a theory of evolution starting from minerals. Minerals, according to him, evolve and become seeded and seedless plants. Plants evolve and reach to their zenith with palm trees and vines. The evolution continues with snails and shelled sea animals. The diversification in animal kingdom reaches the zenith of creation by gradual evolution into human beings with consciousness and thinking skills.

According to Ibn Khaldun, *“Monkeys are the link between animals and the first stage of humanity. He presents the theory of evolution by using scientific language, arguing that the essence of creation (in modern terminology: genetic code) passes through various changes (mutations) generating one species after another (descent with modification)”*¹⁸

Ibn Khaldun wasn't the only Muslim scientist to talk about evolution as Muhammad al-Haytham (965-1039), who is known in the West by the name Alhazen, defends human evolution starting from minerals, plants, and animals in *Kitab al Manazer*, his book on optical science.

The Muslim Geologist al-Biruni (973-1048) in his book *Kitab al-Jamahir* also asserts that humans are created after long periods of evolution from simple organisms through natural selection. Unfortunately, violent suppression of free speech and enforcement of

14 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

15 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

16 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

17 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

18 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

anti-Quranic apostasy law by Muslim rulers and their hand-picked scholars plunged the Muslim world into another Jahiliyya period (dark age) that we are yet to emerge from. Evolutionary theory is always there for the right thinkers to discover as God aptly said Q29:20 “Say *“Travel through the earth and see how God originate creation”*”¹⁹ The one and only way at any other time to understand evolution is by traveling through the earth, as God has scattered ample evidence in fossils, diversity and nature of the living world to convince us that evolution is the architecture of life. Surely it is not by only trotting around the globe that will give us evidence of evolution but as God further show in chapter Q22:46 “*Do they not travel through the land, so that their hearts and minds may thus learn wisdom and their ears may learn to hear. Truly it is not their eyes that are blind but their hearts which are in their breast*”²⁰ Traveling through the earth will make us see all the evidences of evolution in History, fossils, and diversity. In Q39:6 “*He created you all from one being*”.²¹ That one being is Adam. But mankind did not evolved directly from him as fully developed Homo sapiens their evolution had passed through several stages spanning billions of years as God says Q71:14 “*Seeing that it is God that has created you in diverse stages*”²²

HUMAN EVOLUTION

*“Mankind was but one nation but differed later”*²³

The emergence of man in the evolutionary scene in the first instance was not complete but follows successive modifications up to the advent of modern man (Homo sapiens). When the first set of Hominids became segregated from their primate relatives they were one species, which subsequently gave rise to other species. As God says Q10:19 “*How many were the populations we utterly destroyed because of their iniquities, setting up in their places other peoples*”.²⁴

Extinction had played a key role in the evolution of life. It is from the traces of extinct species that new ones emerged, which are quite different from their ancestors. The Qur’an in 39:6 says “*He created you all from one being then from that being he made its mate. And he provide for you eight head (division) of animals kind (Kingdom). He created you in wombs of your mothers; he created you in stages one after another, in three veils of darkness. Such is God, your lord and cherisher*”²⁵

This verse in a nutshell summarizes the evolutionary stages in the animal kingdom. Islamic scholars, when explaining this verse tend to restrict the meaning to only creation in the womb. Their difficulty arises in the inclusion of animals in the verse (they couldn’t

19 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

20 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

21 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

22 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

23 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

24 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983

25 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

fathom the roles of animals in the scheme of human evolution), as they lack evolutionary knowledge. In another verse God says Q36:71 *“Do they not see that it is we who created for them- from that which our hands have fashioned- cattle which are under their dominion?”*²⁶ God here is calling on mankind for 12 centuries to understand that all animals have evolved from *“that which God’s hand have fashioned”* What is that specifically? God supplied the answer in the next two chapters Q38:75 *“(God) said “O Iblis (Satan)! What prevents you from prostrating yourself to one whom I have created with my own hands?”*²⁷ Adam, the first living cell, is the only one created by Gods own hands, meaning he is the only one to have come directly out of inorganic matter. All others came through existing living parents or parent. Adam is the progenitor of humans as well as animals as the above two verses confirms. The former verse was talking about three stages of evolutionary development, which God calls *“the three veils of darkness”*. One, we all came from that first living cell, which contained all the information, needed to develop into the three kingdoms (some scientist are now calling for four or five kingdoms, the bacterial and viruses apart). Then back to our kingdom, the animal kingdom God ordered the division of the kingdom into eight heads, meaning the classification of the animal Kingdom:

Kingdom – Phylum - Class - Order - Family - Genus - Species - Variety

Finally every individual came into being through the process of fertilization of an ovum and through the process of proliferation and differentiation of that single cell he develops into a new individual with full pledge organs composing of billions of cells. Those are the stages which God calls *“Three veils of darkness”*.

Man like any other creature on the planet appeared through the same evolutionary process that began in water some 3 billion years ago Q25: 54 *“It is he who has created man from water. Then he establishes the relationship of lineage (descent) and marriage (reproduction) for thy lord has power (over all things)”*²⁸

WHAT DISTINGUISHED HUMANS FROM NON-HUMANS?

The fundamental distinguishing factors were the hominid adaptations of bipedalism, reduction of anterior dentition and exploitation of non-forested habitats and certainly the rise of language. With language comes thinking, freewill and moral concepts and of course revelations. God in the Qur’an told us the first human community was the *“two sons of Adam”* whom I think, based on the next specie to have appeared after them and the hint from the Qur’an on how to identify them, I categorize them with Australopithecine Afarensis.

Q5:27 *“Recite to them the truth of the story of the two sons of Adam how they each offered a sacrifice and it was accepted from one but not the other. (The one) said” I will surely kill thee (the other) answered, “God doth accept only from those who are righteous “But (the others) mind imposed on him the killing of his brother, so he slew him and Become one of*

26 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

27 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

28 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

the lost ones. Then God sent a raven scratching the ground to show him how to hide his brother naked corpse"²⁹

These people have small brain (cranial capacity) because they cannot even bury their dead by their own initiatives. They are living like their primate relatives leaving a corpse lying around to rot away. They are also living naked like all other animals so they must have hairy body and it indicates tropical habitat (natural for primates). The above verses show us that those early people have developed a language and language is the most distinctive feature that separate humans from their primate cousins.

The next specie to have appeared after the first "Sons of Adam" (The Afarensis) were the Africanus, coinciding with what the Quran call the Noah people "*We once sent Noah to his people and he tarried among them a thousand years less fifty*"³⁰ And in Genesis 9:29 "*The entire lifetime of Noah was 950 years, and then he died.*"³¹ We know that a Homo sapiens (modern man) average life span is not up to 100 years. Any modern man that lives up to 150 years will become imbecile and senile. Life span is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of specie. The limit of the life span of each specie appears to be determined ultimately by heredity.

Locked within the code of the genetic material are instructions that specify the age beyond which a particular specie cannot live given even the most favorable conditions. And many environmental factors act to diminish that upper age limit. Therefore Noah's living for almost a millennia proved to us he is of different stock from you and me.

THE NOAH FLOOD

The Noah flood was not a local event but global, though it started locally as water flood it ended up in an ice age that lasted for a very long time. God provided the proof in the Qur'an "*So he said "embark ye on the ark, in the name of God whether it moves or be at rest for my Lord is be sure oft-forgiving merciful"*"³² Noah called on some that are struggling for safety to come into the ark. Much later when the liquid water began to freeze the ark become at rest and Noah still kept calling people and helping other creatures to the sanctuary of the ark. "*So the ark floated with them on the waves like mountains and Noah cried to his son- and he was standing aloof - "O my son embark with us and be not with the unbelievers"*"³³ As Noah was helping creatures to the safety of the ark he saw his son standing somewhere not swimming. Q11:43 "*The son replied" I will betake myself to some mountains it will save me from the water*"³⁴ The son refused to follow his father to the safety of the ark because he saw some mountains (Real mountains not glacier mountain) perhaps with some

29 Yusuf Ali Translation, "*The Holy Qur'an*" Amana Corp, 1983.

30 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

31 Yusuf Ali Translation, "*The Holy Qur'an*" Amana Corp, 1983.

32 Yusuf Ali Translation, "*The Holy Qur'an*" Amana Corp, 1983.

33 Article: Hand, *Britannica Reference Library*, 15th Edition, 2005

34 Yusuf Ali Translation, "*The Holy Qur'an*" Amana Corp, 1983.

trees on them somewhere far off and he assumed the safety of a known terrain is better than the ark. And had it been it was liquid water not glacier mountain, naturally the son will even without invitation grab at anything afloat even if it is a mere plank than swim to a far off mountain. But in a snowstorm a mountain seen with some trees (a known terrain as far as he is concerned) gave more hope of a shelter than a solitary wooden shelter stuck on a snowy mountain. So the son went away.

THE AD PEOPLES (ROBUSTUS)

Paleontologist said the next people to have appeared on the evolutionary scene after the Africanus some 1.8 million years ago were the Robustus. They were 1.5 meter's tall that is about 0.3 meters taller than their ancestors. This fact is key on how the Qur'an identified the next rung on the ladder of human evolution.

The Qur'an pointed Q7:69 *"Call in remembrance that he (God) made you inheritors after the people of Noah. Call in remembrance (that God) gave you a stature tall among the nations"*³⁵ The Robustus not only enjoyed succeeding the extinct species of Noah but they were also taller than any of their ancestors, they were 1.5 meters tall. The first time any human stood that tall. God went on to describe to us their mode of life Q26:128 *"Do you build a landmark on every high place to amuse yourself?"*³⁶ Those peoples were living on treetops and hilltops. Perhaps they made pathways on trees, which they followed when going, up or down with ease and comfort. God says Q26:130 *"And when you exert your strong hands, do you do it like men of absolute power?"*³⁷ The strong hands show an adaptation for a specialized arboreal life. Fossil records showed their hand extending up to the knees, for the hands to be holding and supporting the rest of the body in swinging and propelling or grasping of branches, must be very strong. The forearms are especially long and the wrist bones articulate with the radius and the hand can be rocked sidewise. The fingers can't be straightened out when the wrist is bent forward. This is due to short, strong tendons in the finger that made the hands into hook and permits them to hang by the hands for long periods without muscle strain. The hand is an instrument for fine and varied movements. In these, the thumb with its skeleton, the first metacarpal bone and the two phalanges, is extremely important. Its free movements include, besides flexion, extension, abduction (ability to draw away from the first finger), and adduction (ability to move forward of the fingers), which are exercised in varying degrees by the great toe also, a unique action, that of opposition, by which it can be brought across, or opposed to the palm and to the tips of the slightly flexed fingers. This motion forms the basis for the handling of tools, weapons, and instruments. Among the apes and some New World monkeys the hand is specialized for brachiation (hand-over-hand swinging through the trees). Digits two to five are elongated and used in clasping tree limbs; the thumb is reduced and little

35 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

36 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

37 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

used in swinging. Terrestrial monkeys, such as the baboon, do not have reduced thumbs and can carry out precise movements with fingers and opposing thumb. The development of dexterity in the hands and increase in brain size are believed to have occurred together in the evolution of humans. The importance of the hand in making us what we are cannot be overemphasized.³⁸

We have seen how the ice age forced Noah's people to extinction what about the Robustus? God says Q41:16 *"So we sent against them a furious wind through days of disaster"*³⁹

*"Ah! Behold! For the Ad rejected their lord and cherisher! Ah! Behold removed (from sight) were ads the people of Hud"*⁴⁰ Some natural disaster also forced these people into extinction like their ancestors. Q69:8 *"Then seest you any of them left surviving?"*⁴¹ No one had ever seen their types alive, as they had become extinct millions of years ago but Q29:38 *"Remember also the Ad's and Thamud people clearly will appear to you from the traces of their building"*⁴² Though we cannot see any of our extinct ancestors, using Paleontology and Paleoanthropology we can know their physical structures, technological development etc. by examining their dwellings. This could be in form of caves inscriptions on the dwellings that had been buried and being excavated on purpose or by an act of nature, which reveals the information concerning them. God says Q51:42 *"The winds left nothing whatever it came up against but reduce it to ruin and rotteness"*⁴³ The ecological disaster not only perished the humans of that time but even other forms of life.

The only evidence of the existence of the extinct forms was through what God says "Ruin and Rotteness" which is the fossil remains (Skeletal remains) found in the "Traces of their buildings" in 29:38. Through the fossil record a lot of data can be gathered about the extinct species.

THE THAMUD PEOPLES (BOISEI)

The next people to have appeared on the evolutionary scene were the Thamuds (Boisei) and according to the Quran here is how we identify them Q29: 38 *"They were gifted with intelligence and skill"*⁴⁴ In the Boisei we saw the expansion of the cranial capacity from 500c/c of their ancestors to about 530 cubic centimeters which made them more intelligent than their ancestors. This ability earned them the next benefit Q7:74 *"And God gave you habitation in the land"*⁴⁵ The cranial expansion of this specie enables them to migrate

38 Article: Hand, *Britannica Reference Library*, 15th Edition, 2005.

39 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

40 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

41 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

42 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

43 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

44 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

45 Thomas Nelson, *"The Holy Bible"* New King James Version, 1985.

from the tropical habitat, natural for primates, through their technological development of making tools and implements. They colonized other regions of the world and build houses in plains and carved out man-made caves. They were the first to have used artificial shelters on their own initiatives unlike their ancestors who lived in the tropical forest, on trees. The transition had made a profound change on how man lived. Before this men had relied on natural provision of food in the forest. But after this those provisions were no longer readily available.

God says Q26: 148 “(They have) gardens and springs and tilled fields”⁴⁶ After man had migrated from the tropical habitat and settled on man-made shelters, his source of food change drastically instead of depending on fruits and games like other primates, he now settled in one place and stopped roaming about thus he developed a means of tilling the land and Incipient cultivation began. God further informed us about this specie Q26:155 “He said “here is a she-camel she has a right of watering”⁴⁷ Incipient cultivation goes hand in hand with domestication. The change in man’s source of food necessitates domestication because agriculture only cannot meet his food requirement. The possibility of cultivation and domestication depended entirely on the availability of water, which the Thamud have (Q26:148). The Camel according to scripture is the first domesticated animal.

THE HOMO ORDER

After the extinction of the Australopithecines, there appeared the homo species which comprises Neanderthals and Erectus whom scriptural and scientific evidence too pointed they culminate into the supreme specie on earth, the Homo Sapiens.

THE LOT’S PEOPLE (HOMO NEANDERTHAL’S)

Paleontologist classified them among the “Homo” order. They were 1.6 meters tall and possess a cranial capacity of about 1400 cubic centimeters. They appeared about 1 Million years ago. God says Q7:80 “We also sent Lot, he said to his people “do you commit lewdness such as no people in creation ever committed”⁴⁸ Their major crime was homosexuality an aberration no people in history has ever committed. It posed the greatest threat in human evolution as God says Q29:29 “Do you indeed approach men and cut off the highway?”⁴⁹ Sex is not only a source of pleasure for the performers. It embodied higher moral, social, religious and biological values. Its main function though, in any living society, is for the procreation of that particular society in order to perpetuate itself. So any particular specie that will adhere to homosexual tendencies will certainly run itself towards extinction. In those early period, and very crucial stage of human evolution, approaching men for sex

46 Yusuf Ali Translation, “The Holy Qur’an” Amana Corp, 1983.

47 Yusuf Ali Translation, “The Holy Qur’an” Amana Corp, 1983.

48 Yusuf Ali Translation, “The Holy Qur’an” Amana Corp, 1983.

49 Thomas Nelson, “The Holy Bible” New King James Version, 1985.

instead of women by lot's people will cut off the "Highway" (the evolutionary process) because it is through those existing specie, they are destined through crossbreeding for Homo sapiens to evolve. But the people of lot persisted in their crime and God destroyed them save a few to continue the process. This is how God send this people into extinction. Q15:73 *"But the (mighty) blast overtook them before the morning"*⁵⁰ The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by a catastrophe of nature in the form of volcanic eruption. It began with a powerful explosion from a nearby mountain that sent shock waves around the area.

Then God said Q54:34 *"We sent against them a violent wind with showers of stones"*⁵¹ The volcano started ejecting hot ash from its interior in great speed and covered the cities. This ash alone is capable of destroying any living creature on its path. Then Q11:82 *"And rained down on them brimstone hard as baked clay"*⁵² Balls of hot lava shelled the cities in an aerial bombardment killing off everything. In Genesis 19:24 *"Then the Lord rained down sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah"*⁵³ Also in the Qur'an Q27:58 *"And we rained down on them a shower and evil was the shower"*⁵⁴ Molten lava flowed in for the final kill, covering and destroying everything on its path. Finally God said Q11:82 *"When our decree issued we turned the cities upside down"*⁵⁵ Majority of people assumed the destruction of lot people as taking up the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and drop down just like taking up a plate and dropped upside down. But a closer look at the verse proved otherwise. These people were destroyed by the catastrophes of nature like their ancestors. After an earthquake had rampaged the towns, the cities were buried by the volcanic disaster. Sand, ash and lava encroached upon the debris and buried the place in a gradual process. After the process was completed the cities positions were in reality upside down because they formally existed on the face of the earth but are now buried underneath.

ABRAHAM'S PEOPLE (HOMO ERECTUS)

The progenitor of modern men (The Homo Sapiens) was none other but Father Abraham. The great monotheist religions of the world, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, all claimed to have descended from Abraham. Jews and Arabs claimed direct lineage with Abraham. According to the Bible, Abraham's original name was Abrams which in Hebrew means Ab=father and Rams=high, that is the High-father. God himself changed the name to Abraham meaning in Hebrew Ab=father and Raham=multitude, that is the father of the multitude. Then in Qur'an 2:124 *"Behold! I shall make thee a leader of men"*⁵⁶ So in what

50 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

51 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

52 Thomas Nelson, *"The Holy Bible"* New King James Version, 1985.

53 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983

54 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Homo-erectus#ref249986>

55 Yusuf Ali Translation, *"The Holy Qur'an"* Amana Corp, 1983.

56 Thomas Nelson, *"The Holy Bible"* New King James Version, 1985.

capacity does God intend to make Abraham the leader of men, is it politically, socially or economically? The answer came in Genesis 12:3 “*And I will bless he that bless thee and curse him that curse thee and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*”⁵⁷ The leadership of Abraham is biological as the above verse indicates. All families in the earth (the Homo sapiens) will eventually be from the lineage of Abraham (Homo erectus).

God in the Qur’an gave us a clue on how to identify Abraham’s specie. Q21:69 “*We said “O fire be thou cool, and a means of safety for Abraham*”⁵⁸ Abraham was sent to this world when idolatry was major religion of the world, even members of his household were engrossed in it. From early childhood he tried to break away from this practice and begins to look up to the stars for answers. Eventually God came to his rescue through revelations. He begins to preach to his people and they tried to burn him alive thus he was forced into exile. The fire his people wanted to burn him with became his companion after his escape. He perhaps used it to cook food, dry materials, sent away wild beast etc. The fire instead of harming Abraham became a means to safety (Allegorically it became cool) in his lifetime. Scientist had evidence that Homo erectus, a species of human who lived from about 1.8 million to about 30,000 years ago, was the first to use fire on a regular basis. As God want us to use scientific evidence in identifying the specie where Abraham belonged he associated him with the use of fire civilization—the only one mentioned in the scriptures. The ability to manipulate fire has been the greatest gift of God to man at that stage, as it opens doors for improving human civilization beyond the simple agrarian means of survival. It was not only cave dwelling that mastery of fire seems to have made possible. Able to keep warm, man was apparently able to move into colder climates; indeed, this factor may have speeded the migrations of ancient humans into the chilly, often glaciated regions of prehistoric Europe. Sooner or later, too, humans started cooking their food, thus reducing the work demanded of their teeth. This, in turn, may have played an important part in minimizing the evolutionary advantage of big teeth—cooked food needs far less cutting, tearing, and grinding than does raw food. This relaxation of the evolutionary selective pressure that favored the survival of people with strong, big teeth may, in turn, have led directly to a diminution in the size of the teeth and jaw bone—one of the features that has come to distinguish H. sapiens from H. erectus.⁵⁹ “*And we rescued him and lot (and brought them) to the land which we blessed for all peoples*”⁶⁰

So Abraham (An Erectus) and Lot (a Neanderlis) stocks inter married and crossbreed in the blessed land God says Q21:72 “*And we bestowed on him Isaac...*”⁶¹ In the blessed land after the intermarriage Isaac was born who happens to be the product of crossbreeding

57 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

58 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

59 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Homo-erectus#ref249986>

60 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

61 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

thus he is a homo sapiens. Earlier on, before the birth of Isaac the angels had told Abraham of the coming of the child. Q15:33 *“They (angels) said ‘fear not! We give thee glad tidings of a son endowed with wisdom’*”.⁶²

The promised son, who is going to be a Homo sapiens, is going to have wisdom. Emphasizing that his cranial capacity will supersede that of the parent (the cranial capacity of H. erectus falls short of that of H. sapiens by about 570 cc The average endo-cranial capacity of modern H. sapiens, for example, is 1,450 cc, although the range for recent humans is appreciable, perhaps 1,000 to 2,000 cc. So when the child was born, father Abraham became perplexed because the boy did not completely resemble his parents physically and as he grows the boy’s mental capacity supersede that of the parents. This phenomenon completely dumbfounded Abraham though he has absolute belief in God’s ability, what he is witnessing heightened his curiosity. At a point when he can no longer restrain himself any further he asked God for explanation Q2:260 *“Behold Abraham said ‘my Lord! Show me how thou give life to the dead! He said, ‘Dost thou not then believe. He said yea! but to satisfy my own understanding. ‘He said take four birds tame them to turn to thee put a portion of them on every hill and call to them. They will come to thee flying with speed then know that god is exalted in Power, wise’*”⁶³ To satisfy Abraham’s curiosity, God commanded him to perform the above practical experiment of crossbreeding. He was asked to collect four different sub-species of birds and tame them separately, each group consisting of the four individual sub-species. After their mating, conceiving and birth, new individual sub-specie emerged different from their own parents.

This experiment explained to Abraham how a different, non-existing (dead) individual (a Homo sapiens here) can emerge from an existing parent (Erectus/Neanderthal). The magic number is four, which led Gregor Mendel millenniums later to formulate the laws of inheritance. In every cross-pollination/cross-breeding, the ratio will always be 3:1 (or one in four) dominant and recessive genes. This is a universal law (the law of independent assortment) which is responsible for the proliferation and differentiation of species on this planet, and to a lesser extent you and me are just like hybrids of our own parents. It is through his lineage that modern men evolved gradually until the final features of Homo sapiens were achieved in Joseph. A traditional view held by many paleontologists is that a species may be transformed gradually into a succeeding species in the same lineage. Such successive species in the evolutionary sequence are called chronospecies. *“The boundaries between chronospecies seem almost impossible to determine by any objective anatomic or functional criteria; what is left is the guesswork of ‘ruling off’ at a moment in time to draw the boundary. Thus, competent authorities have seriously suggested that, in the last analysis, such a chronological boundary may have to be drawn arbitrarily between the last survivors of H. erectus and the earliest members of H. sapiens. The problem of defining the limits of chronospecies is not peculiar to H. erectus; it is one of the most vexing questions*

62 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

63 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

in paleontology".⁶⁴

In Abraham's lifetime towards the end of his life, Abraham made one bequest: Genesis 24:2 "*Abraham said to his servant... "Put your hand under my thigh. So that I may make you solemnly promise by the **Lord**, the God of heaven and the God of the earth: You must not acquire a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living. You must go instead to my country and to my relatives to find a wife for my son Isaac.*"⁶⁵ Why would Abraham made such a request? He gave us the reason in Genesis 24:7 "*The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and the land of my relatives, promised me with a solemn oath, 'To your descendants I will give this land.*"⁶⁶ Having realized experimentally, the way new species emerged he would not jeopardize the chance by allowing his descendants to crossbreed instead of strengthening the lineage he started. In the story of Isaac we have seen how he was deceived by Rebecca (The chosen wife whose name means productive, prolific, and fruitful in Hebrew) and her son Jacob to get his blessings. Jacob (i.e. smooth skin in Hebrew) of Homo sapiens, while his elder brother, Esau (i.e. hairy skin in Hebrew) of the Erectus 27:11 "*But Esau my brother is a hairy man,*" Jacob protested to his mother Rebecca, "*and I have smooth skin!*"⁶⁷ But Rebecca cunningly 27:16 "*She put the skins of the young goats on his hands and the smooth part of his neck*"⁶⁸

Among Abraham descendants we have chronospecies until the most refine of Homo sapiens were achieved in Joseph. Isaac too having eventually realized the wisdom of Abraham in restraining them from marriages that could crossbreed commanded his son 28:1 "*So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him, "You must go to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and find yourself a wife there, among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.*"⁶⁹

Expressly he is commanded to marry from his mother's side not from Abrahams people (The Erectus). Among the many son's he bore, Joseph was his favorite, (the name means continuity, increase in Hebrew) one day: Genesis 37:5-8 "*Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the middle of the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose up and stood upright and your sheaves surrounded my sheaf and bowed down to it!" Then his brothers asked him, "Do you really think you will rule over us or have dominion over us?" They hated him even more because of his dream and because of what he said*"⁷⁰ The dream, simply signify Joseph's descendants will rise as the supreme

64 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985.

65 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

66 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

67 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

68 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

69 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

70 Thomas Nelson, "*The Holy Bible*" New King James Version, 1985

human species (the Homo sapiens) on this planet.

The Quran dedicated a whole chapter (with 111 verses) to Joseph because it was in him that the full features of Homo sapiens are achieved. In the narrative we saw in Q12:22 *“When he reached maturity, we bestowed on him wisdom and knowledge”*⁷¹ Due to his superior intelligence, was able to interpret dreams, devise agricultural and accounting policies that saved Egypt from annihilation by crop failures. In Q12:31 *“When they saw him...they exclaimed “Good lord! He is no human being; He is but a noble angel”*⁷² Joseph was the most beautiful human being of his time (a homo sapien among erectus), that is why when the women of Egypt first saw him couldn't believe he is a man (as they have never seen a homo sapiens before i.e. smoothed skin, well-proportioned body and handsome face) they assumed he is an angel (only angels could look that nice). Finally God declares in the Qur'an Q3:110 *“Ye are the best of people evolved for Mankind”*⁷³

Undoubtedly the Homo sapiens are the “best” (To the fullest meaning of the word) to have evolved in human evolution. The advent of Homo sapiens has changed the world dramatically. Physically we have lost most of the monkey-like features of our ancestors, which help us to succeed in controlling and modifying our environment to meet our needs. We attained sufficient control over our physical and biological world to live more than a simple nomadic or agrarian existence as our ancestors. Despite all this blessings, majority of mankind did not believe in God and treat scriptures like fables.

But God who is all-aware said to Mohammad. Q22:42 *“If they treat thy (mission) as false, so did the peoples before them, the people of Noah, and Ads and Thamud, those of Abraham and Lot and the companions of the Madyan's people”*⁷⁴ The emphasis here is on the extinct species, Afarensis (Earliest men), Africanus (Noah's) Robustus (Ad's) Boisei (Thamud's) Habilis (Madyan's) Neanderlis (Lot's) and Erectus (Abraham's), carefully not mentioning the several prophets that came from Joseph down to Muhammad who are all homo sapiens and extant. And also in Q25:39 *“To each we sent parables and examples and each one we broke to utter annihilation (extinction)”*⁷⁵ All of our ancestors (Afarensis, Africanus, Boisei, Habilis, Neanderthals and Erectus) were forced into extinction by the natural laws set by God in the process of evolution.

WHY SCIENCE FAILS TO GRASP THE ORIGIN OF LIFE?

In Sir Karl Popper's opinion, the breakthrough of molecular biology, far from solving the problem of the origin of life, has made it, a greater riddle than it was before. Darwin theory of evolution had quite remarkably explained descent with modification but it doesn't explain the genesis of it. Darwinism starts with life already here and Darwin accepted that

71 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

72 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

73 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

74 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

75 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur'an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

organisms are “designed” for certain purposes, that is, that they are functionally organized. Darwin himself famously sought to sidestep the issue of the origin of life by placing it outside of his explanatory framework, maybe realizing that that is jumping into teleology. What pitted religious circles with Darwinism is the exclusion of God as the explanation for the obvious design for organisms.

As has been demonstrated in the history of life on this planet, life always comes from the living and that is why scientist failed to create an artificial one. God claims he created life, explained in the scriptures (as I expounded in this paper) how he created it and designed it to develop further. If God is not the originator of life and architect of evolution, how could the scriptures (both the Bible and Quran) explain the processes centuries before science had an inkling? Well, our atheist’s friends will continue to challenge the notion and dismiss it but God has a simple challenge for those who deny his existence and role as the architect of life, the burden of proof is on them as he said

Q22:73 *“O men here is a parable set forth listen to it. Those on whom, besides God, you call cannot create even a fly, if they all met together for the purpose”*⁷⁶

Life is surely explicable in terms of the laws of physics and chemistry and all the various steps involved on how life evolved on this planet is very well understood, except for the origin which is marred by stumbling blocks and crevasses. Create one of the lowliest of creation (the fly) since you knew and exult in your mastery of biology and evolution is the simple challenge from God. No one can do that, from now to eternity, because the faculty is jealously guarded by God. We learnt in the scripture when God decided to create Adam, Genesis 1:26 *“Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness”*⁷⁷

HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN HOW?

Genesis 2:7 *“And the lord formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostril the breath of life: and man became a living being”*⁷⁸

This breath of life, popularly known as the soul, is what literally kick start the process of life on this planet. This biblical statement was corroborated centuries later in the Quran 32:9 *“But he fashioned him in due proportion, and breathed into him something of his spirit”*⁷⁹ The endowment of the spirit of God (The soul) is what God is referring to *“our likeness”*, which becomes manifest through material matter. According to Christianity, the soul is the source of a person’s identity and is usually regarded as immaterial. Zechariah 12:1 says *“The lord.... who forms the human spirit within a person”*⁸⁰ One thing the scriptures reiterate but kept eluding theologians for centuries was the ability to understand when God talked about Adam (thought to be the first man) he is talking particularly about

76 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

77 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

78 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

79 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

80 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

mankind and generally about creation on earth through that progenitor cell in the oceans over three billion years ago.

The word Adam was in our present record first used in the book of Genesis, the word was derived from the Hebrew word “*Adamah*” meaning “dust of the ground” signifying the relatedness of all creation on earth. Genesis 2:17 “*Out of the ground the lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air*”⁸¹ (The animal kingdom) and in Genesis 2:9 “*And out of the ground the lord God made every tree grow*”⁸² (The plant kingdom) Similarly in Q71:7 “*And God has produce you from the earth growing gradually*”⁸³ Subsequently God used the word in the *Holy Qur’an*. In Arabic the word is also derived from the word “*Adama*” which means “Mixture of various things together” Therefore even where the root of the name was derived from suggested that Adam was a congregation of all created life on this planet.

THE CELL AND THE SOUL

Modern science (or more appropriate scientists) tends to reject the notion of disembodied soul, without providing a clearer substitute. In an attempt to discard Body-Soul dualism, alternatives like Monism (or physicalism) considers soul as an aspect of physical existence, not an additional immaterial essence. This means monism is associated with reductive materialism and determinism. Non-reductive physicalism, on the other hand, admits the biological nature of humans (physicalism) but the “non-reductive” qualifier asserts that “... *conscious decisions and will are real phenomena that are effective in exerting a top-down (or whole part) causal influence on the Neurophysiological process of the brain*”⁸⁴

Criticisms of non-reductive physicalism notably by Kim assert that “*it will inevitably be causal reductionism....if top—down influence are demonstrated, such downward efficacy of the mental would suggest an ontological status and that would verge on dualism again*”⁸⁵ William Hasker proposes ‘Emergent dualism’ in which the mind is seen as an immaterial essence that emerges from the functioning of the brain. Cognitive and neural events we understood and can describe but certainly cannot really, for now, explain. All efforts to discard dualism are not tentative and Trinh Xuan rightly pointed “*To this day, the brain and mind are regarded as two distinct entities in western medicine. When we have a headache we consult a neurologist, when we are depressed we are told to see a psychiatrist*”⁸⁶ If physicalism (a person is unified whole without separate non-physical soul) is all there is, what about free will, prayer, experience of the spirit and above all after life? The idea of before and after life, is cardinal and deeply grounded in the traditions

81 Thomas Nelson, “*The Holy Bible*” New King James Version, 1985.

82 Thomas Nelson, “*The Holy Bible*” New King James Version, 1985.

83 Yusuf Ali Translation, “*The Holy Qur’an*” Amana Corp, 1983.

84 Malcolm Jeeves, *From Cells to soul and beyond*, Erdmann’s Publishing, 2004

85 Malcolm Jeeves, *From Cells to soul and beyond*, Erdmann’s Publishing, 2004

86 Trinh Xuan, *Chaos and Harmony*, Oxford University Press, 2004, p294

of the western religions. Teachings of these religions will crumble if this idea is negated. What about animals? Do they possess souls as we humans? They do if what religion and science is anything to go by. The soul is not peculiar to man alone, every created being on earth began from the first progenitor cell (Adam) whom God breathed his spirit, which marked the transition from basic elements into live matter. God says in the Quran Q6:38 *“There is not an animal (that lives) on the earth nor a being that flies on its wing but (forms part of) communities like you. Nothing have we omitted from the book and they shall all be gathered to their lord in the end”*⁸⁷ And more clarity in the Bible Ecclesiastes 3:18-21 *“I also thought to myself, “It is for the sake of people, so God can clearly show them that they are like animals. For the fate of humans and the fate of animals are the same: As one dies, so dies the other; both have the same breath. There is no advantage for humans over animals, for both are fleeting. Both go to the same place, both come from the dust, and to dust both return. Who really knows if the human spirit ascends upward, and the animal’s spirit descends into the earth?”*⁸⁸ The only major difference between man and beast are developmental pathways each had taken in the evolutionary race. The evolution of the brain was shaped and guided by both biological and environmental factors. Scientifically we know that the way in which the brain develops in rats, cats and non-human primates is profoundly influenced by the environment (physical and social) just like us.

Consciousness is dependent on the soul as its driver and if we look into the way a human fetus develops will give us clarity. Long before the emergence of the brain in the embryo the cells functions effectively and efficiently and the brain did not even complete developing until long after birth. From fertilization to death, the ascending level of human consciousness can corresponds to that of various organisms. Every organism is endowed with some form of consciousness, from the brainless to the largest brains. If we were to use a scale of 100, then man, with the largest cranial capacity may be at 70 or more (as we may evolve larger brain). Life on earth began with a gift of God spirit (which became our souls).

CONCLUSION

Extreme materialism is wrong even by the terms of science, as the unpredictability of nature show us that the more accurately we measure individual events, the clearer it becomes that the outcome of those events are indeterminate. If we are nothing but atoms and molecules then there would be nothing for us to do, but blindly follow the determined instructions of the machine within us. Most of the scientists in the Victorian times take on Natural theology, blending their science with their Christian backgrounds. In fact Darwin himself was a Theist as he confirmed in his book “Life and Letters” as I quoted above. But after the publication of Darwin’s “Origins of species” in the 1850’s, which naturally challenged the existing conventional Natural Theology, a band of vociferous contenders for the supremacy of science gathered together under the leadership of Darwin’s leading supporter - T. H.

87 Yusuf Ali Translation, *“The Holy Qur’an”* Amana Corp, 1983.

88 Thomas Nelson, *“The Holy Bible”* New King James Version, 1985.

Huxley- and created the X-Club. Eight out of nine of the members were all fellows of the Royal Society and their chief aim was, in its simplest form, to replace conventional religion by a world view that involves nature and nature only. Their modus operandi was, first, to discredit the established Church. In attacking the church “Mother nature” was an indispensable ally, she was, in short, a substitute for God. Therefore whatever was previously the role of God is now appropriated to “Nature”. A whole new literature emerged and a new periodical for specialist science, called appropriately “Nature” was established. The second phase of their strategy wasn’t so much to attack the church as to imitate it. Thus new congregations were formed and lay sermons encouraged through publications of papers. Science had become a new religion with its popularizers as emerging prophets. The attendant atheistic overtones in the way science is carried out today will surely have made Huxley and co. grin in their graves; as sacrilization of science and secularization of society has been accomplished.

It will only be fair if atheists like Dawkins do not advocate for the non-existence of God, because in his explanation of the “Memes” he said “*We don’t know what they are made of, or where they reside.....memes presumably exist in brains, and we have even less chance of seeing one than of seeing a gene*”⁸⁹ Alister McGrath answered him beautifully by saying “*Dawkins talking about memes is like believers talking about God - an invisible, unverifiable postulate, which helps explain some things about experience, but ultimately lies beyond empirical investigation*”.⁹⁰

89 Richard Dawkins, *A Devil’s Chaplain*, Weidenfield & Nicholson, 2003 p124

90 Alister McGrath, *Dawkins God*, Black well Publishing,2007
