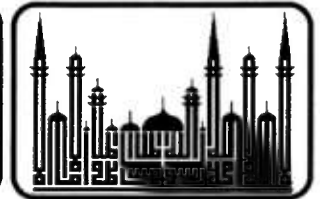


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Perspectives



A bimonthly newsletter published by the Foundation for Islamic Knowledge* August/Sept 1998, Rabi'II/Jumada II 1419 * Vol. 4, No.4

Editorial

The recent discovery, by astronomers using new instruments, of galaxies forming at a furious pace much deeper in space (11 billion light years from earth), and far earlier in time, than expected was not publicized enough. It confirmed the conclusion reached by a number of famous astronomers, who spent their professional lifetime coaxing secrets out of the stars, peering through telescopes (see figure on page 3) trying to learn more about the origins and destiny of the universe, that the world is much more complicated than can be explained by science. For those astronomers, recent scientific discoveries, such as the fact that the universe is expanding, offer support for spirituality and hints of the power of God. In this connection, the following facts stated in the Qur'an are worth noting

1) The expansion of the universe, which is the most imposing discovery of modern science, is referred to in the Qur'an.

وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ .
(سورة الذاريات - آية ٤٧)

"We have built the firmament with might: and We indeed have the power and the means to extend it and

see Editorial / page 3

In This Issue:

- **Mystery of the Pairs** Page 2
- **Supplications of the Traveler** Pages 4 & 5
- **Characteristics of Prophet Ibrahim and Allah's trials and bounties to him** Pages 6 & 7

Software for Teaching Salat

The new version of the multimedia program for teaching ablution and prayers entitled **Learn to Pray (version 3)** is now available. The program uses animation to explain the rituals of ablution and prayers, as performed by the Prophet (PBUH), in three languages - Arabic, English and Malay. The program is on a CD-ROM, works on windows 3.1 and 95. It was developed by **Global Islamic Software Co. (GISCO)**, and can be obtained from **Digitek International Inc., 7631 Leesburg Pike, Suite B, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. (800) 33-SAKHR.** ☐



Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

Mystery of the Pairs (or Two Sexes)

سر الأزواج

The principle of the pairs, and the existence of all things in the universe in couples, is a reality that we observe day and night, but few of us ponder over it seriously, and fewer understand the signs and pointers it contains. In this article, an attempt is made to explain this principle on the basis of the Qur'an.

Allah (SWT) tells us in the Qur'an, that everything in the world has been created in accordance with the principle of the pairs (see Qur'an 51:49). The whole system of the universe, as created by Allah (SWT), is functioning in accordance with the principle that certain things are either counterparts, or complementary and matching to certain others; and their combinations brings into being countless new forms and combinations. Nothing, except Allah (SWT), is so unique as may have no match.

Pairs among Living Creations

The mystery of the pairs (or the two sexes) runs through all the living creations of Allah as described subsequently. All human beings are created from a single pair of parents:

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا .
(سورة الحجرات - من آية ١٣)

"O ye people! We have created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another." (Qur'an 49:13)

In human beings and animals, Allah (SWT) refers to the males and females in several verses, for example,

وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الذُّكُورَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ
(سورة النجم - آية ٤٥)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ .
(سورة الذاريات - آية ٤٩)

"And of everything We have created pairs: that you may remember (the Grace of Allah)" (Qur'an 51:49)

"And that He (Allah) creates the pairs - male and female". (Qur'an 53:45)

فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الزَّوْجَيْنِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ .
(سورة القيامة - آية ٣٩)

"And of him/her He made two sexes - male and female." (Qur'an 75:39)



And We have created you in pairs. (Qur'an 78:8)

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ .
(سورة الليل - آية ٣)

"And by Him who Created male and female." (Qur'an 92:3)

The creation of human beings in pairs (Qur'an 78:8) does not only refer to male and female, but to opposite characteristics such as tall and short, good and bad, etc.

In both humans and animals, the coming together of the male and female is the cause of procreation. The same law applies to vegetation.

وَمِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ .
(سورة الرعد - من آية ٣)

"And of the fruit of every kind He

made pairs, two and two." (Qur'an 13:3)

وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِنْ نَبَاتٍ شَتَّىٰ .
(سورة طه - من آية ٥٣)

"He has sent down water (rain) from the sky. Within have We produced diverse pairs of plants each separate from the others." (Qur'an 20:53)

وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ .
(سورة لقمان - من آية ١٠)

"We send down water (rain) from the sky, and produce on the earth every kind of noble creature, in pairs." (Qur'an 31:10)

وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ .
(سورة ق - آية ٧)

"And the earth - We have spread it out, and set thereon mountains standing firm, and produced therein every kind of beautiful growth (in pairs)." (Qur'an 50:7)

Allah created the plants with their productive apparatus - like animals - male stamens and female pistils. Allah send the winds to put the pollen of the male tree on to the ovaries of the female tree.

وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوَاقِحَ .
(سورة الحجر - من آية ٢٢)

"And We send the impregnating winds." (Qur'an 15:22)

Also, the clouds as vapor are manipulated by the winds, which set up atmospheric currents resulting in condensation and the descent of rain.

Pairs among Lifeless Creations

Even the lifeless (in human terms - inanimate) and the forces of nature are created in pairs. Notice the word "thing" in the Qur'an 51:49, cited at the beginning of the article. Many examples of the inanimate pairs can be cited. The positive and negative electricity. The atom itself has positively charged protons in its nucleus, and negatively charged electrons revolving around the nucleus. The close affinity between the positive and negative electric charges results in wonderful things. The night and the day are pairs of opposites created by Allah (SWT):

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ
(سورة الأنبياء - من آية ٣٣)

"It is He (Allah) who created the night and the day." (Qur'an 21:33)

Allah created the night and the day for the benefit of humans, and possibly, other creations. The night provides rest, while the day promotes activity.

The evil and the good are a pair of opposites. Their presence is important for our worldly life:

وَنَبْلُوكُمْ بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً .
(سورة الأنبياء - من آية ٣٥)

"And We test you by evil and by good, by way of trial." (Qur'an 21:35)

The presence of evil makes the person discover his/her weakness and his/her strengths. The wise person strengthen his/her communication with the true source of power, Allah (SWT), to overcome his/her weakness.

Even the numbers are divided into even and odd. It is Allah (SWT) who created all the pairs:

وَالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا .
(سورة الزخرف - من آية ١٢)

"That has created pairs in all things," (Qur'an 43:12)

The pairs that Allah (SWT) created include the earth's produce, mankind, and other creations that we have no knowledge about:

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ
كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنْبِتُ الْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ
أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ .
(سورة يس - آية ٣٦)

Glory be to Allah who created in pairs

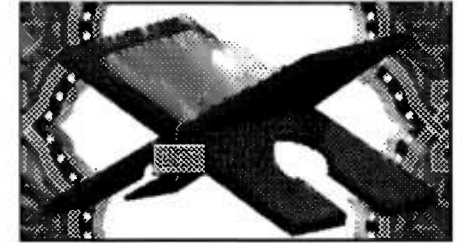
all things that the earth produces, as well as their own (human) kind and other things of which they have no knowledge." (Qur'an 36:36)

Signs and Pointers Contained in the Principle of Pairs

- The principle of the pairs contains in itself such complexities and finesses of wisdom and workmanship, and the mutual relationships between the members of each pair can neither be the result of an accident, or the creations of many gods. Rather it is a strong demonstration that the creator is One and only One.
- The reality of the pairs testifies expressly to the necessity of the hereafter as the match and partner of the present life. Without partner, the present worldly life would be absolutely fruitless.

I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the strength to use our faculties in enhancing our appreciation of the signs and pointers given to us in the Qur'an.

Ameen



Continued from page 1

Editorial

expand it" (Qur'an 51:47)

The verse shows that the huge universe created by Allah is not a finished work, but Allah is expanding it continuously, and new manifestation of Allah's creation are appearing in it every moment.

2) The more a person is aware, conscious and knowledgeable of the power, and other attributes, of Allah, the more he/she will fear His disobedience.

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ
الْعُلَمَاءُ .

(سورة فاطر - من آية ٢٨)

"Those truly fear Allah, among His servants who have knowledge."

(Qur'an 35:28)

3) Despite the recent discoveries, our knowledge about the universe, and about our own selves is very limited.

وَمَا أَوْتِيْتُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا .
(سورة الإسراء - من آية ٨٥)

"Of knowledge it is only a little that is communicated to you."

(Qur'an 17:85)

4) We are repeatedly encouraged in the Qur'an to reflect and ponder on the wonderful administration of the heavens and the earth, so that we can come to the conclusion that every particle of Allah's creation is a clear evidence of the truth of the Divine message relayed to us in

the Qur'an.

أَوَلَمْ يَنْظُرُوا فِي مَلَكُوتِ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ .
(سورة الأعراف - من آية ١٨٥)

"Have they never considered the functioning of the heavens and the earth." (Qur'an 7:185)

We pray to Almighty Allah to make us benefit from the signs of the Qur'an.

Ameen



The 15m
James
Clerk
Maxwell
Telescope
on Mauna
Kea,
Hawaii

Supplications of the Traveler

أدعية المسافر

Bidding farewell to one's relatives and friends

توديع الأهل والأقارب

The traveler should say:

أستودعكم الله الذي لا تضيع

وداعه

"I commend you to Allah Whose trusts are never lost."

The relatives, and friends say to the traveler:

أستودع الله دينك ، وأمانتك ،

وخواتيم عملك

"To Allah I commend your deen (Islam), your trust, and the conclusion of your deeds."

زودك الله التقوى ، وغفر ذنبك

ويسر لك الخير حيثما كنت

"May Allah provide you with piety, forgive your sins, and facilitate the good for you wherever you are."

اللهم اطو له البعد وهون عليه

السفر

"O Allah! make the distance short for him and make his journey easy for him."

When leaving home

ما يقوله المسافر عند الخروج

بسم الله ، توكلت على الله ، ولا حول ولا قوة إلا

بالله ، اللهم إني أعوذ بك أن أضلّ أو أضلّ أو أزلّ أو

أزلّ أو أظلم أو أظلم ، أو أجهل أو يُجهل علي

"In the name of Allah, I repose my trust in Allah, and there is neither power nor any might except with Allah. O Allah! I seek refuge with You from leading others astray or being led astray, causing others to slip or being caused to slip by others, or doing wrong or be wronged by others, or behaving foolishly or being treated foolishly by others."

الله أكبر (ثلاثاً) سبحان الذي سخر لنا هذا ، وما كنا له

مقرنين ، وإنا إلى ربنا لمنقلبون. اللهم إنا نسألك في

سفرنا هذا البر والتقوى ، ومن العمل ما ترضى ؛ اللهم هون

علينا سفرنا هذا ، واطوِ عنا بعده ؛ اللهم أنت الصاحب في

السفر ، والخليفة في الأهل ؛ اللهم إني أعوذ بك من وعاء

السفر ، وكآبة المنقلب ، وسوء المنظر في الأهل والمال

Allah is the Greatest (3 times) Glory be to Him Who has subjected these to our (use), for we could never have accomplished this (by ourselves). And to our Lord, surely, must we return. O Allah, we seek virtue and piety from You on this journey of ours, and actions that please You. O Allah lighten this journey of ours, and make its distance easy for us. O Allah, You are (our) companion during the journey, and guardian of (our) family. O Allah, I seek refuge with You from the hardship of the journey, the gloominess of the sights, and from finding misfortunes in property and family on our return

On riding (a car or a plane)

ما يقوله المسافر عند الركوب

The traveler should say:

بسم الله - سبحان الذي سخر لنا هذا وما

كنا له مقرنين ، وإنا إلى ربنا لمنقلبون

"In the name of Allah. Glory be to Him who has subjected this (means of transportation) to our (use), for we could never have accomplished this (by ourselves). And to our Lord, surely, we are going to return."

الحمد لله (ثلاثاً) والله أكبر ثلاثاً

"Praise be to Allah (three times). Allah is the Greatest (three times)."

سبحانك لا إله إلا أنت قد ظلمت نفسي

فأغفر لي ، إنه لا يغفر الذنوب إلا أنت

"Glory to You (O Allah), there is no god but You, I have indeed wronged my soul, so forgive me verily none can forgive sins except You."

When the traveler stops at a place on the way he/she should say:

أعوذ بكلمات الله التامات كلها من شر

ما خلق

"I seek refuge with all the perfect words of Allah from the evil of his creatures."

Supplications of the Traveler (continued)

أدعية المسافر - تكملة

At nightfall

ما يقوله المسافر إذا
أدركه الليل

يا أرض ، ربّي وربك الله ،
أعوذ بالله من شرك ، وشر
ما فيك ، وشر ما خلق
فيك ، وشر ما دب عليك ،
أعوذ بالله من شر كل أسد
وأسود ، وحيّة وعقرب ، وشر
ساكن البلد ، وشر والد
وما ولد

"O earth, my Lord and your
Lord is Allah. I seek refuge in
Allah from your evil, the evil
of what you contain, the evil
of what has been created in
you, and the evil of what
creeps upon you. I seek refuge
in Allah from lions, from
large black snakes, from other
snakes, from scorpions, from
the evil of jinn who inhabit
settlements, and from a parent
and his offspring."

When approaching a city

ما يقوله المسافر إذا أشرف على قرية أو مكان

اللهم رب السماوات السبع وما أظللن ، ورب الأرضين
السبع وما أقلن ، ورب الشياطين وما أضللن ، ورب الرياح
وما ذرين ؛ أسألك خير هذه القرية وخير أهلها وخير ما فيها ،
ونعوذ بك من شرها وشر أهلها وشر ما فيها
"O Allah, Lord of the seven heavens and what they
overshadow, Lord of the seven earths and what they carry, and
Lord of the devils and those whom they mislead, and Lord of
the winds and what they scatter about, I ask You of the good of
this village, the good of its people and the good it has, and seek
Your protection from its evil, and the evil of its people, and the
evil in it."

اللهم بارك لنا فيها ، ثلاث مرات ، اللهم ارزقنا
جناها ، وحبينا إلى أهلها وحب صالحى أهلها إلينا
"O Allah! bless us in it (three times)", and "O Allah grant us
sustenance from its fruits, and put our love in (the hearts of) its
people, and put the love of its righteous people in our hearts."
اللهم إنى أسألك من خير هذه وخير ما جمعت فيها ، وأعوذ بك
من شرها وشر ما جمعت ، اللهم ارزقنا جناها وأعدنا من
وبها ، وحبينا إلى أهلها وحب صالحى أهلها إلينا
"O Allah! I ask You of the good in it, and the good of what You
have placed in it, and I seek Your refuge from its evil and the
evil of what You have placed in it" "O Allah! give us its fruits
and protect us from its plagues, and put our love in the hearts of
its people and put the love of its righteous people in our hearts."

At dawn

ما يقوله وقت السحر

سمّع سامع بحمد الله وحسن بلائه علينا
، ربنا صاحين وأفضل علينا ، غائداً
بالله من النار
"A listener has heard that we praise Allah for His
favours upon us. Our Lord, accompany us and
grants us Your favours. We seek protection of
Allah from the fire."

When approaching a difficult path or while returning

ما يقوله المسافر إذا علا شرفاً أو عند الرجوع

لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له ، له الملك
وله الحمد وهو على كل شيء قدير ، آيئون تائبون ،
عابدون ساجدون ، لربنا حامدون ، صدق الله وعده ،
ونصر عبده ، وهزم الأحزاب وحده
"There is no god but Allah, He is One. He has no
partners. To Him belongs all dominion and praise, and
He has power over all things. We are returning
repentant, worshipping, prostrating, praising our Lord.
He kept His promise and gave victory to His servant,
and defeated all the confederates alone."

Characteristics of Prophet *Ibrahim* (Abraham) as described in the Qur'an

وصف القرآن لصفات و فضل إبراهيم عليه السلام

Prophet *Ibrahim* is distinguished in Muslim theology with the title *Khalilu Allah* (friend of Allah). His faith was pure and true, and his conduct was firm and righteous in all circumstances. He was the fountainhead of the present monotheistic tradition, the patriarch of the prophetic line, and is revered alike by Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

True and sound in Faith, and one who bowed his will to Allah
(Qur'an 3:67)

حنيفا مسلما
سورة آل عمران - من آية ٦٧

A man of truth, a prophet
(Qur'an 19:41)

صديقا نبيا
سورة مريم - من آية ٤١

Fulfilled (or conveyed) all what Allah ordered him to do (or convey)
(Qur'an 53:37)

الذي وفى
سورة النجم - من آية ٣٧

Devoutly obedient to Allah, *hanif* (true in faith), his faith equal to that of an *Ummah*, and he joined not gods with Allah (Qur'an 16:120)

أمة قانتا لله حنيفا ولم يك من المشركين
سورة النحل - من آية ١٢٠

Forbearing (of faults), compassionate, and given to penitence (Qur'an 11:75)

حليم أواه منيب
سورة هود - من آية ٧٥

An excellent example to follow
(Qur'an 60:4)

أسوة حسنة
سورة الممتحنة - من آية ٤٠

One of Our (Allah's) believing servants (Qur'an 37:111)

من عبادنا المؤمنين
سورة الصافات - من آية ١١١

He approached his Lord with a sound heart (Qur'an 37:84)

جاء ربه بقلب سليم
سورة الصافات - من آية ٨٤

Allah did take him for a friend
(Qur'an 4:125)

اتخذ الله إبراهيم خليلا
سورة النساء - من آية ١٢٥

Allah's trials and bounties to Prophet Ibrahim and Ibrahim's supplications

وصف القرآن لإختبار إبراهيم ونعم الله عليه ودعاء إبراهيم

His response to the trials by Allah

Threat of his father to him
(Qur'an 19:46)

تهديد أبوه له بالرجم والطرد
سورة مريم - من آية ٤٦

His people throwing him into a blazing fire
(Qur'an 21:68, 29:24, 37:97)

إلقاؤه في النار

القرآن ٢١:٦٨ ، ٢٩:٢٤ ، ٣٧:٩٧
and Allah saving him from the fire
(Qur'an 21:69, 29:24)

إنجاء الله له من النار

القرآن ٢١:٦٩ ، ٢٩:٢٤

Turning away from his people to
protect his ideology (Qur'an 19:48)

إعتزاله قومه للحفاظ على دينه

سورة مريم - من آية ٤٨

His vision to sacrifice his son, and his submission to the
will of Allah relayed in that vision (Qur'an 37:102)

رؤياه بذبح ابنه إسماعيل وتليته وإستسلامه لهذه

الإشارة من الله - سورة الصافات - من آية ١٠٢

Allah's Bounties to him

So did We show Abraham the secrets of the heavens
and Earth (Qur'an 6:75)

وكذلك نرى إبراهيم ملكوت السماوات والأرض
سورة الأنعام - من آية ٧٥

Him (Abraham) We chose and rendered pure in this
world : and he will be in the hereafter in the ranks of
the righteous (Qur'an 2:130)

ولقد إصطفيناه في الدنيا وإنه في الآخرة لمن الصالحين
سورة البقرة - من آية ١٣٠

He (Allah) said: I will make you (Abraham) an Imam
(leader) to the nations (Qur'an 2:124)

إني جاعلك للناس إماما - سورة البقرة - من آية ١٢٤

That was the reasoning about (Allah), which
We gave to Abraham (to use) against his people
(Qur'an 6:83)

وتللك حجتنا آتيناها إبراهيم

سورة الأنعام - من آية ٨٣

Wisdom in debating Nimrod
(Qur'an 2:258)

حكمة في مناظرته للنمرود

سورة البقرة - آية ٢٥٨

His supplications

O my Lord! make me one who offers prayers
perfectly, and also from my off springs, our
Lord! and accept my supplication
(Qur'an 14:40)

رب اجعلني مقيم الصلاة ومن ذريتي ربنا وتقبل
دعاء . - سورة إبراهيم - من آية ٤٠

Our Lord! in You (alone) we put our trust, and
to You (alone) we turn in repentance, and to
You (alone) is (our) final return (Qur'an 60:4)

ربنا عليك توكلنا وإليك أنبنا وإليك المصير
سورة الممتحنة - من آية ٤

O my Lord! make this city (Mecca) one of
peace and security, and keep me and my sons
away from worshipping idols (Qur'an 14:35)

رب اجعل هذا البلد آمنا واجنبني وبنى أن نعبد
الأصنام - سورة إبراهيم - من آية ٣٥

I have set my face, firmly and truly, towards
Him who created the heavens and the earth, and
never shall I give partners to Allah
(Qur'an 6:79)

إني وجهت وجهي للذي فطر السماوات والأرض حنيفا
وما أنا من المشركين

سورة الأنعام - من آية ٧٩