

# Taleem Focus Slides

Understanding Evolution According to the Qur'an  
April 2015

# Evolution of Life

- The Qur'an states that the evolution of life and the path of evolution it follows are guided completely by God alone.
  - “That you shall assuredly pass on from one stage to another.” (84:20)
  - “While He has created you in different forms and ever varying states.” (71:15)
- In contrast, Darwin's theory of evolution argues for natural selection which is driven by chance in the form of accidental mutations.
  - Darwin's theory is not possible because the odds of creating the ecosystems and organisms today by accidental mutations are nearly nonexistent

# Darwin's Theory of Evolution

- The basis for Darwin's theory is that offspring of a species of one generation can have a random mutation, causing a different physical structure from the previous generation.
- Sometimes, this mutation can be advantageous for survival and is passed down to the next generation in increasing numbers, eventually changing the gene pool of the population.

# Darwin's Theory of Evolution (cont'd)

- Although Darwin never focuses much on the origin of life itself, his theory is often used to explain how ancient one-celled organisms have evolved to create the incredibly complex species and organisms that we see today.
- The advent of genetic studies has not disproven Darwin's theory but because it has only provided us with a more complex understanding of evolution, the likelihood of evolution relying on chance is diminishing. There must be an Intelligent Designer.

# Flaws with Darwin's Theory

- According to Islam, the primary flaw with Darwin's theory is that the chances that life evolved to what it is today without Divine guidance are incomprehensibly small.
- Studying evolutionary history leads one to believe that evolution follows one distinct direction where each successive evolution increasing survivability. This, again, would be very unlikely with Darwin's theory because there would be an incredible number of accidental mutations that harmed the species rather than improve its survivability.

# Clay and Human Evolution

- “...With water did We create every living thing...” (21:31)
- “He created man from dry ringing clay like pieces of pottery.” (55:15)
- “ And, surely, We created man from dry ringing clay made from stagnant blackish mud.” (15:27)

# Clay and HUMAN Evolution (cont'd)

- The biggest question behind the origin of life is how inorganic substances gave rise to organic substances. That is, how did substances that were not related to life become the materials necessary for life?
- Several theories suggest that these organic materials began with in a watery environment, but the Qur'an mentions that there was a dry stage in the evolution of life.
- Researchers have been increasingly proving what was mentioned in the Qur'an regarding this dry stage. They have found that it would be impossible for certain elements of life to be created in water because water would just continue to break them back down perpetually.

# Clay and Human Evolution (cont'd)

- It is generally agreed that there must have been a dry period to prevent the breaking down of newly made substances by water.
- Cairns-Smith, a researcher on the topic found that clay was not only involved in the evolution of organic substances, but it played a large role in the process.
- This dry stage would have been when the prebiotic oceans were beginning to dry in very thin layers of clay, which exactly relates to the Quranic verse referring to “dry ringing clay”

# More Details

- We weren't able to discuss the topic in detail but here are some resources
- Chapter 5 of Revelation, Rationality Knowledge and Truth  
<http://www.alislam.org/library/books/revelation/>
- This documentary produced by Canada Jama'at on evolution  
<https://youtu.be/UhppQ5vf7Zo>