

PROJECT INFINITE PEACE

COLLECTIVE STUDY OF REVEALED KNOWLEDGE

INTRODUCTION

'Project Infinite Peace' is a proposed collective effort to investigate the basis of religious beliefs from a global perspective. It aims to involve scientists, linguists and science historians, for an elaborate and impartial effort in this direction.

The backbone of this project is a hypothesis about the phenomenon of revelations. It attempts to explain several queries regarding the need of revelations, a possible physical basis of its presence, the mode of transfer of such information to humanity, and a way to investigate its continuity.

A collective exercise as per suggestions in the hypothesis has the possibility to resolve the riddle of revealed knowledge rationally.

The project's objective is to present this effort before scientific community for investigation, debate and consensus.

QUERY 1: WHY SHOULD WE NEED INFORMATION REVEALED TO US? IS NOT OUR INTELLECT SUFFICIENT TO ANSWER ALL OUR QUERIES?

The answer to this simple query is that with time and effort, humans usually are able to find answers to several of their problems eventually; however, it can be argued that certain circumstances may require information revealed to us *before* a specific juncture of time, for humanities' survival and progress.

Some such circumstances are detailed below -

THE PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE FUTURE THREATS OF OUR OWN MAKING

The onward march of scientific progress involves numerous researches, (e.g. manipulation of genetic code, interference in the weather machine and emergence of new technologies like Nanotechnology, Bio-genetics and Artificial Intelligence etc.), where complete interactions are either unknown or not fully understood at present, and future threats may accrue due to some of our *own* actions initiated at present.

Since future is not open to us, it is logical to assume that some of the problems, if not resolved, will have far reaching adverse impact on the future. In some cases the danger may arrive sooner before we are even able to guess its threat.

In all such cases, the information about correct do's and don'ts, guiding the human effort, will have to come from outside of us as analytical power of human brain, working within the confines of limited information available at the time, has its limitations.

[We have seen such limitations during debates on the Genetically Modified Organisms. Sadly, our attempts to adopt or regulate these emerging technologies often get hampered due to the barrage of uninformed emotional arguments of critics in media debates. This criticism unfortunately biases and hardens the opinions of scientists, who support these innovations. Such an attitude, often overrides caution. To counter this bias and make the relevant information available to decision makers, some bibliographies¹ (related to GMO debates) have been compiled, but their usefulness is limited.]

FUTURE THREATS THAT COULD BE AVERTED THROUGH OUR PRESENT ACTIONS

Some other possible future threats can also be envisaged which may not be our own making but could be averted through our effort at present, if we can be forewarned about it somehow.

For example, a distinct logical possibility is that of the arrival or accidental release of a potent organism/virus that could destroy sizable chunk of the organic life of the planet, *if it manages to find a suitable host*.

¹ *An Annotated Bibliography of Scientific Publications On The Risks Associated With Genetic Modification*, Sean Weaver and Michael Morris, School of Earth Sciences Research Report No. 21, Victoria University of Wellington 2003

To limit the population of species that has the potential to play such a host in the future, the phenomenon of Guidance can effectively check this threat through a simple injunction banning the particular animal as a food article as only those animal species are increasing in numbers that have been domesticated for their food value² however weak and vulnerable they are, and not the powerful predators³ like wolf, lions or tigers.

The swine incidentally has the largest probability of playing one such future host. It is known to be the carrier of the dreaded Ebola Reston Virus (REBOV) and the Marburg virus (MARV). Four species of EBOV have been reported⁴ to have caused fatal disease in humans with mortality rates of 50%–90%. Swine has also been called a ‘mixing vessel for influenza virus’⁵ and a potential host for Hendra virus⁶. Besides, it is the only natural host of pseudorabies virus (PRV). Most domestic animals (cattle, sheep, dogs, cats, and goats but not horses) and many wild animals (rats, mice, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, and several fur-bearing mammals) are susceptible to the virus but transmission only occurs when these species are kept in close contact with acutely infected swine; death is the usual outcome in these aberrant hosts.

An interesting observation is that the swine is the only animal forbidden to eat by majority of religious scriptures.

RESEARCHES WHERE THE CRUCIAL EVIDENCE IS AT THE PERIPHERY OF HUMAN ENQUIRY

The phenomenon of guidance can also help us with our researches where the scientific investigation is at a cross roads, and there is no rational way to ascertain the crucial evidence. Revealed knowledge can guide the humanity by pointing out the correct model out of several being debated and save crucial resources, while not curbing the creativity at the same time. There are numerous such researches in various scientific disciplines, where the humanity needs a little nudge on the right path, with untold benefits.

An ideal example for the need of such guidance exists in the researches related to the origin of life and man. We do not know how the living matter emerged from the non-living. Highly complex, “modern-looking” fossilized life cells have been found in the oldest rocks of earth.⁷ Given a living organism, it is possible to imagine ways in which it can multiply, but from where did the first organism itself, the LUCA, come from, and what happened before the solidification of rocks? Did the cells originate on earth or in outer space? If life originated on earth, then what was the mechanism involved? To explain the occurrence of this phenomenon through natural means, scientists have proposed various models. These models not only differ in the extra-terrestrial and terrestrial origins they assign to life, but also on the basic question as to what could have come first, the genes or the metabolic pathways. Every group believes in the efficacy of its own model with equal intensity, but the differences are many, and unanswered questions abound. The first cells have been found in the oldest rocks of the earth, therefore the events leading to the creation of these cells must have occurred before the formation of even these rocks or *prior to the very ability of the earth to form evidences*.

Likewise, the birth of modern man is also a big mystery that intensely interests all of us. We do not know when and where the first man appeared on the earth and what exactly was the mechanism involved. Did he evolve through accidental mutation and natural selection, or is there some other answer to this mystery? Has he evolved in different regions from different species of man-apes over time, or was there a single occurrence in

² 2011 *Livestock Population Trends*, Jodi Helmer, dated November 22, 2011, <http://www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-industry-news/2011/11/22/2011-livestock-population-trends.aspx> retrieved 15-02-2014

³ The Red List of Threatened Species <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

⁴ *Ebola Reston Virus Infection of Pigs: Clinical Significance and Transmission Potential*, Glenn A. Marsh, Jessica Haining, Rachel Robinson, Adam Foord, Manabu Yamada, Jennifer A. Barr, Jean Payne, John White, Meng Yu, John Bingham, Pierre E. Rollin, Stuart T. Nichol, Lin-Fa Wang and Deborah Middleton; Oxford Journals Medicine, *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Volume 204, Issue suppl 3, Pp. S804-S809.

⁵ *The pig as a mixing vessel for influenza viruses: Human and veterinary implications*, Wenjun Ma, Robert E Kahn and Juergen A Richt, *Journal of Molecular and Genetic Medicine*, ISSN 1747-0862, Library Publishing Media, Pu online 2008 November 27

⁶ Experimental inoculation study indicates swine as a potential host for Hendra virus, Mingyi Li, Carissa Embury-Hyatt and Hana M. Weingart; *Veterinary Research Vet. Res.* Volume 41, Number 3, May–June 2010, <http://www.veterinaryresearch.org/>

⁷ *Nature*, vol. 409, p. 144, January 2001 – ‘Latest estimates have put life at 3.85 Ga, earliest surviving continental crust at 4.0 Ga, and end of intense meteorite bombardment at 3.9 Ga’

Africa and then this man spread and replaced others? The scientific opinion favours a single origin in Africa, but several questions still remain unanswered. Why is there such a huge gap of 84,000 years between the beginning of the Y chromosomal line of males representing the birth of the first genetic father of man and the mitochondrial line of females, the birth of the first woman – the so called genetic Eve of humanity? Why do archaeological records show a sudden change in the behaviour of the human race at about 50,000 years ago? What really happened at that time? Unfortunately, for the date of man's arrival on the scene, we depend only upon circumstantial evidence. The key to the mystery lies in our brains, literally and figuratively. It is this organ that makes us different from others, but brains do not fossilize. Thus, the perfect evidence that could have solved the problem seems to lie just beyond our grasp.

We can thus see that whether it is the emergence of life from non-life or the birth of the first man, the events seem to lie on the periphery of scientific vision. Some scientists say in jest that short of a knowledge revealed to us, none can answer such queries with certainty.

A recent work⁸, presents several such pointers from a revealed knowledge source, related to the researches in origin of life and birth of humans that seems to answer several questions in this regard.

DEBATES THAT HAVE DIVIDED US

It can also lay at rest several debates regarding our past that have divided us, produced immense misery, and inhibited our progress towards maturity.

Nationalism, regionalism, racialism, communalism and various other kinds of 'ism' are responsible for the dominant perspective to take control of all such debates.

The scientific progress, no doubt, is bringing transparency in the interpretation of debates, but there are several crucial junctures, where a Source that has monitored us from the beginning can point out the truth credibly and help us live peacefully and constructively.

WHAT LIES BEYOND DEATH?

Through our own rational efforts, we may also never know the biggest query of all. What happens after we die? Is it a transition or an absolute extinction? If it is a transition to another stage, does our life and actions on this planet affect the next stage? Such information is crucial, as the humanity faces an eternal conflict between the need for co-operative living and the instinct for individual survival. Without conviction in some kind of all encompassing accountability, the instinct for personal survival goads a man to become unjust in his dealings with men and nations, irrespective of the intelligence level. A sure knowledge about the existence of personal accountability, linked with an ultimate reward and punishment, can make the earth a much more hospitable place, for peaceful development of the intelligent organism.

QUERY 2: IS THERE A PROBABILITY ABOUT PRESENCE AND TRANSFER OF SUCH INFORMATION FROM COSMOS?

Discussing probability of this sort involves three basic issues. The transfer of complex information, which can anticipate the need of humanity and guide it, indicates a Source *way beyond* the present intellectual level of humanity. Second, the velocity of light *barrier* for transfer of energy in regular space can introduce large gaps of time, rendering such communication non-operational. And third, all scriptures, the so called sources of revealed knowledge, assert that this information is from the Creator of this Cosmos.

Three possibilities thus need to be discussed in this regard - the presence of an Intellect in Cosmos at far higher levels than humanity; the availability of alternative paths in Universe through which information can be transferred, and the presence of Creator factor and His link with this information.

PRESENCE OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF INTELLECT IN COSMOS

The speculation about life and intellect outside the earth is based on several postulates. Work by astrophysicists seems to suggest that out of 300 billion stars in our Galaxy, 75 to 300 billion stars may have

⁸ *In Search of our origins: How Quran can help in scientific research* by Jamshed Akhtar, Pub: Oriole Book Publishers, 2010.

planetary systems⁹. This suggestion demonstrates the *presence of unimaginably large numbers of potential cradles for life in our galaxy alone, and with seventy sextillion (7×10^{22}) stars in the visible universe, the potential increases manifold in the creation.*

Astrophysicists have also suggested that 'the properties of our star may be associated with special prerequisites for life. By comparing our Sun to other stars in our galaxy, we may be able to identify such prerequisites. If our star is typical, the stellar conditions appropriate for life may be common in the Universe. On the other hand, if the Sun is atypical, conditions appropriate for life may be uncommon.'¹⁰ In an effort to quantify how typical or atypical our Sun is, some astrophysicists from Australia, Finland and Germany, have identified *eleven maximally independent properties*¹¹ that have plausible correlations with habitability, and that have been observed, or can be derived from currently available and representative stellar surveys.

By comparing solar values for these eleven properties to the resultant stellar distributions, the researchers concluded that *if all eleven properties are taken together our Sun emerges as a typical star.* This result implied that there is no specific property that makes our Sun unique for the emergence of life. Or in other words, *billions of stars in the universe have the potential to host life.*

However, potentiality alone is not the only argument for the possibility of presence of life everywhere. Three other factors support this possibility. Water, an essential component of life on earth has been found *in abundant measure in the universe*¹²; second, the *rapid biogenesis of planet Earth*¹³ leaves little time for chance to play its role in the creation of life; and the study of extremophiles, shows that life can survive in extreme conditions. All these factors seem to suggest that even if life has evolved on a small percentage of star systems, the universe is probably *teeming with life and intellect.* Additionally, if we consider that the universe is more than thirteen billion years old, and some stars may have ignited very early in its history, the intellect evolved on the planets of such stars, must have had sufficient time to evolve.

TRANSFER OF INFORMATION THROUGH ALTERNATIVE PATHS

Regarding the transfer of information through alternative paths, we must remember that the existence of other dimensions¹⁴ is being speculated by almost all well known quantum physicists. The Super string theory, which is the favourite of all, involves 10 or 11 dimensions. The 6 or 7 extra dimensions have not been confirmed as yet, but the absence of confirmation does not mean ruling out their existence.

THE CREATOR FACTOR

Scientists have also neither proved *nor disproved* the existence of Creator as yet. We also do not know how to define the Creator; and if He exists, how does He communicate with His intelligent creation. Whether the communication is direct or through a medium/messenger? Judeo Christian and Islamic scriptures mention *Ruah* (Holy Spirit) as an entity who had always brought revelations to humanity via chosen humans.

A MYSTERIOUS CHAIN WITH ONE LINK ON EARTH AND THE OTHER DEEP IN COSMOS

Whatever the truth, a probability exists that we may be dealing with the deepest mystery of Cosmos, *a part of which is available on our planet for study.* It may help us take a quantum jump in the new millennium if the

⁹ Charles H Lineweaver and Daniel Grether, 'What Fraction Of Sun-Like Stars Have Planets?' Department of Astrophysics, School of Physics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

¹⁰ Jose A. Robles and Charles H. Lineweaver, 'Is the Sun a Random Star?', Planetary Science Institute, Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

¹¹ Jose A Robles, Charles H Lineweaver, Daniel Grether, Chas A Egan, Chris Flynn, Esko Gardner, Michael B Pracy, Johan Holmberg, *A comprehensive comparison of the sun to other stars: searching for self-selection effects*, The Astrophysical Journal, 684:691–706, 2008 September 1

¹² Water, Water Everywhere - <http://www.hno.harvard.edu/gazette/1999/02.25/telescope.htm>

¹³ Estimates have put life at 3.85 Ga, earliest surviving continental crust at 4.0 Ga, and end of intense meteorite bombardment at 3.9 Ga (Nature, vol. 409, p. 144, January 2001)

¹⁴ Moshe Rozalli, *Extra-dimensional theories are claimed to work in 10 or 11 dimensions..* ' Physicist, University of British Columbia, Scientific American Jan 30, 2006.

phenomenon of revelations is found to be non-human in origin, as it may open up a gateway to information from the very core of the universe, and give us answers to various queries like - who is really behind the phenomenon of revealed knowledge? Who and what is the Holy Spirit? Is some infinitely old intelligence acting on its own, something similar to Arthur C Clark's 'Collective Conscious Intelligence' or is the intelligence itself being used as a 'messenger' as part of an established universal program akin to teleonomy? Is this program a part of the initial laws of nature or is it the product of a creativity built into it? Is the messenger-guiding-entity from within the Cosmos or is it beyond this material energy universe, and what is its relationship with the Creator factor?

QUERY 3: HAVE WE ANY EVIDENCE FOR RECEIVING SUCH GUIDANCE IN OUR PAST?

To find evidence, we must first speculate a way, through which the information may have been transferred to the planet. However, such a speculation would itself require answers to three more questions.

HOW WAS THE INFORMATION TRANSFERRED?

Logically, to cater to an intelligent species in different stages of development, the 'transmission' of information will have to be by design, independent of technological status of receptors. Therefore, the most obvious channels on our planet ought to be the bio-receptors of information - the brains of 'selected humans' themselves.

WHERE COULD IT BE FOUND?

The most logical places to look for such information are 'preserved sayings' of famous individuals or Guides, who have fashioned the greatest impact on humanity's progress.

IS THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE?

Components of ethical guidance for general humanity can broadly be identified and isolated from the records of all ancient civilizations, like Sumerians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Aryans and Chinese. The Hebrew records are quite clear regarding the long line of their prophets. Aryans also have preserved their records well. In the sixth century BC, arrival of several 'guides' of very high stature - Buddha, Mahavira, Confucius, Tao-Te-Ching, and Zoroaster, is an established historical fact. The phenomenon however seemed to have subsided gradually. We do not notice any such important figure contemporary of Jesus (PBUH) of Nazareth. And after Mohammed (PBUH), none seem to have brought a new religion of sizeable following.

HAS THIS PHENOMENON ENDED OR IS IT STILL CONTINUING?

Looking at the actions of high and mighty, whether individuals or nations, we can safely say that human race is still far from the level of maturity expected from an intelligent species hoping to interact with others in the Cosmos. We desperately NEED guidance, not only to save ourselves from unknown dangers, but also from the self-destructive arrogance of ourselves. At the turn of a new millennium, we are standing at a junction where several roads cross. Politically, the world has become uni-polar and awesome strength has been concentrated in the puny hands of few. Socially, a massive clash of civilization is taking place at global scale, producing misery at unprecedented scale. Development wise, enormous quantum of information is fast becoming accessible to all, requiring nothing but self-policing. The humanity is also tinkering with processes, regarding which full interactions and repercussions are as yet unknown, at a pace that may leave little margin of error. The deterioration in law and order, moral values and personal accountability has become a world wide problem. The double standards in dealings of the haves, the growing anger of the have-nots, the ineffectiveness of UNO, the sliding back of the lone super power to pre 1946 level with respect to human rights, all show that the tidal wave of chaos is reaching its nadir. Unfortunately all followers of different religious communities believe in the eschatology of their scriptures, and we also have not witnessed in the last millennia any genuine prophet emerging from obscurity to lead the world towards a new order, establishing peace and prosperity.

*From this 'absence', what should we infer? Are the atheists correct and no such phenomenon exists or has the source of extra-terrestrial information abandoned us, treating us as a lost incorrigible case or the **information will come to us through a different way now?** Is this way already available on earth waiting to be tapped or will*

we have to wait for an unknown future to receive some kind of signal or pointer for it.

QUERY 4: CAN A STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES TELL US SOMETHING?

Looking at the records of inspired teachings from our past, following pattern emerges –

PROBLEMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Apart from an ability to harness the nature, two other sources through which misery strikes are ‘false perspective’ and ‘wrong actions’ of men, and the basic components of guidance found were related mainly to them.
- The effective applicability of this ‘guidance’ depended upon a ‘reward’ and ‘punishment’ concept, which was finally in a life after this life.
- As nobody had seen or experienced this future life, the human channels, through whom the guidance had come, were themselves required to generate belief in this abstract accountability. A difficult task for anyone in any time.
- In this arduous task, two factors usually helped these human channels to establish their credibility - a gift of charisma, and occurrences of miracles. Charisma is defined as an unusual ability to influence people, and miracles were either abilities that seemed supernatural at the time or events that occurred as per predictions of the ‘guides’.

DISTORTION IN TEACHINGS:

- The records also show that majority of such human channels were born at a time when writing was neither known nor customary. The usual mode of transfer of guidance was verbal.
- In the absence of any means for recording it and with the passage of time, the caretakers of faith eternally managed to corrupt the original teachings, bit by bit, into myths, rites and rituals, bringing the original religion to a stage, when it stood defaced and life awaited a new redemption.

ALLEGIANCE FACTOR:

- To recompense this humanity’s backwash, periodic introduction of fresh guidance looked like a logical necessity, albeit with a limitation.
- The new guidance had to confront a negative by-product of the efforts involved in the generation of faith. It was the ‘allegiance factor’ in the followers - born mainly out of messenger’s charisma and miracles.¹⁵
- This allegiance to the persona of messenger once produced, seldom varied, and got transmitted from generation to generation.
- With the passage of time and the messenger’s death, when the original guidance suffered distortion, *the factor of allegiance prevented the people to realize this fact*. Succeeding generation of followers always believed that what their messenger had said was the best, though *what he had really said; none had the means to recognize with certainty*.
- Thus, whenever a new redeemer came on the scene with a fresh guidance, the allegiance to the previous prophets obstructed the new messenger with all the disharmony, bloodshed and the ferocity of hatred at its command, thereby defeating the very purpose of guidance.

LOGICAL SOLUTION:

Logic dictated that to counter this factor of ‘allegiance’, periodic introduction of ‘guidance’ had to end and be replaced by a final transmission, which could contain all the future guidance humanity would ever need. Such future information could either be coded in layers in the transmission, for humanity to decode at required intervals,¹⁶ or hidden in its ‘composition’ with possibilities of multiple and fractal interpretations.¹⁷

¹⁵ Jamshed Akhtar, *The Ultimate Revelations*, p- 128, 129 Oriole Publications, New Delhi 1996

¹⁶ This possibility has been discussed by Jamshed Akhtar in *The Ultimate Revelations*, Oriole Publications, New Delhi 1996.

¹⁷ This second possibility has been discussed in detail in two books by Jamshed Akhtar - *In Search of our Origins: How Quran can Help*

QUERY 5: CAN THE PATTERN BE VALIDATED?

WHAT TO EXPECT:

If the reasoning is assumed to be correct then humanity should expect a single final transmission, at the end of several inspired messages on the planet, found in different locations of time and place. This transmission, with well-defined parameters, will have to be preserved for eternity, so that humanity could extract by itself the future guidance, in different times, with its own increasing intelligence levels.

CAN ITS TIME OF ARRIVAL BE GUESSED?

Logically, the transmission may already have arrived on the planet in the past or it may still be part of an unknown future.

WHICH PROBABILITY SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED FIRST?

Considering the 'future' alternative first, it would be logical to assume that with our present technological level, a human receptor will no longer be needed for the final transmission. We are in a much better position now to receive, preserve and communicate such a transmission electronically. It can have all the guidance needed in digitally coded formats. SETI project¹⁸ is ready for such an eventuality. It has the resources to handle such a Message, if and when it arrives, and the world will come to know about it as soon as any signal from stars gets detected. But, such an eventuality belongs to future, and we will have to wait for an uncertain time for any meaningful validation of the pattern. The second alternative on the other hand, seems to have more tangible promise as we can start our investigations now.

Let us suppose that the logically predicted final message is *already here* on the planet and is part of our past. Then, what do we do? How do we identify it, and most important of all, examine it?

DR SAGAN'S SUGGESTION:

Dr Carl Sagan, a prominent scientist had provided a limited answer to this problem. While discussing the possibility of an extra-terrestrial transmission hidden in scriptures, he had pointed out the presence of three categories of data¹⁹ in scriptures that negated this possibility in them.

First category of data pointed out by him can be termed as **contradictory** data. Any message from outside the planet was required to have logical consistency. If the data at one place contradicted with data at another place in the same message, then it showed an obvious tampering of its basic text by human hands. The second category was **uninspiring** data. A scripture was expected to provide guidance on correct perspective and right actions, through sayings and actions of leaders chosen for this particular job. If clear passages existed, where the leaders themselves were shown committing immoral actions and not getting punished or admonished for their acts then the chances were that these narratives were not part of original teachings, but were the work of later human scribes. Dr Sagan also pointed out a third category of information, the **false** data, which was mostly inconsistent with established scientific facts. The logic in pointing out the three categories namely, contradictory, uninspiring and false data, was the same. If the original message had some non-human information, it was likely to have been *lost by now* because of the human involvement.

He had also suggested²⁰ that if an Intelligence had really wanted to establish the credibility of a transmission, it could easily have sent advanced information as part of injunctions, for later verification.

Thus, in a limited way, at least three categories of data can be pointed out, whose absence, and one category whose presence, if scientifically and thoroughly investigated can help verify the non-human origin of such a message.

in Scientific Research, Oriole Publications 2010, and *Origin and Fate of Universe: A Synthesis of Revealed and Scientific Perspectives*, Oriole Publications 2014.

¹⁸ SETI INSTITUTE www.seti.org

¹⁹ Carl Sagan, *Contact: A Novel*, p-27, - Arrow Books Ltd., London 1989.

²⁰ *i.b.i.d.*, p- 166, 167

WHICH WRITINGS SHOULD WE EXAMINE FIRST?

For a final transmission, we must begin logically with the latest scripture and move backwards towards older scriptures whether eastern or western, when and if our investigation discredits the latest known 'guidance'.

Following this line, our first object of investigation should be the Quran, the last well-known scripture, which is at present at the center of all the multiple conflicts. Surprisingly, more than a billion followers call it *Al-Risala* - 'The Message', and the man who had brought it *Rasool-Allah* - the 'Messenger of God'. They believe it as a directly transmitted Word of God.

THE WESTERN PERCEPTION:

The west feels that it is a scripture, which preaches violence and obscurantism, and accuse it of retarding scientific progress and development. Present conditions of Muslims and countries ruled by them, supports their contentions. The entire Muslim block is indeed lagging behind in almost all aspects of development, in spite of large numbers and abundance of natural resources. BUT, the Muslim world counters this perception by pointing out that when *Al-Risala* (The Message) or *Quran* had arrived, civilization wise Europe and the Arabian Peninsula were at par with each other. After its arrival, area under the *Quran* progressed in leaps and bounds, while Europe remained stagnant for centuries, till the knowledge shifted from Spain.²¹ The gradual reversal of development within this civilization is explained by majority of Muslim religious leaders through veering away of community from the practices of Prophet and his companions, but an intellectual minority puts the blame on an unfortunate bar²² on 'spirit of enquiry' three hundred years after the descent of Message. They claim that this bar was primarily meant to protect the Message from distortion but resulted ultimately in knowledge starvation and slowing down of interpretation mechanism of the Quran. Who is correct and which side is in the grip of allegiance factor, can only be found out through a rational scientific investigation of the factors related with this set of writings.

PROPOSED SEVEN-STEP STUDY OF QURAN TO CORROBORATE THE HYPOTHESIS AND ITS PREDICTION

THE STUDY

Ideally, the study should begin with an investigation into the 'inspiration vs. transmission' controversy related to Quran, through the study of relevant historical records.

STEP 1: INSPIRATION OR TRANSMISSION?

The Quran is claimed as an alphabet-by-alphabet 'Message' *transmitted* by God to Muhammad through the Holy Spirit. Judeo-Christian Scholars of religion, who subscribe to the view that scriptures are the work of human authors *inspired* by Holy Spirit, assert that a direct transmission from God is an impossibility. They say that any idea presented through a man in his own language, however lofty, needs to pass through the human lens, thus suffering distortion. At the most such a set of writings can be called an inspired literature, but nothing more.

Can we arrive at some kind of conclusion regarding this debate by investigating evidences in the old records? To answer this query, scientific assessment of arguments outlined in a book²³ is required that suggests a fresh analysis of evidences in the light of modern knowledge. An abstract of these arguments is provided here.

ABSTRACT:

Five major sets of evidences are available in the records related to the claim of descent of Quranic

²¹ Jamshed Akhtar, *The Ultimate Revelations*, p 242-277 , Oriole Publications, 1996

²² *i.b.i.d.*, p 293, 294

²³ Jamshed Akhtar, *In Search of Our Origins: How Quran Can Help in Scientific Research*, Oriole Publications 2010.

revelations. First set of several reports describes extreme pain felt by the prophet and a ringing sound in his ears. Muslim scholars till now have treated the pain and the ringing sound separately. The pain as per the Muslim perspective is not considered an essential part of spiritual development. Therefore, its reason is neither understood nor has been discussed much, but ringing sound has invited several conjectures. The paper argues that along with pallor and perspiration, ringing sound in the ears was in fact a corroborative symptom for the occurrence of extreme pain during the phenomenon. Second set of reports pertains to a virtual increase in the mass of human channel during occurrence of the phenomenon. Apart from companion's testimony in this regard, camels have also been reported to forcibly sit down under the increased weight. This evidence of temporary virtual mass is a mystery. It suggests the presence of temporary energy link and has an internal corroboration in the text. Third report is about a 'low volume high frequency hum' that could be heard very close to the head of the messenger, described in the ancient manuscripts as similar to the noise coming from a nest of bees. This evidence also corroborates some kind of physical energy transfer.

Fourth set mentions a mysterious operation of the human channel in the childhood where some shining foreign object was placed in his body by two beings in white, and fifth is related to a small bulge that became visible in his adult years, at the top of his vertebral column. The Messenger himself had confirmed the association of this small bulge with the phenomenon of revelations, and had refused to get it operated. The researcher suggests that the small bulge probably was the visible portion of a reinforcement that may have grown organically in his body from the childhood, and was meant to protect the rib cage and the spine from the harmful effects of the massive virtual mass reported in traditions. These two sets of evidences are peculiar as they seem to suggest that the 'Human Channel' was probably prepared in advance to withstand the rigors of this high-energy link.

Two other logical factors are important in this regard - an electrically silent planet of seventh century where the only sources of electro magnetic noise were the sun, stars and the bioactivity of planet's flora and fauna, and the fact that the revelations descended initially in a cup shaped valley, in a desert with sparse life for thousands of miles around.

WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT?

The evidences do not present the revelations as simple radio messages from aliens of another star system. What exactly was it cannot be guessed. The evidences according to Muslim scholars simply establish that the phenomenon was NOT an inspiration as popularly understood.

HOW THE RECORDS SHOULD BE EVALUATED?

Apart from investigation into age and credibility rating of these records, they should also be evaluated with reference to logic of fabrication? For example, what could be the reason of fabrication of a report associating intense pain and difficulty with revelations with all the apparent symptoms and then offering no explanations for it during the subsequent centuries? The report about 'high frequency hum' emanating from the head of messenger, in records that are thousand years older than the birth of electricity or any concept pertaining to energy transmission is also a curious piece of fabrication, if it is a fabrication? Likewise, the increase in prophet's weight during the time of revelations only, goes against the logic of fabrication. In a man's psyche, the 'up' and 'down' directions are clearly identified with good (paradise) and evil (hell), and no follower in his right mind would fabricate a report where the prophet, in the midst of a spiritual experience, is described as being pulled downwards. Logically a fabricated report should have mentioned him floating upwards during this experience, specifically since an angel was also supposed to be involved. Moreover, these five sets have not been selected out of hundreds of reports that fitted the criteria. *These are the only reports in the records*, and in all such cases, a logical explanation for fabrication should be found relevant to the times; otherwise they should be considered as true, supporting the energy link suggestion.

STEP 2: UNIQUE MODE OF ADDRESS

Unlike all others, mode of address employed in this scripture is also unique. The Quran addresses the

humanity either directly (e.g. ‘O mankind!’ ‘O Children of Israel!’ ‘O People of the Book!’ and ‘O ye who believe!’ etc.), or through the Messenger himself (e.g. ‘Say to the believer’, or ‘Say to the people of the book’ etc.).²⁴ Not a single verse can be claimed to contain the words of the human messenger or of a historian. This claim should be investigated and verified fully as it represents either an internal evidence for transmission aspect or a deliberate attempt at false impersonation. The attempt at false personification should be checked against the consistency of teachings over a period of time against heavy odds, the strict instructions against self-glorification, absolute insistence on monotheism, and numerous other such factors.

STEP 3: INTERNAL MENTION OF A NON- HUMAN MESSENGER²⁵

A non-human messenger, who brought the revelations to Muhammad (PBUH) from the ‘Source of Creation’ Himself, is clearly mentioned in the Quran at various places. The verses describe an encounter with this extra-terrestrial messenger and tell us that the human messenger was ‘taught’ by this powerful and wise entity. [53:5-12] The Quran, at some places, has called this extra terrestrial messenger Gabriel, while at others, by the name of *Ruhul Quds* meaning ‘Holy Spirit’ or simply *Ruh*, that is Spirit. A Hebrew word *ruah* (spirit), referring to the free and unhindered activity of God, either in creating or in revitalizing creation, especially in connection with the prophetic word, has been mentioned in the Old Testament texts, along with Gabriel as one of the four great archangels. However, there has been neither an explicit belief in a separate divine person in biblical Judaism nor a confirmation that Gabriel and *ruah* were the same. Holy Spirit’s definition as a distinct divine Person equal in substance to the Father and the Son came at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, following challenges to its divinity.²⁶

Has the scientific world ever discussed or envisioned such an entity? Apparently, inspired minds have often wrestled to define an Entity that is neither the Creator nor equal to Him, but is important in the scheme of Cosmos. An ideal example of such conceptual effort can be identified in Arthur C Clark’s ‘Collective Conscious Intelligence’.²⁷

INVESTIGATION OF THE CONTENT

A ‘transmission’ that can transcend cosmic barriers, is expected to contain informational data that we may not be able to verify with our own limited understanding and technological level of the time. Thus, logically, for verification of such a Message, our efforts should proceed along five guidelines.

- a. That data should be examined and excluded, which demonstrate the evidence of a human hand, such as, contradictory and uninspiring data as suggested by Dr Sagan.
- b. Alleged false data should be segregated into verifiable and non-verifiable categories first and then verifiable data should be investigated.
- c. All claims about ‘Knowledge ahead of its time’ in the verses should be investigated unambiguously, whether it is with reference to established theories or theories still under debate. A detailed statistical verification method is provided in the book ‘In Search of our Origins: How Quran can help in scientific research’ for this type of data.
- d. Claim of preservation, fidelity and incorruptibility of the Message should be examined with reference to its composition and order. The incorruptibility of ‘composition and order’ both are essential for the presence of ‘information’ in the text.
- e. Fixing of composition parameters or boundary of a message can establish the link between verifiable and non-verifiable data. If we can demonstrate this link then verification of one category would automatically establish the credibility of the other.

²⁴ Jamshed Akhtar, *The Ultimate Revelations*, p 167-170, Oriole Publications, New Delhi 1996

²⁵ i.b.i.d. page 170-174

²⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. Copyright © 1994-2001

²⁷ Arthur C Clarke, *Childhood’s End*, Pan Books Ltd., 1956

STEP 4: INVESTIGATION INTO CONTRADICTION AND UNINSPIRING DATA

THE CONTRADICTION DATA

Quran confirms that contradictory data is a sign of human imprint and offers the absence of this data as a proof of its non-human origin.

"Do they not ponder on the Qur'an? Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy. Qur'an (4:82)

Christians or Jews do not put any such claim for Books of Bible. The Bible is known to be a compilation of 66 books, written by more than 40 authors, over a period of 1500 years. The diversity of authors or imprint of human hands on the entire Bible is fully accepted. But, the Christians also believe that the principle of non-Contradiction is not an appropriate criterion to judge God's word.

'The truthfulness of Scripture is not negated by the appearance in it of irregularities of grammar or spelling, phenomenal descriptions of nature, reports of false statements (for example, the lies of Satan), or seeming discrepancies between one passage and another. It is not right to set the so-called 'phenomena' of Scripture against the teaching of Scripture about itself...'²⁸

'Scripture is inerrant, not in the sense of being absolutely precise by modern standards, but in the sense of making good its claims and achieving that measure of focused truth at which its authors aimed...'²⁹

Muslim scholars on the other hand affirm that *no contradictory statement* or textual inconsistency exists in Quran. The verses on individual topics though lie scattered throughout the text of scripture, all such accounts as per them, *only supplement each other*.

'Christian Answers to Islam' a website maintained by Evangelical Christians has pointed out fifty-two contradictions in Quran, which Muslim scholars have explained. A scientific scrutiny of these accusations in the light of explanations offered, can clarify this issue.

THE UNINSPIRING DATA

[...In the stories of Lot and his daughters, of Abraham and Sarah in Egypt, of the betrothal of Dinah, of Jacob and Esau, she found herself amazed. She understood that cowardice might occur in the real world - that sons might deceive and defraud an aged father, that a man might give craven consent to the seduction of his wife by the king, or even encourage the rape of his daughter. But in this holy book there was not a word of protest against such outrages. Instead, it seemed, the crimes were approved, even praised.]³⁰

This is the second category of data pointed out by Dr Sagan.

This 'data' is absent from Quran. The Quran rejects all such stories. Starting from mother Eve, it has exonerated almost all of them. Neither she was responsible for Adam eating the forbidden fruit nor the poor snake, nor has Abraham been shown to lie to Egyptian king or Lot to indulge in incest with his own daughters. Issac, Joseph, David, and Solomon all come through the Quran as clean, model characters, worthy of being Messengers of God. Even Moses' brother Aaron has been cleared of the accusation of building the golden heifer. The Quran accepts that all these leaders were humans and it has mentioned at few places minor lapses on the part of prophets but always accompanied with suitable admonishments and help. In the case of Jonah who had left his charge prematurely, God punished him first and then pardoned him, while with Joseph God helped him in fighting a women's forced advances, although it is mentioned that weakness had entered his mind. In fact, the verses record the admonishing of Prophet Muhammad too, on minor lapses.

²⁸ <http://www.debate.org.uk/debate-topics/apologetic/contrads/> downloaded on April 18, 2014

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Carl Sagan, *Contact: A Novel*, page-27, Arrow Books Ltd., London 1989

STEP 5: THE PROBLEM OF FALSE DATA

SIX CATEGORIES OF ERRORS:

Apart from information inconsistent with established scientific facts, Biblical scholars³¹ have pointed out five additional categories of errors in the books of Bible - information irreconcilable with archaeological finds; information incompatible with contemporary records; wrong prophecies; suspected prophecies that seem to have been added after the event; and inclusion of established myths. The Biblical apologists accept the possibility of errors through human involvement, but say that they are irrelevant to the basic teachings.

Such latitude is not available to the Quran. Claimed as direct transmission from God, presence of errors in it cannot be explained through human involvement. Such errors, if found can put a question mark on its credibility. On the other hand, as an alternative source of knowledge from Cosmos, the scripture is supposed to 'reveal' information about concepts and processes that we may not be able to comprehend now or events that may have been the result of extra-terrestrial intervention. If we reject this data as false, it will not only be incorrect but would also nullify the very advantage of the phenomenon. Therefore in such a scripture, the data should first be segregated into verifiable and non-verifiable category to the best of our efforts, and then subjected to investigation.

The cardinal point of such investigation should be that a data could only be called false, if one can prove it false clearly and unambiguously. An example³² from the Books of Bible is the information in Joshua 8.25, which was considered false because it did not match with the archaeological finds. Similarly, checking with contemporary records, proved the fallacy of information in Daniel 5.30-31. Except the data related to 'prophecies after the event' which may come under the suspected category, all other five types of errors have been established clearly. But Biblical scholars have not rejected outright, those stories of the prophets whose origin is shrouded in the mist of time. They can neither prove nor disprove their authenticity. We cannot simply say with confidence that reporting of such and such event is false simply because, with our present knowledge we are unable to understand its mechanics.

MUSLIMS CLAIM REGARDING ABSENCE OF FALSE DATA IN QURAN:

Muslims claim that till now, none of the data of Quran has been proved to be inconsistent with archaeological finds or the contemporary records. Some data may come under the suspected category, but no one has produced a definite proof of error in this regard. In fact at some places, Quran either avoided inadvertent mistakes³³ that could have been committed easily had it come from a human source, or it revealed information, which was different³⁴ from the sources available at the time. In all cases, the Quranic information was ultimately found to be correct by new investigations. This claim has to be verified through objective investigators. The prophecies in Quran are also general in nature. In one specific case, the prophecy regarding the reversal of war fortunes positively for Byzantine Christians against Persians, not only was fulfilled within a few years, but the verses also revealed a strange information that could only be confirmed in the modern times.³⁵ All this is verifiable data, and a scientific investigation can easily affirm or reject the claim in its entirety or a part of it.

STEP 6: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION – FALSE DATA OR KNOWLEDGE AHEAD OF ITS TIME

Another category of data in Quran, which is often confused with somewhat similar data of other scriptures and believed as false, is scientific information. The western scientists believe that popular myths were the source of such information in the Bible, while Quran is considered to have simply plagiarized the data.

To ascertain whether the data is from a Common Extra-terrestrial Source or a plagiarized version of a myth,

³¹ Alan Richardson, *The Rise of Modern Biblical Scholarship and Recent Discussion of the Authority of the Bible* in S.L.Greenslade (ed), *The Cambridge History of the Bible*, Vol.2 Cambridge University Press 1963.

³² R.P.C. & A.T. Hanson, *The Bible without Illusions* - SCM Press London, Trinity Press Inter. Philadelphia 1989.

³³ Jamshed Akhtar, *The Ultimate Revelations*, p-204, Oriole Publications, New Delhi 1996

³⁴ i.b.i.d., p 209-210

³⁵ i.b.i.d. p 205-207

we should remember that myths are usually built around either a truth or a distortion of original truth that must have broken through some time in the past. Such information invariably lies camouflaged with a lot of litter. The statements of Quran present the information after carefully stripping away all such extraneous data, in an enigmatic language that has a fractal quality. Seen in the light of researches done by the author of this paper³⁶, the statements not only reveal new interpretations but also seem to point the researcher towards a particular path of research. There are numerous such verses in the Quran. Each statement has to be probed thoroughly, to find out whether it is pseudo science or genuine information coming through the core of universe. The words used are peculiar, and original meanings of words are very important in such investigations. These verses are the best source for establishing the origin of revelations debate. A statistical analytical model has been outlined in the book 'In Search of our origins – how Quran can help in scientific researches', for comparing the information available in 7th century with Quranic revelations. The objective is to calculate the statistical probability of complex specific Information mentioned in Quran through chance.

STEP 7: CLAIM OF PRESERVATION, FIDELITY AND INCORRUPTIBILITY OF THE MESSAGE

TRANSMISSION FOR ALL TIME – A REAL PROBABILITY OR ESCHATOLOGY

For a transmission to be last and final, it will have to include large quantum of additional information, required for an unknown future, within a finite text. Logically, two basic ways exist for it. One path lies in choosing words and composition in such a way that the statement acquires a fractal quality i.e. capability of multiple interpretations with changing information levels, in different times. Such a way of putting information neither tax the creativity of the receptor intelligence much nor puts a large distance between the interpretation and the general level of comprehensibility of the time. An ideal example is the information on origin of life and man, where with increasing information, verses seem to point towards a deeper interpretation³⁷.

The second way is to hide the information in code, and put the key or keys of the code in the transmission itself with suitable pointers. This way has unlimited possibilities. Almost any amount of information, valid till eternity, can be coded in the transmission, either in textual, digital or as yet unknown formats. Such information can be hidden in progressively complex layers, to be decoded by the humanity itself with its own increasing intelligence.³⁸

Putting information through the first way does not require any indication in the text, but if the information is coded then absolute preservation of the text and some kind of hint regarding a hidden inner order is expected which can act as a pointer towards such information.

INVESTIGATIONS REQUIRED IN THIS REGARD

In this regard, three claims and three controversies regarding Quran have to be investigated through impartial investigations. **First** is the claim of preservation of the 'Quran' through reciters and written word. Fortunately, extensive historical records are available, along with ancient manuscripts accessible to scholars. **Second** is the claim of fidelity of transmission, i.e. the message we have is the same that was delivered by the human channel in terms of composition and order both. In this regard, investigation into order of verses is important, as an obvious lack of order exists in Quran, in combination with extremely complex composition. Since the globally accepted order of Quran is not chronological, but was dictated by the Messenger himself, it looks like a pointer towards a hidden 'order and message' in the text. **Third** claim is regarding the medium of communication of the Quran. Arabic scholars collectively believe that Arabic words have multiple meanings and these multiple meanings provide the dynamism in interpretation. However, the multiple meanings make the meaning obscure as the selection of a particular meaning depend upon the will of interpreter. This obscurity is against Quran's clear definition of its medium of communication. Recent researches have shown that most of the words used in Quran seem to have a clear specific meaning based on their roots, and the dynamism in

³⁶ Jamshed Akhtar, *In Search of our Origins – How Quran can help in the scientific researches*

³⁷ *I.b.i.d*

³⁸ Jamshed Akhtar, *The Ultimate Revelations*, Oriole Publications, New Delhi 1996.

interpretation comes from the peculiar composition of verses and not through different meanings of the same word.

Three controversies that are to be sorted out are the abrogation theory, the problem of variant readings, and discovery of a mathematical structure in the text. All these are important from the point of view of a final transmission. The abrogation theory does not match with numerous factors associated with descent of Quran. It also stands on weak grounds, and can easily be dealt with, but sorting of 'variant readings' is crucial. The tradition on which this controversy is based contains the clearest possible hint of hidden information in Quran, if the prophet's words are taken literally. In fact all the problems have cropped up because scholars misinterpreted the word *harf* (alphabet) as *qirat* (recitation) as descent of revelations on saba *harf* (seven alphabets) did not make sense to them. In this regard, the investigation of mathematical structure is very important. This structure was rejected because its discoverer had forwarded claims of distortion in Quran and messenger status for himself. Both these claims are blasphemous for Muslims in the extreme. The interesting point here is that few additional calculations and reinterpretation of his data can reestablish the structure as well as demolish both the claims easily. Yet, Muslims and non-Muslim both, under the grip of allegiance factor, are unable to look at this new analysis objectively and scientifically. This extremely complex structure has the promise to remove all doubts related to incorruptibility of the text, solve the abrogation and variant reading problems, show a linkage between verifiable and non-verifiable data, explain numerous anomalies and establish beyond all doubt the extra-terrestrial origin of the Message.

CONCLUSION

Project Infinite Peace thus presents a possible physical basis of the phenomenon of revelations terminating into a last transmission, and a way to confirm the prediction.

The investigation is important as through literal interpretation of words, several hundred pointers of complex information have emerged³⁹ from this last transmission. Composed in a grid like structure, the information has been designed to be revealed in such a way that progressive technological development could unfold and corroborate components connected to deeper pointers. The information already extracted reveals the possible picture of a Super String based, cyclic, 10-dimensional Universe, teeming with life and intelligence and unfolding according to an ultimate 'mother of all programs'. The universe, it reveals is much more interesting and mysterious than the fictional universe of Star Trek, and needs investigation, debate and consensus.

The revelations are also supposed to bring us information that we need but do not have the rational means to acquire it. Without its help we may 'do' or 'not do' something that might be essential for the survival of the intelligence on this planet. And, it may not be the question of humanities' survival alone. No one knows how the humanity is linked with rest of the universe and how its collective actions can affect the scheme of things from a universal perspective. Perhaps, unknown to us, humanity may already have reached a crucial point, where a concerted effort is expected from us. However, such an effort can only become possible if the humanity, through a scientific exercise, convinces itself about the reality of this alternative window of information.

The project can be executed through webinars.

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³⁹ 'The Ultimate Revelations' (1996) Oriole Book Publishers, 'In Search of Our Origins' (2010) ISBN: 1456335677; and 'Origin and fate of Universe' (2014) ISBN: 1456335677, CreateSpace.