

Scientific and linguistic miracle of the Quran; Embriology

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1- Introduction

The enemies of Allah ﷻ have claimed that the Qur'an contains scientific errors, particularly in its description of human development. They claim, for instance, that the Qur'an says that the bones form before flesh, while modern science shows that bones and muscles develop together.

These claims however, overlook a major point: understanding the Qur'an requires knowledge of Arabic and the context in which it was revealed. When we examine the text carefully, we see a remarkable harmony between language and science. The Qur'an describes human development with extraordinary (beyond what is usual, regular, or customary) precision, both linguistically and scientifically, centuries before modern science could observe these stages. This serves as a clear sign of its divine origin and a testament to Allah ﷻ as the Most Perfect Creator.

2- Etymology of the Ayah

Allah ﷻ said;

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَـٰهُ نُطْفَةً فِى قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ

then placed each ˹human˺ as a sperm-drop1 in a secure place,[1]

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا ٱلنُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْمُضْغَةَ عِظَـٰمًا فَكَسَوْنَا ٱلْعِظَـٰمَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَـٰهُ خَلْقًا ءَاخَرَ ۚ فَتَبَارَكَ ٱللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ ٱلْخَـٰلِقِينَ ١٤

then We developed the drop into a clinging clot, then developed the clot into a lump ˹of flesh˺, then developed the lump into bones, then clothed the bones with flesh, then We brought it into being as a new creation.1 So Blessed is Allah, the Best of Creators.[2]

[1] Surah Al Mu'minun, 23:13
[2] Surah Al Mu'minun, 23:14

Now lets look one for one;

1. ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَـٰهُ نُطْفَةً فِى قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ

2. ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا ٱلنُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً

3. فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً

4. فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْمُضْغَةَ عِظَـٰمًا

5. فَكَسَوْنَا ٱلْعِظَـٰمَ لَحْمًا

6. ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَـٰهُ خَلْقًا ءَاخَرَ

As you can see, Allah ﷻ uses **two words** here: **"ثُمَّ"** and **"فَ"**.

The linguistic miracle lies in their precise usage:

فَ ("immediately after") – Used to indicate a sequence with immediate follow-up. For example: قَدِمَ الْفُرْسانُ فَالْمُشاةُ would mean: "The cavalry arrived, then the foot soldiers," implying no gap between the two events.

ثُمَّ ("a while after") – Used to indicate a sequence with a delay or interval between events. For instance, when talking about the sending of the prophets, we could say: أَرْسَلَ اللهُ مُوْسَى ثُمَّ عِيْسَى ثُمَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ ("Allah sent Moses, then Jesus, then Muhammad, peace be upon them"), using ثُمَّ because there were intervals between their prophethood.[3]

So Allah ﷻ actually said:

1. **ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَـٰهُ نُطْفَةً فِى قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ**
   Before everything, Allah created the sperm, **giving it its own time.**

2. **ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا ٱلنُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً**
   Then, **after a delay,** Allah transforms the sperm into a clinging clot.

3. **فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً**
   Then, **immediately after,** Allah develops the clot into a lump of flesh.

4. **فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْمُضْغَةَ عِظَـٰمًا**
   Again, **with immediate follow-up**, Allah develops the lump into bones.

5. **فَكَسَوْنَا ٱلْعِظَـٰمَ لَحْمًا**
   And once more, **immediately after**, Allah clothes the bones with flesh.

6. **ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَـٰهُ خَلْقًا ءَاخَرَ**
   And **after some time**, the creation is complete, you have a fully formed baby.

[3] https://ultimatearabic.com/conjunctions/
and; https://kalimah-center.com/conjunctions-in-arabic/

So Allah ﷻ does not say that the bones form first and then the flesh. Rather, Allah ﷻ says that the bones and flesh form in an immediate sequence.

3- Scientific Miracle[4]

Week 1

- Fertilization → zygote.
    - Allah ﷻ said
        - ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَٰهُ نُطْفَةً فِى قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ
          Before everything, Allah created the sperm, **giving it its own time.**
        - ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا ٱلنُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً
          Then, **after a delay,** Allah transforms the sperm into a clinging clot.

Weeks 5–6

- Cartilage models of bones start forming.
- **At the same time**, muscle tissue (flesh) begins forming around the skeletal models.
    - Allah ﷻ said
        - فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً
          Then, **immediately after,** Allah develops the clot into a lump of flesh.

Weeks 7–8

- Bones and muscles continue to develop **together**.
- Limb muscles, cartilage, and early skeleton in place.
- Organogenesis complete; embryo now looks human.
    - Allah ﷻ said
        - فَخَلَقْنَا ٱلْمُضْغَةَ عِظَٰمًا
          Again, **with immediate follow-up**, Allah develops the lump into bones.

Birth (≈ Week 38–40)

- Hormonal changes trigger labor.
- Fully developed child is born.
    - Allah ﷻ said
        - ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَٰهُ خَلْقًا ءَاخَرَ
          And **after some time**, the creation is complete, you have a fully formed baby.

[4] Look; Moore, K.L. & Persaud, T.V.N. The Developing Human (2020). & Sadler, T.W. Langman's Medical Embryology (2022).

4- Conclusion

The Qur'an's description of human development is perfect. Its choice of words, ثُمَّ and فَ, cant be random. The explanation of the Quran regarding embryology is perfectly capturing the timing of each stage of development, distinguishing between intervals and immediate sequences. Modern embryology confirms this. Bones and flesh form together in a coordinated process, not strictly one before the other.

This shows that the Qur'an does not contradict science. On the contrary, it provides an accurate account of human development, revealed over 1400 years ago, long before scientific observation could confirm it. This precision, both linguistic and scientific, is a clear reminder of the Qur'an's divine origin and a testament to Allah ﷻ as the Most Perfect Creator.

Allah ﷻ knows best

Tiktok- IftiraTarihUtansin[5]

Instagram- IftiraTarihUtansin_[6]

Discord- iftiratarihutansin

Twitter- IftiraTarihUtansin[7]

Website- Hayatimanvecihad8[8]

Acces our website;

[5] https://www.tiktok.com/@iftiratarihutansin?_t=ZN-8uM21ZWsBmQ&_r=1

[6] https://www.instagram.com/iftiratarihutansin_/

[7] https://x.com/iftiratarihutan

[8] https://hayatimanvecihad8.wordpress.com/