

# The Qur'ân & Modern Science

Compatible or Incompatible?

By Dr. Zakir Naik

Designed by: Abdul Hameed



**DARUSSALAM**

© **Maktaba Dar-us-Salam, 2007**

King Fahd National Library Catalog-in-Publication Data

Dr. Zakir Naik

The Quran and Modern Science. Zakir Naik - Riyadh. 2007

80 p, 14x21 cm ISBN: 9960-9849-3-1

1-Quran and science 2- Quran - Miracle I-Title

229.45 dc 1428/176

Legal Deposit no.1428/176

ISBN: 9960-9849-3-1

Supervised by: **Abdul Malik Mujahid**

**HEAD OFFICE**

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416 K.S.A. Tel: 0096 -1-4033962/4043432 Fax: 4021659  
E-mail: darussalam@awalnet.net.sa, riyadh@dar-us-salam.com Website: www.dar-us-salam.com

**K.S.A. Darussalam Showrooms:**

• **Riyadh**  
Olaya branch: Tel 00966-1-4614483 Fax: 4644945  
Malaz branch: Tel 00966-1-4735220 Fax: 4735221  
Suwailam branch: Tel & Fax-1-2860422

• **Jeddah**  
Tel: 00966-2-6879254 Fax: 6336270

• **Madinah**  
Tel: 00966-04- 8234446, 8230038  
Fax: 04-8151121

• **Al-Khobar**  
Tel: 00966-3-8692900 Fax: 8691551

• **Khamis Mushayt**  
Tel & Fax: 00966-072207055

• **Yanbu Al-Bahr** Tel: 0500887341 Fax: 04-3908027

• **Al-Buraida** Tel: 0503417156 Fax: 06-3696124

**U.A.E**

• **Darussalam, Sharjah U.A.E**  
Tel: 00971-6-5632623 Fax: 5632624  
Sharjah@dar-us-salam.com.

**PAKISTAN**

• **Darussalam, 36 B Lower Mall, Lahore**  
Tel: 0092-42-724 0024 Fax: 7354072  
• **Rahman Market, Ghazni Street, Urdu Bazar Lahore**  
Tel: 0092-42-7120054 Fax: 7320703  
• **Karachi, Tel: 0092-21-4393936 Fax: 4393937**  
• **Islamabad, Tel: 0092-51-2500237 Fax: 512281513**

**U.S.A**

• **Darussalam, Houston**  
P.O Box: 79194 Tx 77279  
Tel: 001-713-722 0419 Fax: 001-713-722 0431  
E-mail: houston@dar-us-salam.com  
• **Darussalam, New York 486 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn**  
New York-11217, Tel: 001-718-625 5925  
Fax: 718-625 1511  
E-mail: darussalamny@hotmail.com

**U.K**

• **Darussalam International Publications Ltd.**  
Leyton Business Centre  
Unit-17, Etloe Road, Leyton, London, E10 7BT  
Tel: 0044 20 8539 4885 Fax:0044 20 8539 4889  
Website: www.darussalam.com  
Email: info@darussalam.com  
• **Darussalam International Publications Limited**  
Regents Park Mosque, 146 Park Road  
London NW8 7RG Tel: 0044- 207 725 2246  
Fax: 0044 20 8539 4889

**AUSTRALIA**

• **Darussalam:** 153, Haldon St, Lakemba (Sydney)  
NSW 2195, Australia  
Tel: 0061-2-97407188 Fax: 0061-2-97407199  
Mobile: 0061-414580813 Res: 0061-2-97580190  
Email: abumuaaz@hotmail.com

**CANADA**

• **Islamic Book Service**  
2200 South Sheridan way Mississauga, On  
L5J 2M4  
Tel: 001-905-403-8406 Ext. 218 Fax: 905-8409

**HONG KONG**

• **Peacetech**  
A2, 4/F Tsim Sha Mansion  
83-87 Nathan Road Tsimbatsui  
Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Tel: 00852 2369 2722 Fax: 00852-23692944  
Mobile: 00852 97123624

**MALAYSIA**

• **Darussalam International Publication Ltd.**  
No.109A, Jalan SS 21/1A, Damansara Utama,  
47400, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Darul Ehsan, Malaysia  
Tel: 00603 7710 9750 Fax: 7710 0749  
E-mail: darussalm@streamyx.com

**FRANCE**

• **Edtions & Librairie Essalam**  
135, Bd de Ménilmontant- 75011 Paris  
Tel: 0033-01- 43 38 19 56/ 44 83  
Fax: 0033-01-43 57 44 31  
E-mail: essalam@essalam.com.

**SINGAPORE**

• **Muslim Converts Association of Singapore**  
32 Onan Road The Galaxy  
Singapore- 424484  
Tel: 0065-440 6924, 348 8344 Fax: 440 6724

**SRI LANKA**

• **Darul Kitab 6, Nimal Road, Colombo-4**  
Tel: 0094 115 358712 Fax: 115-358713

**INDIA**

• **Islamic Books International**  
54, Tandel Street (North)  
Dongri, Mumbai 4000 09, INDIA  
Tel: 0091-22-2373 4180  
E-mail: ibi@irf.net

**SOUTH AFRICA**

• **Islamic Da'wah Movement (IDM)**  
48009 Qualbert 4078 Durban, South Africa  
Tel: 0027-31-304-6883 Fax: 0027-31-305-1292  
E-mail: idm@ion.co.za

# Contents

|    |                 |    |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 1  | Introduction    | 4  |
| 2  | The Qur'ân      | 6  |
| 3  | Astronomy       | 9  |
| 4  | Physics         | 24 |
| 5  | Geography       | 26 |
| 6  | Geology         | 30 |
| 7  | Oceanography    | 34 |
| 8  | Biology         | 41 |
| 9  | Botany          | 44 |
| 10 | Zoology         | 47 |
| 11 | Physiology      | 57 |
| 12 | Embryology      | 59 |
| 13 | General Science | 76 |
| 14 | Conclusion      | 79 |

# The Qur'ân

## The Challenge of the Qur'ân

Literature and poetry have been instruments of human expression and creativity, in all cultures. The world also witnessed an age when literature and poetry occupied pride of position, similar to that now enjoyed by science and technology.



Muslims as well as non-Muslims agree that the Qur'ân is Arabic literature par excellence – that it is the best Arabic literature on the face of the earth. The Qur'ân challenges mankind in the following Verses:

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ  
مِّن مِّثْلِهِ ۚ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ  
صَادِقِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾ فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي  
وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾

And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to our servant then produce a surah like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (If there are any) besides Allah, if ye are truthful. But if ye cannot and of a surety ye cannot then fear the Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones, which is prepared for those who reject Faith. (Al-Qur'ân 2:23-24)<sup>1</sup>

The challenge of the Qur'ân, is to produce a single *Sûrah* (chapter) like the *Sûrahs* it contains. The same challenge is repeated in the Qur'ân several times. The challenge to produce a *Sûrah*, which, in beauty, eloquence, depth and

1. Al-Qur'ân 2:23-24 indicates *Surah* or Chapter No. 2 and *Âyât* or Verses 23 and 24. The same notation is followed throughout the book. References and translation of the Qur'ân are from the translation of the Holy Qur'ân by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, published by King Fahd Holy Qur'ân Printing Complex, Al-Madinah, Saudi Arabia.

meaning is at least somewhat similar to a Qur'anic *Sûrah* remains unmet to this day.

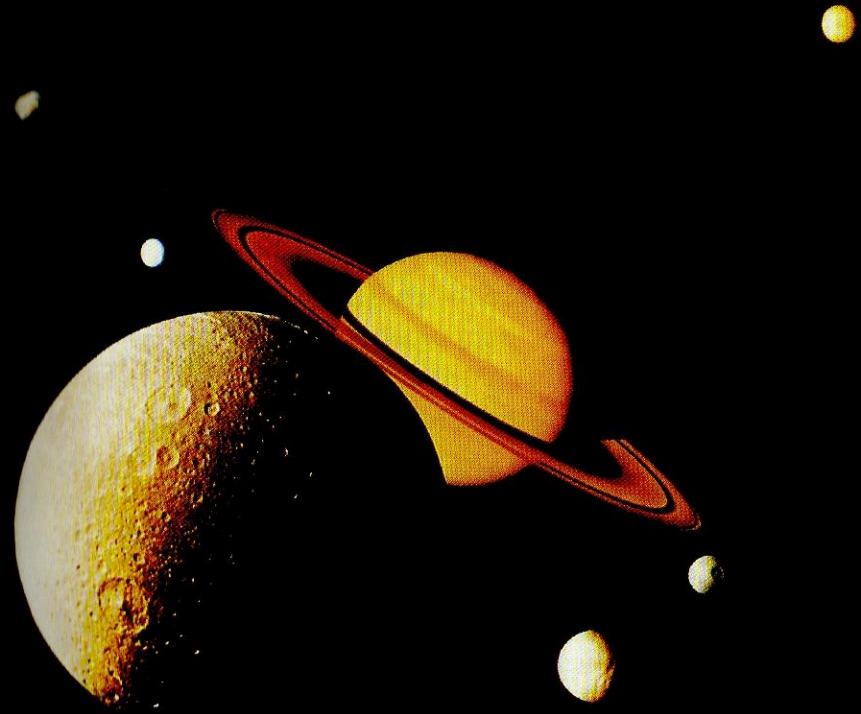
A modern rational man, however, would never accept a religious scripture which says, in the best possible poetic language, that the world is flat. This is because we live in an age, where human reason, logic and science are given primacy. Not many would accept the Qur'an's extraordinarily beautiful language, as proof of its Divine origin. Any scripture claiming to be a divine revelation must also be acceptable on the strength of its own reason and logic.

According to the famous physicist and Nobel Prize winner, Albert Einstein, "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Let us therefore study the Qur'an, and analyze whether the Qur'an and Modern Science are compatible or incompatible?

The Qur'an is not a book of science but a book of 'signs', i.e. *Āyâts*. There are more than six thousand 'signs' in the Qur'an of which more than a thousand deal with science.

We all know that many a times science takes a 'U-turn'. In this book I have considered only established scientific facts and not mere hypotheses and theories that are based on assumptions and are not backed by proof.

## Astronomy



# Creation of the Universe

## The 'Big Bang'

The creation of the universe is explained by astrophysicists in a widely accepted phenomenon, popularly known as the 'Big Bang'. It is supported by observational and experimental data gathered by astronomers and astrophysicists for decades. According to the 'Big Bang', the whole universe was initially one big mass (Primary Nebula). Then there was a 'Big Bang' (Secondary Separation) which resulted in the formation of galaxies. These then divided to form stars, planets, the sun, the moon, etc. The origin of the universe was unique and the probability of its occurring by 'chance' is zero.

The Qur'an contains the following verse, regarding the origin of the universe:

أَوَلَمْ يَرِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا

فَفَنَقْنَهُمَا

Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of Creation), before We clove them asunder? (Al-Qur'an 21:30)

The striking congruence between the Qur'anic verse and the 'Big Bang' is inescapable! How could a book, which first appeared in the deserts of Arabia 1400 years ago, contain this profound scientific truth?

