

Reducing the gap between the Quranic Metaphysics and Science regarding the “Origin of Humans”

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I did write about this subject in an Arabic book titled “The Origin of Humans” (#19) and in a short Arabic book titled “A discussion in the evolution theory and the origin of humans” (#52). This article is an abbreviated translation.

There are no verses in the Quran (or the trusted chains of Hadith) that reject the notion that elephants and rats had a common shared ancestor. Some might interpret some verses in the Quran for this rejection, but these are selective interpretations among many other legitimate interpretations for these verses. However, from an explicit perspective, there are no verses in the Quran that clearly and directly rejects the “Evolution Theory” (ET) in this regard.

However, the Quran does reject the “Evolution Theory” in regard to humans as it is clearly mentioned in the Quran that the first human (i.e. Adam) was created from mud. But humans are just one among one billion species, therefore, the gap between the Quranic metaphysics and Evolution Theory is just “one over billion”.

In this article we will align Quranic verse 2:30 with the scientific data to present a hypothesis that fit with the metaphysics, but with much further reduced gap with Science.

In this hypothesis: Homo-Erectus (who were descended from apes) went into quick mental evolution that was much faster than their humanity and they became a serious threat to other living creatures around them. Therefore, homo-erectus had been suddenly wiped from the three continents about 300k (k=1000) years ago. After 150k years from that event, God created Adam from mud as a “successor” (Kh-lee-fa) for the homo-erectus with a DNA almost identical to homo-erectus.

So, Adam was created from mud. However, the extra bit here is the information that can be extracted from Quran 2:30, which could suggest that Adam was created as a “successor” for an extinct species, and his DNA was almost identical to them.

With this hypothesis, the gap between the metaphysics and science is further reduced as it does include an acknowledgment of an indirect link between humans and homo-erectus.

1# Let us first clarify the metaphysics:

The first human (Adam) was created from mud.

2# But from the “Evolution Theory” perspective:

Humans (i.e. Homo-Sapiens) are descended from ancient gorillas through the following simplistic line:

- Ancient gorillas.
- Ancient chimpanzees.
- The Austras (short for Australopithecus Africanus), who were the first apes to stand upright.
- Homo-Habilis, who were the first apes to create tools from other tools and to keep these tools for future usage.
- Homo-Erectus.
- Homo-Sapiens (the modern humans), who were the only creatures that have the ability for abstract thinking. Art and artistic expressions are outcomes from this type of thinking.

There are also the following notes:

2.1# It seems that the homo-erectus have disappeared suddenly from Earth at about 300k years ago.

To clarify the above note: There are many species that have originated from homo-erectus, including the Neanderthal. The Neanderthal have disappeared gradually from the Earth starting from about 120k years until about 30k years. However, homo-erectus themselves disappeared suddenly from the three continents, and there are no clear explanations for this disappearance.

2.2# Homo-Sapiens (humans) have four distinctive features in the skull that are different from all other apes (including Homo-Habilis, Homo-Erectus, and the Neanderthal):

Humans have a distinctive feature in the lower jaw which is the chin. This feature is not available in other apes or other mammals.

All apes have elongated face: when standing upright then the level of the mouth is in-front of the level of the forehead. In humans, the level of the mouth is almost the same as the level of the forehead.

There is a thick ridge at the eyebrows in all apes except humans who don't have this ridge.

The brain starts in all apes from behind the eyes while in humans it starts from above the eyes.

2.3# Although it is expected (scientifically) that humans have originated from homo-erectus, still, there are no intermediate links that have been discovered between them.

To clarify this point: there are four different distinctive features between humans and homo-erectus (as mentioned in the previous point), and these different features cannot all be an outcome of one-single-sudden-genetic-development. There have been some discoveries of ancient skulls that suggested a possible link between the two species, but it seems that they haven't yet been taken seriously from the scientific community; as these skulls might be the product of deformation due to time or due to genetic disorder.

For example: when the first skulls of homo-habilis have been discovered, the scientific community didn't acknowledge these skulls to be a distinctive species; as these skulls could belong to homo-erectus and they were deformed due to time or genetic disorder. But as many of these skulls have been discovered in different locations then it has been firmly acknowledged that these skulls represent a distinctive species than homo-erectus.

3# Let us return back to the metaphysics:

In Quran 2:30 (translated by quran.ksu.edu.sa):

And [mention, O Muhammad], when your Lord said to the angels, "Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority." They said, "Will You place upon it one who causes corruption therein and sheds blood, while we declare Your praise and sanctify You?" Allah said, "Indeed, I know that which you do not know."

The "successive authority" is just an interpretation. The Arabic Quranic word is "Kha-lee-fa", and the direct translation is "Successor".

From this verse we can conclude that there was a species (which we will call X) that "caused corruptions and shed blood", and then Adam have been created as a "successor" for them.

However, all vicious predators shed blood: look at the hyenas; they start eating the prey alive. Look at the wolves and foxes; if wolves managed to get into some trapped preys then they will kill all and just eat few.

The point here is that all vicious predators have a true lust for shedding unneeded blood. So, the question here would be: how X is different in their corruption and bloodshed?

An answer for this question could be: X have developed certain capabilities that they started to be a threat to the ecosystem (i.e. a threat to the other living creatures around them).

But how could this be possible? For example: why wolves are not a threat to the ecosystem?

The answer: Wolves are balanced within the ecosystem by the fierce and vicious competitions between themselves. But let us just imagine that wolves are in total

harmony and tolerance between themselves, then I can assume that they will be a serious threat to the ecosystem as they will be able (by their numbers and united front) to overcome all strong competing predators, and with their lust for bloodshed, then all living animals would be in danger.

Let us here clarify two concepts:

- **In-clan Behavior:**
If Differences in a clan (of a species) are resolved peacefully, and the members of this clan do help and support the injured among them, then we will call this behavior: In-clan-tolerance. Otherwise, we will call it: in-clan-aggressiveness.
- **Inter-clan Behavior:**
If different clans of a single species resolve their competitions peacefully, then we will call this behavior: inter-clan-tolerance. Otherwise, we will call it: inter-clan-aggressiveness.

There are many species that have in/inter-clan-tolerance including elephants and dolphins. However, these species are not vicious predators. The only vicious predators on Earth that have in/inter-clan-tolerance are the Orcas (Killer whales): It seems that the differences within the Orcas clan are resolved peacefully. Also, there are no reports about clashes between the Orcas clans.

However, Orcas are very vicious predators, and the reason that these predators are not a threat to ecosystem is that:

“Mothers usually calve a single offspring about once every five years”, “Gestation varies from 15 to 18 months”, and “Mortality is extremely high during the first seven months of life, when 37–50% of all calves die” (Ref: Wikipedia-Orcas).

The next to the list are the “African Wild Dogs”: they don’t have inter-clan-tolerance as there are vicious clashes between their clans. But surprisingly, they are the only vicious land predators that have in-clan-tolerance, as the differences within the clan are resolved peacefully and they support the injured among them.

Humans don’t have (yet) in/inter-clan-tolerance, though they are moving into that direction but very slowly. However, even if humans reach one day this level of behavior (in/inter-clan-tolerance), it will not be due to their DNA design but due to their extensive experiences and advanced morality. The in/Inter-clan-tolerance within the Orcas are due to their DNA design and evolution. The same is said to the “African Wild Dogs”.

4# From paralleling the metaphysics in #3 with the notes in 2# we can present the following hypothesis:

- The X-species are the homo-erectus. Their mental power had developed so fast, and much faster than their humanity, and much faster than their appreciation for the life of other creatures.

- Their mental ability had managed to reach the level of in/inter-clan-tolerance.
- As the homo-erectus were breeding with the same rate as apes, and along with their logical and tool making capabilities, and along with their in/inter-clan-tolerance, and without the appreciation for life of other creatures; they started to become a serious threat to the ecosystem as they were vicious hunters.
- Therefore, this species has been suddenly wiped from the three continents about 300k years ago.
- After about 150k years from this event, God created a successor (Kha-lee-fah) for the homo-erectus, with a DNA that is almost identical to homo-erectus, but with 4 differences in the skull and with the abstract thinking.
- I am assuming here that the abstract thinking wasn't a gift from God to humans, but it was a substitute: God took from humans (i.e. from the DNA in humans) the in/inter-clan-tolerance and substituted it with the abstract thinking.

This hypothesis doesn't have any contradiction with the Quranic metaphysics. Even the idea that "God created humans with a DNA that is almost identical to homo-erectus" is not strange within the Quranic metaphysics:

In the Quran, God created a camel from a rock as a supporting miracle for prophet Salih. So, if this creature looked like a camel and sounded like a camel and acted like a camel then we can conclude that the DNA of this creature was almost identical to camels.

However, this hypothesis does reduce the gap between the Metaphysics and the Evolution Theory, because it does identify an indirect link between humans and homo-erectus. Therefore, it identifies an indirect link between humans and apes. The link here is about the DNA of humans that is almost identical to homo-erectus by creation. Therefore, Humans are the metaphoric continuation of the homo-erectus.

There is still a gap between the Metaphysics and ET regarding the origin of humans. For example: ET regards the link between humans and homo-erectus to be direct while the hypothesis here regards it to be indirect. But this gap is shrinking, which is sufficient enough.