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THE ORIGIN OF HOMOS IN ISLAMIC CREATIONISM AND EVOLUTIONARY THEORY

Muhsinul Hadi Hudawi³⁷

Abstract:

The debate over the origins of humans, fueled by both religious beliefs and scientific evidence, has persisted for centuries. Creationism postulates divine intervention in human creation, while evolution proposes humanity's gradual emergence from earlier life forms over millions of years. This study delves into both perspectives, scrutinizing theological and philosophical arguments for creationism alongside fossil records, DNA evidences, and other scientific findings supporting evolution. Through a comparative analysis of both material and theological evidence, this study seeks to illuminate the complex question of human origins. While offering no definitive answer, it aims to deepen our understanding of our place in the universe and the intricate relationship between science and religion. By examining the evidence carefully, this article comes closer to understanding the truth about our own origins. This study appeals to readers interested in life's history, human nature, and the dialogue between science and spirituality.

Keywords: *Evolutionism, Creationism, Qur'ān, Darwinism, Human origin, Theory, Religion, Science.*

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INTRODUCTION

Two fundamental hypotheses about the beginnings of life on Earth are creationism and Evolutionism. Creationism believes that all living things were created by a divine being, whereas Darwinism admits that all living things evolved over time from a common ancestor. For millennia, there has been a conflict between creationism and Darwinism. Creationists argue that Darwinism contradicts religious belief, while Darwinists claim that science does not support creationism. This study will compare creationism with Darwinism, examining their many assumptions, evidence, scientific support, global acceptance and implications. It will also crosscheck religious influence in these two ideas, as well as the impact of creationism and Darwinism on multitude of communities.

BASIC COMPARISON

The belief in creationism is that the life on earth was created by a supernatural being, generally designated as God. Creationists assume that the cosmos and all living things were created exactly as they are now, with no substantial changes occurring since then. Creationists frequently use the Qur'ān and Bible as evidence of their ideas.

The theory of evolution affirms that the beginning of life was from the early forms of living beings. Single-celled microorganisms were forged from the water and the rest species evolved from those single-celled bacteria, which started dividing into double-celled then to twice and twice celled organisms. The theory initially lacked sufficient evidence. Later Charles Darwin brought it into light along with biological and embryological proofs and findings.³⁸

Darwinism is a scientific theory, which contends that life developed over time through natural selection. Natural selection is the process through which organisms are more adapted to their environment to survive and reproduce, passing on their genes to their progeny. A vast range of evidence supports Darwinism, including the fossil record, comparative anatomy, and genetics. One of the most notable pieces of evidence comes from the Galápagos finches.

³⁸ Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. 1859.

In the early 1830s, Charles Darwin observed these finches during his visit to the Galápagos Islands. He noticed that the finches, although originating from a common ancestor, had developed distinct beak shapes depending on the island they inhabited. This variation was linked to the types of food available on each island. For example, finches with larger, stronger beaks were better equipped to crack open hard seeds, while those with smaller beaks were more adept at eating insects. Darwin recognized that this variation in beak size was a result of natural selection, where the finches best adapted to their environment were more likely to survive and reproduce, passing their traits to future generations.

The Galápagos finches are a powerful example of how natural selection operates, illustrating how species can evolve over time in response to environmental pressures. This example, among many others, continues to be a cornerstone in the study of evolutionary biology and solidifies the foundation of Darwinism.

CONTRADICTIONARY THEORIES OR NON-CONTRADICTIONARY

To begin, there are some scopes of adjustment between the evolution and creation. Those approaches are considered by the current Islamic scholars and their basis is the argument that Allah mentioned only human creation as divine in the holy Qur'ān. The non-contradiction between both theories is based on these strategies. Those approaches are:

- The humans are created by Allah and the rest evolved by the nature.
- All organisms including human are evolved by nature.
- All organisms are created by God as if it now.
- The first human Adam was created by God almighty and the rest humans and other living beings were evolved by nature.³⁹

On the other side, human evolution is a field in which The Quran does not allow for adjustments in its account of human creation. The creation of human beings is elucidated in the verse of Surah al Hajj:

³⁹ Al-Qaradawi, Yusuf. *The Evolution of the Universe and the Human Being: A Modern Islamic Perspective*. 2002.

"Mankind! if you are in doubt about the resurrection, then verily, he has created you (i.e., Adam) from dust, then from a Nutfah, (which is a mixed drops of male and female sexual discharge i.e. The offspring of Adam), then from a lot (a piece of thick coagulated blood) then from a little lump of flesh-some formed and some unformed (as in the case of miscarriage) that we may make(it) clear to you (i.e., To show you our power and ability to do what we win. And we cause whom we will remain in the wombs for an appointed term, then we bring you out as infants, then (give you birth) that you may reach your age of fun strength, and among you there is who is brought back of the miserable. Old age, so that he shows nothing after having learn. And you see the earth barren, but when we send down water (rain) on it, it is sired (to life), and it puts forth every lovely kind of growth)".⁴⁰

The holy Qur'ān deciphers that Adam was the first human and Allah created him as a man, not as an ancestor ape. The Qur'ān illustrates that Allah gave Adam all the natures of world and exalted him to heaven. Allah created Eve from Adam's ribs after observing Adam's monotonous life in heaven. Allah says: "O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed, Allah is ever, over you, an Observer."⁴¹

"Then Satan tempted them in order to expose what was hidden from their nakedness. He said, "Your Lord has forbidden this tree to you only to prevent you from becoming angels or immortals. And he swore to them, "I am truly your sincere advisor." So, he brought about their fall through deception. And when they tasted of the tree, their nakedness was exposed to them, prompting them to cover themselves with leaves from Paradise. Then their Lord called out to them, "Did I not

⁴⁰ Surah al Hajj – 5.

⁴¹ Surah al Nisa – 4.

forbid you from that tree and 'did I not' tell you that Satan is your sworn enemy?'⁴²

Adam was dispatched to Adam Mountain in his entirety, not as a child or an old man. According to Darwinism, the first man was an infant ape and his evolution transpired in the nature. According to the Qur'ān, Adam was created and structured by the unlimited power of the Almighty. Therefore, it is obvious that creationism and Darwinism are contradictory through this perspective.

EVOLUTION AND FAKE EVIDENCE

Charles Darwin conferred two identical pieces of evidence of evolution. They are a) Skeletons and b) Animalism.⁴³

Skeletons

The scientists aboard the Beagle⁴⁴ collected some skeletons, skulls, and teeth during the excavations. When the substances were analysed, it was observed that those were the vestiges of ancestral apes. But the experts indicate that those may be the skeletons, skulls and teeth of Gorillas. If the Gorillas were formed in ancient times as the researchers got their fossils, then there is no room for evolution.

In 1912, Charles Dawson, one of the evolutionists, found a skull like a human. This excavation tempted the attention of almost countries. Dr. Arthur Wood made research about the skull and concluded that the skull belongs to 'Eoanthropus'.⁴⁵ The skull is kept in the archaeological University of London. On the other hand, two young scientists from University of Oxford studied about the skull and demonstrated that the skull was not excavated but artificially made by combining the skull parts of an orang-utan and an ancient man. Later Dr. Wainer Clark cleared out that the skull was belonging to a hundred year old orang-utan.

Animalism

⁴² Surah al A'raf - 20-22.

⁴³ Darwin, 1859.

⁴⁴ The ship of Beagle, HMS Beagle, was a Royal Navy ship that transported Charles Darwin on his famous voyage around the world.

⁴⁵ Ancient monkeys (half man, half Gorilla).

Another mainstream evidence of Darwinists is Animalism. The proponents of animalism argue that the human behaviour is consisting or based on animalism. On objection, the animality of wild animals and humans are distinct each other. Animalism in humans is influenced by the devil. But the animality in animals is inbuilt and not replaceable.

LITERATE HUMAN AND ILLITERATE APES

The history of the hominid family from 6000 BC - 1000 BC is still ambiguous. From the beginning, writing and reading skills are specified in humans. The ancestral apes were unable to read or write something and the illiterate parent apes cannot name or teach their offspring. The education must be transferred from a preceptor to a pupil and the apes were uneducated. Therefore, knowledge and history are the challenging questions in front of the theory of evolution.⁴⁶

On the other side Islam has a clear stand about the literacy of human. Allah almighty declares in the holy Qur'ān: "He taught Adam the names of all things, then he presented them to the angels and said, "Tell me the names of these, if what you say is true?".⁴⁷ Darwinism also has no answer about the language that was spoken by ancestors. But the Qur'ān has: "God, Most Gracious! It is he who has taught the Qur'ān. He has created man; He has taught him speech.

THEORY OF EVOLUTION AND ATHEISM

Catholic Christianity was the major religion in Europe. In the middle Ages, Christian Europe harshly reacted to science and atheists. Robert Ergang, a famous European historian exposes in 'Europe from renaissance to Waterloo' that the guilt of the accused was assumed before the trial began. If the accused confessed his real or imputed guilt, a comparatively mild punishment was imposed. If not, various abuses including moral subterfuges and weakening of physical strength were employed to gain a confession. Torture was the last expedient. Those who confessed under torture were condemned to imprisonment for life. If the accused remained obdurate, he will be

⁴⁶ Harari, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, 2018.

⁴⁷ Surah al Baqara – 31.

handed over to the secular power to be burned alive. Heresy was regarded as more terrible than murder or treason.⁴⁸

Religious limitations treated scientific inventions as rivals that Robert observes through his viewpoint:

"The first proposition, that the sun is centre and doesn't revolve about the earth is foolish, absurd, false in theology and heretical, because it is expressly contrary to holy scripture. The second preposition, that the earth revolves about the sun and is not the centre, is absurdly false in philosophy and, from the theological point of view at least, opposed to the true faith."⁴⁹

The pope and Roman Catholics prohibited science, scientists, and reading scientific books. The fear of threat arising against Biblical oracles made the leaders discouraging and depreciating the renovations in the scientific field.

"In 1897, Leo XIII stated that the penalty for reading prohibited books was "Ipso facto excommunication."⁵⁰ Permission might, however, be obtained to read or possess forbidden books. Among the more famous authors whose names have appeared on the Index, and whose works are forbidden either entirely or in part are: Joseph Addison, Francis Bacon, Balzac, Bergson, Giordano Bruno, Comte, Descartes, Alexander Dumas, Anatole France, Edward Gibbon, Oliver Goldsmith, Heinrich Heine, Thomas Hobbes, Victor Hume, David Hume, James I of England, Kant, Locke, Maeterlinck, John Stuart Mill, Milton, Montesquieu, Leopold Von Ranke, Ernest Renan, Rousseau, George Sand, Spinoza, Stendha David Strauss, Tolstoy, Voltaire, and Emile Zola. In 1917 Benedict XV suppressed the

⁴⁸ Ergang, Europe from the Renaissance to Waterloo, 1939.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ A person who commits specified crimes immediately loses membership in a religious organisation, according to ipsocact. When it comes to ecclesiastical punishments such as excommunication, the term sentence is more generally employed in Catholic Church canon law than de facto. This shows that even if the decision (centencia in Latin) is not announced by the higher churches or by the courts, its impact is felt.

congregation of the Index, leaving its duties entirely to the holy office.”⁵¹

Therefore, revolutions and rebellions spread out aiming the empowerment of science and even some scholars utilised this opportunity by promoting atheism. "Origin of species" conveys the message of atheism that the universe evolved itself, not created by a god. Even some intellectual persons argued that Darwinism is a scientifically proven theory.

SCIENCE OF ISLAMIC CREATIONISM

The holy Qur’ān consolidates that Allah is the universal creator and the mud is the base of all organisms. The organisms are also classified in Qur’ān into four types. a) Reptiles, b) Organisms having two legs, c) Organisms having four legs and d) Organisms having more than four legs. This classification is mentioned in the holy Qur’ān: “and Allah has created from water every living creature. Some of them crawl on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four, Allah creates whatever he wills and Surely Allah is Most Capable of everything.”⁵² This verse includes crawlers, two-legged, four legged and other creatures that have more than four legs.

Humans are a pure combination of seventy-two percent of both hydrogen and oxygen, which are the elements of water. The presence of carbon is nineteen percent, nitrogen is five percent, and other elements are four percent. In detail, sixty-five percent of the human body is permeated with water. Fifteen percent of it is proteins, fourteen percentage fatty blooms and six percent are other elements.⁵³

In other verses, Allah says that the hominid family was created from mud and clay while Allah also articulates here that the creation was from water. So, it is to be concluded that the whole creation was from water based elements.

⁵¹ Ergang, 1939.

⁵² Surah al Noor : 45.

⁵³ "The Chemical Composition of the Human Body." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopaedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 25 Aug. 2023.

The Clay/Mud Theory

In Berkeley, California, 285 scientists from 21 nations gathered for a biological seminar in which NASA⁵⁴ and other research centres of the United States opined that the origin of life was the mud and clay. The highlight of the seminar was ‘the clay theory/mud theory’, which directs to the clay hypothesis, which proposes that the clay minerals, which naturally develop from silicates in solution, contributed to the emergence of early living forms. Like other crystals, clay crystals maintain their exterior formal organisation as they expand, split, and grow even more. Lakes and stagnant waters are the major sources of clay and mud. In addition, mud is compacted under water to form clay and the water gives it enough flexibility.⁵⁵ Clay or Hydrous Aluminium Silicates may vary in its colour depending on the percentage of Magnesium and Aluminium present in it. Therefore, as conjoining two arguments of creation from mud and creation from water, the conclusion will be that the hominid family was created from the mixture of water and clay.

Modern Science and Creationism

Scientists of the past believed in God and wrote about the divine creation. Even today's some scientists are believers of God. The creationism of Islam was an unfavourable theory to science, because the Islamic countries and scientists are relatively invisible in the field of scientific research. The Turkish creationists wrote about creation with the lack of ingenuity and based on European literal publications whether those are works of young creationism or intelligent design.⁵⁶ Even though Islamic creationism is a part of a successful re-Islamization movement. Creationism was considered globally as anti-scientific because Muslim scholars maintained their basic statements as stern and strong. *Fitra*, or “created nature” was prominent to traditional Islamic conceptions of morality.⁵⁷ Meanwhile evolution ignores morality and depends on biological facts, which are the basics of mediaeval science and inventions.

⁵⁴ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, commonly referred to as NASA, is an independent agency of the U.S. federal government responsible for the civil space program, aeronautics research, and space research.

⁵⁵ "Clay and Mud." Geology.net, geology.net/minerals/clay-mud.shtml, 2023.

⁵⁶ Intelligent design is the notion that life, or the cosmos, could not have emerged by accident and had to be designed and produced by some intelligent entity. “Proponents of intelligent design argue that theories other than evolution must be considered.”

⁵⁷ Edis, A World Designed by God Science and Creationism in Contemporary Islām, 2001.

The clash between science and religion is now just history. Modern religious scholars did not blame science blindly, but some of them even promoted it. For instance, the holy Qur'ān addresses people with some inklings to biology, astronomy and geology: "Do they not ever reflect on camels—how they were masterfully created."⁵⁸ And the sky—how it was raised high.⁵⁹ And the mountains—how they were firmly set up.⁶⁰ And the earth—how it was levelled out?"⁶¹

Robert Matthews, Physics professor at Oxford University, asserts in a book, which published in 1992, that the idea of DNA molecules, which are creations of Almighty God, is trustworthy. He presents that the cycle of life progression, starting from a living baby who passes through childhood into adolescence and reacts with a perfect harmony, can only be explained as a miraculous occurrence, akin to the other stages in biology. The evolutionary microbiologist Ali Demirsoy⁶² believes that the function and structure of cell groups is unexplainable and there is a supernatural force behind them. Robert Boyle, Michael Faraday and Gregoy Mendel, the experts of the scientific field, also admit that the universe was created by a God who is beyond human intelligence.

Modern science's attempts to explain the origin of the universe have given rise to two primary theories: i) the steady state theory and ii) the Big Bang theory. The steady state theory was proposed by Hermon Bondi, Thomas Gold, and Fred Hoyle. Interestingly, the proponents of these theories acknowledge the concept of religion, as they propose that the universe is of finite age and adheres to perfect cosmological orders, therefore science is utilized now as a tool to prove the presence of a superior force named as God.

On the other side, Eos reported that the AGU Council⁶³ reiterated for the second time a statement on "Creationism" on June 28, 1994, that was first issued in December 1981. The brief of the declaration is "...all efforts to require or promote the teaching of creationism or any

⁵⁸ Surah al Ghaziyah:17.

⁵⁹ Surah al Ghaziyah:18.

⁶⁰ Surah al Ghaziyah :19.

⁶¹ Surah al Ghaziyah : 20.

⁶² Ali Demirsoy is a Turkish biologist, professor, and expert in evolutionary biology. In 1945, he was born in Yuva, Kemaliye, Erzincan, Turkey. In 1966, he received his bachelor's degree from Ankara University's Faculty of Science, Department of Natural Sciences.

⁶³ The American Geophysical Union (AGU) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation of Earth, atmospheric, ocean, hydrologic, space, and planetary scientists and enthusiasts that according to their website includes 130,000 people (not members).

other religious tenets as science should be deducted."⁶⁴ There is no definition of creationism in the statement. It denotes that conservative Muslims had no room in the biological field. Currently, Islamic intellectuals strive to prove the theory of creation in the beam scale of science and one of them defends the traditional sex roles and describes.

It is true that, the male sex has been created superior to the female. Even the sperm which carries the male sign is different from the female. The male-bearing sperm is more active, ... the female less. The egg stays stationary, the sperm seeks her out, and endures a long and dangerous struggle in the process. Generally, in nature, all male animals are more complete, more superior compared to their females. Man, being more enduring at work, and superior in prudence and willpower, has been given the duty of protecting women.⁶⁵

SCIENCE OF EVOLUTION

As scientific understanding, genetics and environmental elements lead a species into evolutionary adaptations with adaption qualities. According to this notion, humans are the end of multiple parallel lines and they aren't a derived species from the chimpanzees. Thus, chimps are our genealogical 'cousins' rather than our progenitors.⁶⁶

The old trope of evolution misrepresents the theory of evolution because of its indication to an old concern that *Homo sapiens* are emanated from the chimps. The tree of evolution exposed by modern scientists gives a better understanding that the human was evolved but not from chimps or ancestral apes. The evolution tree gives correct ancestral representation of both man and chimp. The evolutionary tree exhibits that the primate ancestor was lemur and the *Homo sapiens* and *Pan Troglodyte*⁶⁷ evolved from it. Evolution suggests that

⁶⁴ Mims, *Creationism and Science: An Impossible Union* 1994. 388 p.

⁶⁵ Ahmad, *The Turkish Qur'ānic Exegete Süleyman Ateş and His Contemporary Commentary of the Qur'ān*. 2018.

⁶⁶ Guessoum, *Islamic Theological Views on Darwinian Evolution*. (2016), 1-25 p.

⁶⁷ *Pan troglodytes*, commonly known as the common chimpanzee, is a species of great ape native to the forests and savannahs of central and West Africa. They are one of the closest living relatives to humans, sharing a common ancestor around 4-6 million years ago. Chimpanzees are highly intelligent and exhibit complex social behaviors, tool use, and communication abilities.

everything can be proven in a naturalistic way while Islam puts forward super-natural, non-observable, and invisible entities such as God, angels and souls as the essentialities of creation. That is why Muslims and other creationists take evolution as their crucial concern.

There is an often assumption in some media narratives that creationism is a big issue that you have naturally to be an atheist to accept evolutionary science. This binary perception between being anti-evolutionist or anti-religious has been reinforced by facets of 'new atheism,' particularly in the work of Richard Dawkins.⁶⁸

INFINITE SEQUENCE AND EVOLUTION

A group of items with a finite length is known as an n-tuple. The term "infinite sequence" typically refers to a series that has neither a start element and nor an end element, but is infinite in both directions. Every element in the world should have a primordial ancestor, so an infinite sequence is not possible. If Adam is the first man, he should be the start of the human population, and he would have had a starting molecule. If the same question is applied to Allah—does he have a starting molecule? Then these types of doubt are the consequence of ignorance and lack of thought that Allah created both finite and infinite, and he is beyond the minds of creatures.

QUR'ĀNIC APPROACH TO APES

Homo sapiens are elucidated as esteemed creatures in the Qur'ān while it introduces monkeys as contemptible and vile creatures. The Qur'ān states about human: "Indeed, we created humans in the best form."⁶⁹ "Indeed, we have dignified the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them far above many of our creatures."⁷⁰

They are part of the genus Pan, which also includes the bonobo (Pan Paniscus), another closely related species of great ape.

⁶⁸ Baker, *The Compatibility of Science and Religion* ?, 2017, 82-92 p.

⁶⁹ Surah al theen : 5.

⁷⁰ Surah al isra, : 70.

Qur'ānic references on monkeys are the signs of absurdity. For instance, Allah chose the figure of monkeys as a penalty. The Qur'ān describes the incident:

"Ask them O Prophet about the people of the town, which was by the sea, who broke the Sabbath. During the Sabbath, abundant fish would come to them clearly visible, but on other days, the fish were never seen. In this way, we tested them for their rebelliousness. When some of the righteous among them questioned their fellow Sabbath-keepers, "Why do you bother to warn those Sabbath-breakers who will either be destroyed or severely punished by Allah?" They replied, "Just to be free from your Lord's blame, and so perhaps they may abstain. When they ignored the warning, they were given; we rescued those who used to warn against evil and overtook the wrongdoers with a dreadful punishment for their rebelliousness. But when they stubbornly persisted in violation, we said to them, "Be disgraced apes!"⁷¹

If Allah gave great dignity to humans, he would not create them or allow them to evolve from ancestral apes. To this standpoint, the Qur'ān and evolution are contradictory too.

GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE

According to Gallup survey⁷², only 15% of Americans believe in evolutionary theory and they are pure atheists. 35% of American people acknowledge that humans were evolved by a system fixed by a supernatural power namely God. 46% of Americans do not agree with evolution but deny the theory and argue that a universal creator created humans. Muslims, Orthodox and Catholics of Christianity, and Jews are the believers of divine creation.

⁷¹ Surah al A'araf : 163-166.

⁷² It gauged Americans' opinions and perceptions of the most pressing political and economic issues and the current events that affected the world, the U.S. and their lives. Gallup routinely incorporated additional questions into the Gallup U.S. Poll on a short-term basis.

Most research on how Muslim learners perceive the connection between science and religion, has occurred mainly in countries where the majority of the population is Muslims. Hokayem and Bou Jaoude⁷³ (2008) employed both questionnaires and interviews with 11 biology students at a college who completed a course on evolution in Beirut, Lebanon. Qualitative analysis led to the identification of students holding three groups of beliefs⁷⁴:

- a) Those who considered religion and science as separate entities
- b) Those who considered them to be in conflict.
- c) Those who considered them to be in harmony and complementary.

Mansour⁷⁵ developed a slightly different framework because of interviews with 75 Egyptian science teachers, identifying four views:

- a) Science and religion are in conflict
- b) Science and religion are independent though religion is dominant
- c) Science and religion are in dialogue
- d) Science is integrated within the Islamic body of knowledge.

In all these positions, there was a strong sense that religion takes precedence over science. One difficulty with such work is that views on the relationship between science and religion have been categorised in different ways. This makes it complicated to correspond results across studies.

Dagher and Bou Jaoude (1997) categorised essay responses of university students in Beirut, Lebanon on evolution, using four main categories: for evolution; against evolution; compromise; and neutral. Among 17 Christians and 45 Muslims, 14 Christians were categorised as for evolution and 21 Muslims were categorised as against evolution while none of the Christian students accessed to this category. Bou Jaoude conducted interviews with university biology professors including four Muslims and secondary school biology teachers

⁷³ Dr. Saouma Bou Jaoude is the Director of the American University of Beirut's Centre for Teaching and Learning. She was previously the Director of the Science and Math Education Centre and the Chair of the Department of Education. Bou Jaoude's research has appeared in international journals such as the Journal of Research in Science Teaching (JRST), Science Education, and the International Journal of Science Education, among others.

⁷⁴ Hokayem & Bou Jaoude. Muslim students' perceptions of the relationship between science and religion: A qualitative study. (2008). 295-316 p.

⁷⁵ Ahmad Subhy Mansour is an Egyptian American activist, Islamic Quranic scholar dealing with Islamic history, culture, theology and politics.

including 14 Muslims in Lebanon and found that Muslims were more likely to reject evolution than Christians.⁷⁶

Testing the Big Idea

The idea of evolution can be tested by the 'If then approach' which was suggested by biologist John A Moore. John suggested some statements to testify the theory of evolution.

1. If we think that all living things have evolved over time from common ancestors, it seems that the earliest species would be different from the ones we see now. This idea is supported by evidence from the Earth's history, which shows that there are big differences between species that lived in the past and the ones live today. If few special species have hardly changed over hundreds of millions of years such as spiders, then the evolutionary theory will not be enough trustworthy.
2. If evolution happened, we would expect to find very simple organisms in the oldest layers of fossils, and then more complex ones in newer layers. This idea is supported by what we see in the fossil record. In the oldest layers, we find single-celled organisms. As we scrutinize newer layers, we see more basic multi-cellular organisms, and later, less complex versions of more advanced creatures without spines. In later layers, we see the beginning of plants on land, firstly the simple ones and then more advanced ones with seeds. Eventually, we even find animals that live on land. This sequence of complexity will match with the fossil record if the evolution was true.
3. If evolution is true, there should be in-between forms that connect big groups of living things. To check this, we glance at fossils. But it gets tricky here that some of these in-between forms are harder to find because they have soft bodies which don't preserve well unlike fossils and hard things like shells and bones. The places in which these early animals lived affect their chances of becoming fossils. Animals on the seafloor are more likely to be preserved due to bacteria sticking on them. We have found their burrows not the animals themselves. On the other hand, animals with hard parts like bones and teeth, such as

⁷⁶ Hokayem and Bou Jaoude (2008, p. 296).

vertebrates, have a better chance of becoming fossils. We have important in-between forms, like the transition from fish to amphibians and reptiles to mammals. We have also found structures that reveal how dinosaurs transformed into birds. Therefore, there is evidence of gradual changes in animals over time. For example, substantial evidence supports the evolution of whales from land mammals, as well as the evolution of modern, large, single-hoofed horses from their smaller, three-toed ancestors.⁷⁷

The 'man tracks' reported beside dinosaurs' fossils are another evidence of evolution. In fact, one of the strongest pieces of evidence of evolution is the fossils around the world. But the fossil records are gappy. Another evidence is the consistent relationship among the animals. So, if two types have the same features then they could be included in one species. Like other sciences, evolution demands that natural hypotheses to be put in the test. In sciences like particle physics and evolution, where phenomena cannot be directly observed, indirect observation and experimentation, including if-then structuring of questions and testing by consequences, are the standard levels of inquiry.

TESTING CREATIONISM

The central concern in Islamic creationism is Adam and the human beings. References of creationism includes Qur'ān and Hadith which states that Adam is the parent of humanity and he hasn't progenitors. This theory seems to imply that Adam was the first human in the world and it is irreconcilable in scientific mode of reading. If God is presented as the creator of the universe, it would be arduous for science to find or control the activities and impacts of God. There is also a doubt whether God can be evaluated by science. Most of the believers are defining God as omnipotent and beyond the minds of people. So, two theological positions are conceived by the believers.

- a) God created everything as we see today which is known as special creationism.
- b) Another one is theistic evolution that God created all things through a process such as evolution.

⁷⁷ Scott, Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction. (2005): 42p.

According to these theories, an omnipotent God can create things within seconds or allow them to evolve throughout the eras. As a result, the methods of science cannot test the actions of God because the science is restricted with the natural world.

In some cases of creationism, the argument of 'God created' matches with the findings occurred in the natural world such as the age of earth and the Grand Canyon. Those claims are fact. The central tenet of creationism is that an omnipotent entity, which cannot be verified by science created the world. But, this area is not also free of allegations. Adam is presented in the Qur'ān as a special creature that Allah created him with his own hands. Another verse of the Qur'ān states that God created cattle with his bare hands. On the other hand, the philosophy and rational thinking states that everything in this world has their own manufacturer, then the world especially organisms should have to be created by a universal creator.⁷⁸

MUSLIM THINKERS' REVIEW ON EVOLUTION

Various Muslim scholars and thinkers had contended distinct statements on evolution such as rejection, acceptance, and accommodation. Among the scholars who accepted evolutionary theory, Nidhal Guessoum⁷⁹ is an excellent example. He accepted it because in his perspective the evidence of evolution and Adam's creation are consistent with theistic evolution. Another supportive thinker is T. O. Shanavas⁸⁰ and his thought is the first humans were not Adam and Eve; rather, Adam was the spiritual father of humankind. Muhamed Abduh⁸¹ also is a proponent of evolution and he sees it makes very little difference if a person's father is Adam or a monkey because all humans are made from a single soul. Rana Dajani⁸² opines that the narrative of Adam is symbolic. Another acceptor is Seyyed Ahmed Khan⁸³ and the reason is evolution is a reality, the narrative of Adam must be a parable. The final supportive scholar, Muhammed Iqbal⁸⁴ states that the Qur'ān, unlike the Bible,

⁷⁸ Malik, "Evolution and Islām - A Brief Review, 2019.

⁷⁹ Guessoum, Islām's Quantum Question, 323-324.

⁸⁰ Shanavas, Islāmic Theory of Evolution: The Missing Link between Darwin and the Origin of Species, 2010, 153-160 p.

⁸¹ Elshakry, Reading Darwin in Arabic, 2013, 175 p.

⁸² Dajani, Rana. "Evolution and Islām: Is There a Contradiction?" 2016.

⁸³ Shah, Muhammad Sultan. Evolution and Creation, 2010, 168p.

⁸⁴ Iqbal, Muhammad. The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islām, 2012, 83p.

does not employ proper names, hence the tale of Adam is allegorical; Adam relates more to a concept than a specific person.

Among the rejecters or refuters of evolution, Imam Tabtabae⁸⁵ is a notable scholar and he inferred that the scripture claims neither an animal nor a plant, much less people, evolved from another species. Syed Ala Maududi⁸⁶ also is an opponent of evolution and he opines that evolutionary theory is simply a theory. Dr Tahrir al-Qadri⁸⁷ also rejected evolutionary theory that there are gaps in the fossil record and different interpretations among experts; no comprehensive hypothesis has been proposed. Another prominent opponent of evolution is Seyyed Hossein Nasr⁸⁸, in his view the 'form' of a human is fixed and the 'evolving species' is intrinsically wrong. David Solomon Jalajel⁸⁹ denied the authenticity of evolution and opined that Adam was a special creation and therefore cannot be part of evolution. In the opponents of evolution, Nuh Ha Mim Keller⁹⁰ is also a notable presence and his stand is that Adam was a unique creature and evolution cannot explain him.

Two of contemporary Muslim scholars had shown an accommodative approach towards evolution. One of them, Ismail Fenni⁹¹ had rejected evolution, but he also denotes that if it corroborated as true, Muslims would have to reconsider their stance because science must be protected as a tentative endeavour. Hussein Al Jisr⁹² also rejected evolution but notes that there is no explicit teaching in the holy Qur'ān of whether Adam was created by chance or evolved; if the evolution is found to be accurate, Muslims will have to reconsider their stance. There are multifaceted scholars and thinkers in both positions that not all dimensions can be brought here and what here is a summary of their positions. The opinions differ according to their approach towards scientific principles and Islamic hermeneutics.⁹³

⁸⁵ Shah, Muhammad Sultan. *Evolution and Creation*, 2010, 166p.

⁸⁶ Ibid. 164.

⁸⁷ Ibid. 173.

⁸⁸ Nasr, On the Question of Biological Origins. 181-197p.

⁸⁹ Jalajel, Islām and Biological Evolution, 2009, 149-156p.

⁹⁰ "Islām and Evolution: a Letter to Suleman Ali." 2018. Accessed August 11, 2023.

⁹¹ Bilgil, Alper. *An Ottoman Response to Darwinism: Ismail Fenni on Islām and Evolution*. (2015): 565-582p.

⁹² Hussein Al-Jisr, *al-Risalah al-Hamidiyah fi haqiqat al-diyanah al-Islāmiyah wa-haqiqat al-shariah al-Muhammadiyah* (Beirut: Dar AlKitab Al-Lubnani, 2012).

⁹³ Malik, "Evolution and Islām - A Brief Review, 2019.

Muslims had absorbed the fundamental arguments and reasoning of Christianity against evolution while the Christianity is filled with claims and counterclaims which were the consequence of creationist movement. Adnan Okthar (known as Harun Yahya in pen name) is a prime instance of anti-evolution impulse belonging to Christian fundamental principles. Copying the Christian scriptures, he misrepresents the theory of evolution and he owns a media platform and global network through which he highlights his false conclusions about evolution.

CHALLENGES TOWARDS EVOLUTION

For almost 150 years, Darwinism had influenced the scientific world. It had worked hard to indoctrinate people with naturalist philosophy and, as a result, had injected them a materialistic view of God's creations through deceptions. However, this hypothesis, which argued for many years that the emergence of life was the outcome of natural selection rather than the creativity of a supernatural force, is now being gradually disapproved. The independent surveys and polls ascertain a huge decrease in the count of Darwinist believers and a great increase of creationist thoughts in Europe.

The survey conducted by science Actualities in France (19 Feb 2007) shows that Darwinism has been annihilated in France. "According to the Lidings, set out under the caption 'Your views on Evolution' revealed that 92% of the public no longer believe in evolution."

Another challenge is the crisis of hominin diversity which offers a wider range of comparative study within the anthropological field. In 1925, there were few genres of humans and within ninety years, the number of founded hominin species reached twenty-six. Further steps of excavation may lead the number to a great increase. Perhaps the most problematic crisis provided by this increase in hominin diversity is the inquiry of whether it is real and useful for evolutionary inference. We can answer this question, at least partially, by examining whether the signals of nature are congruent with the evolutionists' observation or not, based on compassion for other lineages or evolutionary principles. Four of these signals are the

genus, species lifetime, geographical distribution, and the pattern of discovery.⁹⁴

THE MODERNIZATION OF SCIENCE

Modern science is another rising challenge against evolution that the theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest are on the edge of extinction due to the progressive discoveries of the postmodern era. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were the golden age of Darwinism while the middle of the nineteenth century was the starting line of fading. The twentieth century ushered in a new phase in scientific understanding, characterized by a shift from reductionist perspectives to integrative and interdisciplinary approaches. This transformation was driven by advancements in technology, such as the advent of genomics, molecular biology, and computational modelling, which unveiled complexities in biological systems that Darwinian principles struggled to explain. As scientific methodologies evolved, the reliance on empirical evidence and predictive models exposed inconsistencies within the framework of natural selection, prompting a revaluation of its applicability in the context of contemporary discoveries.

The modernization of science encompasses profound changes in how knowledge is pursued, interpreted, and applied. The integration of advanced technologies, such as high-throughput sequencing and artificial intelligence, has revolutionized research methodologies, enabling scientists to analyze vast datasets with unprecedented accuracy and speed. These tools have revealed intricate details of molecular and cellular processes, challenging simplistic evolutionary narratives and providing a platform for alternative paradigms, including intelligent design and systems biology. For instance, the discovery of non-coding DNA's regulatory functions has reshaped our understanding of genetic mechanisms, undermining earlier assumptions rooted in Darwinian thought.⁹⁵

Beyond methodology, the modernization of science has fostered a more inclusive and interdisciplinary approach to inquiry.

⁹⁴ Foley, *Species Diversity in Human Evolution: Challenges and Opportunities*. 2005: 67–72p.

⁹⁵ ENCODE Project Consortium. (2012). An integrated encyclopaedia of DNA elements in the human genome. *Nature*, 489(7414), 57-74.

Collaborative efforts across fields, such as bioinformatics, biophysics, and ecological modelling, have facilitated holistic perspectives on complex phenomena. This shift has not only enhanced the precision of scientific research but also bridged gaps between science and society. For example, advancements in biotechnology have led to breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and environmental conservation, directly impacting human well-being and sustainability.⁹⁶

In summary, the modernization of science signifies a dynamic evolution in the pursuit of knowledge, characterized by technological innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. These developments challenge traditional paradigms, including Darwinism, while opening new horizons for understanding the natural world and addressing global challenges.

THE ANATOMY OF HUMAN BODY

Human body is the mysterious engine of in numerous elements that the hominid mind fails to find the exact answer. Gardon Rattray Taylor, a geneticist elucidates the evolution mystery through his masterpiece work ': "when we ask ourselves how any instinctive pattern of behaviour arose in the first place and became hereditarily fixed, we are given no answer".⁹⁷ Charles Darwin's son Francis Darwin explains about Charles's awareness of universal creator:

"Chapter 3 of the origin of species which concludes the first part, threats of the variations which occur in the instincts and habits of animals. It seems to have been placed thus early in the essay to prevent the hasty rejection of the whole theory by a reader to whom the idea of natural selection's acting on instincts might seem impossible. This is the more probable, as the study on instinct in the origin' is specially mentioned

⁹⁶ National Research Council. (2009). *A New Biology for the 21st Century*. National Academies Press.

⁹⁷ Taylor, the Great Evolution Mystery, 1983.

it⁹⁸as one of the "most apparent and gravest difficulties on the theory."⁹⁹

Hence, there are some formulas in the human body that the hominid intelligence is unable to define and describe. However, some evolutionary proponents continue to uphold their ideology, ignoring the challenges and asserting that instinctive behaviours are encoded in the genes.

FAILURE OF FOSSILS

The fossil records of Charles and other Darwinists are the main failure causes of evolution. As the famous evolutionist Mark Czarneski expressed his observation that a major crisis in proving the theory of evolution has been the fossil records and the imprints of vanished species preserved in the earth's geological formations. These records had never revealed traces of Darwin's hypothetical intermediate variants, instead species appear and disappear abruptly, and this anomaly has fueled the creationist argument that each species was created by God.¹⁰⁰

A drop of tree resin aged one hundred million years that engulfed a rosaceous spider and a wasp eventually fossilised into amber, was unearthed by scientists. This Fossil shows perfectly preserved legs and parts of the body of an adult spider and a wasp ensnared in its web. This amber is adequate evidence which displays that the cretaceous spider or the wasp have never gone through any evolution through in one hundred million years and both animals are exactly the same with their successors living in our day.¹⁰¹

To sum up, the theory of evolution is fading day by day because of its poor evidence and statements. Three reasons, a) the modernization of science b) the anatomy of the human body c) the fail of fossils are the main boosting agents of its decline.

⁹⁸ Introduction, Page: 5.

⁹⁹ Darwin and Francis Darwin. *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin: Including an Autobiographical Study*, 1887.

¹⁰⁰ Czarneski, *The revival of the creationist crusade*, 1981, p.56.

¹⁰¹ Books, Harun Yahya. "Articles - 2." *Www.Academia.Edu*, September 12, 2018.

CONCLUSION

This study has provided an in-depth exploration of the interplay between Islamic creationism and evolutionary theory, examining their convergences and divergences in the context of human origins. By juxtaposing theological perspectives with scientific evidence, the research highlights the profound implications these paradigms have on shaping our understanding of humanity's beginnings and the broader dialogue between religion and science.

While this study offers valuable insights, it represents a single contribution to a multifaceted and evolving discourse. The complexity of integrating religious beliefs with scientific theories calls for further investigation to address unresolved questions and explore additional dimensions. Future research should aim to bridge gaps, refine methodologies, and expand our understanding of the dynamic relationship between faith and scientific inquiry.

We hope this work serves as a foundation for continued exploration and encourages scholars to engage with this vital topic. Through collaborative and rigorous inquiry, the academic community can deepen its understanding and foster a more nuanced appreciation of the intricate connections between spirituality and empirical knowledge.

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