

The Study of Zoology in The Context of The Holy Qur'an

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Abstract

The essence of this research paper is centered round the concept of zoology in the light of The Holy Quran. It aims to compare the facts of zoology, cited in The Holy Quran with the modern science. This study will carefully examine particular animals that are pointed towards in The Holy Quran. Moreover, different exegeses regarding these citations will be addressed. Exegesis by Dr. Zaghloul al-Najjar will be emphasized as it comprises of scientific explanation of The Quranic Verses. The topic can be viewed from the perspectives of how the citations give lessons to The Human Beings. The research purpose is to throw light on the lessons which these zoological citations carry in them. Hopefully, it can also provide a guide way for those with expertise in science to find the ultimate truth.

Key Words: Quranic, Zoology, Animals, Insects, Birds, Amphibian, Legitimate, Creation

Introduction

The Holy Quran has secrets of creations in it. It gives explanation for each creation and helps us to find the truth.¹

(Did you think that we have made you all for nothing and that you will not be brought back to us?)

This encourages the sharp minds to go deep into this ocean of knowledge, particularly of those which are closer to us like animals.²

In the Holy Quran, we find stories and anecdotes of Allah's messengers and His friends. Within these narrations, we find the citations of a number of animals which had a significant role like the Crow in the narration of Hadhrat Adam's son, the Hoopoe of Hadhrat Sulayman (A.S), the Dog of the people of the Cave etc.³

Zoology is a branch of biology. In this branch, we study about animals. It is one of the broadest fields of science due to the immense variety of animals.⁴ Animals are the organisms without a cell wall or chloroplast.⁵ Allah (Glory to be Him) says in the Holy Quran:

(Allah has created every moving creature from Water. So, some of them move on their bellies, some move on their two legs and some on four. Allah (Glory to be Him) creates what He wills. Indeed, He is powerful over everything.)

The Holy Quran has pointed to the Animals, in general and the Cattle in specific to claim the Oneness of Allah (Glory to be Him) and has described the Wonders in the Creation of Animals in numerous Holy Verses⁶ like:

(And among His signs is the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth and those creatures which He has spread in both. He has Powerful to assemble them whenever He wills.)

Similarly, we find statements about cattle in Ahadith also. One of those statements refers to goats as follows:

(عن ابى سعيد الخدرى انه قال: رسول الله عليه وسلم يوشك ان يكون خير مال المسلم غنم يتبع بها شعفت الجبال و مواقع القطر يفر بدينه من الفتن)⁷

(Abu Saeed Khudri narrated that The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that the time is close, when the best vendible of a Muslim will be the goats (cattle). He will run, after them, to the mountain tops and the rain places to protect his religion from the tribulations.)

In the Holy Quran, we find that Allah (Glory to be Him) has mentioned some animals by their names like Mosquito (البعوضة), Crow (غرابا), Frog (الضفادع), Honey bee (النحل), Camel (الابل) etc. While, some animals are cited by the groups having same properties as الانعام (The cattle), دابة, بهيمة, (quadrupeds) etc.

The objective behind presenting parables of tiny creatures like Fly, Mosquito and Spider is to present the fineness in the creativity of Allah (Glory to be Him), which leaves the Human Wisdom astonished.⁸

The Holy Quran addresses human beings, so the animals mentioned in The Holy Quran are those that are in common view of Human beings like insects, birds and domestic animals. Moreover, in context of hunting, we see a few references to wild and sea animals.⁹

Different animals are mentioned in the Holy Quran to admire the creativity of Allah (Glory to be Him) and to draw lessons from their behavior.¹⁰

Number of animals mentioned in the Holy Quran, by name, is thirty one.¹¹

More than one hundred and forty Quranic Verses speak about a number of Animals on Earth. Six of the Quranic Chapters are named after the names of animals. These are:

البقرة (The Cow)

الانعام (The Cattle)

النحل (The Bee)

النمل (The Ant)

العنكبوت (The Spider)

الفيل (The Elephant)

Animals are mentioned four times as الدواب (Ad-dawwaab) showing their common property (of movement) and as الحيوان (Al-Hayawaan) once to show life in them. The cattle are mentioned thirty three times in The Holy Quran in the way that they are mentioned as النعم (An-na'm) once, as الانعام (Al-ana'aam) twenty six times, as انعاما (Ana'aaman) twice, as انعامكم (Ana'aamukum) three times and as انعامهم (Ana'aamihim) once.¹²

Some more forms and members of Kingdom Animalia are also mentioned in the Holy Quran. A few of them are:

الابل (Al-ibil) and بعير (Ba'eer) (two times each), the citations for cow in words بقرة (Baqaratun), البقر (Al-Baqar) and بقرات (Baqaraat) (nine times), عجل (I'jil) (ten times), نعجة (Na'jatun), ناعج (Na'aaq) and ذبج (Dhibhun) (five times in total), الفيل (Al-feel) (once), الجياد (Al-jayaad) (once), الخيل (Al-khayl) (four times), الحمير (Al-hameer), الحمار (Al-himaar), الحمير (Al-humur) and حمارك (Himaark) (five times), البغال (Al-bighaal) (once), الذئب (Al-dhi'b) (three times), السبع (As-sabuu') (once), الكلب (Al-Kalb) (five times), الخنزير (Al-khinzeer) (four times), الحوت (Al-hooth) (five times), الزواحف (Az-zawaahif) (once), الضفادع (Ald'afaadi') (once). Birds (الطيور) are cited twenty times

in the words الطير (Athayr), طيرا (Thayran), طائر (Thaairun), الغراب (Al-ghuraab), الهدهد (Al-hudhud), السلوى (As-salwaa) or الحجل. Similarly insects are mentioned in The Holy Quran sixteen times as النحل, القمل and المن, الفراش, الجراد, البعوضة, الذباب, العنكبوت, النمل, النحل.¹³

FLYING INSECTS:

Some of the flying insects mentioned in different Quranic Verses are as follows:

Mosquito, Locust, Honey Bee, House fly and Moth.

Mosquito

In chapter 2, Verse 26, Allah (Glory to be Him) has elaborated that he may give the example of a tiny creation like Gnat (Mosquito). Such examples show the subtlety in His creation. Mosquito is mentioned by name in The Holy Verse as follows:

(Indeed, Allah does not feel shy in citing any parable, may it be that of a gnat or of something above it. So, those who believe know that it is the truth from their Lord, and the disbelievers say, "What could Allah have meant by this parable?" By this, He lets many go astray and guides many others and He does not let anyone go astray except those who are sinful.)

البعوضة is the singular of البعوض.¹⁴ Although البعوضة is one of those insects which are having simpler structure but still The Human beings cannot even copy and create such simpler creation of Allah (SWT) due to the intrication and subtlety.¹⁵

Dr.Zaghloul, while discussing Verse 2:26, writes that Mosquito is an insect with small size and two wings (DIPTERAL). It belongs to the Family Culicidae.¹⁶ The length of Mosquitoes is between three to nine millimeters.¹⁷ Despite of the small size, the Holy Verse has notion to the greater danger and harm, Mosquito has.

The Female Mosquito feeds on the blood of warm blooded organisms. It has sublime sucking mouth, which is used to suck blood from Human Beings and other animals.¹⁸ These female mosquitoes bring great loss to human beings by transferring the microbes leading to severe diseases.¹⁹ Thus, the mosquitoes may cause Malaria, Elephantiasis (Chyloderma), Yellow Fever and the most dangerous diseases of Nervous System (Brain) like Encephalitis, Encephalomeningitis and Encephalomyelitis etc.²⁰

Modern Science has proved that although the Mosquitoes are tiny creatures (as pointed towards in the Quranic Verse) but they may prove drastic due to the harms and diseases they may cause.

Mosquitoes may prove to be extremely dangerous nuisances as per the climate and their breeding places.²¹ Mosquitoes are carriers of disease causing viruses, protozoa and filarial worms.²²

Locust

Locusts are mentioned in the Holy Quran in Chapter 7, Verse # 133 as follows:

(So, we sent upon them the storm and locusts and lice and frog and blood as distinct signs. Yet they showed arrogance and were guilty people.)

الجراد is the plural of جرادة and is applicable for masculine and feminine both.²³ Allama Aaloosi says that the insect which makes the land barren is given the name الجراد and these insects are one of the armies of Allah (Glory to be Him) which He sends upon whom He wills.²⁴

Dr. Zaghoul, while writing about the Verse 7:133 tells about the locusts that they belong to the insects order Orthoptera.²⁵ Locusts share a same family with the Grass Hoppers, named Family Acrididae. These insects have biting mouths and straight wings. The adults of these insects have the ability to get together in groups of many and migrate through long distances.²⁶

The groups of Locusts feed upon the crops and they may eat as much crops as their weights in one day. That is why these dangerous insects are named الجراد from the verb جرد , meaning to remove the covering and to unveil so as to make naked. This is what these insects do by making the land visible and clear from all the vegetation over them.²⁷

The Quranic Verse presents locusts as a warning or punishment causing loss to the people of Faro. Modern Science has discovered and thrown light on the harms and dangers of the locusts recently, which the Holy Quran has pointed towards more than fourteen centuries ago.

Locusts may transform themselves according to the surrounding environment. They can switch from the harmless creatures to highly alarming form of cohesive swarms crossing the seas and continents and can devour the fields and fields in few hours.²⁸

Honey Bee

Allah (Glory to be Him) says in Chapter 16 of The Holy Quran:

(Your Lord instructed the Honey Bee to make homes in the mountains, trees and in the structures people raise.)

النحل is the name for Honey Bees. Its singular is نحلة.²⁹ According to the different quotes, quoted by Imam Tabari, it is instructed to or is put in the instinct of the Honey Bees to build Homes in the three places mentioned in the Verse.³⁰

According to Dr. Zaghoul, Chapter # 16 of The Holy Quran is named after the Honey Bees as there comes the notion to the ability of these bees to recognize the directions, the liberty they have to build their hives in mountains trees or artificial hives, their power to have quick flights to high altitudes in order to collect the nectar and pollen grains from the flowers and to convert that liquid into Honey of different colors inside their bellies, which is curative for the people.³¹

The above mentioned Quranic Verse points towards the cooperative behavior, management skills and the instincts, by which, Allah (Glory to be Him) has blessed the honey bees with. Modern Science has now discovered these amazing qualities of Honey Bees after deep studies and analyses, while the Holy Quran has the facts mentioned in it more than fourteen centuries ago which clearly testifies to the Creator of the Honey bees and all.

Honey bees belong to the order Hymenoptera of insects.³² The Genus Apis of this order is particularly known for their social behavior.³³ The feminine pronoun used in the Quranic Verse tells that the above mentioned functions are carried out by the female Honey Bees which is discovered by the Modern Science, now. In a colony of Honey Bees, there is usually a single reproductive female Honey Bee, called the Queen. The other bees are the workers of the colony and are also female. Males produced either die naturally or are driven out of the hive seasonally.³⁴

House Fly

About the Housefly The Holy Verse comes in Chapter #22 (سورة الحج) a part of which reads:

(And if a fly snatches something away from them, they cannot have it back from its possession. Feeble are the invoker and the invoked both.)

The scientific name of the House Fly is *Musca Domestica* Linnaeus. This specie is found commonly in association with Humans and Human activities as at home and in farms.³⁵

This Quranic Verse shows the incapability of the Human beings even in front of a tiny creature like House Fly.³⁶ If a fly grabs something away from the Humans and flies away, they cannot even take it back from it. According to Dr. Zaghoul, this points towards the brisk flight of the House Fly. The process of taking flight of House Fly is much complex and organized. The fly prepares the body parts according to the direction of flight and the angle of takeoff but it is so brisk that it doesn't take more than a second to accomplish all the steps. Moreover, the House fly has the ability to take off straight as well as to manipulate by swift movements in forward, backward and sidewise directions. After taking off, the House Fly may move quickly to as far as ten kilometers in a single moment.³⁷

Modern Science has proved that the House Fly feed on the Human food too.³⁸ Hence it may grab the food items away from the Human beings which they cannot even take back.

Butter Fly and Moth

In Chapter # 104 of the Holy Quran namely القارعة, Allah (Glory to be Him) presents the Day of Resurrection as follows:

(The day when people will be like scattered moths)

الفراش are the animals that are used to fall over the flame (light). They are given the name فراشا due to the spreading of their wings and the way of scattering of these insects.³⁹

The Butterflies and Moths belong to the order Lepidoptera of the insects. They are characterized by four wings covered with a number of flat scales that stick to the fingers, when touched, like powder.⁴⁰ The word الفراش is commonly used for small sized female butterflies with bright colors and having wings. However some females are without wings or have weak wings which do not support flying. Such butterflies with frail wings rest in a box like home, made by the caterpillars. These houses resemble the graves.⁴¹ Hence we see the Quranic wisdom that points to the resurrection of Human Beings by giving example of the butterflies having grave like structures for their survival.

Other Insects

Lice, Ants and Spider are mentioned with names in the Holy Quran. Another insect which is pointed towards in the Holy Quran is Termite, which is discussed in context of the narration about Hadhrat Sulayman (A.S).

Lice

The lice were one of the warnings sent to the people of Faro. Verse # 133 of Chapter Al-Aa'raaf in The Holy Quran names the warnings sent down as follows:

(So, we sent upon them the storm and locusts and lice and frog and blood as distinct signs. Yet they showed arrogance and were guilty people.) According to الفراء, القمل is the creeping insect with no wings.⁴² They are smaller than Locusts. The singular of القمل is قملة.⁴³ According to Abu Ubaid, القمل are like ticks rather smaller than them.⁴⁴ The lice are small insects with no wings and

are said to be the female off springs of the locusts.⁴⁵ Dr. Zaghoul says that Lice are from wingless insects' subclass, named subclass Apterygota. These insects are small in size and have no obvious change in their structure from the first stage of their life cycle to the adult stage except change in size and the formation of genitals. Lice are important members of this subclass and are characterized by the absence of tails and hence given the name Anoplura. ⁴⁶ The Holy Quran presents Lice as a sign of punishment and warning. Modern Science has proved that lice may prove to be infuriating. The infestation caused by the head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) is called *Pediculosis capitis*. It affects people of all ages, especially children and causes anxiety at high level.⁴⁷

Ant

The Holy Quran points towards the ants' sagacity, wisdom and communication in Chapter # 27, named after them, as follows:

(Until as they reached the valley of ants, one of the ants said, "O Ants ! enter your habitations, lest Sulaiman and his armies crush you unknowingly.)

النمل is the plural of نملة. ⁴⁸ Ant is named as نملة due to its تنمل i.e. its excessive movements and less pauses.⁴⁹ Ants are very wise in case of food search. As soon as one finds a food item, it informs the others and they all come for it.⁵⁰

In Tafseer al Ayaat al Kouniah, Dr. Zaghoul says that Ants are known, since time, for their attributes like organization in working groups, sagacity, memory, the love to work, persistence and never-ending struggle. Ants have the capacity to combat with all the situations. This is evident from their practice of burying the dead ones. Ants are also used to gather for meetings time to time. In their gatherings, ants exchange the commodities; get introduced with each other and ask questions about their common matters. ⁵¹

Modern science has proved that ants do possess special organization in the form of colonies, way of communication with each another, language, reason and a sort of recognition of events and individuals. These characteristics are termed as animal behavior. The term naming the Holy Chapter النمل is plural, which gives notion to the fact that ants live in colonies. In the colonies, ants have different categories like army ants; leafcutter ants etc. and they possess the social behavior similar to the human beings in their colonies as division of labor.⁵²

Spider

As we have thrown light over the communication between ants, now we will come to another insect whose house is pointed towards in the Holy Quran to show the frailty of those who seek partners of God. The verse comes in the Chapter named after the insect – spider – as follows:

(The example of those who have adopted patrons other than Allah is like the spider that has made a house and indeed the frailest of houses is the house of the spider, if only they know.)

العنكبوت is an insect which knits a net or web in air or on the tops of pits. The web made is so light, thin and shabby.⁵³

Dr. Zaghoul explains the spider and the frailness of its web in Tafseer al Ayaat al Kouniah. The spider is from Phylum Arthropoda, Class Arachnida and Order Araneida.⁵⁴

The spider web is the weakest house from physical point of view, as it is made from a number of silk threads which are delicate to the higher extent. These threads are interconnected with each other forming a net like structure and, at most times, leaving larger spaces between the cells of the net. Thus the spider web fails to protect the inhabitants from the heat of the sun, severe cold, rain, stormy winds and the enemies attack as well. Moreover, it does not provide enough shadow.⁵⁵ Besides the physical weakness, the spider's house is the frailest from moral point of view also as this house is deprived of the love and care that are the base for a happy blessed home. The female in some types of spiders kills her male after fertilization and preys on his body as she is bigger and wilder than him. Even in some circumstance, the female spider devours her younger ones mercilessly. In some other types, the female dies after enveloping the fertilized egg in a silk sac. As the spider lings hatch out of the egg they find themselves in an overcrowded place. Thus the wretched siblings start fighting for food, space or both.⁵⁶

Modern science has proved that the spider's web is devoid of strength, whether physical or moral. Besides the apparent physical weakness, the lack of morals and care makes the house unworthy of being a family home. There exists the phenomenon of sexual cannibalism in the spiders in which one of the mating pair kills the other and this appears to be the final form of sexual conflict.⁵⁷ This hostility is not confined to a particular gender. Thus not only females, there are observations of male spiders also killing and consuming the female spiders.⁵⁸

Termit

The notion to this animal comes again in connection with Prophet Sulayman (A.S) as follows:
(So when We decided death Upon him, nothing gave them any indication of his death, except a creature of the earth that was eating his scepter. So when he fell down, the Jinns came to know if they have had the knowledge of the unseen, they would not have stayed in the humiliating punishment.)

Here, the term دابة الارض is applied to the termites. They are known to have one thousand and five hundred types of termites out of which only forty types are well known. Each type is having distinguished characteristics.⁵⁹ These insects feed on wood. Some of these insects live in the tree branches, cutting and making ways in them.⁶⁰

According to Dr. Zaghoul, Verse # 14 of Surah Saba points towards one of the groups of insects that eats wood and drills into it to get place and food at the same time. That is why they are called "Wood Borers".⁶¹ The wood borers include many insects including Termites.⁶² The term دابة الارض fits termites the best as they are used to live under the surface of the earth or in the trunks of trees or inside the furniture or building woods away from the light as they cannot stand long exposure to the light.⁶³

Modern science has confirmed that the termites consume wood. Termites are harmful as they consume wood as food, get shelter in it, and thus prove to be a nuisance.⁶⁴

Birds, Amphibians and Mammals

After discussing the insects mentioned and discussed in the Holy Quran, we will now come to some vertebrates. As we explore the Holy Quran, we find that besides insects, two birds, one amphibian and three mammals are discussed therein.

Crow

The vertebrate which we will discuss firstly is a bird named crow. The bird is mentioned by name in Chapter # 5 of the Holy Quran as follows:

(Then Allah SWT sent a crow that scratched the Earth to show him how he should conceal the corpse of his brother. He said "Alas! Was I not even able to be like this crow so that I could conceal the corpse of my brother?" so, he stood regretful.)

غراب is a black bird. The plural forms of غراب are اغرابية, اغرب, اغربان and غرب. The plural of غراب is غرابين. This bird is known in Arabs for better sight, vigilance, arrogance, livelihood selection and black color.⁶⁵

Dr. Zaghoul emphasizes on mentioning of the Crow in Surah Al-Maidah and sees it the most intelligent of the birds. According to him, the testimony to his intelligence is the act described in the Holy Verse i.e. the burial of the dead. The crow buries the dead and does not leave it to become the prey of other birds or animals or to pollute the environment.⁶⁶

Modern science throws light on the mindfulness of the crow as depicted in the Holy Verse. Although the brain in the crow's body is large, yet the bird has more rational abilities. Crows are intelligent birds with great problem-solving skills.⁶⁷

Hoopoe

Another bird discussed with name in The Holy Quran is the Hoopoe. The bird is mentioned again in the context of Prophet Sulayman (A.S), who was able to understand its language in addition to the language of other animals as of ants (discussed before). The verse of Chapter # 27 of the Holy Quran has its Arabic name الهدهد and there is the notion to the important qualities of the Hoopoe as follows:

(And he checked the birds and said, "How is it with me that I do not see the Hoopoe? Rather he has disappeared.)

الهدهد is a famous bird.⁶⁸

The bird الهدهد is mentioned by name once in the Holy Quran.⁶⁹ It is a beautiful bird with distinguished wisdom, vigilance, diligence, quick observation, sharp memory, swift decisions and interpretation power in coherence with oneness of Allah the Almighty and consistent call towards the virtues and worship of Allah the only Glorious.⁷⁰

The above mentioned verse points towards the distinguished qualities of the hoopoe as the king Prophet Sulayman (A.S) inquired about his absence. This shows that the hoopoe possesses such qualities that his absence could not be ignored by the King even. Modern science discoveries are a testimony to the important qualities of the hoopoe. Hoopoe is an information providing bird. It can provide warnings about climatic changes in the atmosphere which can be a prelude to storms and earthquakes. Moreover, Hoopoe has the ability to detect water underground.⁷¹ The Holy Verse points to the aforementioned qualities of the bird which made its absence a concern for the King of the state.

Frog

An amphibian is also mentioned by name in the Holy Quran. While discussing the invertebrates, we found that locusts and lice were sent down as a warning or punishment to the transgressors

i.e. the people of Faro. In addition to the afore-mentioned insects, an amphibian – the Frog – was also sent down to the people of Faro. Verse # 31 of the Chapter Al - Aaraaf quotes the warnings as follows:

(So, we sent upon them the storm and locusts and lice and frogs and blood as distinct signs. Yet, they showed arrogance and they were guilty people.)

The plural of الضفدع is ضفادع.⁷² الضفدع is a commonly used word⁷³ (for frog). The female is called الضفدعة.⁷⁴ Frog belongs to warm blooded vertebrates. There exists a phase transition, from water life to land life, in these animals.⁷⁵

Dr. Zaghoul discusses the taxonomy of the Frog and writes that Frog belongs to the order Anura or Salientia of Amphibians as these animals are without tails and are characterized by long hind limbs adaptive for jumping, short forelegs and other body parts that help in swimming.⁷⁶ The croaks of the frog are one of the annoying sounds for the Human Beings as they can be listened across long distances of several miles. The inflated vocal sac in the males of some frog types may extend in length to the rest of the body which increases the intensity of the croaks pitch. In addition to this, the frogs also carry and transmit different harmful viruses to the human beings, thus proving one of the dangers that have endangered life especially the human life as the frog is eaten in some countries like France.⁷⁷

Modern science has proved the nuisance of frog for human beings, which testifies to the fact that the Holy Quran is the message by The Creator, Allah (Glory to be Him), who has created the frog and Human beings. The Holy Quran presents His Words about sending frogs as a warning or punishment to the transgressing human beings. There is a frog named Poison Dart frog which is termed as the deadliest amphibian. It has the scientific name *Phyllobateterribilis*. It is so harmful for Human Beings that even a single touch can kill and paralyze, as the poisonous chemical is in the skin of the frog. Each frog has enough poison to harm up to fifty people.⁷⁸

On June 7, 2005, the same frog rainfall was reported in a village of Serbia. It was panic all around, the traffic was hurdled and the people were, in frustration and chaos, searching for shelter. All of them were expecting end of this world, resurrection and judgment, that day.⁷⁹ One of the meteorologists, then, told about the scientific approval of that incident.⁸⁰ In the recent past, a similar incident took place in a province of India.⁸¹ These incidents confirm the role of frogs in annoying, hurting and terrifying the human beings.

The abundantly sent frogs to the people of Faro, hence, proved a punishment or warning as described in the afore-mentioned Quranic Verse.

Dog

Out of mammals, we will discuss three of them. Firstly, the mammal whose example is given in Surah al-Aaraaf is the Dog. The Holy verse gives example of Dog's gasp as follows:

(If We so willed, We would have elevated him, but he clung to the earth and followed his desires. So, his example is like the example of a dog. If you attack him, he pants with his tongue protruding, and if you leave him, he still pants with his tongue protruding. That is the example of those who rejected Our signs. So, relate the chronicles, so that they may ponder.) الكلب is the Arabic word for

the dog. Dogs, being living things possessed the characteristics of life. As, the present research deals with Biology, here are the Holy Saying (PBUH) about a dog feeling thirsty:

(Abu Huraira (R.A) narrated from The Holy Prophet (PBUH) that a man saw a dog which was licking mud out of thirst. The man took his sock, filled it with some water and made the dog drink from it, till the dog satisfied its thirst. Allah (The Exalted), having liked this act, entered the man in The Heaven.)⁸²

The dog is an animal which is highly disgraced and dishonored and the gasping dogs are the most corrupt and abased of all the dogs.⁸³ According to الليث (Al-Layth), the dog protrudes its tongue out and gasps as he encounters severe hostility or intense heat. This is called اللهث.⁸⁴

In Tafseer al Ayaat al Kouniah, Dr. Zaghloul, while explaining the example in the above mentioned Holy Verse, writes that dog is a carnivore.⁸⁵ The Scientific Name of dog is *Canis familiaris*. It belongs to an important order of Class Mammalia i.e. Placental Mammals.⁸⁶ The dog is used to gasp. The reason may be an increased body temperature due to the increase in the environmental temperature, thirst, fatigue, exertion, any ailment or disease, excitement, shock or happiness even. Thus, the dog gasps willingly and usually as a common practice.⁸⁷

The above-mentioned Holy Verse gives resemblance of a gasping dog to the person who after knowing the realities, incline towards what is fake or unreal. This shows that the awareness of what is real and what is fake, did not affect the person and he remained doing what he was doing before. The resemblance of such person with a gasping dog is to show the lowliness of this practice. Moreover, this resemblance is highly accurate as the dog also continues its practice of gasping whether it is attacked or not. The Holy Quran, being the Divine script, has thrown light on this practice much before than the scientific discoveries about dogs' gasping behavior came. Panting is normally found in dogs. Dogs usually pant or gasp and the reason may be one or the other. Dogs may pant due to illness, changes in body temperature, heat stroke, seasonal allergies, stress or fear, intense pain, heart conditions, ingestion of a toxic material, low levels of blood sugar, trauma, accidents or internal injuries etc.⁸⁸ Hence, we came to know that as a dog keeps on panting whether it is attacked or not, so an evil-doer who continues to ask or wish and incline towards the worldly gains, whether he knows the reality or not.

Swine

Another mammal mentioned in The Holy Quran is the one which comes in context of what is illegitimate, unlawful and prohibited. Allah, The Almighty, clarifies in Surah Al-Nahl that: (Indeed, He has prohibited for you the carrion, the blood, the flesh of swine and what has been invoked upon with a name other than that of Allah (Glory to be Him). However, if anyone is compelled by necessity – neither seeking pleasure, nor crossing the limit- then, Allah is Most-Forgiving, Very Merciful.)

The word خنزير is meant for a specific animal⁸⁹ (The pig or swine).

In the above mentioned Holy Verse, Allah (Glory to be Him) names some prohibited items including the flesh or meat of Pig. As discussed before the concept of legitimate and illegitimate is according to what is beneficial and what is not for the Human Beings. Dr. Zaghloul throws light on the harms, dangers and the adverse effects of eating the meat of swine and says

that The Holy Quran has pointed towards the filth of pig at several places.⁹⁰ Pig is a lazy, greedy, filthy and atrocious animal which may eat plants, animals, cadavers, garbage and even waste of its own and of other animals. That is why it has a major role in transmitting a number of dangerous diseases to the Human Beings.⁹¹ Pig can cause diseases like Swine Erysipelas, Swine Fever or Hog cholera and Swine Vesicular disease etc. Pigs carry and host many disease causing and disease transmitting germs (viruses and bacteria) in their meat which may be transmitted to the human beings by eating the pig's meat or consuming its oils. This may lead to cancer, stomach diseases and death in most cases as there is no way to get rid of the germs received from the pigs.⁹²

The Holy Quran, by prohibiting the Human Beings of eating pig's meat, shows the wisdom behind as Allah (The Almighty) knows what harms a pig may cause to the Humans. Modern Science has discovered these harms now after more than fourteen centuries. The hormonal secretions in pigs like of growth hormone, insulin, androgen, estrogen, thyroid hormone and glucocorticoids may disturb the homeostasis of the pig consumers.⁹³ The toxins and poisons in the pig body are unbreakable by the Human body and hence remain deposited in it, if consumed.⁹⁴ Similarly the sweat also merges in the flesh of pig as it cannot perspire.⁹⁵ Thus the pig sweat, along with other toxins, gets into the human body on eating pig meat. The pig meat is rich in human unfriendly compounds like saturated fatty acids and non-human sialic acid N-glycolylneuraminic acid, but lacks human friendly compounds like Vitamin E.⁹⁶

Camel

The last mammal, which we will discuss, is the Camel. Camel was found abundantly in Arab at the time when The Holy Quran was being revealed. It was the only means of transport and travel in desert.⁹⁷ Camel is mentioned in the Holy Quran, by name in the following Holy Verse:

(So, do they not look at the camels, how they are created) *الابل* is the word used for a number of camels. This word has no singular.⁹⁸ The word is feminine. The younger ones are called *ابيلة*, if singular and *آبال*, if plural.⁹⁹

The afore-mentioned Quranic Verse carries notion to the wonders and marvels in the creation of the camel.¹⁰⁰ According to Dr. Zaghloul, the marvelous creation of the camel is the testimony to Allah (The Almighty) being the only one worship-worthy sustainer and testimony to His power of exterminating what was created and creating again after extermination.¹⁰¹ Camels are even-toed ungulates (Artiodactyla)¹⁰². Camels are herbivores¹⁰³ and are categorized under the term *الانعام* along with other animals like cow, goat, sheep etc.¹⁰⁴ The camels inhabited the earth almost fifty million years before the creation of human beings.¹⁰⁵ The camel is created in such a marvelous way that it can travel and carry others for long distances in deserts, thus called the ship of the desert. It can travel up to fifty miles per day, can bear hunger and thirst for many consecutive days in the severe summers of desert. A camel can carry more than half ton of items or riders.¹⁰⁶ Allah (Glory to be Him) has created camel and blessed him with a number of characteristics which distinguish it from other animals.

The creation of camel is one of the miracles and wonders of our Creator, Allah (Glory to be Him). Such creations cannot be of any human or else other than The Almighty, Allah (SWT). The mentioning of Camel Creation in The Holy Quran leaves the readers surprised and makes them

accept the inability of all (other than Allah-The Almighty) to create. Modern Science also accepts the marvels in camel's creation. Camel exhibits amazing environmental adaptation. It has huge size to get food from tall trees.¹⁰⁷ As, it is the animal of desert, so, nature has created its feet flat to balance its weight, while walking on sand.¹⁰⁸ A prominent body part of camel is the hump. The Arabian camels which are 95% of the total population have single hump, while the other Bactrian camels have two humps.¹⁰⁹ The camel hump is a fat store and the camel uses this fat in the situations of food shortage.¹¹⁰ A camel can travel for several weeks without water, as it has pouches in its stomach to store water. In the case, the stomach pouches get empty; the fats in the hump start melting and provide a nice alternate.¹¹¹ Camel has the ability to drink twenty five gallons of water in very short time.¹¹² Moreover, water loss from camel's body is also much less as it urinates rarely.¹¹³

Conclusion

The Quranic Verses presenting the Animals, like other Cosmic Verses aim to testify to the power of Allah (Glory to be Him) to create.

As Allah (Glory to be Him) has created animals in pair, this shows His Exalted oneness over all the creatures.

Moreover, Allah's act of creating testifies to the fact that as He has created the creatures for first, He has the power to resurrect them, as well.¹¹⁴

The concept of Lawful (Halaal) and prohibited (Haraam) among the animals is a highly beneficial training for us.

As Allah (Glory to be Him) has created the animals too for serving Human beings, then prohibiting some of them urges the Human mind to think of the wisdom behind that and to get awareness about their harms, which again leads the mind to the love of Allah for him that He (the Exalted) wants to protect His slaves.¹¹⁵

Allah (Glory to be Him) has created this world and sent down The Human beings to the Earth as Crown of Creation. Thus we see that Allah (Glory to be Him) has made all other creatures under the command of the Human Beings. Same is the case with Animals. They are created for the Human beings' benefits. Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Quran:

(And He has created the cattle. There lies warmth and other benefits for you in them and from them you get food.)

The Holy Quran, being the word of Allah (Glory to be Him), guides the human beings in every field of life. Thus we see that Allah (SWT) has guided about what is wrong and what is right, what is lawful and what is unlawful and what is legitimate (Halaal) and what is illegitimate (Haraam).

Allah (SWT) says in the very second chapter of Holy Quran:

(O you who believe, eat from the good which we have provided to you and be grateful to Allah if you worship Him only)

Here, Allah (Glory to be Him) is instructing His believers to eat from الطيبات and الطيبات means good, pure, clean and pleasant. It shows that there must be something impure and unclean (opposite to الطيبات) which will be prohibited to eat from.¹¹⁶

Thus Allah (Glory to be Him) has clearly mentioned that there will be two options of eating food. One would be legitimate and the other illegitimate. Animals, as evident from the Quranic Verse 16:5 mentioned above, are also a source of food for Human Beings. So, meat of some of these animals on Earth is lawful to eat and of some others is unlawful.

Eating pure and good food not only has good effects on the bodily health, but is also having positive properties for our mind and spirit. Same is the case with the bad or impure food. Eating Haraam will not only affect our body badly but will also lead to our spiritual deterioration and evil deeds.¹¹⁷

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