

Was the first man, the father of mankind, the first Prophet of God, born of human-like parents?

All praise is due to Allaah, the Creator of everything, and may the peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, his Companions and those who follow the true guidance until the Day of Judgement.

Many Muslims have recently been asking about the claims made by some individuals, that there is no conflict between the Qur'aan and the theory of evolution, and that the theory of evolution is one interpretation of the verses of Qur'aan. Furthermore, that Aadam, the first man, the father of mankind, the first prophet of God, was born of human-like parents.

To understand the issue properly, one needs to know what the theory of evolution is, what the Islamic perspective is concerning creation in general and the creation of man in particular, and finally, the status of these claims.

The Theory of Evolution states : “*...all organisms on Earth are descended from a common ancestor or ancestral gene pool. Current species are a stage in the process of evolution, with their diversity the product of a long series of speciation and extinction events.*

Two processes are generally distinguished as common causes of evolution. One is natural selection, a process in which there is differential survival and/or reproduction of organisms that differ in one or more inherited traits. Another is genetic drift, a process in which there are random changes to the proportions of two or more inherited traits within a population.

Darwin is considered to be the fabricator of this theory though there are others mentioned along with him or even before him. Thomas Henry Huxley applied Darwin's ideas to humans. The conclusion drawn is that “humans and apes had a common ancestor or man's ancestor was ape or monkey...”

The Islamic Perspective Concerning Creation, on the other hand, is based on the text of revelation from the Creator Himself. Regarding creation, it includes the following:

1. The **act of creation belongs to no one but Allaah, the Most High**, and everything besides Him is created by Him.

Allah is the Creator of all things, . AzZumar 62

This fact has been known by all generations of mankind by default, just like the concept of Prophethood, revelation and existence of Jinn. Even those who worship idols recognise that life is not given by idols; rather it is only God who gives life.

2. It is very important to recognise and believe that **Allaah's act of creation is not subject to logical or scientific rules**; rather, Allaah creates what He wishes, when He wishes, and how He wishes.

And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them. He creates what He wills. And Allah is Able to do all things. Al-Maa'idah 17

And your Lord creates whatsoever He wills and chooses, no choice have they (in any matter). Glorified be Allah, and exalted above all that they associate as partners (with Him). Al-Qasas

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3. **Allaah's act of creation is effortless.**

. . . . Allah creates what He wills. When He has decreed something, He says to it only: "Be!" and it is. Aale-Imraan 47

4. The **creation of mankind** began with a single person and not a pair.

O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person... An-Nisaa 1

Here, Allaah states that mankind was created from a single person, and this would be rejected if one who accepts the view that Adam was born of parents. Rejecting a clear statement of the Qur'aan is considered disbelief.

The single person from whom mankind is created is none other than **Aadam**, as mentioned in many verses, such as:

When your Lord said to the angels: "Truly, I am going to create man from clay". So when I have fashioned him and breathed into him (his) soul created by Me, then you fall down prostrate to him." So the angels prostrated, all of them: Except Iblis (Satan) he was proud and was one of the disbelievers. Saad 71-74

And (remember) when We said to the angels: "Prostrate before Adam." And they prostrated except Iblis (Satan), he refused and was proud and was one of the disbelievers (disobedient to Allah). Al-Baqarah 34

And (remember) when We said to the angels; "Prostrate to Adam." So they prostrated except Iblis (Satan). He was one of the jinns; he disobeyed the Command of his Lord. Al-Kahf 50

And surely, We created you (your father Adam) and then gave you shape (the noble shape of a human being), then We told the angels, "Prostrate to Adam", and they prostrated, except Iblis (Satan), he refused to be of those who prostrate. Al-A'raaf 11

The **creation of Aadam** is well described. Of course, there was a process behind the creation of Aadam, which includes four important issues:

a) That Allaah created him from dust and that he did not have a father and mother:

Verily, the likeness of 'Eesa (Jesus) before Allah is the likeness of Aadam. He created him from dust, then (He) said to him: "Be!" - and he was. Aale-Imraan 59

The only reason this verse was revealed was in order to refute the false belief of the Christians, who believed that 'Eesa was the son of God, due to the fact that he did not have a human father. Allaah informed us that the case of Aadam was even stranger, as he had neither a father nor mother. Instead, Allaah created him from dust, and Allah can create in whatever way He wishes. This is how this verse has been understood for the last fourteen hundred years and it is not permissible to change the meaning of a verse of Quraan to one's convenience.

b) That Aadam was created by Allaah directly with His own hands:

(Allah) said: "O Iblis (Satan)! What prevents you from prostrating yourself to one whom I have created with both My Hands. Are you too proud (to fall prostrate to Adam) or are you one of the high exalted?" Saad 75

c) That Aadam was created from dust taken from all parts of the earth:

Abu Moosaa Ash'ari reported from the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said; *Indeed Allaah the most high, created Aadam by taking a handful from all the earth, so the children of Aadam are according to their share of earth, some red, some white and some black and some in between. Some easy, some miserable, some pure, some evil.* Imam At-Tirmidhi said the hadeeth is authentic (hasan-saheeh).

d) That the dust Aadam was created with, as mentioned in various verses of the Qur'aan, went through different stages, including being mixed with water and turned into mud, then being dried until it became like baked clay, without the use of fire. Then Allah ordered the blowing of the soul into him.

5. From Aadam was created his wife, Hawwaa:

.. and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa (Eve)], . .An-Nisaa 1

This is another statement from the Qur'aan which would be completely denied if one was to accept the theory that Aadam was born of parents. Believing this would entail the belief that Hawwaa had parents too, and was not created from Aadam, therefore contradicting this verse.

6. Now that a man and a woman came into existence the **creation and growth of the remaining human race** took place through a different process i.e. sexual interaction between the man and woman, mixing of their sexual fluids, and the consequential growth of offspring in the womb of the woman.

.. and from them both He created many men and women . . An-Nisaa 1

Both of these processes i.e. the creation of Aadam and the creation of the rest of mankind, are summarised in many verses, such as:

O mankind! If you are in doubt about the Resurrection, then verily! We have created you (i.e. Adam) from dust, then from a Nutfah (mixed drops of male and female sexual discharge i.e. offspring of Adam), then from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood) then from a little lump of flesh, some formed and some unformed (miscarriage), that We may make (it) clear to you (i.e. to show you Our Power to do what We will). And We cause whom We will to remain in the wombs for an appointed term, then We bring you out as infants. Al-Hajj 5

And indeed We created man (Adam) out of an extract of clay (water and earth). Thereafter We made him (the offspring of Adam) as a Nutfah (mixed drops of the male and female sexual discharge) (and lodged it) in a safe lodging (womb of the woman). Then We made the Nutfah into a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood), then We made the clot into a little lump of flesh, then We made out of that little lump of flesh bones, then We clothed the bones with flesh, and then We brought it forth as another creation. So blessed be Allah, the Best of creators. Al-Mu'minoon 11-13

This is how the various stages of creation of the first human being and the rest of mankind are described in the Qur'aan.

The Status of These Claims: Looking at the statements of the Qur'aan mentioned above it becomes clear that believing in the theory of evolution means distorting and rejecting several verses of the Qur'aan, particularly the statement regarding creation of Hawwaa.

How can one explain in the light of the evolution theory, the statement of Allaah; *.. and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa (Eve)], . .An-Nisaa 1*

Was she born of her own near human parents or was it that Aadam also had a human like wife before the appearance of Hawwaa who gave birth to Hawwaa and then Aadam took her as his second wife?

Such distortion of Quranic verses cannot be given a name other than disbelief.

Can someone who knows the Qur'aan well say: *"Adam was created by the clay without disagreement and that he was created out of clay out of salsaalin fakhkhaar and was created with all these substances... but it took an evolutionary process.."*? In other words, can one add more stages or details to the process by which Aadam was created? The answer is simply "NO." We cannot add more stages to the process of creation, based on imagination, as it is not permissible to speak about any matter without knowledge i.e. based on a theory...

And follow not (O man i.e., say not, or do not or witness not, etc.) that of which you have no knowledge (e.g. one's saying: "I have seen," while in fact he has not seen, or "I have heard," while he has not heard). Verily! The hearing, and the sight, and the heart, each of these will be questioned (by Allah). Al-Israa 36

...let alone if the matter is of the unseen such as creation.

"Do you know better or does Allah (know better..." Al-Baqarah 140.

[Shaitan (Satan)] commands you only what is evil and Fahsha (sinful), and that you should say against Allah what you know not. Al-Baqarah 169

However, if Allah gives us definitive knowledge concerning a matter, such as the discoveries related to the development of a baby and its gender in the womb, then there is nothing wrong in acknowledging that.

To say that explanation of the Qur'aan is dependent upon science is extremely foolish.

To say that Muslim scholars did not know that the earth was round until the invention of satellites, using at the same time the verse of surah Al-Ghashiyah to support this claim is baseless nonsense as many classical scholars in their writings have mentioned the earth being round. In fact the verse; *And the earth, how it is spread out?* Al-Ghashiyah 20

The word "suthihath" means spread out rather than just being square and flat. The famous scholar of Qur'aan, Fakhrudin ArRazi (died 606h), in his explanation of this verse said *"some people thought that this verse denies earth being spherical however this is a weak view as when a sphere is huge every part of it would appear to be flat"*. Tafseer Ar-Razi vol 16 page 496

Similarly, to say that for many centuries Muslim scholars believed that the embryo was created from the male fluid only and female fluid has no share in it, is also an incorrect statement, as the hadeeth of Abdullaah bin Salaam recorded by Imaam Bukhaari and others is evident.

Abdullaah bin Salaam asked the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) what makes a baby look like its father or mother?'... The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) replied by saying; *"if a man's discharge proceeded that of the woman, then the child resembles the father, and if the woman's discharge proceeded that of the man, then the child resembles the mother."* See Al-Bukhari, Kitaab ut-Tafseer, Al-Baqarah verse 97.

It is very important to distinguish between reality and theory. It is not correct to use the analogy of man being created from a despised drop of water to prove that man can be derived from an ape, because the former is a fact known to man by necessity and through revelation, while the latter is an assumption that is not backed up by evidence.

It is clear that the claim that there is no conflict between the Qur'aan and the theory of evolution is false, because it rejects many clear verses of the Qur'aan as we have explained above. The usage of erroneous evidence for proving an imaginary idea is dishonesty.

Worse than all this is to give a new meaning to the verses of the Qur'aan in order to justify a theory as bizarre as monkeys and apes being our forefathers. What can be more degrading and insulting to ourselves, all the prophets and our creator, who has privileged us over all His other creations?

And indeed We have honoured the Children of Adam, and We have carried them on land and sea, and have provided them with At-Tayyibaat (lawful good things), and have preferred them above many of those whom We have created with a marked preference. Al-Israa 70

To say that one possible interpretation of the verse; *"Verily, the likeness of 'Iesa (Jesus) before Allah is the likeness of Aadam. He created him from dust, then (He) said to him: "Be!" - and he was"*. Aale-Imraan 59, is that prophet Aadam was born of near human parents as a result of a pregnancy is astonishing. How can a Muslim make this statement?

The theory of evolution is a theory far from the truth whilst the truth concerning the relation between man and ape is as Allah says in the Qur'aan;

Concerning man...

Verily, We created man of the best form (mould). At-Teen 4

Allah, it is He Who has made for you the earth as a dwelling place and the sky as a canopy, and has given you shape and made your shapes good (looking) and has provided you with good things. That is Allah, your Lord, then blessed be Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists). Ghaafir 64

...and concerning monkeys...

Say: "Shall I inform you of something worse than that, regarding the recompense from Allah: those (Jews) who incurred the Curse of Allah and His Wrath, those of whom (some) He transformed into monkeys and swines, those who worshipped Taghut (false deities); such are worse in rank (on the Day of Resurrection in the Hell-fire), and far more astray from the Right Path (in the life of this world)." Al-Maa'idah 60

And indeed you knew those amongst you who transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath (i.e. Saturday). We said to them: "Be you monkeys, despised and rejected." Al-Baqarah 65

Changing from one species to another is called Maskh (deformation). It is the most disgraceful punishment ever faced by man. One may wonder whether this theory is being promoted to hide this disgrace?

Imam Muslim narrated that 'Abd-Allaah ibn Mas'ood said: "A man said, 'O Messenger of Allaah, are the monkeys and pigs those who have been transformed?' The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: '*Allaah does not enable those who have been transformed to have offspring or children. The monkeys and pigs existed before that.*'"

The hadeeth shows that mutation of one species to another makes it non-viable. In other words a complete cessation of reproduction and total dissociation of two species even if there are similarities in their biological and social attributes or their genetic composition. Monkeys and apes were present before and still are, they are not our relatives.

Creation is a manifestation of the power of creator. He, the most high can create many different species from the same ingredient:

Allah has created every moving (living) creature from water. Of them there are some that creep on their bellies, some that walk on two legs, and some that walk on four. Allah creates what He wills. Verily! Allah is Able to do all things. An-Noor 45

The theory of evolution denies Allaah being the creator as it says “all organisms on earth are descended from a common ancestor or ancestral gene pool” not sure of how the process began. So, no need for a creator hence no worship. No worship hence no religion and no accountability. Man becomes just like another animal with some extra qualities, lives how he likes and does what he likes.

But there is another aspect of this issue, and that is the application of this theory in “artificial selection,” instead of natural selection. Humans have used artificial selection of plants and animals for thousands of years before this theory, and more recently, applied to genetic engineering in order to produce better antibiotics, modified enzymes, etc.

However, another application can be, **using the process of artificial selection on humans** or in other words survival of the fittest i.e. the white, the west, the rich, the oppressor on the expense of the black, the east, the poor, the oppressed.

Who needs or propagates the theory of evolution?

Either an atheist who refuses to believe in his own creator, or an utterly foolish person.

Often these individuals would exhibit one or more of the following three attributes:

- a. To consider themselves intellectual and to look down upon others.
- b. To seek fame through playing with the emotions of others.
- c. To think that they are serving mankind, or sometimes, even Islaam.

How should this matter be dealt?

Of course first of all these individuals should be advised to fear Allaah and turn back from this erroneous belief. This is best for them and for other Muslims who may fall into disunity and mischief because of them. If they don't respond to the advice then they should simply be abandoned and not given any importance. A common Muslim should not be hasty in declaring others as Kaafir but wait for the scholars to make their decision; and pray with sincerity that Allaah, the most merciful mends our hearts and saves us from these calamities. It is very disgraceful that Muslims fight and quarrel inside a masjid, which is a place only for the worship of Allaah. This must be avoided.

At the same time Muslims should be taught of the correct understanding regarding the creation of man, and the false nature of the theory of evolution.

We ask Allaah, the Most High, to keep us firm on the truth he has Guided us to and to give us the ability to do all that He is pleased with; and His Peace and blessings be upon His last Prophet Muhammad.

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