

THE WISDOM OF CREATION AS PAIRS IN THE QURAN

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ABSTRACT

The first question that comes to mind is, why does Allah create mankind and every living and non-living things in this world in pairs. We look to the Quran for our source of wisdom and find at least 14 *surahs* that direct our attention to the fact that Allah created us in pairs, including things which we have no knowledge of. The first example is pairs that grow from soil, that plants have male and female (QS Taha:53). A second example is about pairs that are created from their own selves, that humans are created males and females (QS Al-Ghafir: 39). A third example is pairs that are created from things that we do not know. The discovery of matter in pairs was only discovered in the 1930s by Paul Dirac, a British scientist, who discovered that matter has a pair called anti-matter. By the third millennium, scientific research on the structure of the atom has revealed a more complex, delicate and perfect nature; that creation in pairs is also valid for the smallest particles of atom. This paper will discuss the wisdom and mystery of creation as pairs in the Quran and why Bediuzzaman Said Nursi said, “As time grows older, the Qur’an grows younger.”

Keywords: Creation; Pair; Wisdoms; Anti-Matter

INTRODUCTION

Personalizing education of creation involves learning about the creation of our Creator. This paper aims to highlight the phenomenal decree of Allah in creation; the creation ‘in pairs’ in plants, in man and in all things including inanimate objects such as the atom and its wisdom. We are reminded by Allah in the Glorious Quran: “...with Him are the keys of the unseen treasures—none knows them but He;... There is not a grain in the darkness (or depths) of the earth, nor anything wet or dry (green or withered), but is (written) in a Clear Book (Quran)” (QS Al-An’am, 6: 59). Creation, therefore, cannot be by chance because Allah is the Creator who is also a Master Planner who Knows All. Allah is indeed the Best Creator. The term “الْأَزْوَاجُ”, plural for “زوج” which means “pairs, partners” and the word “زَوْجَيْنِ” and “زوج” are mentioned many times in the Quran. For example, in QS Adz-Dzariat, 51: 49, Allah says:

وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

“And of everything We have created pairs that you may be mindful.”

In QS Yasin, 36:36 again is mentioned:

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنْبِثُ الْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“Glory be to Him Who created pairs of all things, of what the earth grows, and of their kind and what they do not know,”

Abdullah Yusof Ali in note 5025 item (3) says, “All things are in twos: sex in animals and plants, by which one individual is complementary to another; in the subtle forces of nature. Day and Night, positive and negative electricity, forces of attraction and repulsion: and numerous other opposites, each fulfilling its purpose, and contributing to the working of God’s Universe; and in the moral and spiritual world. Love and Aversion, Mercy and Justice, Striving and Rest, etc. Everything He creates balances the other. Everything has its counterpart, its pair, its complement, except Allah who is One.

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ لِلَّهِ الصَّمَدُ قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

“Allah is He on Whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And none is like Him,” (QS Al-Ikhlās, 112: 1-4).

The life of human beings began with the creation of Adam and Hawwa (Eve). The Quran describes how Allah created Adam [عليه السلام] (Refer QS Al-Hijr, 15: 26). Although the creation of Eve is not described in as much detail, the Quran does make it clear that a “mate” was created with Adam, from the same nature and soul.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَجَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا لِيَسْكُنَ إِلَيْهَا

“He it is Who created you from a single being, and of the same (kind) did He make his mate, that he might be inclined to her,” (QS Al-A’raf, 7: 189).

The Great Floods destroyed the community of Adam [عليه السلام] and his generations up to Noah [عليه السلام]. The Quran describes the plight of Prophet Noah [عليه السلام] who tried for 950 years to spread Allah’s words day and night to his people. Sadly, Noah [عليه السلام] was only able to convince a few. Consequently, Noah [عليه السلام] was commanded to build the Ark under Allah’s instructions despite being jeered at by the disbelievers.

According to Qatadah, when the time came, there were 80 people in the Ark including Noah [عليه السلام] and his wife, three of his sons and their wives. Noah [عليه السلام] was also said to have brought with him the remains of Prophet Adam [عليه السلام] (Ibnul Asir Al-Jazari, *Al-Kamil fit Tarikhi*, Vol.1: 56-57). Noah a.s. was instructed to “Load therein two of every kind, a pair (the male and female) (QS Hud, 11: 40). According to Al-Jazari, Prophet Noah [عليه السلام] placed the birds in the lowest deck, wild animals on the second and members of his family and entourage on the topmost deck of the Ark. After the Great Floods, generations of human beings after Prophet Noah [عليه السلام] have continued to inhabit the earth.

Wisdom of the Quran

Quran informs man sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. Everything takes place in the Quran in various degrees and in terms of their values. Everything concerning man, the past and future, whole branches of science and wisdom; and also the whole of the civilization wonders take place in the Quran as seeds and abstracts (Askaquestionto.us, 2009).

In Allah’s first revelation to Rasulullah s.a.w., Jibrail a.s. said to him, “اقْرَأْ!” meaning “Read” – to know, discover, think, explore, gain knowledge. Knowledge is indeed power. As Allah emphasised:

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“Are those who know equal with those who know not? But only men of understanding will pay heed,” (QS Az-Zumar, 39: 9).

However, human beings (the gays, lesbians and bisexuals) who stray from Allah’s straight path and look for sexual relationships between members of the same sex expose themselves to extreme risks of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), physical injuries, mental disorders (including depression and drug abuse) and even lose up to 20 years of life expectancy (Perrin et al., 2002) not excluding Allah’s wrath on earth and the hereafter.

Pairs that Grow from Soil

Creations by Allah in pairs such as in the plant kingdom has only been reported in as late as 1694 by Rudolf Jacob (Dodge, 2019). People who lived during the revelation of the Quran were not aware that plants too have male and female gender distinctions.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَدَّ الْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رِوَاسِيَ وَأَنْهَارًا وَمِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ

“And He it is Who spread the earth and made in it firm mountains and rivers, and of all fruits He has made in it two kinds,” (QS Ar-Ra’d, 13: 3).

وَفِي الْأَرْضِ قِطْعٌ مُتَجَاوِرَاتٌ وَجَنَّاتٌ مِنْ أَعْنَابٍ وَزَرْعٌ وَنَخِيلٌ صِنَوَانٌ وَغَيْرُ صِنَوَانٍ يُسْقَى بِمَاءٍ وَاحِدٍ نَفْصًا
بَعْضُهَا عَلَى بَعْضٍ فِي الْأَكْلِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

“...in the earth there are tracts side by side and gardens of grapes and corn and palm trees having on root and (others) having distinct roots—they are watered with one water, and We make some of them excel others in fruit; most surely there are signs in this for a people who understand,” (QS Ar-Ra’d, 13: 4).

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَسَلَكَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِنْ نَبَاتٍ شَتَّى

“Who made the earth for you an expanse and made for you therein paths and sent down water from the cloud; then thereby We have brought forth many species of various herbs,” (QS Taha, 20: 53).

وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى

“And that He created pairs, the male and the female. From a drop of [seminal] fluid when emitted,” (QS An-Najm, 53: 45-46).

فِيهِمَا مِنْ كُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ زَوْجَانِ

“In both of them are two parts of every fruit,” (QS Ar-Rahman, 55: 52).

فِيهِمَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَنَخْلٌ وَرُمَانٌ

“In both are fruits and palms and pomegranates,” (QS Ar-Rahman, 55: 68)

The stage preceding fruit is the flower, which has stamens and ovules, the male and female organs. Once the lower is pollinated by the wind, birds, insects and other carriers, the flowers bear fruits, the end product of reproduction of the superior plants. In certain species, fruit can also come from non-fertilized flowers, such as bananas, certain types of pineapples, figs, oranges, vines and so on (Questionsonislam.com., 2016).

وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى

“And that He created pairs, the male and female,” (QS An-Najm, 53: 45)

فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى

“Then He made of him two kinds, the male and the female,” (QS Al-Qiyama, 75: 39).

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى

“And the creating of the male and the female” (QS Al-Lail, 92: 3).

Pairs Created from Their Own Selves and from Things We Do Not Know

Researchers on the structure of the atom have discovered that creation in pairs is also valid for the smallest particles of atom. “A proton has its pair, anti-proton; an electron is coupled with a positron”, and a neutron possesses an anti-neutron”. Matter also has a pair called anti-matter (Questionsonislam.com., 2016). Quoting Miller (2014),

“Unlike sexual reproduction, which requires genetic material from two parent organisms in order to create an offspring, asexual reproduction occurs when a single organism reproduces without the genetic input of another. Because of this, a single

individual organism is able to produce a nearly exact copy of itself. Asexual reproduction is common among living things and takes a variety of forms”.

Miller (2014) identifies all bacteria as examples of single-celled organisms that rely on binary fission to reproduce themselves. Many species of annelids (worms) reproduce via an asexual process called fragmentation. Another example of organisms that reproduce asexually are the hydras which develop small, genetically identical polyps that break off from the parent to form a new organism in a process called “budding”. Parthenogenesis, literally “virgin birth” has also been observed in several species of reptiles, birds and sharks, and is said to be common in insects. Miller (2014) also identified many plants that reproduce asexually through vegetative propagation which can occur naturally or artificially produced.

Wisdom of the Pairing

Allah SWT has created the universe in mixed format that is: the good appears in the bad and bad appears in the good. Thus, quoting Nursi (2002),

“The confrontation and interpenetration of good and evil in the universe, and pain and pleasure, light and darkness, heat and cold, beauty and ugliness, and guidance and misguidance are for a vast instance of wisdom. For if there were no evil, good would not be known. If there were no pain, pleasure would not be understood. Light without darkness would lack all importance. The degrees of heat are realized through cold. Through ugliness, a single instance of beauty becomes a thousand in-stances, and thousands of varying degrees of beauty come into existence. If there were no Hell, many of the pleasures of Paradise would remain concealed. By analogy with these, in one respect everything may be known through its opposite and a single truth produce numerous shoots and become numerous truths. Since these intermingled beings pour from this transitory realm into the eternal realm, surely just as things like good, pleasure, light, beauty, and belief are poured into Paradise; so harmful matters like evil, pain, darkness, ugliness, and disbelief flow into Hell, and the floods of this continuously agitated universe are emptied into those two pools”

If we look at the above statement we can see that Allah SWT creates universe in a unique format in order to distinguish reality from falsehood. At the same time we can also see that Allah SWT creates the pairs but Allah is unique and only one. The question here is, what will happen if there are other Creators other than Allah. The answer as in the Quran: If the Creator is Eternal and Everlasting, then His attributes must also be eternal and everlasting. He should not lose any of His attributes nor acquire new ones. If this is so, then His attributes are absolute. Can there be, for example, two absolutely powerful Creators? A moment’s thought shows that this is not feasible. The Quran summarizes this argument in the following verses:

مَا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ مِنْ وَلَدٍ وَمَا كَانَ مَعَهُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِذَا لَذَهَبَ كُلُّ إِلَهٍ بِمَا خَلَقَ وَلَعَلَّ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ

“God has not taken to Himself, nor is there any God with Him: For then each god would have taken of that which he created and some of them would have risen up over others,” (QS Al-Mukminun, 23: 91).

Suppose that there were two different Gods, say the God of flowers and the God of sea stars. Since everything in this universe manifests most of the names of God, the Creator of a flower must share the same names with Creator of sea stars. In particular, both creators must be ultimately powerful. Thus, any simple disagreement between these creators would result in uncontrollable chaos and turmoil in this universe. Hence, the order and harmony seen in this world despite its complexity defies polytheism as well. Imagine what would happen if there were two rulers in the same country, two principles in one school, two captains in one army, and so on, (Nursi, 2009). The following is a verse from the Noble Qur’an:

لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ

“If there were, in the heavens and the earth, other gods besides Allah, there would have been confusion in both! But glory to Allah, the Lord of the Throne: (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!” (QS Al-Anbiyaa, 21: 22).

CONCLUSION

As science progresses and develops, many other mysteries of the Quran are revealed to the thinking man. As Badiuzzaman Said Nursi said, “As time grows older, the Quran grows younger.”. In other words, with new scientific discoveries, man attains a deeper level of understanding of his environment, an enhanced knowledge of Allah’s creations and an even greater love for the Quran.

“O people! Be careful of (your duty to) your Lord, Who created you from a single being and created its mate of the same (kind) and spread from these two, many men and women; and be careful of (your duty to) Allah, by Whom you demand one of another (your rights), and (to) the ties of relationships; surely Allah ever watches over you” (QS An-Nisaa, 4:1)

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