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Discovery Corner

Although the revelation of the Quran took 23 years to complete, God tells us that the entire Quran was placed into Muhammad's soul during the month of Ramadan, on the Night of Destiny. (See Sura 97, and also the verses 17:1, 44:3, 53:1-18). Thereafter, the angel Gabriel helped Muhammad release a few verses of the Quran at a time, from the soul to Muhammad's memory. Muhammad then wrote down and memorized the verses just released into his mind. When he died, he left the complete Quran written down with his own hand in the chronological order of revelation, along with specific instructions as to where to place every verse. The divine instructions recorded by Muhammad were designed to put the Quran together into the final format that we have today. The table on the right gives the chronological sequence of the revelations of the suras.

Not only was the order of revelations of the suras (chapters) different than their order in the Quran, but also the majority of the suras were not revealed as a com-

The Chronological Sequence of Revelation

Order. Sura	15—108	30—101	45—20	60—40	75—32	90—33	105—58
1—96	16—102	31—75	46—56	61—41	76—52	91—60	106—49
2—68	17—107	32—104	47—26	62—42	77—67	92—4	107—66
3—73	18—109	33—77	48—27	63—43	78—69	93—99	108—64
4—74	19—105	34—50	49—28	64—44	79—70	94—57	109—61
5—1	20—113	35—90	50—17	65—45	80—78	95—47	110—62
6—111	21—114	36—86	51—10	66—46	81—79	96—13	111—48
7—81	22—112	37—54	52—11	67—51	82—82	97—55	112—5
8—87	23—53	38—38	53—12	68—88	83—84	98—76	113—9
9—92	24—80	39—7	54—15	69—18	84—30	99—65	114—110
10—89	25—97	40—72	55—6	70—16	85—29	100—98	
11—93	26—91	41—36	56—37	71—71	86—83	101—59	
12—94	27—85	42—25	57—31	72—14	87—2	102—24	
13—103	28—95	43—35	58—34	73—21	88—8	103—22	
14—100	29—106	44—19	59—39	74—23	89—3	104—63	

plete unit at once. For example, the first revelation was Sura 96, Verses 1-4, the second revelation was part of Sura 68.

One of the suras that was revealed in its entirety was Sura 1, "The Key" (Al-Faatehah). This sura was revealed immediately after the Verse 74:30 which says "Over it is nineteen." Many readers know by now that the first verse of Sura 1, *In the*

name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful, consists of 19 letters, and it constitutes the foundation upon which the Quran's 19-based mathematical miracle is built.

The following mathematical facts based on the number 19 assure us that the chronological sequence of the suras is indeed divinely guarded, the same as the order of the suras in the Quran.

1. Start from the first sura in the Quran. Put down the order of revelation (5) followed by the sura number (1). Repeat this for each sura in the Quran, to make a 468-digit number as shown below.

5 1 87 2 89 3 92 4 112 5 20 113 21 114 = multiple of 19.

2. Start from the first sura revealed (Sura 96). Put the the sura number (96) and the number of verses in that sura (19) followed by its order of revelation (1). Repeat this for each sura in the order of revelation, to make a 695-digit number as shown below:

96 19 1 68 52 2 73 20 3 74 56 4 1 7 5 9 127 113 110 3 114 = multiple of 19.

Sister Ihsan Ramadan discovered the following mathematical relationship between the sura numbers and the order of revelations based on the number 19. Basically, she first took every 19th sura in the Quran. These are Suras 19, 38, 57, 76, 95, and 114. Then, she put down the corresponding order of revelations for these suras and added them up:

Sura No.	Order
19	44
38	38
57	94
76	98
95	28
114	21
399	323
(19x21)	(19x17)

It is a mathematical property that the sum of the left hand column is a multiple of 19. However, the sum of the right hand column is truly significant, further indicating the divine preservation of the order of revelations.

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

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God promises in the Quran

TRUE ISLAM WILL PREVAIL

*"He has sent His messenger with the guidance and the true religion and will make it dominate all religions, in spite of the idol worshippers."
(9:33; 48:28; 61:9)*

God says in the Quran that if He willed, He could have made everybody a believer. However, God does not want the people to come to His message forcibly. This is very clear in the following verse. "Had your Lord willed, all the people on earth would have believed. Would you force the people to become believers?" (10:99).

God wants everybody to practice his freedom in choosing the right or the wrong path that He shows us through His scriptures and His messengers. He leaves the choice completely up to us. On the other hand, because of His mercy, He helps people get to know about His message if they deserved to hear about it. In fact, God is the best marketing director. He has the most unique ways of making people aware of His message.

In recent days, the Gulf war has been covering the news headlines. Everybody's attention is turned to the Middle East. We frequently hear the words Islam and Muslim everyday. Many people are curious about the countries in that region and their religious beliefs. Therefore, the sales and promotion of Middle East maps, and programs or articles about the customs and the practices of the religion in these countries are up sharply.

There have been about half a million coalition forces in Saudi Arabia. These military personnel have been constantly in

contact with, or working together with the people who call themselves Muslims. Ironically, they have been fighting against people who also call themselves Muslims. They are likely to be very curious about the religion of Islam which surrounded them.

The military people have families and relatives on the mainland, who have been worried about them, and have kept in touch with them. Some of these people will also want to get familiar with the religion of Islam out of necessity or curiosity. They will try to get hold of a copy of the Quran, and see what Islam is all about. If they are sincere, they will be able to see the beauty of the religion of Islam in the Quran, regardless of how Islam was presented to them previously.

Even after the war is over, there will be many people, mostly non-muslims, working in this region to rebuild the countries that suffered in the war. Even though their first contact with Islam might be negative because of the corruption in these countries, some of these people may still want to read the Quran and discover the true religion.

It would have been very difficult for us to get people's attention, just to get them to take a look at the Quran, even if we spent millions of dollars in advertising money. On the other hand, God is creat-

ing the circumstances through these events in the Middle East, that will draw the curiosity of millions of people towards Islam. To many people, Islam may be represented in a negative way. with all the corruption and idol worship prevalent among the majority of Muslims. Even then, some people will be able to see the truth through the Quran as long as they are sincere and deserve the guidance. But, only God guides, and only He knows who deserves His guidance, as stated in Verse 28:56. "You cannot guide the ones you love. God is the only One who guides in accordance with His will, and in accordance with His knowledge of those who deserve the guidance."

Eventually, millions of people will see the truth by God's grace and embrace the true Islam—complete submission and absolute devotion to God alone. When other people see that it is becoming a prominent religion, they will start jumping on the wagon. The existing religions, on the other hand, are severely corrupted and are destined to die out. In the end, God's true religion will prevail over other religions in accordance with His will. This is stated three times in the Quran (9:33; 48:28; 61:9): "He has sent His messenger with the guidance and the true religion and will make it dominate all religions, in spite of the idol worshippers."

Ramadan: March 16 - April 14, 1991
(American continent only. Other countries start in March 17.)

ALL ARE GUILTY

Most of us think we are pretty good people, decent, God fearing, submitters—perhaps even a little better than some others. We haven't done anything seriously wrong. We're nice people. However the Quran says, "If God were to punish the people for their sins He would not leave a single creature on Earth" (35:45). That includes Abraham, for example, whom God called His friend, and all the good believers.

Who here is more righteous than someone else? Who has the scales with which to weigh, and fairly? I dare you to say to another submitter, "I am better than you! I am a better submitter." God says the believers, the submitters are humble to one another. So avoid such things as vain talk, frivolous arguments, back biting (Rashad's explanation of back biting being anything you say about someone else which lowers our esteem for that person, especially behind their back, but also in front of them).

Test yourself. Are you humble? Are you defensive if someone criticizes you? Do you lash back? It is not being humble if we do. Do you have an open heart? Do you consider what the other person has to say? In a discussion are you seeking the truth? Will we testify so to speak against ourselves while discussing verses, rationalizing our behaviour in order to justify our actions?

Being a submitter is a full time job. Every day we are subject to being tested in a multitude of different situations. We should be conscious of our conduct constantly. There are no days off, no vacation, no coffee breaks in submission.

Ask yourself, "How should I respond to this situation?" For example, the Quran says 'suppress your anger' (3:134). Moreover, we do not know when our lease will be up. So do not leave room for mistakes if you can help it. Every day counts. Make the most of each day as if it were our last day. 'Race towards

righteous works' (2:148). In a race there is competition and we push to win.

The Quran is so clear in such instances and yet, for example, it is easy to hesitate, to put off, to be lazy, to not be diligent or to want to argue sharply with our brother or sister, because we have stong feelings, versus being humble, modest, accomodating to other peoples' arguments. They may have strong feelings too. As the Quran states in Verse 49:13, "The best among you in the sight of God is the most righteous." We should try our best in following the guidance the most closely. There is nothing about giving our brother or sister a hard time in a debate, for example.

But, who are the most righteous? It is not for us to compare ourselves with our brothers or sisters. Today we may think we are more righteous than someone else, but can we guarantee tomorrow? For example, the Quran tells us even the messengers did not know if they were to make it to Paradise, and they were worried about their own necks (21:28). Do we know what tomorrow brings? Theoretically, we know that if we follow the guidance we will make it. But are we following, and how well? Whom God sends astray God will make him believe beyond a doubt that he is right when he is actually astray. That could be you. For example, the Quran says in Verse 12:106 that "the majority of those who believe in God do not do so without committing idol worship." The idol worshipers, however, will swear on the Day of Judgment, "By God our Lord, we never were idol worshipers," when they were (6:23).

I think of two aspects of being a submitter: 1) as an individual, 2) as a member of a community.

1) As an individual—the 'everyone for himself' concept. Consider, for example, on the Day of Judgment the nursing mother will not care for her infant. 'Everyone for himself'—what does it

mean? It does not mean we can disregard our brothers and sisters. A submitter will 'race towards righteous works.' Everybody for himself in that race. What our sister or brother is doing to further their own soul is for them. The best amongst you is the most righteous. Whatever we do should be from the perspective—is it righteous? Included in righteousness is helping each other to further our own souls—a win/win situation.

2) Community level—'Be united like the bricks in a wall' (61:4). Getting three or four people to agree on something is usually quite a task, let alone 20 or 30 or 40 or 50. The individual who lunges out on his own in matters which affect the community owes it to the community to explain his actions. It is not an 'everyone for himself' situation to the detriment of the community, or regardless of the community. If so, a crack is created.

Satan has vowed to mislead us. He will try every angle to get us. He knows our weaknesses. He is experienced, clever and has a certain advantage (he can see and hear us but we cannot see and hear him). Moreover, God made the human being weak. Expect problems! Resoive differences!!

Can we say that for the rest of our lives we will not err and not cause a problem to the community? Be careful—when someone errs how you react. You might be next to make a mistake. God has given us a mechanism to cope in Verse 29:45—seek help through steadfastness and salat (contact prayers). Be humble to one another.

What makes me happy is that others are happy. I do not believe that wealth or position or anything of the like will make us happy. What would make us truly happy today, truly happy, is that all of us resolve all our differences, be united and live amicably amongst ourselves.

IRON: Another Confirmation of the Miracle of the Quran

by Hossein Kowsari

There are many references in the Quran relating to various phenomena which have only recently been scientifically established as facts. The Quranic verses with scientific content are not vague and general. Careful research shows that the use of seemingly peculiar words and phrases, their gematrical values, numerical values of chapters and verses, are all significant—separately, as well as in various combinations, and leave no room for ambiguity as to the meaning and implications of these verses. For a specific example, let us look at Verse 57:25 "... and we sent down the iron wherein there is tremendous strength, and many benefits for the people."

The words underlined above are especially significant, as only one with full understanding of the atomic structure of elements, the formation and evolution of stars, and nucleosynthesis of elements would have used these specific words written 1400 years ago. Before further elaboration, recall that the words حديد (iron), ال (the), الحديد (the iron) have respectively, gematrical values of 26, 31 and 57.

Each element consists of an extremely small nucleus, consisting of protons and neutrons, surrounded by a huge cloud or shell of electrons 100,000 times as large. The atomic number of an element is the number of its protons, its atomic weight being that of protons and neutrons, with electrons being extremely lightweight. Many elements have one or more isotopes, which have the same number of protons (and the same number of electrons and essentially the same chemical properties), but with a different number of neutrons. The chemical property of an element, how well it reacts with other elements, is determined by the outside electron shells. The strength and stability of an element is a nuclear property determined for all intents and purposes by the right combination of neutrons for a given number of protons—too many or too few neutrons and the nucleus will not be stable at all.

Iron is the most stable of all elements, having the highest binding energy. No further energy can be extracted by fusion of the iron nuclei. This nuclear property of iron, referred to in the above quoted verse "wherein there is tremendous strength" has far reaching consequences as we shall see.

Physicists have calculated binding energies and other nuclear properties for various isotopes of all elements. In the case of iron, the isotope nearest to Green's approximation of the beta stability line is that having 31 neutrons and the usual 26 protons: $^{57}_{26}\text{Fe}$. It is to be noted that in the above verse the word used الحديد (the iron), formed by the addition of the definite article ال = 31 to حديد = 26, with a total gematrical value of 57 (31 + 26). The significance of the remaining words of the verse will become clear with a brief senario of our current knowledge of the formation of heavy elements and related matters.

According to the Big Bang Theory, confirmed in the Quran, only hydrogen and helium were created during the initial stages. There was no oxygen, no carbon, no iron. None of the elements necessary to form the earth and to sustain life existed. All elements besides hydrogen and helium were formed inside stars or during supernova explosions. As the temperature within a star rises, hydrogen burning begins. Hydrogen nuclei fuse, forming helium. At higher temperatures, helium nuclei fuse, forming carbon. For massive stars this process continues until the stellar core consists largely of iron. Because of iron's nuclear stability, there is no further nuclear burning. Iron nuclei cannot be fused to form heavier elements; they can only be formed by the breakup (fission) of nuclei, but even the tremendous temperature inside the stars is not high enough to do the task. Once the stellar core has been converted to iron, the life of a star has essentially come to an end. As there is no further nuclear burning, there is no

force to counteract the ever pressing gravity and to stabilize the star. Gravity then takes over, the star begins to collapse and the temperature begins to rise dramatically. This increase in pressure and temperature is so tremendous that the star literally explodes—Supernova. It is only during Supernova explosions that the temperature is hot enough to allow the breakup of nuclei and the formation of heavier elements. Another result of the explosion is that the outer envelope of the star is blown off, sending various elements into space, forming seeds of new generations of stars, ours being an example.

The above concepts, only recently established, are of fundamental importance in the understanding of our physical universe. They also depend, almost exclusively, on the unique nuclear property of iron. Without this property, there would be no mechanism for the creation of heavy elements, no mechanism for sending various elements throughout the universe, forming seeds of our solar system, other stars and future generations of stars.

We must be careful not to limit the scientific implications of the Quranic verses by drawing very narrow conclusions and implying in effect that we have understood all their ramifications completely. Nonetheless, regarding the concepts under discussion here which are fundamental, God does seem to confirm that we do have correct understanding of them by naming the chapter الحديد (the iron), numbering it 57, giving the words حديد (iron), ال (the), الحديد (the iron), revealing gematrical values, and thus further assuring us, and increasing our faith. He has described the entire concept using only a few key words, comprising only part of one simple verse of the Quran. Finally, Verse 57:25 summarizes the point: "... All this in order for God to distinguish those who would support Him and His messengers, on faith. God is Powerful, Almighty."

QURAN: THE FINAL TESTAMENT

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