

Chapter 10

CONTENTS OF THE FORTHCOMING BOOK

WHAT TO EXPECT

My initial note on 'Why this Book' indicates that this is only an interim effort which will be followed soon, God willing, with the full book having the same title but expanded with much more content.

To provide a better idea of this forthcoming book, I have developed a detailed Table of Contents which provides a closer look into its depth. Most important are the detailed discussions on the part of the Qur'an which shows convincingly that it is so unique a product that it lies well beyond the capabilities of humans to produce even one chapter like it. This is a challenge thrown to all comers which still stands unfulfilled despite some desperate but unsuccessful attempts.

Next, it will identify and discuss facts mentioned in the Qur'an which could not have been known to any one at the time of the Prophet, since science discovered them much later.

Bulk of the points in bullet form have been listed in Chapter 8, the power point presentation, and while all the supporting views of science on the one hand and Qur'an on the other have been collected and studied, they will be updated and then fully developed for the book.

The book will cover the following additional topics:

- Science and religion discourse
- The only two valid sources of information. One is scientific enquiry and the other is authentic revelation
- Creation, i.e. the universe as per the modern cosmological studies compared with what is hinted at in Qur'an
- Areas of knowledge mentioned in the Qur'an and the view point of modern science - similarities

- The reality and attributes of the Almighty Creator and relationship with Creation
- Guidance offered by Qur'an to modern humankind
- Companions and associates of the Prophet, the lessons they hold for us
- Qur'anic perspectives of humanity, which has a place of honor in the universe
- Western dominance of the world, its strengths and weaknesses
- Need for transformation of the world and future of mankind
- Conclusion and recommendations

Note: Significant editorial support is required
References need to be added
Relevant Qur'anic *ayahs* have to be inserted
Index and bibliography to be expanded
Connection amongst chapters needs improvement

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE FORTHCOMING BOOK

1. PREFACE
2. INTRODUCTION
3. VALID SOURCES OF INFORMATION
 - Information obtained by the scientific method
 - Revelation, coming from the Creator
 - Skeptics doubts answered, using approach of reason and evidence
4. REASON, EPITOMIZED BY THE METHOD OF SCIENCE
 - What is the scientific method?
 - Dazzling successes of Science
 - Limitations of science came to light via relativity, quantum and chaos theories
5. REVELATION, THE OTHER SOURCE OF INFO
 - Tampered Revelation
 - Genuine, original, unspoilt revelation
 - How to distinguish genuine from tampered Revelation. Use reason!
 - Creator guides his creation through Revelation
 - Revelation began with the creation of the first man
 - Has continued with a succession of Prophets, some we know others we do not
 - Culminated with the last of the Prophets, when humanity had matured
 - To be of real use revelation has to be “Authentic and free of any admixture”
 - Amazing commonalities among revelations - Old Testament, New Testament and The Qur’an on matters of primary concern to mankind
6. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REASON AND REVELATION
 - Could follow any of the following four possibilities, suggested by Ian. G. Barbour

- Conflict – epitomized by “Science discredits Religion” of Richard Dawkins
- Independence – as per “Two separate Dynamics” of Stephen J Gould
- Dialogue – as per “Theology and Scientific Methodology” of Nancy Murphy
- Integration – as per Process Theology of Alfred North Whitehead. See, *Philosophy and Religion* by Michael Peterson et al. (BL 51.P545) at Union Seminary Library, Columbia, NY

7. CREATION

- The Universe, vast and complex. Amazing properties
- Gradual Evolution in stages, but with a design and purpose, i.e. different from materialistic evolutionary concepts.
- Development continues after death “*Wa nafakha fi Ruhe-hi*”
- Created by divine will and design, works according to universal laws, which operate not only in the physical, but also in the moral planes. “*You will not find any fault therein*” (Qur’an) “*Your gaze will come back fatigued*”
- Evolutionary development of the universe, appearance of life and the rise of man
- Continuation of evolution after death. Increase in degrees of freedom is the hallmark of evolutionary growth

8. THE CREATOR

- God, *Allah, Rabb*--totally above and beyond human comprehension
- Evidence of existence of the Creator can be found in the universe, in the history of nations, and in ourselves
- However no absolute proofs given, since that would take away man’s freedom of choice, which is a fundamental part of The Creator’s design
- Knowledge about Creator and the Hereafter can only come through top down revelation

9. THE QUR'AN

- Guidance for mankind, without which mankind can never achieve its full potential
- “Taught man what he knew not, and taught by the Pen”
- Uniqueness of Qur'an and its prophesies
- Criteria of the truth of revelations
- What Qur'an says about itself and its distinctive features
- Uniqueness of Arabic – the language of the Qur'an, most modern language of its time
- Significant teachings of the Qur'an
- Its relevance for the postmodern world
- Tips to facilitate proper study and understanding of the Qur'an

10. Areas of Knowledge Mentioned in the Qur'an

- Cosmology and astronomy
- Deep seas and oceans
- Geology
- Iron
- Growth of the embryo
- Fetus and its development
- Creation of mankind
- Marine phenomenon
- Creation and role of mountains
- New diseases
- Qur'an and skin
- Sensory characteristics
- Fingerprinting
- Qur'an and clouds
- Qur'an and cerebrum
- Slaughter of animals

11. Guidance Offered by Qur'an to Modern Man

- Brotherhood of man
- Rule of law, even in war
- Importance of witnessing. You shall speak the truth, even if it be against yourself, or your friends and loved ones
- Importance of fair dealings (*Muamlat*)
- Status and role of women
- Attitudes towards sex
- Prohibition of *Khumr* and *Maisir* (not merely drinking and gambling)
- Economics, private ownership allowed, but as a trustee and not as absolute owner

12. Prophet Muhammad, Bearer of the Qur'an

- Exemplar *par excellence*, unequalled in the human race
- Lived in the full limelight of history
- Revolutionary and unique successes and services to mankind, at minimum cost to human life
- What many non-muslim scholars have to say about the Prophet

13. Companions and Associates of the Prophet

- They were the products of Qur'anic values, not the Muslims of today
- Arabia became a nursery of heroes, never seen before

14. Mankind - "*Insaan*"

- Consists of both a body and a soul
- Vicegerent of God on earth, *Masjud-i-Malaik*, *Ashraf-ul-Makhlukat*
- Value of Man, in economic and in engineering terms
- Literally a child of the stars
- Has an honored place in the universe
- Development continues after death

15. Hereafter

- Next stage in evolution
- Man cannot learn about it through use of reason alone or the scientific method
- Lies outside the capabilities of human reason and understanding
- Knowledge of hereafter can only be learnt through top down divine revelation
- It is the part of life that really matters and counts

16. Rationality, Science and the Scientific Method

- The scientific method
- Strengths and limitations of science
- Significant differences from plain common sense
- Popper's falsification criteria as a test
- Scientific method is the most powerful method of understanding, but not all powerful
- Deleterious (unwanted) side effects of the powerful scientific method

17. Rationality and Revelation

- Complementary and not really contradictory
- Best results when both work together
- Can be likened to relationship of human eye and light, both needed equally to see

18. Western Dominance of the Entire World

- Strengths of the west
- Weaknesses of the west

19. Transformation of our World

- Fast becoming one global commons
- Increasing technological capability with massive exponential growth in population
- Leading to loss of self regulatory control by mother

earth(Gaia)

- Hence, the need for move towards a universal system. One world – one Creator – one set of guiding principles/law which has necessarily to be based on divine guidance

20. Future of Mankind

- World will invariably be drawn towards the Creators design
- Future of mankind
- This will not be by force or compulsion, but by a natural process, like water flowing downhill
- Success or leadership will automatically go to the group with belief and practice in closest conformity with the Creator's design and laws
- This is no back-handed attempt to propagate muslim cause. Muslims of today have abandoned revelation. It is rather recognition of the superiority of divine guidance applied through rational understanding – the optimum combination to bring about paradise on earth for all of God's creation.

21. Conclusion

- There can be no conflict between the work of God that is the universe, and the word of God, i.e., the genuine revelation Qur'an. Both must work together if mankind is to develop its full potential
- Honored place of man in the universe, which we need to recognize to value ourselves and all others
- Destiny of man, the ultimate goal on which we all need to focus our attention

22. Recommendations

- To establish an independent, objective think tank to take a systematic look, based on reason and professionalism, at all that claims to be revelation, to sift out the genuine from the man made and to present it for adoption by mankind
- Strengthen the UN system and make it more people-oriented, instead of the current state representation

- UN must have own source of funds in addition to national contributions, which should keep growing with time to make UN increasingly self sufficient
- UN to develop own quick reaction security/ intervention capability
- UN and International bodies such as World Bank/International Monetary Fund to be made more equitable and independent
- UN to get a kind of “Board”, call it a “Council of the Sages” which advises the Secretary General and acts as a counter weight, when need be, to the Security Council
- Assist developing countries to help themselves through more equitable/favorable international trade laws and technology transfer/patent laws. The economic disparities of the world population especially the north – south ones must be addressed quickly
- Make the world environment sustainable for the future generations