

The Al Islam *e*Gazette

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THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

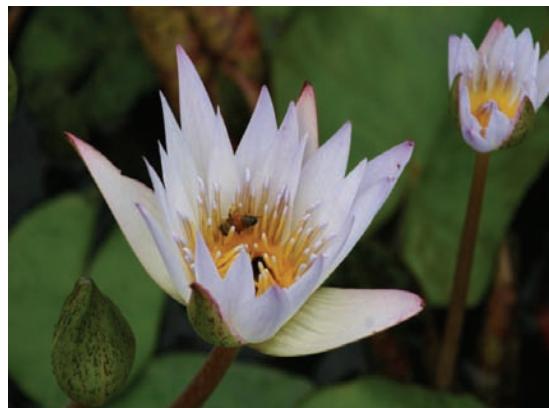
أَنَّى يَكُونُ لَهُ وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ صَاحِبَةٌ

“How can Allah have a son when He has no consort?”

(Al Quran 6:102)

The field of biology has struck a fatal blow to the concept of Trinity and other dogmas in Christianity on several counts. Firstly, there is the fundamental principle in biology “Like begets like,” which clearly refutes the concept of sonship of God. In the Holy Quran it is expressed in the words, “How can Allah have a son when He has no consort?” Man’s genetic code is made of 46 chromosomes and God is transcendent and beyond time and space.

Secondly, the concept of Original Sin is completely incompatible with the fundamental laws of biology including the principles of gene inheritance and the facts supporting the theory of evolution. These facts are examined in detail in an article published in [Muslim Sunrise](#) in summer of 2008, *Religion and Reason: Original Sin.*



Evolution and Biology: A cross for Christianity

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Al Islam eGazette

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The Bible, moreover, portrayed a deity quite different from that revealed in nature, a deity that reason could neither explain nor defend.

— President Thomas Jefferson

Thirdly, one of the biggest contributions of biology in the last two centuries has been the fact that all living beings come from one lineage and inheritance and not three. Read on, and in the words of Sir Francis Bacon's advice, "Read not to contradict ... but to weigh and consider." Erasmus Darwin grand father of Sir Charles Darwin, was perhaps the first in suggesting that all life shared the same origin and that the secret of life lay in 'filaments' that are shared by all living beings, without exception. So, the 30 million life forms on this planet can be a witness of one God only and not three!

In the words of Matt Ridley in the first chapter of his book, *Genome*:

"As the earth and ocean were probably peopled with vegetable productions long before the existence of animals; and many families of these animals long before other families of them, shall we conjecture that one and the same kind of living filaments is and has been the cause of all organic life? asked the polymathic poet and physician Erasmus Darwin in 1794. It was a startling guess for the time, not only in its bold conjecture that all organic life shared the same origin, sixty-five years before his grandson Charles' book on the topic, but for its weird use of the word 'filaments'. The secret of life is indeed a thread."

Prof. Richard Dawkins quotes Matt Ridley in his book *The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing*:

"In the beginning was the word. The word was not DNA. That came afterwards, when life was already established, and when it had divided the labor between two separate activities: chemical work and information storage, metabolism and replication. But

DNA contains a record of the word, faithfully transmitted through all subsequent eons to the astonishing present."

The *Intelligent Design* movement has created extensive literature arguing with the atheists or agnostics that there ought to be a creator of this universe and life on this planet. Despite their strong rooting in Christianity they conveniently keep ignoring that the universe and life talk of one designer or creator and not three! They choose to ignore the elephant in the room and go on without ever mentioning this divide between Christianity and Islam.

In the words of Matt Ridley in first chapter of his book, *Genome*:

"The three-letter words of the genetic code are the same in every creature. CGA means arginine and GCG means alanine - in bats, in beetles, in beech trees, in bacteria. They even mean the same in the misleadingly named archaebacteria living at boiling temperatures in sulphurous springs thousands of feet beneath the surface of the Atlantic ocean or in those microscopic capsules of deviousness called viruses. Wherever you go in the world, whatever animal, plant, bug or blob you look at, if it is alive, it will use the same dictionary and know the same code. **All life is one.** The genetic code, but a few tiny local aberrations, mostly for unexplained reasons in the ciliate protozoa, is the same in every creature. We all use exactly the same language."

Contrast this with the fact that modern computers are built around a number of mutually incompatible machine languages, determined by their processor chips. The different machine languages, in this example point to the different manufacturers.

Ridley continues, "This means - and religious people might find this a useful argument - that there was only one creation, one single event when life was born. Of course, that life might have been born on a different planet and seeded here by spacecraft, or there might even have been thousands of kinds of life at first, but only Luca survived in the ruthless free-for-all of the primeval soup. But until the genetic code was cracked in the 1960s, we did not know what we now know: that all life is one; seaweed is your distant cousin and anthrax one of your advanced relatives. **The unity of life is an empirical fact. Erasmus Darwin was outrageously close to the mark: 'One and the same kind of living filaments has been the cause of all organic life.'**"

It is mind boggling that in this age of rationality the Trinitarian Christians are still maintaining their dogmas. We invite them to real monotheism and offer them three better choices. These are in the order of preference:

- ♦ Ahmadiyya understanding of Islam
- ♦ Unitarian Christianity
- ♦ Judaism

Richard Dawkins quotes Francis Crick in his book *The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing*, "Heredity is all-or-none. That's digital. But what neither Mendel nor anyone else before 1953 knew was that genes themselves are digital, within themselves. A gene is a sequence of code letters, drawn from an alphabet of precisely four letters, and the genetic code is universal throughout all known living things. **Life is the execution of programs written using a small digital alphabet in a single, universal machine language.** This

realization was the hammer blow that knocked the last nail into the coffin of vitalism and, by extension, of dualism. The hammer was wielded, with undisguised youthful relish, by James Watson and Francis Crick."

James Watson and Francis Crick's famous one-page paper, describing the structure of DNA, appeared in *Nature* in 1953. In addition to being a biological epiphany, it also turned out to be an amazing religious epiphany. Trinity was no more! There could be only one creator of life on our planet earth. In the words of Allah:

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرْوِنَهَا وَالْقَوْمَ فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَنْ تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ . هَذَا خَلْقُ اللَّهِ فَأَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ بِلِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

"Allah has created the heavens without any visible pillars, and He has placed in the earth firm mountains lest it roll beneath you, and has spread therein all kinds of creatures, We have sent down water from the clouds, and have caused to grow therein every fine species. This is the Allah's creation. Now show me what those others besides Him have created. The wrong doers are in manifest error." (Al Quran 31:11-12)

Here Allah declares the unity of His creation as a proof of there being one God only.

There is no hope for the revival of worship so long as an idol lives undisturbed in the place reserved for a living God. — Bishop John Shelby Spong

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: A CHECKMATE TO CREATIONISM

Darwin did three very separate things. There are three different aspects of his works that spanned over several decades of his life from 1809-1882. As we talk about him it is very important to focus on his three works separately.

His main achievement was that he convinced the scientific world that evolution had occurred and the different animals are closely related to each other and to their distant cousins the plants. This article, *Molecular Biology: A Checkmate to Creationism*, pertains to this aspect of his work.

The Second work of Darwin was that he proposed how evolution happened. He proposed that "natural selection" was the main mechanism behind evolution over billions of years. However, there may be additional mechanisms at play such as intracellular or genetic mechanisms. Thirdly, Darwin or at least the neo-Darwinists suggest absence of any living will that controlled the evolutionary processes and their outcome. It is suggested that it is a totally blind process determined by chance alone and survival of the fittest. This article covers the first aspect of Darwin's work where we completely agree with him. Molecular biology is the best proof to establish common ancestry of all the 30 million life forms on this planet. Establishing evolution strikes a fatal blow to the dogmas of



Original Sin and Atonement of Christianity. This is precisely the reason why in this day and age of information, 45% of USA population, continues to believe in young earth or creationism, to maintain their belief in dogmas of Christianity. To review the whole article go to the link:

http://www.alislam.org/library/articles/Molecular_biology_Checkmate_to_Creationism-20081103MN.pdf

ISSUES PERTAINING TO PATERNITY

In the words of Matt Ridley in his recent book, *Genome*:

"DNA fingerprinting has revolutionized not just forensic science but all sorts of other fields as well. It was used to confirm the identity of the exhumed corpse of Josef Mengele in 1990. It was used to confirm the presidential parenthood of the semen on Monica Lewinsky's dress. It was used to identify the illegitimate descendants of Thomas Jefferson. It has so blossomed in the field of paternity testing, both by officials publicly and by parents privately, that in 1998 a company called Identigene placed billboards by freeways all over America reading: 'WHO'S THE FATHER? CALL 1-800-DNA-TYPE'. They received 300 calls a day asking for their \$600 tests, both from single mothers trying to demand child-support from the 'fathers' of their children and from suspicious 'fathers,' unsure if their partner's children were all theirs. In more than two thirds of cases the DNA evidence showed that the mother was telling the truth. It is a moot point whether the offence caused to some fathers by discovering that their partners were unfaithful outweighs the reassurance others receive that their suspicions were unfounded." (pages 134-135)

Now the companies are charging much less for such services. See:

<http://www.dnatesting.com>

The dogmas of Trinity and Sonship of God are the remnants of Greek and Roman mythology; of a primitive time when humans did not understand the concept of fatherhood in precise terms. For details review a book, [Christianity a Journey from Facts to Fiction](#) available on www.alislam.org. Here is a quote from the book:

The ‘Father-Son’ relationship between God and Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. Let us first try to understand what is the meaning of being a literal son. When we concentrate on the meaning of being a literal son to a literal father, things begin to appear which force us to revise our opinion of Jesus’ ‘sonship’ — Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad

LIFE EVOLVED IN WATER

When the Qur'an describes the origins of life on a very broad basis, it is extremely concise. It does so in a verse that also mentions the process of the formation of the Universe. The verse is in Sura Anbiyya:



Niagara Falls

“Do not the Unbelievers realize that the heavens and the earth were a solid mass, then We split them asunder and We made

every living thing out of water. Will they then not believe?” (Al Quran 21:31)

In this verse Allah makes some far reaching and profound claims. The precision of the claims and their accuracy in light of modern science is proof of the truth of these claims. Allah then asks a rhetoric question that should not these accomplishments and His sharing of this information with the mankind, make them believe in His existence. Allah starts the description of onset of life with the mention of starting of the Universe with the phenomenon of the Big Bang. After the creation of the universe and the solar system through the natural mechanisms, God directed His attention to the creation of Life, and as always is the case with His creativity, the Omniscient and the Omnipotent resorted to the natural mechanisms. He utilized Laws of Nature for the creation of life on this planet earth.

The phrase ‘We made every living thing out of water’, means that every living thing was made of water as its essential component. It could equally mean that every living thing originated in water. The two possible meanings are strictly in accordance with scientific data. Life is in fact of aquatic origin and water is the major component of all living cells. Without water, life is not possible. When the possibility of life on another planet is discussed, the first question is always: does it contain a sufficient quantity of water to support life?

Most organisms are made up of more than 50% water. In the case of humans, water makes more than 70% of the



weight of the body. In some organisms like Jelly Fish their bodies are 98% water.

It is not only in one verse that the Holy Quran informs us that Allah created life from water but in many others. For example:

Allah it is Who has created man from water and has made for him kindred by descent and kindred by marriage. Your Lord is Powerful. (Al Quran 25:55)

And in Sura (chapter) Nur (24:46), in the Holy Quran, Allah says that He created every animal from water and then the All Knowing God goes onto describing different forms of life.

To review *Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth* by Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad on the subject of evolution go to Part V of the book:

<http://www.alislam.org/library/books/revelation/index.html>

To review the Bible, the Quran and the science by Dr. Maurice Bucaille on the subject of evolution go to the section on The Animal and Vegetable Kingdoms:

<http://www.islam-guide.com/bqs/index.htm>

CHRISTIANS' RESISTANCE TO EVOLUTION

In the words of Francis S Collins, head of the human genome project:

"A few months later I spoke to a national gathering of Christian physicians, explaining how I had found great joy in being both a scientist studying the genome and a follower of Christ. Warm smiles abounded; there was even an occasional 'Amen.' But then I mentioned how overwhelming the scientific evidence for evolution is, and suggested that in my view evolution might have been God's elegant plan for creating humankind. The warmth left

the room. So did some of the attendees, literally walking out, shaking their heads in dismay.

What's going on here? From a biologist's perspective, the evidence in favor of evolution is utterly compelling. Darwin's theory of natural selection provides a fundamental framework for understanding the relationships of all living things. The predictions of evolution have been borne out in more ways than Darwin could have possibly imagined when he proposed his theory 150 years ago, especially in the field of genomics.

If evolution is so overwhelmingly supported by scientific evidence, then what are we to make of the lack of public support for its conclusions? In 2004, the distinguished Gallup organization posed the following question to a statistical sample of Americans: 'Do you think that (1) Charles Darwin's theory of evolution is a scientific theory that has been well supported by evidence, or (2) just one of many theories and one that has not been well supported by evidence, or (3) don't you know enough about it to say?' Only one-third of Americans indicated that they believed the theory of evolution was well supported, with the remainder being equally divided between those who argued it had not been well supported and those who just didn't know enough to say.

When the question was posed in a more explicit way to ask about the origin of human beings, an even stronger percentage seemed to reject the conclusions of evolution. Here's the question: 'Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings? (1) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process. (2) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process. (3) God created human beings pretty much

in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.'

In 2004, 45 percent of Americans chose option 3, 38 percent chose option 1, and 13 percent chose option 2. These statistics have remained essentially unchanged over the past twenty years." (Francis S Collins. The language of God. Free Press 2006. Page 146-147.)

GUIDED EVOLUTION — THE PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM

الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

All praise belongs to Allah alone, Lord of all the worlds.

(Al Quran 1:2)

In the second verse of the first chapter of the Holy Quran we are introduced to our Creator where it is written. "All praise belongs to Allah alone, Lord of all the worlds." The Arabic word for praise is *Hamd*, and in this context it implies admiration, magnifying and honouring the object of praise, and lowliness, humility and submissiveness in the person offering the praise. The word translated as Lord is *Al-Rabb*. It means Lord, Master, Creator, the One who sustains and develops and brings to perfection by degrees. The Arabic word translated as worlds is *Al-Aalamin* and it signifies all that is besides Allah, animate and inanimate bodies. So, the Holy Quran leaves no doubt or ambiguity as to who the Creator is, and what His attributes are.

Some people deny evolution at all levels and believe in spontaneity instead and are known as Creationists. Creation means that each animal was created separately in its finished form with all the organs it contains all at the same time. Islam

does believe that there is a creator; however, this is certainly not the Quranic concept of creation.

The word *Al-Rabb* is used numerous times in the Quran as an attribute of Allah. The closest meaning of this in English language will be "The Provident". Khalifatul Maseeh IV, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad proposed that this attribute is a proof that God created life through the process of evolution. He writes in his book *Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth*, "This attribute leaves no doubt whatsoever as to the fact that the Quran Speaks of creation only in step by step progressive stages which are well provided for, categorically rejecting the concept of spontaneous generation. Spontaneous generation is further rejected by the Quran because it violates the dignity of God."

...

In the words of Professor Kenneth Miller:

"If as Gould argues, the evolutionary tape were played again, human life would not be expected. In fact, even if it were replayed a million times or more, man would not be expected again."

To read the whole article by Ataul Wahid Lahaye and Zia H Shah, go to the following link:

http://www.alislam.org/library/articles/Guided_evolution_and_punctuated_equilibrium-20081104MN.pdf

CONCLUSION

Is He, then, Who creates like one who creates not? Will you not, then, take heed? (Al Quran 16:18)

Christian apologists continue to hide the elephant that is the dogmas of faith that are different from Islam and Judaism, behind the smoke screen of false propaganda. The human condition is, as

Plato would make Socrates say in the Republic (7.514a ff.), comparable to that of prisoners of an underground cave, whose unfortunate fate is to confuse reality with passing shadows created by a fire inside their miserable abode and kept in motion by clever manipulators, who in the name of politics, religion, science, and tradition control the human herd.

Prof. Kenneth Miller in his otherwise wonderful 244 page, well written book, *Only a Theory: Evolution and the battle for America's soul*, despite its provocative title, makes no mention of Original Sin, Trinity or the Son ship of Jesus Christ. He is harmonizing the Christian belief with science and reason and finds no pressing need to mention these fundamental beliefs of Christianity even once. It is convenient to ignore the elephant in the room. It was possible to do that in the post Crusades world with no Muslims in the Christian world. However, it is no longer tenable in the global village. Welcome aboard the 21st century!

Twentieth century scientific developments have affirmed the teachings of the Holy Quran about nature and Divinity. To conclude in the words of the Holy Quran:

"Have they taken gods from the earth who create? If there had been in the heavens and the earth other gods besides Allah, then they surely both would have gone to ruin. Then glorified be Allah, the Lord of the Throne, above that which they ascribe to Him. He cannot be questioned concerning what He does, but they will be questioned. Have they taken gods besides Him? Say to them: Bring your proof." (Al Quran 21:21-25)

Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project and Prof. Kenneth Miller, Professor of Biology at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, completely evade the dogmas of

Original Sin and Trinity when trying to harmonize Christian religion with science. The religious thoughts that they are defending in their books are Islam and not Christianity and we thank them for their efforts! Thank you so much. They need to fully appreciate what Søren Kierkegaard outlined more than a century and a half ago:

It is not the business of any Christian writer or preacher to dilute Christianity to suit the general educated public. The doctrine of the incarnation was to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, and so will it always be, for the doctrine not only transcends reason; it is the paradox par excellence; and it can be affirmed only by faith, with passionate inwardness and interest. The substitution of reason for faith means the death of Christianity. — Søren Kierkegaard

SOLUTION TO GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS IS IN QURAN SAYS WORLDWIDE ISLAMIC LEADER — Historic address by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Maseeh V^{at} at the Houses of Parliament UK. You can watch this speech online in Multimedia section: <http://www.alislam.org/multimedia/>

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