

Reducing the gap between the Quranic Metaphysics and Science regarding the “6 days creation”

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The 6 days creation in the Quran is not about the Universe and it is not related to the “big bang” event. It is about the creation of Earth and the atmosphere:

Strictly speaking, the 6 days creation is about the creation of Earth and the 7 layers of heaven. The word seven in Arabic has two meanings: literal and metaphoric. The literal is number 7, and the metaphoric is “multiple”. So, the seven layers of heaven can mean: the multiple layers of heaven.

There are also two meanings in Arabic for the word Seventy: either it means number 70 or it means a large amount.

In Quran 71:15-16 (translated by quran.com):

Do you not see how Allah created seven heavens, one above the other (15) placing the moon within them as a reflected light, and the sun as a radiant lamp (16).

This translation is not very accurate in relation to the moon. The Arabic Quranic word for “reflected light” is just one word: Noor, and the direct translation for this word is illumination. So, the direct meaning here in the verse is that God made the Moon to illuminate in the seven heavens.

But the moon is only illuminating in the Earth atmosphere. In space, the moon is just a dull gray Object. It illuminates and shine in the atmosphere because the atmosphere scatters the dark colors (especially blue) keeping the bright colors (especially yellow). Therefore, we see the moon shining. This is also the reason that we see the sky blue; because the atmosphere scatters the blue color all around.



The moon as seen from space
(Ref: Nasa-Moon)

Therefore, the seven layers of heaven is actually the Earth's atmosphere. Scientists have already established that the atmosphere has 5 main layers with some extra secondary layers (Ref: Wiki-Atmosphere).

The day (in the 6 days creation) doesn't necessary mean 24 atomic-clock hours. It means: one cycle of the appeared movement of the sun. In scientific terms, the day is the rotation of Earth around itself relative to the sun. Scientists have established that the earth has been created from the debris and stones in the disk around the sun about 4.5 billion years. We could assume that the earth at that time was almost in a Gravitational-Lock. The gravitational-lock happens when the planet has always the exact face toward the sun, therefore shades will never change or move in this planet. Mercury is in a gravitational-lock around the sun, therefore, the day in Mercury is infinite. Also, the Moon is in a gravitational-lock with Earth, therefore, we always see the exact same face of the Moon.

So, we can assume that Earth at creation was "almost" in gravitational-lock toward the sun. Therefore, one rotation of Earth around itself relative to the sun (i.e. one day) might have taken about many million atomic-clock years.

This "almost" gravitational-lock lasted until a meteor with the size of Mars hit Earth about 100 million years after the start of Earth creation. This is the current scientific hypothesis which is called the "Giant Impact Hypothesis". Earth after this impact started to rotate with about 5 atomic-clock hours a day. This rotation started to slow down through time until it reached today about 24 atomic-clock hours a day.

We will now align the Quranic metaphysics with the current scientific data to present a metaphysical hypothesis with the minimum possible gap with Science:

In Quran 41:9-12 (translated by quran.com):

Ask 'them, O Prophet', "How can you disbelieve in the One Who created the earth in two Days? And how can you set up equals with Him? That is the Lord of all worlds (9) He placed on the earth firm mountains, standing high, showered His blessings upon it, and ordained 'all' its means of sustenance—totaling four Days exactly¹—for all who ask (10) Then He turned towards the heaven when it was 'still like' smoke, saying to it and to the earth, 'Submit, willingly or unwillingly.' They both responded, 'We submit willingly (11) So He formed the heaven into seven heavens in two Days, assigning to each its mandate. And We adorned the lowest heaven with 'stars like' lamps 'for beauty' and for protection. That is the design of the Almighty, All-Knowing (12)

Notice that the verse number in Quran is placed at the end of the verse, not at the start as in the Bible.

1# The earth was created from the debris and stones in the disk around the sun about 4.5 billion years. The earth during this creation was almost in a gravitational-lock. This creation took two days (i.e. two earth's rotations around itself relative to the sun) which is probably equivalent to about 100 million atomic-clock years.

2# We find in Arabic literature the style of inverting (to put the first last, and the last first). This style is used for many reasons as to highlight a specific point or for musicality purposes. By aligning the previous Quranic verses with the current scientific data, we can say with confidence that verse 10 has been brought forward.

With this, we can highlight the network path for the earth project: 2 days to create Earth, then two parallel sub-projects have been initiated: the creation of the atmosphere (which took 2 days), and the modification of earth to sustain life (which took 4 days). So, the total project duration is 6 days.

Therefore, the two parallel sub-projects start with verse 11, then verse 12 then returning back to verse 10. Probably the purpose for bringing verse 10 forward is that God was speaking about the creation of earth and then continued speaking about the “system design” on earth.

3# After two days from the start of Earth creation, a meteor with the size of Mars hit Earth (as in the “Giant Impact Hypothesis”) forcing earth to rotate around itself relative to the sun with about 5 atomic-clock hours a day.

4# Before this impact, the atmosphere was almost similar to the current atmosphere of Venus:

“When Earth was young, its surface was probably covered in a magma ocean, and the gases rising from that seething sea may have provided it with an atmosphere nearly identical to the toxic one present on Venus today” (Ref: Leah in NewScientist).

We can describe the atmosphere in Venus today to be smoky.

5# In verse 11 God said to Earth and heaven (when the heaven was just a smoke) Submit, willingly or unwillingly, and they submitted willingly.

This is just a metaphoric description: In this verse it shows that God could have created Earth and the atmosphere by unnatural means (submitting unwillingly) but this creation was done using means that are within the laws of nature (submitting willingly). But even if this creation was done within the laws of nature, still, the chances for this creation to happen again for another planet in the universe is very very low.

This can be clarified by saying that: the current dynamic system of Earth was dependent on the size of the hitting meteor, its speed, the hitting angle, and the hitting location. If the values of these parameters were different then probably, we wouldn’t have a planet that can sustain life.

This is the meaning of the whole metaphoric verse: the creation of earth was within the laws of nature but (according to the language of humans) it was just a very extreme lucky coincidence that is almost impossible to happen naturally.

6# In verse 12:

6.1# multiple layers of the atmosphere has been created by the dynamic of the impact. This took two days (i.e. two rotations of Earth around itself relative to the sun) which is equal to about 10 atomic-clock hours.

6.2# “Stars like lamps” is an interpretation in English. In the Arabic Quranic text, it is just one word: “Lamps”. However, there are many verses in the Quran that explain these lamps, and there is a clear understanding that these lamps are “shooting stars” (small stone-sized meteors) that are seen in the upper layer of the atmosphere.

The word “lowest” (in “lowest heaven”) in the Arabic Quranic text is “Du-n-ya” which has two meanings: nearest or lowest. If we took the first meaning, then the nearest layer to us is the first (were first is the layer directly above us), while the nearest layer to God is the last. If we took the second meaning, then the lowest layer to us can be the first or it can be the last.

But as we align verse 12 with the current scientific data then we can say with confidence that the layer in question is the one nearest to space.

8# Returning back to verse 10:

8.1# The “mountains” is just an interpretation, the word in the Arabic Quranic text is “Ra-wa-si” and the direct translation for this word is “anchors”. However, mountains have been mentioned in Quran to act like anchors. For example:

- Quran 16:15 (translated by quran.com): And He has cast into the earth firmly set mountains, lest it shift with you, and [made] rivers and roads, that you may be guided.

The mountains here in Arabic Quranic text is “Rawasi”.

- Quran 78:6-7 (translated by quran.com): Have We not smoothed out the earth ‘like a bed’ (6) and ‘made’ the mountains as ‘its’ pegs, (7).

Pegs and anchors have been regarded equivalent in describing mountains.

We could understand now the reason for describing the mountains to be anchors and pegs as we know now that mountains do have roots that is inserted inside the earth crust. Although there are multiple accounts in the internet saying that mountains do stabilize the earth crust, but I couldn’t find any clear scientific article that explicitly says that. Therefore, this subject is still under research.

8.2# When the meteor hit earth, some large rocks, stones, and debris scattered in an orbit around earth. These debris joint and conglomerate later to form the Moon (Ref: Nasa-Moon2).

However, we could also say that some rocks escaped the gravity of earth and went into space, and other large rocks went high in the sky and then returned back hitting earth hard and forming anchors in the crust. This probably was very useful as the impact probably did split the crust into large tectonic plates swimming on the Earth's mantle. Therefore, these anchors were the stabilizer pegs in the crust.

8.3# The impact tilted the earth axis to about 24 degrees which allowed earth to have the four seasons, which helped to sustain liquid water on Earth.

8.4# Life wasn't created in these "6 days". The words "ordained all its means of sustenance" is a good interpretation for the Arabic Quranic text, which we can also interpret it to mean that God in this verse have created the dynamic systems on Earth that were necessary later to sustain life.

8.5# This sub-project took 4 days which is equal to about 20 atomic-clock hours.

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There is still a gap between the Quranic metaphysics and Science in the 6 days creation. For example, Science cannot confirm the days in the "6 days creation". But the gap in general is shrinking and this is sufficient enough.

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