

**THE EXCELLENCE OF ISLAMIC-ARABESQUE SKILL, A PHYSICAL TRANSLATION OF
SOME QUR'ANIC VERSES BASED ON THE MODERN TIME**

Muhammad Mujtaba Abdulkadir

School of Art, Department of Islamic studies

A. D. Rufa'i College of Legal and Islamic Studies, Misau, Bauchi State, Nigeria

8067735412

E-mail: mujtabaabdulkadirjahun@gmail.com

&

Muhammad Auwal Sulaiman

School of General Studies, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic,

Wuntin Dada, Jos Road, Bauchi State, Nigeria.

08066783171/0808825991

E-mail: abufatima25@yahoo.com

&

Zainab Ibrahim

Arabic Department

Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic, Sokoto, Sokoto State-Nigeria.

Myahaya10@hotmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The Islamic-Arabic art in this research refers to how Qur'an as a divine book full with sciences (Ilm) depicts to Muslims/Arab some events and objects since hundred years ago, which modern time witnessed its alternative translations physically. It also mentioned some other aspects that deal with the environmental development which today technology manufactured different functional things accordingly. These affirm the miracle of the Qur'an. However, this paper aimed at explaining some events that had occurred in the past and some that continuously taking place which are correlated to Qur'anic perspectives as well as others to be coming in the future. Some relevant issues diagnosed by Qur'an since 1435 (A. H) which discovered today by researchers through modern development was discussed in relation to Qur'an point of narration. It also explores on some jurisprudence decisions to unfold some rules of the Islamic law on some modern innovated technology. Thus Muslim should not stick in one point without reasoning on how to be worldly initiative, creative and progressive based on time and opportunity.

Keyword: Excellence, Islamic-Arabesque, Skill, Physical Qur'anic, Modern Time

INTRODUCTION

Qur'an: Is a book of Allah which revealed upon Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) in which Muslims believe it is from Allah (*Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*) and worshiping with its recitation, related with the chain of transmission from the Prophet, started from *Surah Al Fatihah* and concluded with *Surah Al Nas*.

Qur'an is not only a history neither a story of Muslim, Arab or any past generation; it comprises a wider meaning of law and sciences that wisely deserve application. Many scholars wrote an exegesis based on their time and gives rules and decision according to what had been surrounded them. Some terminologies were applied in the Qur'an to allow Muslims use their talent in religion aspects and life activities,

such as understanding, reasoning, reflecting, thinking and knowledge among others. Some verses were mentioned in the Qur'an, which are guiding modern Muslim to make use of His knowledge to boost his social being. All things, be it objects or otherwise may be found in the Qur'an, only that, our limited knowledge may be narrow to discover it. Allah said:

(.....and we reveal the scripture unto thee as an exposition of all things and guidance and a mercy and good tidings for those who have surrendered (to Allah) (Q:16, V:89) in another verse: (We have not neglected anything in the book) i.e. Al-Qur'an 6: V: 38) These two verses led the first Khalif Abubakar, (may Allah have mercy on him) to say:

Even if my hobble camel would run away I can find
him in the Qur'an.¹

In order to discover some development that would go with every time and generation Qur'an explained many episodes which encouraged knowledge and motivated Muslims to carry research on different aspects. The synopses of the paper are: Introduction, Definition of Qur'an, prehistoric period, Modern time, discoveries from Qur'an, Example communication technology from Qur'an, Example of Islamic-Arabic art and science and conclusion.

Prehistoric period

The Qur'an told us about Ad and Thamud how they are running their life which can be translate today as stone age, the Qur'anic story detailed us on different people and their civilization. For example, during under develop era people don't know about simple means of transportation, communication and transformation appeared through technology revolution, which is taken place today, although they only travelled by foot while others by camels, donkeys e.t.c, as a development in the Iron Age. For example a journey of a month during under development could be made now in a week, as the gravity is reducing the journey could be made in 24 hours or less.

Modern time in the Qur'an

Modern time simply means modern day or modern world, which is the circumstance

¹ Qaradawi, Y. *Al Halal wa Al Haram Fi Al Islam*, P. 38.

and ideas of the present age. To this research it refers to changes that have emerged since after industrial revolution or what is appeared in the new millennium that brought or cause different development in today globe. Qur'an mentioned what is relevant to that in nature indicating for somethings to be happened at some places in the future, where it said:

(We shall soon show them our signs/portents on the horizons and within themselves until it will be manifest unto them that it is the truth...) Surah Fussilat 41, V: 53)

According to some Qur'anic exegesis the words *(We shall)* or *(we will)* in the verse indicating some times to come in the future and yet. Allah had made it clear that there are some people, who have the knowledge of the worldly affairs,

(They know only some appearance of the life of the world and are heedless of hereafter) Surah Al Rum 30, Verse 7.

Allah affirmed that they know it, because he offered them the understanding that is why they are doing it now in practically in a modern way.

Some sign of Allah to be utilized in developing of social living

According to some verses of Qur'an the existing stars in the sky served as a guide for travellers. In the modern time it is being used as a sign and a guide in locating directions in object-oriented programming, tracing signal and services of some waves of radio, TV and satellite as well as other networks services. These signify the relation of human beings to heaven. Allah said:

(I swear by the heaven full of way) Surah Al Dhariyat 51, v: 7, ways of many things. In another verse Allah Said: (and he it who hath set for you the stars that ye may guide your course by them amid the darkness of the land and the sea; we have detailed our revelations for a people who have knowledge) (Surah Al an'am 6, Verse 97)

Before the advent of modern technology, travellers (by sea) at night require some aids that will guide them because there is no constructed way or road in sea or on land; therefore Allah provided the stars as a sign to them. But travellers by road, sea and sky in the modern day may not require guidance from the mentioned stars for they are using some guide through modern signals from networks and other waves.

Malumfashi support this argument that:

Because of better provisions made by constructors who built road essentially directional; they determined throughout from start to destinations, this is truth in contrast to scientific theory which can change at any time new facts are discovered²

However, the constructors use some machines in measuring where the direction could be traced, this can also be regarded as a guide from a certain signals of satellite in the sky.

Some example of the discoveries from Qur'an, e.g. Fount of Molten Copper "*Ain al Qitr*" as a source of electricity

Qur'an made predictions in some verses which some had happened, some are taking place while others are yet. The contemporary Muslim scholars held the idea of understanding some verses based on modern time, affirming that Allah had mentioned many things accordingly only that the physical discovery depend on the time and the generations, that is why the scholars made some commentaries on worldly innovations based on their time. For example: the modern thinking, understanding and knowledge deducted the origin and source of electricity from the following verse

(... and are made a fount of molten copper to flow out for him) (Qur'an, 34: Verse 12).

Yahya outlined that;

One of Allah's great blessings to Prophet Suleiman (Alaih Al-Salam) was a "Fount of Molten Copper" this can be under stood in several senses. By the use of melted copper it may be referring to the existence, at his time of an advanced technology that employ electricity, we know that copper is one of the best metals for conducting electricity and heat, and thus constitutes the basis of the electrical industry, which uses much of the copper produced in the world. The expression "flow out" may indicate that electricity can be used in many fields³

² Malumfashi. S. S, *Sign of Allah*, 2002, P. 57-58

³. Yahya, H. *Miracle of Qur'an*, (internet) 2009.

The Silicon Valley *"wad Al Naml"* a discovered Source of networking and some Example communication technology from Qur'an

Another example cited from the Qur'an is a discovered system of communication which modern time technology upgraded "the silicon valley" to hi-tech, where someone can communicate from far and be delivered within short period of time. The case of ants and prophet Suleiman and his troops among others, Allah said:

(Then when they reached the valley of the ants, an ant said "ants! Enter your dwellings, so that Suleiman and his troops do not crush you unwillingly) (Surah Al Naml: 27 Verse 18).

The "Valley of the ants" refers to a special place and special ants; in addition, the fact that prophet Suleiman (Alaih Al Salam) could hear the ants talking among themselves, this may contain striking reference to future development in computer sciences, internet services and networking technology.

The present – day term "Silicon Valley" refers to the centre of the world of technology; it is most significant that a "Valley of the ants" appears in the account of prophet Sulaiman's (Alaih Al Salam) life; Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'ala) may be drawing our attention to the advanced technology of future.⁴

The voice of the ant, which came to Prophet Sulaiman, is from far as such it can be related to telegraphic way of transmitting voice from far. It was upgraded today rapidly to Telephone, cellular phone and ICTs

Bn foduye emphasized that,

The prophet Suleiman heard the voice of an Ant far from three miles, taken by wind to him..."⁵

Nowadays the practical communication technologies reach a level of what is taking place accompanying different accessories, thus ICTs including internet and personal digital assistance (PDA) became available almost everywhere, which the Qur'anic depiction of gave a way to learn and expand by those who knows and understand.

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ Abd'Allah bn foduye, *Dhiya Al Ta'awil*, 1961, p. 169.

Example of Islamic-Arabic art and science of Hydrology, engineering and architecture in the Qur'an

In the chapter 27 of Qur'an Allah had described the techniques used in locating ground water and how to be developed to a source of water for human use. A hoopoe played a role of a hydrologist; he obtained information on the well in the target area. Allah said:

(And he sought among the birds and said: (How is it, that I see not the hoopoe or is he among the absent?)) Surah Al Naml, V: 20

Commentators of the Qur'an said that, the hoopoe use to search where water is for the prophet Suleiman, for their own use.⁶ Ibn Kathir, in the commentary of the verse said:

Abdullahi bn Abbas and others said: "The Hoopoe is a (*Muhandis*) meaning an engineer or architecture, he is sighting the ground water and guides them to excavate it..."⁷

Ancient buildings were mentioned in the Qur'an how Ad and Thamud built mansions and their dwelling, Early Mosques in Cordova and Istanbul stand as geometric and arabesque/Islamic design which is found in Islamic buildings. Domes and minaret were also examples of the Islamic design because Allah permitted the Muslim to honour His House and to be hold in high esteem; this can be done physically and emotionally. Allah said:

(In houses which Allah has permitted to exalted and that His name may be remembered in them) Surah Al Hajj, V: 36.

Science and technology and some related subjects were known since hundred years ago, some were mentioned in the Qur'an in different ways, the scanty knowledge of how to develop the sciences and the materials to be used in the old decades retard the system from progressing. On the issue of modern sciences, Islamic-Arabic sciences extract out the source of automatic energy through some Qur'anic verses including:

(Allah spits the seed and kernel. He brings forth the living from the dead and produces the dead out of the living. That is Allah, so how are they misguided?) (Q: 6,

⁶ (*Op Cit*, p. 170).

⁷ (Assabuni, Mukhtasar Ibn Kathir, P. 668

Verse 95).

The term “Seed” (*Al-Habb*) and “Kernel” (*Al Nawa*) in the above verse is the splitting of the atom; indeed the dictionary meaning of the *Al Nawa* include “Nucleus Centre, Atomic Nucleus” furthermore, the description of bringing forth the living from the dead can be interpreted as Allah creating matter from dead energy, producing the dead out of the living may refer to energy (dead) emerging from mater (living), since the atom is in motion. This is because as well as living “*Al-hayy*” can also mean “active, energetic” with its meaning of non-living “*al mayyit*” translated above as “dead” may very probably refer to energy today, atomic nucleus can be split into smaller nucleus by means of nuclear fission⁸.

The words in Surat Al An’am are very wise in terms of their meanings; the phenomena describe in this verse bear a very close resemblance to the splitting of the atom’s nucleus in order to obtain atomic energy. The verse may therefore be a reference to nuclear fission, which was only made possible by twentieth century technology⁹

The possibility of preservation of a dead body by applying chemicals or any substance was known since the death of pharaoh, and his body was mummifying as stated in the Qur’an that Allah will deliver the pharaoh’s body, thus:

(But we will this day deliver you with your body that you may be a sign to those after you) Yunus, V: 92,

This was happened hundred years ago and mentioned 1435 years back and currently is being visited and witnessed the body in Egypt. “Although not all the questions raised by the descriptions in the Qur’an have been completely confirmed by scientific data – some are yet – there is in any case absolutely no opposition between the data in the Qur’an on the creation and modern knowledge on the formation of the universe” and other objects¹⁰.

Attestation from the Qur’an on the magnitude of iron

Among the most important part of technology in modern time is ‘Iron’ it was reveal

⁸ Yahya, H. *Miracle of Qur’an*, 2009 (internet)

⁹ Yahya, H. *Miracle of Qur’an*, 2009

¹⁰ Maurice, B. *The Bible, the Qur’an and Science*, P. 148

by Allah in the Qur'an a complete chapter named (chapter 57, *Al hadid*) i.e "The Iron" which the experiments taking place in iron age served as an attestation to the validity of iron. Allah says:

(We verily sent our messenger with clear proof and revealed with them, the scripture and the Balance, that mankind may observe right Measure; and We revealed Iron where in is mighty power and many uses for mankind, and that Allah may know him who helped him and his messengers, through unseen lo! Allah is strong almighty) Al Hadid 57: Verse 25

In the above verse, the research underlined three items as point to note in relation to Qur'an and the modern time, these are: balance (*Al mizan*), iron (*Al hadid*) and uses for mankind (*Manafi' li al Nas*).

The balance (scale for measuring life and objects) and the iron are two things which Allah make for mankind to build upon their life and to develop environment they are living i.e. earth; Allah (*Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*) gives the balance and iron to smooth running of technological productions. Allah said:

(Have they not travelled in the land and seen the nature of the consequence for those who were before them? They were stronger than these in power, and they dug the earth and built upon it more than these have built...) Al Rum 30, V: 9.

Also the iron and balance mentioned in the previous verse and the power which was mentioned in the recent verse was used before and is being utilized in the modern day for producing other objects.

The exploration of space and its relevance in some of the Qur'anic verses

The exploration of space to some modern scholars was discovered through the book and balance mentioned in the previous verse likewise the voyage to the moon is done with the iron and power, and they also among the statement of which were discovered by modern Muslim through some Qur'anic Verses.

The Qur'an talks about exploration of earth and heavens where by the classical scholars' translations and commentaries of Qur'an wrote earlier before the new millennium indicating the day of judgement where Allah said:

(O company of Jinn and Human Being if you are able to pierce through the confines of the heavens and earth, pierce through them, you will not pierce through, except with a clear authority) Qur'an 55, Verse 33.

Although, the modern scholars translate it as an option given to human being for reasoning to use their knowledge which means “clear authority” to go out of surface of the earth to any other world, according to modern Muslim scholars Allah permitted mankind to acquire knowledge and deep reasoning in order to access another world if they could.

Humanity exploration of space was accelerated with the Soviet Satellite sputnik on 4th October 1957, which launch, is considered by NASA as dawn of the “space age”. The first man to ever leave the earth’s atmosphere was the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, who made his space flight in 1961. Another one on 20th July, 1969, the American Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being ever to set foot on the moon. In fact, the Qur’an revealed that such developments and achievement would one day be realized. For instance Allah draws our attention to this in the previous quoted verse in Surah Al Rahman chapter 55 of Qur’an.¹¹

The clear authority in the verse is “*Sultan*” and *Sultan* in Arabic has other meanings as well; force, power, sovereignty, dominion, law, path, permission, give leave, justify and proof among others.

Careful examination unfold that the above verse indicates that, humanity will be able to stir into the depths of other worlds and sky, but only with a superior power in all likelihood, this superior power is the superior technology employed in the twentieth century, for it enabled scientist and technologist to achieve this great feat as Muslim analyst explored.

The voyage to the moon in relation to some Qur’anic verses

Also is another achievement from man which he discovered through knowledge, and the Qur’an mentioned it in another meaning and the human oldest perception translate it according to their time, and the modernist scholars translate it according to the modern time for example Allah says:

(And [I swear by the moon when it is full, you will mount up stage by stage] what is the matter with them, that they have no faith?) (Q: 84, Verse 18-20).

¹¹ Ibid

This is also another verse related to the Day of Judgement and the situations in which servants of Allah may mount and pass through different stages in here after, which is the interpretation of fore-scholars on the verse.

However, some of the modern time Muslim scholars derived from the word “*Tarkabunna*” that mean mounting and reaching, they said: “It comes from the verb “*Rakiba*” i.e. to mount, walk on a path, follow, embark upon, set about, participate or rule in the light of these meanings,¹² it is nearly in the Qur’anic expression “*you will mount up stage by stage*” refers to a something to be used like rocket to mount up. Indeed, the layer of the atmosphere is step one by one – which through it man can pass to mount to the moon’s gravitational field. Thus, the close interpretation to modern Muslim scholars is that the verse may be a sign that human technology will one day developed for travelling to the surface of the moon.

In the same subject, Qaradawi was asked about mounting to the moon, under the topic: “Religion and the mounting to the moon”. He answered that:

“...there is no clear text concerning mounting to the moon or other object in heaven ...but regarding the human being, there is no text concerning forbidden or avoiding him to mount to the moon – only the Jins kind and devils where protect from reaching to heaven.¹³”

Allah said: *(And verily in the heaven we have set mansions of the stars and we have beautiful it for beholders. And we have guarded it from every outcast devil. Save him who stealth the hearing, and them doth a clear flame pursue)* Al-Hijri 15: Verse 16-18

From the above statement nothing textual prohibited the possibility human being to mount to the heaven. Qaradawi emphasized that, “This is the worldly matters which Allah leave it to human sense, so that he can study and examine it accordingly for his good benefit, Allah said unto man. And it is of the wisdom to absolutely avoid what Islamic law does not prohibit, it may be among the useful knowledge for man benefit in days to come, we know not what would be discovered in the coming decades.

The stages of man creation in mother’s womb and his expected day of delivery (EDD)

This is a brief explanation on how Islam described the features of human being and

¹² Maurice, B. *The Bible, the Qur’an and Science*, p. 149.

¹³ Qaradawi, Y. *Fatawa Mu’asirah*, 2000, P. 27; Vol. 1

its relation to technology discovery. Medical technology discovered many things in relation to human initial creation in which, in the previous decades there is no idea of disclosing what Allah means to the word (*...and then produced it as another creation*). But in modern days, scholars in conjunction with scientist discovered that generally, human being pass through stages mentioned in the verse, but when Allah intent to made him male or female, then he make him (another creation). The prophetic tradition discloses the nature of human creation and summarized it since from the stage of small seed. Imam Al Nawawi mentioned the Hadith in his 40 collections that, the messenger of Allah peace be upon Him said:

“Verily the creation of any one of you takes place when he is assembled in his mother’s womb; for forty days he is as a drop of fluid...”¹⁴

This clearly and truly the nature and many scholars comment on that as well as the practices of experts. The medical technologies in the modern day expose some of situation of man in mother’s womb. In line with this, Healtcote explore that:

experts medical work can help to diagnose many things including scanning of the pregnant nature up to a remote locations far from the care of a specialist, vast amounts of data on symptoms and illness are stored in knowledge base which can help a doctor to arrive at a preliminary diagnosis¹⁵

Army Ant/Robot

In relation to army-ant, mentioned in the Qur’an which refers to “Valley of the ants” now the ants and other species are widely used in many places in the globe because of advanced technology as models in robot projects and are intended to serve in a wide range of areas. The latest development in modern technology is Army ant Robots, is a model projects being carried out independently in several countries.

The “army ant” robot system was originally designed as a “Material Carrying System” according to this scenario, several small robots would be charge with jointly lifting and carrying object, it was later decided that they could be used for other

¹⁴A. Rahman I. Doi, *Introduction to Hadith*, 1983, P. 25

¹⁵ P.M. Healtcote, *A Level Information Technology*, 1998, P. 16

task¹⁶⁾

The development of technology is a subservient to human life which simplify things in life to some extent, and nowadays, perceptions, understanding can changed and well developed in the modern time.

CONCLUSION

The Qur'an depicts many things some had happened and others to be occurred, which today technology revolution reach a peak to the extent of translating some physically. The modern Muslim world and the learned men as well as western world were doing their best in developing world from theory to practical tracing some knowledge from divine revelation. The technology revolution may trace many things in the future which would be of benefit to human being in particular and the world in general. The paper detailed on some aspects that has to do with the Qur'anic knowledge to the fact that relevance can be notice through this humble paper.

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