

OBSTACLES TO SCIENTIFIC INTERPRETATION OF THE HOLY QURAN AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

There is solid proof of existence of scientific discussions in Quran. The existence of 756 verses which are related to science shows the importance of scientific interpretations. The need for scientific interpretations has increased even more in modern day.

In modern day, one hurdle in writing scientific interpretation is the lack of command of commentators of scientific interpretations on the principles of Quranic interpretation.

The existence of secular media is a great obstacle for Muslim commentators of scientific interpretations. Secular media is misguiding the world by raising different objection regarding Islamic values and Quran. They are particularly targeting the educated class of Muslims. They are doing this in a very clever manner. For example, they would say “no doubt Quran was a great book 1500 years ago when it was written but it is outdated now as it can’t fulfill the needs of modern day”. On other occasions they would say that Quran is not a book rather it is the collection of small speeches.

However, there are hurdles for the commentators of scientific interpretations. This study attempts to highlight those.

Against this backdrop, this study will consist of two sections. First section will describe the hurdles in scientific interpretations and will suggest their solution. Second section will document scientific predictions and responsibilities of commentators.

KEYWORDS: Scientific Interpretation, Obstacles, Solutions, Quranic

INTRODUCTION

Quranic verses help us understand scientific research regarding universe and human life in an improved manner. Islam is the first “Daae” religion on earth that invites us to ponder upon and have research on the magnificently created universe and life on it. Science could not prove any Quranic teaching wrong till today. Instead, Quran has provided prestige and depth to science. Since, people are too impressed by Science in modern times; they are habitual of verifying everything with science. Quran is not lagging behind. Rather, it is Quran that provides sound foundations to Science. It also provides complete antidote to the poison that the modern brains get from science.

There are many people who want to abolish religion from the world. They have confused the innocent people regarding the truth by spreading rumors and wrong interpretations of the religion. In these circumstances, it is the duty of the believers to come forward and enlighten the world with the word of God to save humanity from the hell fire. After the completion of Quran, every verse of it is complete and ever true. So, it is pertinent to take Quran in this ever true sense instead of just in historical perspective. In this situation, the need to defend Islamic ideology has further increased.

Rationale of the study

Present science has infected modern minds by casting doubts regarding the truth of the religion. This study is an attempt to avert this by making a detailed analysis of such activities and by suggesting practical measures to tackle this.



Objective of the Study

This study aims at the following:

- To document the responsibilities of commentators of scientific interpretations for *Da'awah* in modern day
- To study different forms of scientific interpretations and their effects in *Da'awah*
- To examine obstacles in acceptance of scientific interpretations and suggesting their solutions

Significance of the Study

Contemporarily, the secular means of communication is another hurdle for Muslim scientific scholars.

Such secular trends mislead the masses by putting false allegations on Islamic values and Quran-e-karim.

They target the educated sector of Muslims in particular.

They are intended to create imbiguities regarding the teachings of Quran. Even though they are doing it very wisely, like they state: "Quran was appeared 1500 years ago and was the best book of that times". But it (Quran) is not matching with the needs of present times. Also state that Quran is not a book but a collection of short sermons that is why lack of coherence exist.

By using the principles of nusekh and mansookh, they say Prophet (S.A.W) used to change the verses of Quran as experiments. Regarding compilation, opponents try to mislead the young minds that Prophet (S.A.W) could not compile Quran as a book in his life that's why there are differences in the texts of Quran, because Quran as a book was designed/compiled lately.

It is clear that such allegations are baseless and rubbish. It is our faith that Quran has the solution of all worlds problem. Quran is the ocean of interpretations and one can collect precious pearls as per one's capacity.

In spite of these facts it is indispensable to bring out the modern explanations of Quran which could address the conspiracies of opponents which may also include the sound solution of contemporary world so as to Muslims could act upon it and achieve the success in humanities along with the grace of Quran. For this purpose benefits of scientific discoveries should be used. So that reader could gain the sparks and blessings of Quran. It is true that every word of Allah Almighty is the limit of truth. That is why the knowledge of things described in Quran is the limit of science. It is also a wisdom that when a scientist will reach to it scientist excellence he would jounce to see that the findings were already explained in Quran thousands years ago.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Comparison between Sheikh Tantawi and Fakhruddin Razi in Ayat-e-Koniya: Ph.D. Thesis by Qayyum Akhtar under the supervision of Dr. Munir Ahmed, Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University, Bahawalpur (2012).

The Importance of Knowledge of the Universe for Understanding the Qur'an, Junaid Ahmad Hashmi, Ma'arif-ul-Islamia, Volume 1, Number 2, 2002

Religion and Science, The True Nature of Relationship, Dr. Muhammad Shehab Manj, Al-Qalam, Volume 16, Issue 2, 2011.

The relationship between the Quran and science: A critical analysis of different school of thoughts, Asim Naeem, Saleha Fatima, Azua, vol. 31, issue 46, 2016

Modern science and its purpose of existence in Islamic perspective, Dr. Nisar Ahmed Farooqi, volume 22, issue 01. 1984

Tafsir of Dr. Haluk Noorbaqi (The verses of Holy Quran and the fact of science.) A Research and Critical Study, Mohammad Latif Khan, Dr. Abdul Hameed Abbasi, Islamic Studies, Volume 15, Number 1, 2016.

Authors had a few papers and compilation of works on the scientific topics of the Quran, but the scientific style of the Quran is not discussed in detail. So the author was curious to study the scientific style of the Quran in the light of scientific commentary.

Proof of the existence of scientific methods and titles in Qur'an

ڈاکٹر لطیف خان، "برصغیر کے تفسیر ی ادب پر سائنسی علوم کے اثرات (منتخب تفسیر ی ادب کا تحقیقی و تجزیاتی مطالعہ)" (مقالہ برائے پی ایچ ڈی، علامہ اقبال اوپن یونیورسٹی، اسلام آباد، 2020ء) ص 232

English Books and Article

- The reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam , Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Lahore, DoDo press, 1930
- The Bible, The Quran and Science, Maurice Bucaille, Translated from the French by Alastair D. Pannel and the Author, N.D..
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- Journal of Qur'anic Studies, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2001
- Islamic Approach to Human Embryology in Modern Scientific Perspectives , Munawar Hussein Chohan Muhammad Tahir, Abath, v1, No3, 2016.
- Quranic Evidence upon Ants Communication: Scientific Analysis and Educational Implications, Uloom e islamiya , Khilad Mahmoud Dr Muhammad Ramzan, V20, 2015.

Unawareness of languages of scientific literature.

The ratio of internet users is very less in Arab world because of language barriers. On the other hand, a few attention is being paid on website development in Arabic language.

The digital gap is being built between Arabs and developed nations due to negligence of such a revolutionary mode of communication.

Highly educated and skilled workers are heading towards developed countries with pace.

Arab countries are bearing much of this loss due to this rapid shift of intellectual. Whole Arab peninsula is experiencing severe shortage of literary and art development. Publication on science and technology are coming to an end. Whereas, there are about one lac and more scientific editions as well as more than ten lac thesis are being published every year in the world.

These numbers and scientific efforts must be translated in Arabic by dint of its importance.¹

Absence of translated version.

In 2001, Arab countries courage to translate the science, technology and contemporary studies work which was just 330 in numbers. On the other hand, Greece, the sick man of Europe, translated five times more books in the same time scale. Spain, an ordinary member of European union, translated books in Spanish which are higher than the efforts of 1000 years of Arab world. All this happened in one year, 2001.²

Scientific scholars of Quran are breaching the ice of wisdom and encouraging the readers to understand that Quran offers Sirat-e-Mustaqeem by exploring the universe with wisdom and guidance. So that the evidences for its existence, Toheed and total control could be justified.

Without this the human intellect is incomplete like; Quran says,

﴿أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا﴾

And the evolution of human lost in darkness because the wonders of universe open on those who concentrate”.

Unawareness of Muslim scholars about scientific discoveries.

Muslim scholars are seeking scientific discoveries to make such a world for humankind where honesty, co-operation and brotherhood may exist. There would be harmony between words by action.

Muslim scholars can gain their last position only with quest of knowledge, dedication and consistency.

It may also be noted that science and technology leads toward progress and prosperity. This backward adversity and blind age are not our fate, we still have a chance to get our position back by making ourselves better with divine invitation.

Lack of command on Islamic studies while explaining the scientific trend.

¹ عبد الوکیل، اسلام، سائنس اور مسلمان، ص 327
² ایضاً، عبد الوکیل، اسلام، سائنس اور مسلمان ص 328

Today the major misconception is found about scientific explanation that Islamic scholars think that scientific explanation means the enlargement of natural intellect. But the scientific school of thought presents a different opinion that these principles are the name of search of divine orders in the diverse dimension of Quran and Sunnah.

Scientific literary explanation is essential for the solution of modern problem generated by secularism, religious ignorance, liberalism and atheology.

Absence of scientific literature in modern intellectual and social structures.

Instead of closing the door of scientific commentary in the modern era, the method of collective opinion should be developed to express a new opinion in modern issues, so that the possibilities of opinions are increased and it is possible to get a correct opinion. According to human requirements, mistakes have been made by commentators, so scientific interpretations should continue to evolve. The intellectual and social demands of the present age and the solution of modern problems should be solved through scientific interpretation literature so that the difficulties of modern problems are resolved.

The requirements of scientific interpretation and its sensitivity should be fulfilled so that the blasphemy can be kept away from the interpretation. There is a dire need to analyze the intellectuals of the modernists and the orientalist in a scientific interpretation, even if Bayan Al-Quran, Taheeh Al-Quran, Ma'rif Al-Quran. There is a content in Tafsir Majdi, but this topic is very important so there is an urgent need to pay more attention to it.

Ignoring the guiding principles of scientific interpretation.

There should be no argument, which are secondary, there are no clear guidelines on such topics, it needs attention.

It is one of the responsibilities of the interpreters of the scientific commentary that the scientific commentary should be concise, concise and reliable only. In important national and international issues, the aspect of maximum realism among commentators scholars are topics on which guidance should be provided in interpretations.

Lack of familiarity with the rules and regulations of acceptance of scientific interpretation.

Through the literature of scientific interpretation, there is a need for greater intellectual harmony among Muslim commentators in the conflict between Islamic and non-Islamic ideas. Scientific interpretations should be written within the scope of tafsir, because the commentators have declared its scope to be based on the Quran and hadith, while its scope is wide, which has been mentioned in detail in this paper.³

The lack of reliability and detail in scientific interpretation.

Many things unrelated to scientific interpretation have been included in the interpretation, examples of which can be seen in tafsir Jawahir Al-Quran and tafsir Mufatih Al-Gheeb. And because of these aspects the credibility of the scientific interpretation was undermined and some commentators severely criticized the scientific interpretation of the Quran.

In this regard, Muhammad Ansar Javed writes that:

“one form of scientific interpretation is Tafsir Jawaher Al-Quran (Allama Johor Tontawi). So much scientific information and traditions have been collected in these tafsir that the Quran is not a book of guidance.” Come, rather these appear to be mental exercises of the commentators but there is a clear evolution.”⁴

However, the thesis in this too, a small effort has been made.

Scientific discoveries and the responsibilities of the interpreters.

³ محمد انصر جاوید، برصغیر میں تفسیر بالمآثور کی روایت (بیسویں صدی کاتجزیاتی مطالعہ) تحقیقی مقالہ برائے پی ایچ ڈی علوم اسلامیہ، نگران مقالہ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر حافظ محمود اختر، گفٹ یونیورسٹی گوجرانوالہ، 2020ء) ص 422

Muammad-Anasar Javed” Barsaghir Ma tafsir Balmathur and analytical study of the twentieth century” (research paper for PhD in Islamic studies, but in this paper by prof. Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Akhtar, INTU university, Jarenwala, 2022). 422

⁴ محمد انصر جاوید، برصغیر میں تفسیر بالمآثور کی روایت (بیسویں صدی کاتجزیاتی مطالعہ) ص 422
Muhamma Ansar Javed, Tafsir Balmathur in Bur-Sogheer (Analytical study of twentieth century) p. 422

Many verses of Holy Quran mention wisdom and prudence, on the basis of which the commentators of the Quran interpreted these verses in a scientific way.

That although the Quran is not a book of science, it is a source of other scientific sciences. All the new inventions and discoveries that have been made in the coming times have been mentioned in the book of Al Aziz explicitly and sometimes with hints.

This letter is also present in human beings to make new discoveries by conducting scientific research.⁵

In this regard, Dr. Sultan Bashir Mamood says:

“All scientific discoveries are first looked in our nature (Gene) and they are a sign of pre-existing knowledge”.⁶

In addition, there are countless things that are dead or have been told to us by scientific research and analysis of or have been told through divine revelation. These are divided into three types of animals, plants and inanimate objects.

Adoption of Qu’ranic Preaching Style by Scientific Commentators

سائنسی مفسرین کا قرآنی دعوتی اصول واسالیب کو اختیار کرنا

The subject of Quran Kitab Allah is man and purpose of revealing the Quran is not to make man aware of his life. This purpose has been clearly stated by Allah Surah-al-Dharit.

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ﴾⁷

(that we have created the Jinn and mankind only for our worship).

Still some people disobeyed the command, for such people Allah in the Holy Quran, the Almighty invited different styles, one of them being a scientific style, so that they would not have difficulty in understanding the truth of the religion.

Has presented such a picture of Islam in front of him that he feels proud to follow the religion of Islam. In order to present the invitation of the religion of Islam, the commentators adopted the principles of the Holy Quran as a da’wa and called the da’wa has accomplished a great foot, which ended the claim of people who say that the commentators,

Description of Value and Importance of Religion

دین کی افادیت و قدر منزلت کو بیان کرنا

while interpreting the Quran, explaining the usefulness and value of religion invited with full responsibility that Allah calls men again and again to this religion. The name of which he has mention ﴿إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ﴾⁸

No sane person denies the usefulness, value and dignity of this religion.

﴿وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ﴾⁹

Acting against the Quranic order. These are the people who have tried to test the revelation on the test of reason and have become seekers of welfare in the education and civilization coming from the West, the biggest obstacle is religion therefore, by following religion, a person cannot progress in the world. Even in the present age the Holy Quran invites the people to think and think, who are far from guidance in Islam and enmity, one the one hand. So these some people think day

⁵ Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad “Awan, Principles of Da’wa in the Holy Quran and salib: an analytical study of the trends of Urdu commentators, supervising paper, Asid, Gujranwala, 2017-339. 2022

ڈاکٹر ممتاز احمد، اعوان، قرآن مجید میں دعوت کے اصول واسالیب: اردو مفسرین کے رجحانات کا تجزیاتی مطالعہ، نگران مقالہ، اسجد علی گٹ یونیورسٹی، گوجرانوالہ، 2017-2020ء ص 339

Sultan bashir Mehmood, Kitab Zindagi, Islamabad, research Foundation, 2010). P. 76⁶

سلطان بشیر محمود، کتاب زندگی، (اسلام آباد، ریسرچ فاؤنڈیشن، 2010ء) ص 76

⁷ الذریات: 56/52

Al-Amran: 56/52.

⁸ ال عمران: 19/3

Al-Imrani 3/19

⁹ ال عمران: 85/3

Al-Imran: 3/85

and night for worldly and material progress, while on the other hand they don't take the path of guidance despite the fact that Islam has been proven right.

And He said,

﴿أَوَلَمْ يَنْظُرُوا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ﴾¹⁰

"No, I did not look at the great kingdom of Heavens and the Earth, and at anything that Allah created".

that they have never paid attention to the organization of this vast universe. **Describing the opposition and compatibility in physical and development matters**

the enforcement of the limits of Allah, the Exalted, is actually a cure for those diseases that in the Islamic society, there are those who put the peace and tranquility of the society, the chastity and honor of the people, and the wealth and possessions on the path bed. If these diseases are not treated on time, then the whole society becomes paralyzed. This is the reason that Allah, the lord of immortals, who is extremely benevolent to human beings and loves his servants, so that when the love begins, it is the same. The treatment of this disease should be treated on time. A child who needs to be treated by a doctor and a hakeem is also a must take suggestion.

Like a wise man and a doctor, our commentators have also advised people to turn to their lord, that only in the mind of Allah is the cure for your spiritual ailments. Just use the medicine given to you in the form of Quran and Sunnah. Bad, I believe that Allah Ta'ala will remove all spiritual ailments and make your life pure. In Anissharh, the Quran should also draw people to do this point and inform them to the good and bad end by describing the obstacle of opposition and attitude of conformity of the addresses. Controversy to Shari'a matters, there is a lot of disagreement among commentators in physical and development matters. The writer's opinion is that in order to end this difference, a council should be formed consisting of representatives to scholars from each school of thought and to review the work of interpretation in a modern way.

Adopting the style of wisdom and rationality

The Holy Quran has stated with full responsibility that the Holy Quran has also adopted a method of bringing the people of the whole world to the right path, which is to meditate on the universe twice. And the orders thought, consideration, reflection and observation, so that evidences and proofs of his existence, his unity and perfect power become available.

Without it, the gates of human thought do not open, because the treasures of wisdom found in the universe are opened only to those who meditate. The word of Allah repeatedly calls to the religion which he himself has described the name of ﴿إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ﴾¹¹ . No one will be accepted in the second world except this religion.¹²

Summary Discussion

1. that is misleading the world by objecting to Islam and Quran in various ways. For example, the Quran was revealed fourteen hundred years ago, at that time it was the greatest book in the world, but today it is not meeting the requirement of modern times. By removing these objections, the commentators arranged to write commentaries with modern knowledge that could not only answer their objections but also have a good solution to the problems of the time, so that along with the sanctity, the people of Islam.

2. In the world of Islam, there is a severe lag of new writings on new sciences and arts, and the publication of new books on Quranic scientific discoveries and science and technology is not equal. While every year, one million research papers and more than one hundred thousand scientific books are being published all over the world. Muslim scientific commentators have taken full advantage of the scientific discoveries related to the science of things to break this status quo and have explained the wisdom of Quran.

Al-A'raf:7/185 185/7: الاعراف¹⁰

Al-Imran: 19/319/3: عمران¹¹

Al-Imran: 85/3.85/3: عمران¹²



3. The commentators have explained of the order of the universe through various illustration and have proved that its Creator and Maker, there is only one. If there were more than one, this system would disrupted.

The Holy Quran has stated the main purpose of meditation in the entire universe is that people should become familiar with the Creator of the universe and accept His monotheism.

4. Scientific commentators of Quran have also used modern scientific information in religious debates, which has led to the expansion of the work of Da'wah.