THE HOLY QURAN -
THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF
KNOWLEDGE
2:33 They said, ‘Holy art Thou! No knowledge have we except what Thou hast taught us; surely, Thou art the All-Knowing, the Wise.’
Time line of development of life on earth

Life begins
Unicellular
Multicellular
Plants
Marine animals
Land animals
Reptiles
Mammals
Genus Homo

Humans spread around earth
Neanderthals die
Farming communities

A = Adam (pbuh)
J = Jesus (pbuh)
M = Mohammad (pbuh)
Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge & Truth

By Hazrat Khalifa tul Masih IV ra

The theme:
It defines the relationship between revelation and rationality

- rational approach and sincerity of purpose (truth) is essential for acquisition of knowledge

- acquisition of knowledge is essential to guide us to Truth and consequent human progress

- human ability to acquire knowledge is limited

- human attempt to acquire knowledge remains incomplete without revealed guidance from God
Analysing knowledge from Quran

- Historical knowledge, about period prior to revelation of Quran
- Knowledge about the period when Quran was revealed
- Futuristic knowledge, about period after the revelation of Quran
  - Evolution of life on earth
  - Geology
  - Recent developments
  - Cosmology
  - Biological sciences
  - Physics
  - Politics
  - Warfare
  - Future of life on earth
  - Science of Entropy
HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

Period before revelation of Quran
Knowledge about period prior to revelation of Quran

- Confrontation by Pharaoh (Ramses II) with Moses (pboh) 10:76-90

- Drowning of the Pharaoh army in the ‘sea’ 10-91 – no supernatural walls of water – a tidal phenomenon

- Knowledge of Pharaoh (Ramses’ II) body will be preserved, as a sign for others 10:93
Knowledge about period prior to revelation of Quran

- Thamud civilisation (700 BCE – 500 CE) built houses by carving mountains 15:83
KNOWLEDGE CONTEMPORARY TO QURAN

From the period when Quran was revealed (life of Prophet Mohammad pboh)
Knowledge about period when Quran was revealed

- Romans vs Persians – initial defeat of the Romans 30:3
- Ultimate victory of the Romans (the believers over the non-believers) 30:4-5
Knowledge about period when Quran was revealed

- Emigration to Medina 17:2
- Successful entry to Medina (Allah guides Prophet Mohammad pboh of a prayer) 17:81
- Victory against the Meccans; Battle of Badr 54:45-47, inspite of adverse circumstances in Battle of Trench 33:10-18
- Return to Mecca and victory prophesised 28:86
FUTURISTIC KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge from period after the revelation of Quran
Evolution of life on earth

- Creation of universe, planets shaped into their orbits with day and night made, settling earth, water, plant life, animal life – exactly in order they have evolved 79:28-34, 71:14-18

- Origin of life in clay based earth 6:3, 3:60, 55:15, 15:27,29,34

- Earliest known life forms were invisible to the eye (microscopic) and their dependence on heat energy 15:28, 55:16
Photosynthesis as a food generating mechanism for life (turning inorganic CO₂ and water to organic sugar molecules)

Asexual reproduction to begin with, and then creating sexual reproduction 7:190, 42:12, 39:7, 4:2

Wisdom rather than chance determined what is created 28:69,
...and how the process is planned 56:58-74, 10:4, 13:3, 39:6

Development of speech 55:4-5
Development of Consciousness – a longitudinal analysis

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- Neanderthals die
- Humans spread around earth

- $4b$
- $2b$
- $1b$
- 500m
- 250m
- 2m
- 100k
- 25k
- 6k
- 2k
- 1.4k

A = Adam (pbuh)
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Earth’s hidden ‘treasures’ are cast out 84:4-5
The ‘treasures’ are limited 84:5
Earth tremors and volcanic eruptions due to lava underneath 99:2-3
Oceans with a barrier are ‘made to flow’ and meet – (Suez, Panama) 55:20-21, 82:4
Land masses (Continents) are joined at some points, and not at others 13:5
Formation of storms and lightning in the clouds 24:44
Water cycle 30:49
Recent developments (the Latter Days)

- Faster transport; camels out of use 81:5, airborne travel 51:3-8
- Telecommunications; bringing people together 81:8
- Dams; rivers ‘are drained’ 81:7
- Zoos; animals collected 81:6
- Books; publications become common 81:11
- Written knowledge; ‘pen’ as the main source of knowledge 96:4-6
- Space travel, and its limitations; ‘you cannot break through, save with authority’ 55:34
- Genetic engineering; altering Allah’s creation 4:120
- Epidemics (microbial infections); as a result of contravening natural principles 27:83
Cosmology

- Big Bang / Singularity; 21:31
- Expansion of universe; 51:48
- Science of cosmology; knowledge of the skies becomes common 81:12

- Orbital motion of celestial bodies, relation of the orbits to creation of night and day; 21:34, 36:39, 51:8
- Gravitational force; is invisible 31:11, 13:3

- Extra-terrestrial life and possibility of humans meeting this life; 42:30
Specific role of the sun and the moon in our lives and an end point to our solar system; 13:3, 31:30, 39:6

Atmosphere is layered and is protective 41:12-13

Ultimate collapse of the universe and re-creation; 21:105

Approx age of the universe (KM IV) 18,250,000,000yrs 70:4-10
Embryology

- Birth of human starts from a drop of sperm 16:5, 40:68
- Sperm is placed in a depository for human creation 23:14
- Stages of development of the human foetus ears, eyes, heart 23:15, 16:79,
- Pregnancy lies inside three layers (abdominal, uterine and amniotic), or 3 stages (3 trimesters) 39:7
- Water is the main constituent of all life forms 21:31 (2/3 of human body)
- Even plants have gender pairs 13:4-5
- Pollination by wind 51:2
Sleep induces hibernated neuronal activity 39:43

Cognitive superiority of humans 2:32

Conscious/sub-conscious self deception 2:9-13
Physics

- Existence of atoms/subatomic particles 10:62
- Quantum physics; matter and anti-matter, all matter has pairs 51:50
- Relativity of time (and revealed knowledge can transcend time) 2:260
- Exchange between earth and outer space, visible (meteors) and invisible (radiation) 57:5
Politics

- ‘Gog’ and ‘Magog’ will cause disruption on earth 18:95, their might will be destroyed not to return 18:97-98

- Coming together of the ‘children of Israel’ (Jewish people) in the land (Israel) 17:105


- Principles; absolute justice 16:91, 4:136

- United Nations, an effective model 49:10-11
Warfare

- Destruction caused by metal and heat 55:36
- Destruction by fire power 81:13, 104:5-10
- Destruction by fire power as a result of rejecting God’s prophet 44:11-17
- Destruction by unusually strong fire power as a result of rejecting (the Truth) 77:29-35
- Sea warfare and submarines 81:16-17
Future of life on earth

- Possibility of other people better than our capacity to understand nature and follow the guiding principles 70:41-42, 76:29
- Possibility of human evolving further into a different life form 56:61-62
- Possibility of a new creation altogether 14:20-21, 35:17-18

Clear distinction of the Quran to mention future of life with this clarity
Science of entropy

Fundamental principles relating to science of entropy are mentioned:

i. Creation cannot be eternal, it is finite 55:27, 57:3

ii. The only eternal factor is the prime cause of creation 55:28, 57:5

iii. The Creator is different from the creation, and the creation is finite with limited tenure 6:2-4, 57:6

iv. The ultimate cause of all creation is the Creator of all that exists 2:118, 57:4
A question arises:

With all this knowledge in the Quran, who wrote it?
Rationale for the evidence:

- Human capacity is limited/errors; changes in scientific concepts over time
- Knowledge in Quran is beyond human capacity
- Knowledge in Quran is all encompassing and is proven true as scientific understanding of nature develops

Therefore:

Quran is from a superhuman source
... and *that source* is the originator of all knowledge

Provides evidence for:

a. Existence of a Creator who is All Knowing
b. It is this Creator who is the author of Quran
In closing sentences of RRKT, Hazoor says:

‘....when religion is interpreted without rationality, when faith is divorced of reason, all that they give birth to are myths without legitimacy and legends without substance. Mindless trustees of faith succeed only in making a mockery of Divine wisdom.’

‘Revelation enlightens belief, illuminates the soul and blows breath of life into faith.....What the sun is to day, a prophet is to religion.....Bring to an end the prophethood, block the passage of revelation, and call it a doomsday! Nothing will remain but stark death!’

Summary of RRKT
http://www.alislam.org/library/articles/RRKTSumary.pdf
Quran is not a book of science

Knowledge in Quran helps us:
  a. To ponder about the working of nature and the Creator of nature who has all control, so that we submit
  b. Direct our research and quest in accordance with principles of nature,
  c. Emphasises the importance of revelation in our progress, worldly and spiritual

Example: Stages of creation of life 71:14-19

Quran aims to guide us:
  a. How to build and improve our relation with our Creator
  b. How to build just and peaceful societies
What do we learn from Quran

- **Helps us understand** the relation between moral/spiritual growth and progress in this world

- Individuals as well as nations benefit

  45:23 - Accountability is part of laws of nature

  20:106-109 - If arrogance of the mountains (nations with worldly power) does not change to justice voluntarily, the power of nature (as determined by the Creator) will change the course of history by destroying the worldly powers

  History is repeated again and again
2:3 – *This is a perfect book, there is no doubt in it; a guidance for the righteous*

2:4 – *Who believe in the unseen and observe prayer*  
Not as blind faith or imposition, but implies use of reasoning, logic and deduction where the 5 basic human senses are ineffective

Word and act of God are in harmony

*al-bayyinah* – vividly manifest truth,  
eg life of prophets – moral standard beyond doubt, success inspite of all odds

*al-qayyimah* – ever lasting truth, absoluteness of what is good in human behaviour, standards common to all religions  
eg stealing and murder is bad, kindness and charity is good

– revealed instruction is completely compatible with universal human experience, bridges the misperceived gap between revelation and rationality
The ultimate sources of knowledge

1. God’s revelation
2. Leadership of God’s prophets
3. Our rational attempt (science / contemplation)

The Promised Messiah (may peace be on him)