

# 8TH Saudi Medical Conference

Occasion which unraveled medical mysteries in the Holy Qur'an about human embryogenesis  
**MY MEDICAL TOURS BY PROF. M.S. KHUROO**

A number of Kashmiri doctors attended 8th Saudi Medical Conference held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from Oct 30th to November 3rd, 1983. I always feel nostalgic about this meeting for during this meeting medical mysteries in Holy Qur'an about human embryogenesis were unraveled to the world community. This is how it happened.

Everybody was eagerly waiting for a report on human embryogenesis by Prof (Emeritus) Keith L. Moore, a highly distinguished embryologist and author of several medical textbooks from Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Toronto. Dr Moore had been working with the Embryology Committee of King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, helping them to interpret the many statements in Al-Qur'an and Sunnah referring to human reproduction and prenatal development. This report detailed out all stages of human reproduction and pre-natal development as per today's scientific knowledge and critically analyzed the references made about these stages of embryogenesis in Holy Al-Qur'an. Allah (SWT) narrates in the Qur'an about the stages of the creation of man: "Man We did create from a quintessence (of clay); Then We placed him as (a drop of) sperm in a place of rest, firmly fixed; Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of that clot We made a (foetus) lump; then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it another creature. So blessed be Allah, the best to create! (The Holy Quran: Al-Muminoon; 23: 12-14)." Audience were flabbergasted about the accuracy of Qur'anic statements about each stage of embryogenesis namely the sperm, Al-Alaqa (leech-like clot), Al Mudgha (chewed-like lump of flesh), the stage of bones, the stage of muscles (clothing with flesh), the stage of Nash'ah (developing and viability), and stage of labour. The report was followed by loud sounds "Subhan'Allah". The discussion on these stages of embryogenesis and Qur'anic references is outside the scope of this article but worth a read for every Muslim and for dissemination to whole world community. On his report Prof. Moore had remarked "At first I was astonished by the accuracy of the statements that were recorded in the 7th century AD, before the science of embryology was established. Although I was aware of the glorious history of Muslim scientists in the 10th century AD, and some of their contributions to Medicine, I knew nothing about the religious facts and beliefs contained in the Qur'an and Sunnah. It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Qur'an about human development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad (PBUH) from God, or Allah (SWT), because most of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later".

Gerald C. Goeringer Professor and Co-coordinator of Medical Embryology in the Department of Cell Biology, School of Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA., commented on these observations: "In a relatively few aayahs (Qur'anic verses), is contained a rather comprehensive description of human development from the time of the commingling of the gametes through organogenesis. No such distinct and complete record of human development such as classification, terminology, and description existed previously. In most, if not all, instances, this description antedates by many centuries the recording of the various stages of human embryonic and fetal development recorded in the traditional scientific literature."

Professor Tejasen Chairman of the Department of Anatomy and former Dean of the faculty of Medicine, University of Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai, Thailand, studied various articles concerning the Qur'an and modern embryology. He spent four days with several scholars, Muslims and non-Muslims, discussing this phenomenon in the Qur'an and Hadith. During the 8th Saudi Medical Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia he stood up and said: "In the last three years, I became interested in the Qur'an... From my studies and what I have learned throughout this conference, I believe that everything that has been recorded in the Qur'an 1400 years ago must be the truth that can be proved by the scientific means. Since the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) could neither read nor write, Muhammad (PBUH) must be a messenger who relayed this truth which was revealed to him as enlightenment by the one who is eligible



creator. This creator must be God, or Allah (SWT). I think this is the time to say “La-Ilaha-Illa-Allah, Muhammad Rasool-u-Allah”. The most precious thing I have gained from coming to this conference is to have become Muslim.” To strike a lighter note, during the question hour, Dr. Zahoor Qazi, anatomy consultant from Kashmir, rose to ask a question. Chairman appreciating his height invited him to come to the podium. At podium he was hidden out by the dice, so chairman lifted him to stand on the podium table and he asked: “Based on your concept of embryogenesis, worthy speaker, tell me how Isa (AS) was born?” The question stunt speaker, chairman and the audience and there was intense silence in the hall for over 2 minutes. Dr. Zahoor understanding the seriousness of the occasion slowly climbed down the table and disappeared in the audience. Next morning National press highlighted this occasion in front page story “The Basic Question Remained Unanswered!” Allah (SWT) in Holy Al-Qur’an narrates this event as follows: “Behold! The angels said: “O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah; “He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be (of the company) of the righteous.” She said: “O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man hath touched me?” He said: “Even so: Allah createth what He willeth: When He hath decreed a plan, He but saith to it, ‘Be,’ and it is! (The Holy Quran: Aal-e-`Imran; 3: 45 to 47).

I shall remain indebted to my friend Dr Shafat Qazi for his courtesy, which made me witness this moment in history about medical mysteries of human embryogenesis in Holy Al-Qur’an.

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Lastupdate on : Tue, 13 Dec 2011 21:30:00 Mecca time

Lastupdate on : Tue, 13 Dec 2011 18:30:00 GMT

Lastupdate on : Wed, 14 Dec 2011 00:00:00 IST