

United Submitters International

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The Occurrence of the Word "God" (Allah) in the Quran

One aspect of the superhuman mathematical composition of the Quran based on the number 19 is the occurrence of the word "God" (Allah) in its numbered verses. For example, the word "God" occurs in the Quran 2,698 times, 19x142. Furthermore, the numbers of the verses where the word "God" occurs add up to 118,123, also a multiple of 19 (19x6217).

There are also other mathematical facts related to the occurrence of the word "God." Please refer to Appendix 1 of QURAN: The Final Testament, Authorized English Version, Translated by Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D., for further information.

Recently, our sister Katerina Kullman from Sweden discovered another aspect of the mathematical composition of the word "God" in the Quran. Her discovery can be summarized as follows.

Let us start looking at the occurrence of the word "God" in each verse from the beginning of the Quran. Let us represent each verse that contains the word "God" with 1, and represent any verse that does not contain "God" with 0. We write down 1's and 0's for each numbered verse from the beginning of the Quran to the end, without any spaces in between. The result would look like this

11 0000000000 1111 0000 1 0 1 0 11 0 ...

In the above series of 1' and 0's, the first two 1's represent the first two verses of Chapter 1 which have the word "God" in them. Then, the next eleven 0's in a row represent the last five verses of Chapter 1, and the first six verses of Chapter 2, which do not have the word "God" in them, and so on. We complete this numbering system for the entire Quran.

Based on this, the number of times we alternate from 1 to 0, or vice versa is exactly 1,520 (19x80). Explaining in another way, we can say that there are 760 groups of 1's, and 760 groups of 0's (760 = 19x40).

The importance of this discovery is increased by the fact that the above phenomenon would not be valid if the two false verses were included in the Quran. One of the false verses (9:128) does not have the word "God," whereas the other one (9:129) does. This adds an extra count of grouping of the verses, making the total 1,521 instead of 1,520 which is not a multiple of 19. We congratulate Katerina for her discovery. May God bless her. All praise is due to God, the Almighty.

Submitters Perspective

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QURAN

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by
Rashad Khalifa, Ph.D.

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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The Abortion Controversy

An abortion is the expulsion of a baby from the womb before it is sufficiently developed to survive. It can be a) elective — meaning that the mother elects to end the pregnancy, or b) spontaneous — meaning that the forces of nature have caused her to lose it (miscarriage). We shall, of course, confine ourselves to "elective" abortion, which shall henceforth be referred to only as "abortion."

Abortion is the most frequently performed surgery in the world. About 1.6 million abortions per year are performed in the United States alone.

The issue of abortion is as old as civilization. Questions, such as when does life begin, have been asked for centuries. With advancing genetic technology in the past several years, and the advent of transvaginal sonography (visualization of the uterus and surrounding structures through an ultrasonic probe placed in the vagina), we now have strong scientific proof that life starts at conception.

It is amazing that the Quran, revealed 1400 years ago, is so accurate in its description of the process of creation and development of the human being. The words that the Quran uses are unbelievably simple to understand. "Nutf," or "drop," to explain a fertilized egg; "alaq," or "hanging," to describe the embryo hanging from the wall of the uterus — six or seven days after fertilization (conception); "mudga" for a fetus and "garaarin makeen" or "safe place" for the uterus. The explanations are so accurate and so clear that you might as well be reading a textbook of embryology.

As submitters who have the pure Quran for the first time, we have an awesome duty to educate ourselves and become knowledgeable on this issue, so we can factually discuss and explain it to our children and our peers.

It is important to understand some basic terminology before we proceed.

A human being's genetic material is composed of 46 chromosomes. Each chromosome contains a specific number of genes. Two of these chromosomes determine the sex of the child. Each parent gives 23 chromosomes to the child, the mother through the egg from her ovaries (called an oocyte), and the father through his sperm. At conception, the oocyte is penetrated by the sperm and forms a "zygote" which contains 46 chromosomes. The sex of the child is determined at this time. Looking at the two chromosomes that determine the sex, the oocyte has only "X" type chromosomes while the sperm can have either "X" or "Y" chromosomes. If the fertilization occurs with an "X" from the sperm, the zygote will have two "X" chromosomes (one from the mother and one from the father), and the child will be a girl. If fertilization occurs with a "Y" chromosome from the sperm, the zygote will have an "X" and a "Y" chromosome and will develop into a boy. So the gender depends on the father's sperm, just as the Quran tells us (75:37).

Ovulation (release of the oocyte from the ovary) normally takes place on the 14th or 15th day of a typical 28-30 day menstrual cycle. Fertilization occurs in the tube which connects the mother's ovary with her uterus, and the fertilized egg now

contains the 46 chromosomes and floats freely in the tube. It is called a zygote. Male or female, it looks exactly like a "drop" under the microscope.

Within five to seven days the "drop" moves to the uterine cavity, becomes attached to the wall of the uterus, and starts "hanging" from it. The diagram on the next page represents the sequence of events.

At 18 days after conception (e.g., if the mother's period started on November 1, and conception took place on November 14 or 15, then the 18th day is December 3), the heart is not only formed, but pumping blood through the body. The pulsating heart and the embryo's movement can be demonstrated very clearly by transvaginal ultrasound (by December 6 or 7), at a time when the woman is hardly conscious of the fact that she has missed her period. Within two more weeks, still an embryo, the child has arms and legs, a brain, and has multiplied in size 10,000 times, only six weeks (December 29-30) after conception! At just 40 days after conception, the child's brain waves can be recorded.

By 42 days, the skeleton is formed and the brain is controlling the movements of muscles and organs. The unborn child reflexively responds to stimulus. All of this before the earliest abortions take place!

What do we call it when a person no longer has a heart beat or brain waves? Death. What should we call it when there is a heart beat and there are brain waves?

continued

Life. It is an indisputable scientific fact that each and every abortion stops a beating heart and already measurable brain waves.

"O people, if you have any doubt about resurrection, (remember that) we created you from dust, and subsequently from a tiny drop, which turns into a hanging (embryo), then it becomes a fetus that is given life or deemed lifeless. We thus clarify things for you. We settle in the wombs whatever we will for a predetermined period. We then bring you out as infants, then you reach maturity. While some of you die young, others live to the worst age, only to find out that no more knowledge can be attained beyond a certain limit ..." (22:5)

God obviously does not discriminate depending on the place of residence of the human. To God, a person is a person whether he/she is in the uterus (the initial place of residence) or outside of it. He is simply describing the first stages of creation of every human being from the point of conception, and explaining that this human can die while still in the uterus, at any point in time, or be born and die outside of the uterus, at any point in time. At no point in the uterus is it any "less" of a human than outside of it. It might not look like a typical human, but in the correct scientific sense he/she is every bit as human as any older child or adult. In the following verses of the Quran, reference is made to a child without differentiating whether the child is inside or outside the womb:

We enjoined the human being to honor his parents. His mother bore him arduously, gave birth to him arduously, and took intimate care of him for thirty months . . . (46:15)

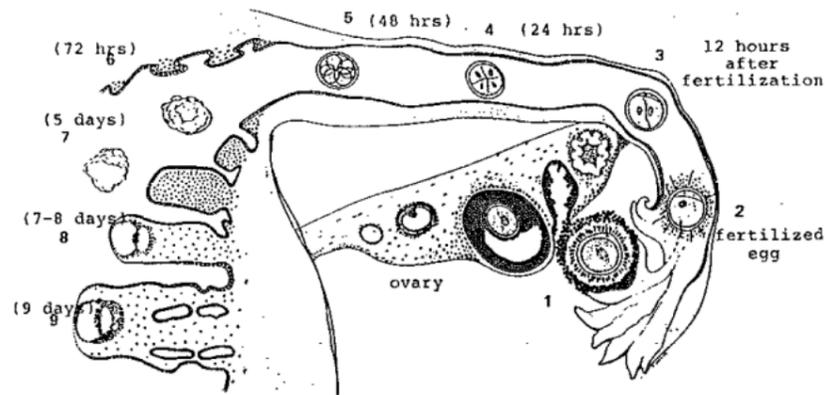
We enjoined the human being to honor his parents. His mother bore him, and the load got heavier and heavier . . . (31:14)

"You shall not kill your children due to fear of poverty. We provide for them, as well as for you. Killing them is a gross offense." (17:31, 6:151)

With the knowledge that we now have, it is imperative that we understand the last verse clearly. God is stating that abortion is murder and therefore a gross offense.

Finally, something from the Bible. The prophet David had this to say in Psalms 51:5.

"Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."



Schematic representation of events of ovulation, fertilization, and implantation. (After Dickinson RL: Human Sex Anatomy, 2nd ed. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1949)

And again in Psalm 139:13-16, "You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your workmanship is marvelous. I know that full well. You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion. Your eyes saw my unformed body. You scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your book."

Reading these Psalms, which were revealed to David before the revelation of the Quran, reinforces the fact that God's laws, and therefore His system, are unchangeable. Every facet is covered clearly, leaving no room for doubt.

ARGUMENTS FOR ABORTION ANSWERED

1. It is uncertain when the soul comes into the body. Therefore, up to a certain time, abortion is all right.

God has assigned a soul for each human. A certain, definite number of humans are going to come to the earth and be tested, and they already have souls that are assigned to them. God talks about creating the human from "clay" or "dust" and then from a drop. This human already has a soul assigned. The point to understand and emphasize is not when this assigned soul comes to the body (it is already assigned), but what constitutes "life." Living in this world of matter, we have a "life span" (during which we need to redeem ourselves). We do not have a "soul span." The assigned soul cannot die and is eternal. So, in discussing abortion, in which you commit the act of murdering the body, you are basically stating that the assigned soul is released and "alive and well" at God.

We can continue the discussion for the sake of debate, and say that we are uncertain as to when the soul gets assigned. Suppose you are driving at night and you think that the dark figure ahead on the road may be a child, or the shadow of a tree. Do you drive into it, or do you put on the brakes? Shouldn't we give the benefit of the doubt to life? Otherwise, we are saying, "this may or may not have a soul, therefore it is all right to destroy it."

2. It is uncertain when human life begins.

This is not true. Medical text books and scientific reference works consistently agree that human life begins at conception. (a) Dr. Keith L. Moore's text on embryology, referring to the single cell zygote, says "The cell results from fertilization of an oocyte by a sperm and is the beginning of a human being." He also states that each one of us started life as a cell called a zygote. (b) Dr. Louis Fridhanler, in the textbook "Biology of Gestation" refers to fertilization as "that wondrous moment that marks the beginning of a new life." (c) Professor Hymie Gordon of the Mayo Clinic in an article states "By all the criteria of molecular biology, life is present from the moment of conception." (d) The International Symposium on Abortion, after exhaustive review of data by geneticists, embryologists and pathologists, released the following statement: "The changes occurring between implantation, a six-week embryo, a six-month fetus, a one-week old child, and a mature adult are merely stages of development and maturation."

Please read 22:5, 23:12-14, 40:67, 31:14, 46:15, Psalms 139:13-16, and Psalms 51:5.

continued

3. The fetus is just a part of the pregnant woman's body, like her tonsils or appendix.

Genetically, this has been proven untrue for several years now. Every cell in the mother's tonsils, appendix, heart, lungs, etc., share the same genetic code or 46 chromosomes. The unborn child also has a genetic code on its 46 chromosomes that is distinctly different from the mother. Every cell of his body is uniquely his, each one different than every cell of his mother's body. Often, the blood type is different, and about half the time the gender is different.

Dr. John David, a leading geneticist states, "It is a well established fact that a genetically distinct human being is brought into existence at conception. The

zygote has 46 chromosomes genetically distinct from the mother and the father. The newly conceived individual possesses all the necessary information for a self-directed development. Like a toddler and adolescent, the terms 'embryo' and 'fetus' do not refer to non-humans, but to humans at particular stages of development."

4. What about a woman who is pregnant due to rape or incest. Can she have an abortion?

Pregnancy due to rape is extremely rare. If hormones are given within 24 hours of rape, ovulation can be prevented, thus fertilization is avoided. God did not specify rape as being an excuse for murder. A child is a child, regardless of his/her conception.

5. What about a woman whose life is threatened by pregnancy or childbirth?

God has not specified this situation either, thereby compelling us to use the common sense He gave us. When two lives are threatened and only one can be saved, doctors must always save that life, otherwise, both will be lost.

6. What about a woman whose unborn baby is diagnosed as deformed or handicapped?

"The blind is not to be blamed, the crippled is not to be blamed, nor the handicapped is to be blamed." (24:61)

Obviously, He expects them to live!

Shakira Karipineni, M.D.

The month of Ramadan: When to observe fasting?

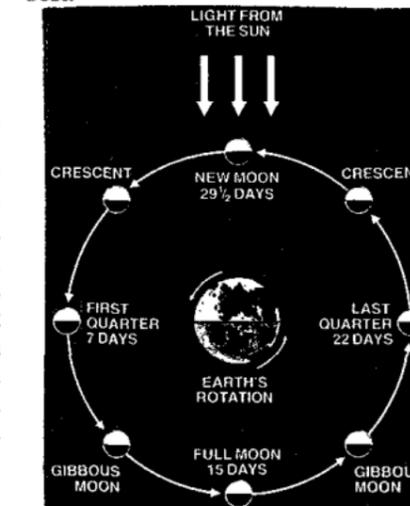
Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. (2:185)

... You may eat and drink until the white thread of light becomes distinguishable from the dark thread of light at dawn. Then, you shall fast until sunset ... (2:187)

Ramadan is one of the lunar months. A lunar month is approximately 29 and 1/2 days, which is the time it takes for the moon to orbit the earth. Because a lunar month is, on the average, one day shorter than a solar month, a lunar year is 10-12 days shorter than a solar year. Therefore, the month of Ramadan comes 10-12 days earlier each year. This way we get to fast when the days are very warm and long in summer as well as when they are cool and short in winter time. This beautiful design by God is also a test for us to see if we will fast regardless of the length or temperature of the days of Ramadan.

The beginning of a new lunar month is the moment, during the moon's orbit around the earth, when the moon is in conjunction with the sun, with the sun's light hitting the side of the moon away from the earth (see the diagram). In this position, the moon is said to be a "new moon," with its dark side turned toward the earth. By definition, a new moon is not visible from the earth as the sun's light is shining only on the side of the moon not facing the earth.

As the moon continues to orbit around the earth, it starts forming a crescent. This will be minutes after the new moon even though the crescent will not be visible for several hours. In some traditional Islamic countries, Muslims do not start fasting until they can see the crescent in the sky. In those countries people who sight the crescent first may also be rewarded. To get the reward, some people camp on hilltops where the visibility will be the best.



God gave us the scientific knowledge to determine exactly when a lunar month will begin and end. Any observatory or astronomy center should have that information for your area. To determine when you should start fasting, compare the time of dawn (more specifically, the time when the white thread of light becomes distinguishable from the dark thread of light at dawn, in Arabic, "Fajr").

Beginning of fasting: If the lunar month of Ramadan begins after dawn (Fajr) on one day, you fast the following day. Otherwise, you start fasting that day.

End of fasting: If the lunar month ends after dawn of one day, then you fast that day. You should continue fasting throughout the day. If the lunar month ends before dawn, then the fasting ends at the sunset of the previous day. Ramadan is over.

For Tucson, and almost everywhere on the American continent, the beginning and ending of Ramadan are February 22nd, and March 22nd, respectively. People in Europe and the Middle East will fast an additional day on March 23rd. Please verify this information for your area.

The Night of Destiny or Power (in Arabic, "Layl-al-Qadr):

This is the night in which the Quran was revealed to prophet Muhammad. According to historical records, the Night of Destiny is the 27th night of Ramadan. God describes this night as being better than a thousand months. During the Night of Destiny, the angels and the Spirit descend therein, by their Lord's leave, to carry out every command (97:1-5).

The first night of Ramadan starts at the sunset on February 21st since we start fasting on the 22nd. The 27th night of Ramadan is therefore the night of Friday March 19 until dawn the next day.

May God accept our fasting and give us both physical and spiritual strength during the month of Ramadan.

Abdullah Arik/Martha Schulte-Nafeh