

Seminar: Islam and Engineering 1

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Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Andanastuti Muchtar

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Topic: *“Explain the example of correlation between Religion concept and Science theory. Any statements in holy book to support your explanation? “*



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All of us know that religion had existed on this world many many years, decades and centuries before science to be created as what we know it for nowadays.

...mankind has always believed in some higher supernatural power that exist.

For Christians this change was Jesus Christ, for Muslims it was the prophet Mohamed and for Budhists it was Budha.



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Something to correlate with something else, means that this 2 things are in interaction with each other. They do not stay alone and exist by themselves, but they “coexist”.

Into the eighteenth century, science and philosophy were roughly synonymous. In fact, the preferred term for the study of nature was often natural philosophy.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, however, there was an increased tendency to associate science with the natural world and the word “scientist” was invented for a first time.



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Religion was intended to explain some phenomena relative to nature and establish a type of behavior, lifestyle, morals and value system in its believers. Science on the other hand, was also intended to explain the nature phenomena, but the spiritual part was missing.

So, can we say that science is a normal continuation of the religion? Can we imagine that humans wanted more and more information, knowledge and perception for the world that they are living in and because religion was not able anymore to give many answers, mankind had made a very natural continuation... called science? Is this possible?

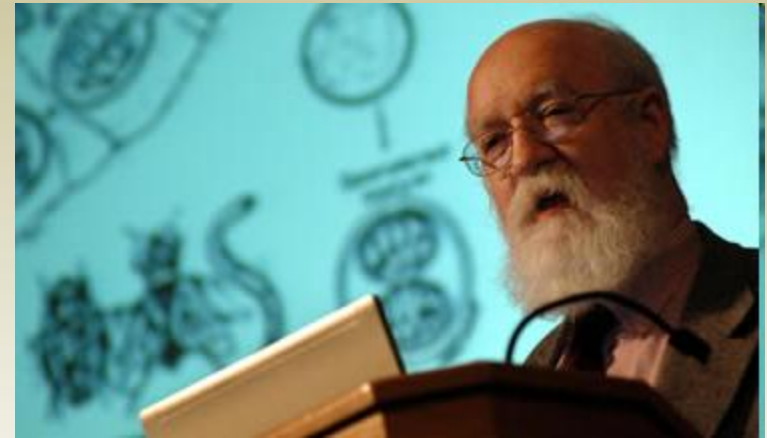
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If we look this from the total opposite site. Mainly, not that science is a continuation of the religion, but that religion is actually science itself. What does this mean? Is religion a natural phenomenon, like photosynthesis and evolution?

The atheist philosopher **Daniel Dennett** thinks it is. In his new book “Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon”, he argues that religion should be examined in the same way as any other aspect of human behavior.



***Mario Beauregard** has been attaching electrodes to the heads of nuns in order to see what brain activity is associated with their experience of mystical union with God. All over the world, others studying the neurology of religious experience have identified disturbance to the temporal and parietal lobes, such as temporal-lobe epilepsy.*

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Dr. Maurice Bucaille is a scientist and a member of the French Academy of Medicine. He is the author of the book entitled "The Bible, The Quran and Science." This is what he said several years ago:

The meaning of his words is the following:

- ***There is no religious or any other book on this planet written 14 centuries ago, that contains such statements with advanced knowledge in almost all topics in modern science.***
- ***Modern science has helped for the better understanding of the Quran. And perhaps it will keep helping with every new invention.***

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1.) Creation

Religion: "Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together, then We split them apart? And We made from water every living thing..." (21:30).

"And Allah has created every animal from water. Of them there are some that creep on their bellies, some that walk on two legs, and some that walk on four..." (24:45)



Science: According to the Big Bang Theory, the whole universe was initially one big mass. Then there was a Big Bang [explosion] which resulted in the formation of Galaxies.

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The second part of the verse can equally mean that every living thing was made of water (as its essential component) or that every living thing originated in water. The two possible meanings are strictly in accordance with scientific data.



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2.) Astronomy

Religion: "It is He who has made the Sun ZIA and the Moon NOOR"

Science: ZIA and NOOR both mean "light". But according to the Arabic Language, there are various differences between ZIA and NOOR, which are significant according to the context these words are used. ZIA is a light that subsists by itself, while NOOR is a light that subsists by some other thing.

Religion: "It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. All swim along, each in its rounded course" (21:33).

Science: This phenomena had been discovered in recent times by famous scientist, mainly the existence of the Sun's and Moon's orbits, plus a scientific proof for traveling of these bodies in space with their own motion.

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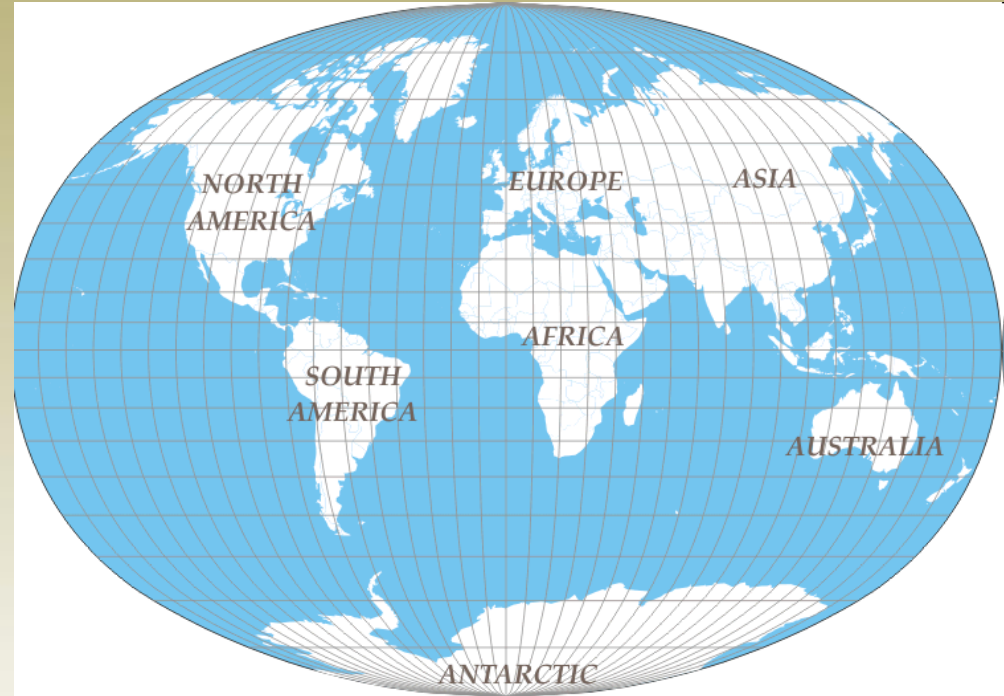
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3.) Geology

Religion: "You see the mountains and think they are firmly fixed. But they pass away just as the clouds pass away. Such is the artistry of Allah, Who disposes of all things in perfect order" (27:88).

Science: According to the theory of plate tectonics, the continents "ride" on dynamic plates which make up the Earth's surface. Although the resulting movement of the continents is very slow, over millions of years it is enough to get a continent from one place to another, and that movement may take the landmass through several latitudes and climate zones.





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Some other correlations between science and the Quran are:

1.) The heaven used to be smoke [41:11]. We know that smoke is a mixture of hot gases and suspended particles.
- 2.) The atom is not the smallest unit of matter in the universe which indicates the presence of subatomic particles! [34:3]
- 3.) The Universe was created over a very long period. For God, some days last 1000 lunar years [22:47, 32:5]. This was used by an Egyptian physicist, to calculate the speed of light!!!
- 4.) The Qur'an predicts that the speed of light is not the fastest speed in the universe. Spirits and angels proceed to God at 50 times the speed of light [70:4]



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Some other correlations between science and the Quran are:

- 5.) The earth rotates around its axis [27:88], rotates around the sun [7:54], is not flat but is like a ball [39:5] or an egg [79:30].
- 6.) The lowest point on earth is near the dead sea [30:3].
- 7.) Iron was sent to earth by God [57:25]. Scientists now believe that iron was introduced to earth by meteors.
- 8.) The oceans have layers of waves and layers of darkness in which some creatures have light [24:40]. Scientists discovered recently different currents at different depths.
- 9.) Our sun is not the only sun in the universe [25:61]. Modern astronomy tells us that the sun is actually a star and therefore the universe is full of suns. Astronomers are looking for other planets like ours. The Qur'an predicts they will find other planets [65:12]



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Some questions that had arrised during the research for that presentation are:

- 1.) There are many different translation of the Quran. If we compare 2 versus in some of them, a person can understand 2 completely different things. That is not only confusing, but it may lead to a misunderstanding and some people can misinterpret wrongly some words, thinking that they mean something specifically. The question is then: How can we be absolutely sure that what we read is what was written in the original Arabic language?



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Some questions that had arrised during the research for that presentation are:

- 2.) If religion and science are really trying to explain the same thing, then why there are so many contradictions? For example according to the Quran the first representatives of mankind were Adam and Eve. According to modern science, the mankind originates from the chimpanzee, after years of evolution. This was proven recently, after the discovery that human and chimpanzee DNA only differs by about 2%.



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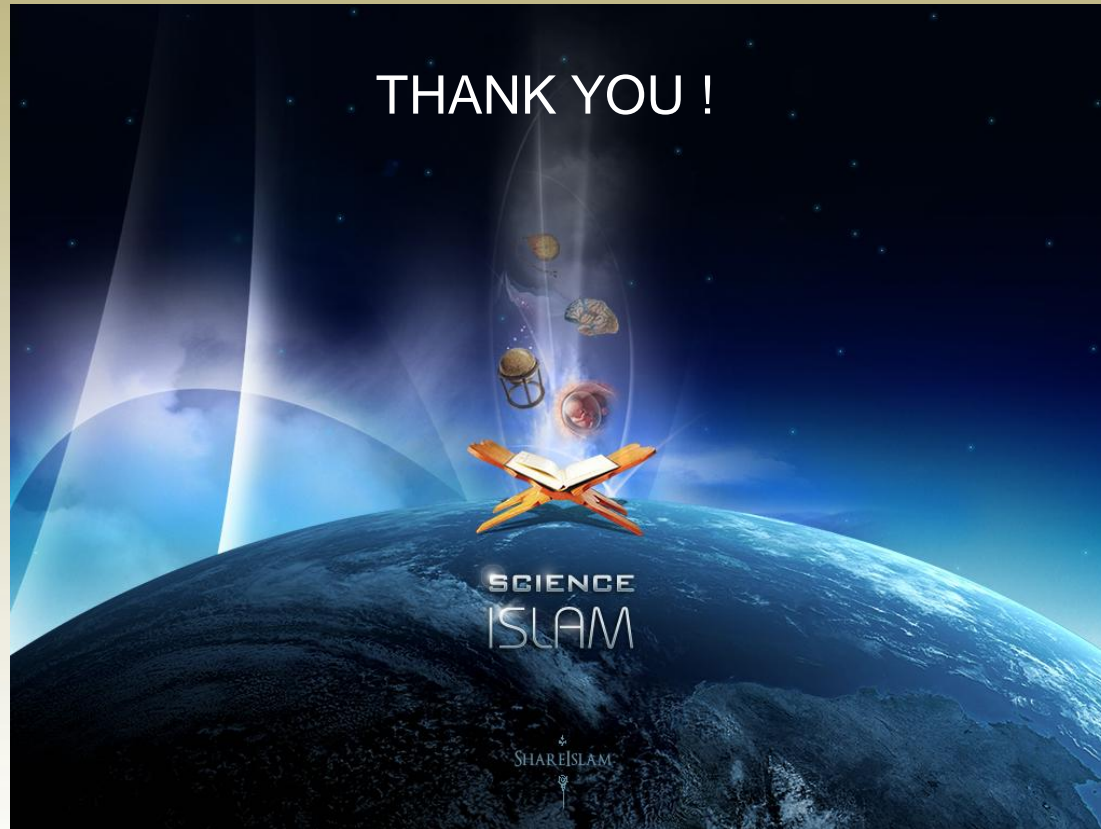
Some questions that had arrised during the research for that presentation are:

- 3.) Although science was created only 2 centuries ago, while Islam more then 14, science seem to be more powerful then religion nowadays. First of all science is shared from every nation and culture all over the world. Second without even a little scientific knowledge, life nowadays is very difficult. While life with no religion is not difficult at all. Why the “two twin sisters” which we mentioned before are misplacing their positions? Why science become more important and popular then religion. Will that change back some day?

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References:

- 1.) <http://home.att.net/~a.f.aly/creation.htm>
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