

Creation of Universe An Islamic Perspective

The Islamic view toward the universe is an intellectual, scientific view that creates the human emotions and feelings toward the greatness of Allah the creator. It also creates emotions and feelings toward the smallness of the human being and his weakness in front of this universe, which leads to the necessity to submit to Allah (S.W.T.).

Allah Has created everything

According to The Quran, the life containing universe is solely created by the Almighty Allah and He is the Supreme Ruler of the universe. In Islamic ideology it is very unambiguous that whatever exists is created by Allah (swt). As Allah (swt) speaks in Qur'an

Surah Rad Chapter # 13 Verse # 16

“Say: (Allah) is the Creator of all things: He is the One, the Supreme and Irresistible.”

Surah Az zumar Chapter #39 Verse #62

Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Wakil (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things.

There are many other *ayahs* (verses) which refer to the fact that all that is on the Earth and in the Heavens is created by Almighty Allah (swt). Second important fact according to The Quran is that this universe—Earth and Heavens—has definite life period and has some definite objectives like other creations.

Creation of Universe

Islam is a scientifically inclined religion, perhaps the sole one! In its scripture Qur'an, God repeatedly appeals to people to travel the earth and observe. Why, He wants them to journey into the outer space too! He encourages them to look into Nature and examine the life forms and their activities. He commands them to contemplate upon these matters. That is not all. Qur'an contains in itself a large number of facts of any array of branches of science. Most of them were discovered in the last two centuries only, whereas they were existing in the Qur'an since it was revealed some fourteen centuries ago. That goes to prove that the Scripture of Islam is of Divine origin. Its author is Allah Himself, His Messenger Muhammad (Pbuh) being its publisher!

The creation of the universe is explained by astrophysicists in a widely accepted phenomenon, popularly known as the 'Big Bang'. It is supported by observational and experimental data gathered by astronomers and astrophysicists for decades. According to the 'Big Bang', the whole universe was initially one big mass (Primary Nebula). Then there was a 'Big Bang' (Secondary Separation) which resulted in the formation of Galaxies. These then divided to form stars, planets, the sun, the moon, etc. The origin of the universe was unique and the probability of it occurring by 'chance' is zero. The Qur'aan contains the following verse, regarding the origin of the universe

Surah Al Ambiya Chapter # 21 Verse # 30

“Do not the Unbelievers see That the heavens and the earth Were joined together (as one Unit of Creation), before We clove them asunder?”

The striking congruence between the Qur'aanic verse and the 'Big Bang' is inescapable! How could a book, which first appeared in the deserts of Arabia 1400 years ago, contain this profound scientific truth? This verse makes unmistakable reference to the fact that Allah created the universe from a single entity, and He is All-Capable over all things. Allah then ordered this 'single entity' to split, which it did, and turned into a cloud of smoke. From this cloud of smoke Allah created the heavens and earth. This is mentioned in the words of Allah

Scientists say that before the galaxies in the universe were formed, celestial matter was initially in the form of gaseous matter. In short, huge gaseous matter or clouds were present before the formation of the galaxies. To describe initial celestial matter, the word 'smoke' is more appropriate than gas. The following Qur'aanic verse refers to this state of the universe by the word *dhukhan* which means smoke.

Surah Fussilat Chapter # 41 Verse # 11

“Moreover, He Comprehended In His design the sky, And it had been (as) smoke:
He said to it And to the earth: ‘Come ye together, Willingly or unwillingly.’
They said: ‘We do come (Together), in willing obedience.’”

Again, this fact is a corollary to the ‘Big Bang’ and was not known to the Arabs during the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). What then, could have been the source of this knowledge?

The Qur'an further states that Allah created the sun, the moon, and the planets, each with their own individual courses or orbits.

Surah Ambiya Chapter #21 Verse #33

"It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon;
all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course"

This is scientific fact that the universe is expanding, the idea that the universe is continuing to expand is available in Qur'an. "The heavens, We have built them with power. And verily, We are expanding it" (51:47). There has been some historical debate among Muslim scholars about the precise meaning of this verse, since knowledge of the universe's expansion was only recently discovered.

At another place in Quran Allah Discuss about the time period of creation of universe, if you read the Qur'an

Surah Al Araf Chapter #7 verse #54

Your Guardian-Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority): He draweth the night as a veil o'er the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession: He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, (all) governed by laws under His command. Is it not His to create and to govern? Blessed be Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds!

The verses that mention "six days" use the Arabic word "youm" has two perspective meanings one as a day and other as a period . The word "youm" is thus understood, within the Qur'an, to be a long period of time -- an era or eon. Therefore in Qur'an the description of a "six day" creation as six distinct periods or eons. The length of these periods is not precisely defined, nor are the specific developments that took place during each period.

Purpose Of Creation

The universe as a whole is a creation of Allah (swt) that created it for a purpose. Even everything which you witnessed today is crated for a purpose. As Allah Says in Qur'an

Surah Ad Dukhan Chapter # 44 Verses # 38, 39

"We have not created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, for mere play, We created them not except with truth, but most of the do not know."

Surah Anbiya Chapter #21 Verses # 16, 17

"We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them for mere play. If We wanted to create aimless things, we would have done it if we were going to do (that)."

While describing the purpose of creation of universe we can divide it on to two major point of views, first the purpose of universe from the Creator (Allah) point of view and second the purpose of creation of universe from creation (Universe, Human, Animals etc) point of view.

First we will discuss the purpose of creation of universe from creator point of view, and we know that one of the main attribute of Allah (swt) is KHALIQ means Creator so it is the main ability of God to create. And one of the best creations of Allah (swt) is the creation of universe as Allah Says in Qur'an

Surah Ghafir Chapter #40 Verse#57

Assuredly the creation of the heavens and the earth is a greater than the creation of men:
Yet most men understand not.

The Arabic word "Khalaq" which means to create have two aspects one to create something from something and other is to create something from nothing and that is the only attribute of Allah. It is mentioned in Qur'an

Surah Mariyam Chapter # 19 verse # 9

He said: "So (it will be) thy Lord saith, 'that is easy for Me: I did indeed create thee before,
when thou hadst been nothing!'"

As we have already discussed that Allah (swt) has not created anything without purpose. Erath, Moon, Sun Galaxies these all the best creation of Allah (swt) and these all are fully exploit in the wellbeing for human being. Human is also the beautiful creation of God with a particular purpose as mentioned in Qur'an

Surah Adh Dehriyat Chapet#51 Verse#56

And I did not Create the jinn and humans except they should worship Me.

At another place in Quran purpose of human creation is clearly mentioned

Surah Al Mulk Chapter #67 Verse#02

He Who created Death and Life, that He may test which of you is best in deed:
and He is the Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.

Conclusion

Now if we compare the Islamic concept of creation of universe appears in The Quran and Current Big Bang theory, we can see that there are some features of Big Bang theory that are closely similar to the Islamic concept of Creation of Universe, for example, creation out of nothingness, initial singularity, concept of formation of galaxies from primordial gases, and uniformity of universe on large scale.

We as Muslims believe that Allah (swt) created the heavens and the earth in perfect harmony and balance, and that He continues to reign over His creation. Muslims find no conflict between this belief and current scientific theories regarding the creation of earth.