

## **A REVIEW ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION**

Shahin Badpa

*Student Research Committee, Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences, Bandar Abbas, Iran.*

**ABSTRACT:** According to holly Quran and the narratives of the messenger of Allah Islam and science are compatible with each other. Science and Islam can be discussed from two dimensions, social and religious. At first we must see, whether people can be a devout Muslim and do the religion acts, and also be committed to science? The aim of this study was to review some viewpoints of religion and science and to show whether they have any conflict with each other or not.

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to holly Quran and the narratives of the messenger of Allah Islam and science are compatible with each other. But there are groups who want to separate between religion and science to cover their fault or to excuse any of their actions (1).

Learning science has no time limits or borders. Muslims have to learn the useful science in anywhere else, even in the farthest point of the world. Islam begins with monotheism and that is a matter of reasoning (2).

Quran invites human to profound experiences in all universe even swear to tangible and natural objects to emphasize the importance of science. The main task of humanity was carried out by Muslims like Farabi Abu Kamel and Ibrahim ibn Sina. Thus Muslims have to learn all the science that is Introduction to reach Islamic goals, a rich, independent, free, and strong society (3, 4).

### **ISLAM AND SCIENCE**

Science and Islam can be discussed from two dimensions, social and religious. At first we must see, whether people can be a devout Muslim and do the religion acts, and also be committed to science? Or one of these two has to be selected? Whether Islam is compatible with science and whether Islam recommends learning the science or considers it as an enemy?

Basically two groups of people trying to show that science and religion are in conflict with each other (5-9):

- 1- The religious groups that use the ignorance of people to conceal their fault and by the weapon of religion want to conflict with

science and remove the scientists from the scene.

- 2- The other groups of people who are educated, put ethical and religious commitments aside and to be able to justify and to excuse any action, try to take a separation between religion and science.
- 3- There are a third group who are scientist and also religious who are trying to clear all the drawbacks that have been struck on the face of Islam.

Besides the Holy Quran, there are several narratives that emphasize and recommend science, and the most famous of them are from the Prophet of Mercy Muhammad (PBUH) that says: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslims (man and woman)". And in another narrative he said: seek knowledge even in China. Also, we have heard the famous hadith, "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave" indicates that learning science, has no limited time (10).

According to Islam, seeking knowledge is an obligation that does not have special location .

Now the question is what should be taught in science? Is the purpose of learning knowledge to learn religion itself? But the problem is still remained, and not informed about the facts of the universe, and if it is so, means that Islam is incompatible with science, and in this case what means the hadith of the Prophet that says "Wisdom is the lost of Momin," Or "seek knowledge even in China" Because in that time China was known as the farthest point of science and technology center not religious center (seminary) (11, 12).

In the words of the Prophet (SAW), the purpose of science is the useful science. Means, knowing it, is beneficial to humans life, and not knowing, makes

## **Badpa**

damages to him, this knowledge is advised and encouraged in Islam (13).

Based on Islam, useful knowledge will lead people to personal and social goals and disagrees to any science that is not beneficial. Holy Quran describes science as light and ignorance to darkness, and many times recommend people to studying and thinking that lead them to the science of astronomy, geology, oceanography, space science, zoology, etc (14).

Allah says in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 164: In the creation of the heavens and the earth, In the swirl of night and day, The motion of the ship on the water that human uses it, The rainfall that causes the life on Earth, Animals that move on earth, Winds, And the mode of clouds that are suspended between earth and sky, In all these, there is the signs of God's power and wisdom, that all, have a rules and identifying this rules will lead human to unity (15).

In Surah Jasia verse 2 and verse 27 of Surah Fater and many other verses, Quran invites human to profound experience. Even swear to tangible and natural objects, says about the sky and the stars and the aurora, speaks about the creation of the unborn child, recalled creation of camel, Notices living of ants and bees; refers to how birds fly, speaks about burst of seeds , wheats , dates , figs and olives, why? For the people think how the creations came into existence and do not simply neglect any phenomenon and any inventory (16).

The first words that holy Quran begins with, when it was revealed, was" reading", "science" and "aurora ". "Read in the name of Allah, that created man from a clot; Read, and your Lord is the most generous, who taught by the pen" (17).

The holy Quran clearly knows teaching as one of the purposes of the mission of the Prophet (PBUH) And said, " Allah is the one who sent a messenger among the illiterate people that recites his signs to them and purifies and teaches them the book(Quran) and wisdom".

Given that one of the goals of mission of the Holy Prophet is teaching and learning, he has repeatedly emphasized the importance of science and Learning and its role in the evolution of humans life in his speech and his behavior.

Has quoted that the Prophet (PBUH) saw two groups in the Mosque, one of them had been praying and the other engaged in negotiations and discussions. The prophet preferred to join the second group instead of worshipers group, and he said about his behavior: "I am sent to teach".

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged his followers to acquire knowledge. Children of the

companions forced to learn literacy, commanded to some of his followers to learn the Syriac language. These emphasis and encouragement on science led Muslims began quickly and with great effort to search for knowledge in the whole world, wherever they gained scholarly work and translated them or they did researches themselves. In this way, In addition, they communicate between ancient civilizations Greek, Roman, Egyptian , Persian and Hindi, etc. and modern European civilization, they also created one of the most glorious civilizations and cultures in human history which is known by the name of Islamic civilization.

Allah says in the Quran: Say: are those who know and those who do not know, equal"? Only wise men are reminiscent.

Studies show that during fourteen century of the rise of Islam and the Quran, science was in progress and evolution and in recent years the progress has even been a leap. Over the centuries, Muslims made a lot of progress in science, industry, philosophy, law, ethics, political and social system that the western scientists admit their progress, that current civilization of Europe and the west has stemmed from them more than anything else.

When we study the history , we see, a huge wave of civilization emerged by anonymous nation( Arab) in the world. More than half of the frequented lands of the time was under their influence, and so that left trace that any researcher of philosophy of history can't ignore its greatness and influence in the rise of the next civilization.

Jawaharlal Nehru writes in his book : It is amazing that over the centuries the Arab race ,spent as unconsciousness, apparently was isolated and unaware of what was happening in other areas , Suddenly woke up and with prodigious strength, threatens the world and changed it. Energy and the new idea that woke the Arabs up, and filled them of confidence and strength, was Islam .This new religion was brought by a prophet called (Muhammad) born in Mecca in the year 570 AD.

Bernard Shaw, English writer and scholar, says: I always have the utmost respect for the religion of Muhammad, by virtue of amazing dynamics.

I think Islam is the only religion that has the ability to adapt and dominate different situation. I have studied about this wonderful man (the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and I have come to this conclusion that, he was not anti-Christ, but must be called the Savior of Humanity.

I believe that if a man like him be ruler of the world , will succeed in solving the problems of the world and will provide peace and prosperity that all human beings desire to have it (18).

Will Durant writes: The rise and decline of Islamic civilization is a great event. during five centuries since (81 to 597 AD) Islam was the leader of the world in terms of power, order, extend of territory, good ethics, evolution of life, human fair rules, religious toleration, literature, scientific research, medicine and philosophy (19).

Pierre Rousseau says: Three centuries after the Prophet's death, Cordoba(قرطبه) city with a million people had eight public schools, and a library containing six hundred thousand volumes of books in Arabic and in the language of the universe (20).

Sigrid Hunke writes about libraries that Muslims created (21):

1. Library of Cordoba, 600,000 volumes
  2. Library of Maragheh observatory by Khajeh Nasir Tusi, 40,000 volumes
  3. Library of Najaf in the tenth century AD, 40,000 volumes
  4. A Library with 100000 volumes of books, on the time of one of the Caliphs of Baghdad
  5. Aziz Library, the Caliph of Cairo, with 1600000 volumes of books that had been 6500 volumes on the philosophy and 18000 of mathematics
- George Sarton says: The main task of humanity was carried out by Muslims. The greatest philosopher, Farabi, was a Muslim. The greatest mathematicians, Abu Kamel and Ibrahim ibn Sinan, were Muslims.

The largest geographer, Massoudi, was also a Muslim. The greatest historian, Tabari, was a Muslim too (22).

Islam is a religion of Intellection that begins with monotheism, and the monotheism is a matter of reasoning. The study encompasses the whole universe and these references show that the purpose of Islam is not merely a theological seminary. In between, each groups wanted to adapt the words of the prophet as a string of their own information.

Theologians have argued that the purpose of the word of prophet is the theology. Commentators have said that the purpose is interpretation. Jurists have said that the purpose is the Jurisprudence. Sufis have said that the purpose of the word of prophet is spiritual journey and practical monotheism. Ethics scholars have said the purpose is the ethics. But as the researchers said, none of these is the purpose of the science. If the object was a particular science, Prophet

(PBUH) reiterated to specific knowledge. The intent is any useful knowledge.

Now we shall see what kind religion is Islam? What is the purpose of Islam, and what kind of community wants? What extent is the Islamic purpose? Is Islam only the matter of moral and worship? Or domain and command of this religion has expanded in all aspects of social, economic and political life of human? Or these all are goals that must be met? Whether Islam wants the Muslim community to be independent? Or does not care to be the slave and condemned?

Obviously, The Islam wants an independent, free, proud and self-sufficient community.

Another thing we need to know is, the world today is based on the science, and a rich, independent, free, and strong society cannot be created without science. Thus, we conclude that at any time, especially at this time, it is obligatory upon Muslims to learn all the science that is Introduction to Islamic goals, thus , we can know all the useful science as religious sciences.

## REFERENCES

- Hoodbhoy P. Islam and science: Religious orthodoxy and the battle for rationality: Zed books London; 1991.
- Islam A. The contribution of Muslims to science during the Middle Abbasid Period (750-945). Revelation and science. 2011;1(01).
- MUHAMMAD MI. THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY: CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIMS TO MODERN SCIENCE. 2012.
- Khan HR. Contributions of Muslims to Medicine and Science: Up to the Middle of the Thirteenth Century. Journal of the Islamic Medical Association of North America. 1982;14(4).
- Einstein A, editor. Science and religion 1940: Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion Their Relation to The Democratic Way of Life.
- Numbers RL. Science and religion. Osiris. 1985;59-80.
- Schilling HK. Science and Religion: Routledge. 2013.
- Poole M, Philip Barnes L. Science and religion. Debates in Religious Education. 2012.
- Plantinga A. Where the conflict really lies: Science, religion, and naturalism: Oxford University Press. 2011.
- Islamawarenessnet Science and Math [Internet] 2014 [cited 20 November 2014] Available from:

## **Badpa**

- [http://www.wislamawarenessnet/Maths/science\\_and\\_math.html](http://www.wislamawarenessnet/Maths/science_and_math.html).
- Mansour N. Science teachers' views of science and religion vs. the Islamic perspective: Conflicting or compatible? *Science Education*. 2011;95(2):281-309.
- Mansour N. Consistencies and inconsistencies between science teachers' beliefs and practices. *International Journal of Science Education*. 2013;35(7):1230-75.
- Woodwell GM. On purpose in science, conservation and government: The functional integrity of the earth is at issue not biodiversity. *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*. 2002;31(5):432-6.
- Turner HR. *Science in medieval Islam: an illustrated introduction*: University of Texas Press. 2010.
- Qurancom Surat Al-Baqarah - The Noble Qur'an [Internet] 2014 [cited 20 November 2014] Available from: <http://qurancom/2>.
- Qurancom Surat Fatir - The Noble Qur'an [Internet] 2014 [cited 20 November 2014] Available from: <http://qurancom/35>.
- Qurancom Surat Al-'Alaq - The Noble Qur'an [Internet] 2014 [cited 20 November 2014] Available from: <http://qurancom/96>.
- Deism and thoughts of the day, page 21; Quote from: teachings of sky of Islam, topic of scientific facts in Islam.
- Using the history of civilization, vol 11, p 307222.
- History of Science, translated by Hassan Safari, pp 118 to 120.
- Arab,s sun, shines on west, pg 387.
- Introduction to the History of Science, translated Sadri Afshar, vol 1, p 721