**Article** 

# The InfoMiracles of the Qur'an

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#### **Abstract**

A Prophet must have miracles that support his prophethood. The Qur'an is the major miracle of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The miraculous nature of the Qur'an lies in its contents of InfoMiracles. An InfoMiracle is a piece of information that could not be obtained by a human except through a divine channel. A sample of 30 InfoMiracles in the Qur'an is examined. It is suggested that the Qur'an may contain hundreds of InfoMiracles.

**Keywords:** Qur'an, Bible, miracle, InfoMiracle, Information-based miracle, God, revelation, evidence.

# I. Miracles and InfoMiracles:

A 'Miracle' is defined as: an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs. It is also defined as: an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment.

All the great prophets performed miracles to prove their prophethoods. Moses, for example, performed many miracles, such as: changing a stick into a serpent, changing the color of his hand, and parting the Red Sea. Jesus had his miracles as well. He spoke while still in the cradle, raised the dead, cured the sick, the blind and the leper, and produced a table of food to feed thousands of people. Other prophets had miracles as well.

All of the above miracles were 'Physical Miracles.' They involved physical objects that can be seen and touched. Those physical miracles had their greatest impact on the people who witnessed them firsthand. Those who did not witness the physical miracles with their own eyes may learn about them through oral or written accounts transmitted to them. The strength of the belief in these miracles depends on the strength of the belief in the sources that transmit the accounts of the miracles. If the sources are authentic and trustworthy, we usually believe that these miracles indeed happened. If, on the other hand, there are doubts in the sources, we tend to doubt the occurrence of these miracles.

An *InfoMiracle* is in an Information-Based Miracle. It differs from a typical miracle. The basic component of an InfoMiracle is a piece of information that could not be obtained by a human except through a divine channel.

Could the *Theory of Relativity*, for example, be an InfoMiracle? Albert Einstein was a renown scientist and theoretical physicist. He spent his early years cultivating his knowledge in physics

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and mathematics. Living in Germany in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, he had access to all scientific literature. He had a PhD from the University of Zurich. He was a genius with an IQ that is estimated to be between 160-180. Thus, the *Theory of Relativity* was not an InfoMiracle, it was the product of human genius. Had Einstein been an illiterate herd man living in isolation, the *Theory of Relativity* would certainly qualify to be an InfoMiracle.

InfoMiracles are not physical miracles. The information in an InfoMiracle can be processed and reprocessed at any time to detect its miraculous nature. Thus, InfoMiracles are not bound by time; they retain their effect and influence indefinitely.

This work will show that the Qur'an contains numerous InfoMiracles. They exist in different forms: theology, moral values, scientific facts, prophecies, and historical accounts.

# II. The Historical and Social Settings

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mission started in 609 CE when he was 40 years old and continued for 23 years until his death in 632 CE. The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet over the same period. At that time, the beginning of the seventh century, there was no written books on history or religion. The science of archaeology was not invented yet. Both of Heliography, the ancient Egyptian writing, and Cuneiform, the ancient Sumerian writing, were not deciphered until the early nineteenth century.

As the Qur'an was being revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), there was no Arabic version of the Bible. There were only Hebrew, Greek and Latin versions. A brief chronology to the Bible and the Qur'an is given in Table 1 below.

Final canonization of the Hebrew Bible 90 CE First translation of the Christian Bible from 405 CE Greek into Latin (St. Jerome's Vulgate) Revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet 609-632 CE Muhammad (pbuh) 867 CE The first Arabic Bible (Mt. Sinai Arabic Codex 151) 1526 CE First translation of the Bible into English (William Tyndale's Pentateuch) 1611 CE King James (Authorized) Version of the Bible

Table 1: A Brief Chronology to the Bible and the Qur'an

Most of the Arabs at that time (including Muhammad) were illiterate; very few of them could read or write even their own language. It was impossible for anyone of them to have access to the Bible and to read it in Hebrew, Greek or Latin.

# III. Examples of the InfoMiracles in the Qur'an

## 1. A Unique Literary Genre:

The Qur'an is composed of 6236 verses that are distributed over 114 surahs (chapters). The Qur'an demonstrates a unique genre that is unmatched in other literary work. It contains God's words; it is God speaking to us. It is God talking about Himself and His attributes; that He created the universe, the humans, and all life forms; His prophets and messengers; the message to be conveyed to people; the purpose of creation; the signs that guide us to discover Him; the Day of Judgement; the hereafter, paradise, and hellfire; the believers and their reward, and the unbelievers and their punishment in the hereafter; and all the teachings that are required to regulate man's life, man-to-man dealings, and man-to-God relationship.

In the Qur'an, God directs his words to all humans irrespective of their race or color. The Qur'an is not a book to recount the history of a certain people or tribe. There is no glorification to the Arabs or to *Quraish* (Muhammad's tribe). There no mention to Muhammad's family, parents, wives, or children.

The literary genre of the Qur'an could be called: The Divine Genre, or God-Talk Genre. It is consistent over the whole Qur'an, from the first verse in Surahl to the last verse in Surahl 14. There was/is no written book similar to the Qur'an

Simply stated, an illiterate person like Muhammad could not invent a new and unique literary genre, and compose the Qur'an. It has to be an InfoMiracle.

# 2- The Challenge to Imitate the Qur'an:

There are five verses in the Qur'an that challenge the unbelievers, or anyone, to produce ten or even one surah like the Surahs of the Qur'an. This challenge is still standing for 14 centuries for nobody, ever, was able to produce one surah like the Surahs of the Qur'an. Here are the relevant verses:

Verse 2:23,

And if you be in doubt whether the Book We have sent down to Our Servant is from Us or not, then produce, at least, one Surah like this. You may call all your associates to assist you and avail yourselves of the help of anyone other than Allah. If you are genuine in your doubt, do this (2:23).<sup>1</sup>

Verse 10:38.

أم يقولون افتراه قل فأتوا بسورة مثله وادعوا من استطعتم من دون الله إن كنتم صادقين.

Do they say that the Messenger has himself composed the Qur'an? Say: 'In that case bring forth just one surah like it and call on all whom you can, except Allah, to help you if you are truthful. (10:38).

Verse 11:13,

أم يقولون افتراه قل فأتوا بعشر سور مثله مفتريات وإدعوا من استطعتم من دون الله إن كنتم صادقين.

Do they say: 'He has invented this Book himself?' Say: 'If that is so, bring ten surahs the like of it of your composition, and call upon all (the deities) you can other than Allah to your help. Do so if you are truthful.' (11:13).

Verse 17:88,

قل لئن اجتمعت الإنس والجن على أن يأتوا بمثل هذا القرآن لا يأتون بمثله ولو كان بعضهم لبعض ظهيرا. "Say: "Surely, if mankind and jinn were to get together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they will never be able to produce the like of it, howsoever they might help one another." (17:18).

The above verse contains an awesome challenge; the challenge is not open to humans only, it is open to every creature, visible or invisible, human or *jinn*. It is an absolute statement; NOBODY, ever, can produce the like of the Qur'an.

And Verse 52:34.

فليأتوا بحديث مثله إن كانوا صادقين.

(If they are truthful in this), then let them produce a discourse of similar splendor. (52:34).

The fact that nobody was able to meet this challenge to imitate the Qur'an is a definite InfoMiracle.

#### 3. Absolute Monotheism:

The concept of God in the Bible is corrupted with myths from ancient civilizations. God is often portrayed with human attributes. The stories of creation and Noah's flood in the Bible tell us a lot about the nature and attributes of the God of the Bible.

- He is NOT Omnipotent (All Powerful). Genesis 2:2-3 tell us that after working for six days in creating the world, God was tired and He needed to rest on the seventh day. Then, Gen.2:21-22 tell us that, in order to create the Woman, God had to come down and operate on Adam, open his body, taking a rib, closing the body, and making a Woman from the rib. Had God been Omnipotent, He could just say the word "Be" and the Woman will.
- He is NOT Omnipresent (Always everywhere). Genesis 3:8 tells us that God was "...walking in the garden...". So He has to walk to move from one place to another.
- He is NOT Wise. The universal Noachian flood story tells us that God created a human race that was 100% corrupt and wicked, and that He has to destroy them all except of eight persons who were saved in the ark.

- He is NOT Just, Merciful, or Gracious (Infinitely Inclined to Spare the Guilty). The Bible did not tell us what was the crimes of the tens of millions of people who were living on earth at the time of Noah that made them deserve to be killed. The flood story tells us that, not only God drowned tens of millions of humans, He also drowned billions of animals that were living on earth at that time. So if the humans were corrupt and wicked and deserved to be killed, why killing all these animals?
- He is a Liar. Genesis 2:17 tells us that God lied when He said to Adam that he would die if he eats from the tree of knowledge of good and evil "... thou shalt surely die." This lie is mentioned again in Gen. 3:3 when Eve replied to the serpent and said: "...God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."
- He may not be one god. There may be several gods, or a Council of gods. The term 'Elohim' in Hebrew that is used in the Elohistic story is plural and should have been translated into 'the gods', but the English Bibles translated it into "God". Secondly, in Gen. 1:26, we read: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." We see the words 'us' and 'our' in this verse; another indication to the plurality of gods. Similarly, we find 'us' in Gen. 3:22: "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us ..."

The concept of God in the Qur'an, on the other hand, is unique; it has no precedence in other scriptures. God in the Qur'an is supreme. He has no parallel. He neither begot nor was He begotten. Muslim theologians consider that almost one third of the Qur'an is dedicated to develop the concept of God, and describe His attributes.

Here is a sample of what the Qur'an tells us about God and His attributes. In Surah 112, we read: قل هو الله أحد. الله الصمد. لم يلا ولم يولد. ولم يكن له كفوا أحد. (الإخلاص 4-1).

Say: "He is Allah, the One and Unique; Allah, Who is in need of none and of Whom all are in need; He neither begot any nor was He begotten, and none is comparable to Him." (112:1-4).

Verses 59:22-24.

هو الله الذي لا إله إلا هو عالم الغيب والشهادة هو الرحمن الرحيم. هو الله الذي لا إله إلا هو الملك القدوس السلام المؤمن المهيمن العزيز الجبار المتكبر سبحان الله عما يشركون. هو الله الخالق البارئ المصور له الأسماء الحسنى يسبح له ما في السماوات والأرض وهو العزيز الحكيم. (الحشر 22-24).

He is Allah: there is no god but He; the Knower of the unseen and the manifest, He is the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate. He is Allah: there is no god but He: the King, the Holy, the All-Peace, the Giver of security, the Overseer, the Most Mighty, the Overpowering, the All-Great. Exalted be He from whatever they associate with Him. He is Allah, the Planner, Executer and Fashioner of creation. His are the names most beautiful. Whatever is in the heavens and the earth extols His Glory. He is the Most Mighty, the Most Wise. (59:22-24).

And Verse 2:255,

الله لا إله إلا هو الحي القيوم لا تأخذه سنة ولا نوم له ما في السماوات وما في الأرض من ذا الذي يشفع عنده إلا بإذنه يعلم ما بين أيديهم وما خلفهم ولا يحيطون بشيء من علمه إلا بما شاء وسع كرسيه السماوات والأرض ولا يئوده حفظهما وهو العلي العظيم. (البقرة 255).

Allah: the Everlasting, the Sustainer of the whole Universe; there is no god but He. He does neither slumber nor sleep. Whatsoever is in the heavens and in the earth is His. Who is there that can intercede with Him except by His own permission.? He knows what is before the people and also what is hidden from them. And they cannot comprehend anything of His knowledge save whatever He Himself pleases to reveal. His Kingdom spreads over the heavens and the earth and the guarding of these does not weary Him. He alone is the Supreme and the Exalted. (2:255)

Muslim theologians often count 99 names and attributes to God.<sup>2</sup> The Concept of God and His attributes in the Qur'an could not be developed by a human mind. It also could not have come from other scriptures. It is a definite InfoMiracle.

#### 4. Purpose of Creation of Humans:

Man faces many basic questions about life. Perhaps, the most important ones are: Why am I here? What is the purpose of my existence?

In the Qur'an we find many verses that give clear answers to these questions. Several direct answers are found in Verses 51:56 and 36:60-61.

Verse 51:56,

وما خلقت الجن والإنس إلا ليعبدون. (الذاريات 56).

I created the jinn and humans for nothing else but that they may worship Me. (51: 56).

And Verses 36:60-61.

ألم أعهد إليكم يا بني آدم أن لا تعبدوا الشيطان إنه لكم عدو مبين. وأن اعبدوني هذا صراط مستقيم. (يس 60-61). Children of Adam, did I not command you not to serve [worship] Satan -- he is to you an open enemy. And serve [worship] Me alone: this is the Straight Way? (36:60-61).

So, this is the purpose of our existence. It is to acknowledge and believe in the existence of God, the Creator, worship Him alone according to the way He instructs us to do, and not to follow Satan. This is the basic message of all the prophets whom God sent to people. We find this message declared in many verses:

In Verse 7:59, it is the message of Noah:

لقد أرسلنا نوحا إلى قومه فقال يا قوم اعبدوا الله ما لكم من إله غيره إني أخاف عليكم عذاب يوم عظيم. (الأعراف 59).

Indeed We sent forth Noah to his people and he said: 'O my people! Serve [worship]

Allah, you have no other god than Him Indeed I fear for you the chastisement of an awesome Day.' (7:59).

This message of Noah is affirmed in Verses 11:25-26, 23:23 and 71:3.

It is the message of Prophet Hud: Verses 7:65, 11:50 and 46:21.

It is the message of Prophet Salih: Verses 7:73, 11:61 and 27:45.

It is the message of Prophet Shu'ayb: Verses 7:85, and 29:36.

It is the message of Jesus: Verses 5:72 and 5:117.

And, Verse 16:36 tells us that the call to 'worship God alone' is the message of every prophet sent by God:

We raised a Messenger in every community (to tell them): "Serve [worship] Allah and shun the Evil One." ... (16:36).

Several prophet were mentioned by name in the Qur'an. However, there were hundreds of prophets who were not mentioned. Nonetheless, the above verse tells us that all of them had the same message: 'Worship God alone'.

Abraham was considered the 'Father of the Prophets' because many of his descendants were prophets. The Qur'an often mentions 'ملة إبراهيم' which is translated into 'The Creed of Abraham.' The core of this creed is to worship God alone, or 'monotheism.' The reference to 'The Creed of Abraham' is found in Verses 2:130, 2:135, 3:95, 5:125, 6:161, 12:38, 16:123, and 22:78.

It should be noted that the above theology cannot be found in the Bible. It could not be the product of any human mind. It is definitely an InfoMiracle.

#### 5- Equality of All Humans and the Call for Peaceful Coexistence:

In Verse 49:13, we read:

O Human beings, We created you all from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Verily the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (49:13).

The above verse is composed of three parts; all in support of equality of all humans and to the call for a universal peaceful coexistence. The first part states that all humans are the progeny of one pair of man and woman (Adam and Eve.) This a statement of the brotherhood of humans.

The second part states that we were made into tribes and nations in order to meet with each other, get acquainted, cooperate and live peacefully with each other. It is wrong to wage wars between each other for no reason, or for the sake to dominate, enslave or exploit others.

The third part states that in the sight of God, people are equal. Race, color, language and nationality are of no importance. There is only one criterion to determine people's worth: "the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing."

We should note here that history of humankind up till the seventh century was filled with wars, and bloodshed. Racism and slavery were abundant. Considerable suffering was everywhere. The call in the Qur'an for human equality and peaceful coexistence was unprecedented. It is definitely an InfoMiracle.

#### 6. No Bearer of Burdens Shall Bear the Burden of Another

The Bible contains many stories or incidents in which a person committed a sin, and the punishment was inflicted on a different person. So, let's us look at some of these incidents.

I- When Noah got himself drunk and naked in his tent, his son Ham saw his nakedness and told his brothers, Shem and Japeth, about it. Shem and Japeth took a garment and covered their father without looking at his nakedness. When Noah woke up and learned about what his son Ham did, he didn't punish him or curse him; instead, he declared a curse on Canaan, Ham's son (Noah's grandson). (Gen. 9:20-26).

II- Punishing all the women in Abimelek's household for the lies of Abraham who said that Sarah was his sister. (Gen. 20:18).

III- God's episodes of murdering innocent individuals for the faults of their leaders, fathers, or other ancestors are not uncommon in the Old Testament. The story of Jephthah and his daughter in (Judges 11) is one clear example.

IV- While David is King, he decides to conduct a census: a horrendous sin in God's eyes. As a punishment for his poor decision, God sends three days of pestilence that results in the deaths of 70,000 persons. In effect, God murders enough people to fill a sizable city for the "sin" of one man. David subsequently cries out to God and asks him why he wants to murder innocent people who had nothing to do with the decision to execute a census. (2 Sam. 24:10-17).

V- God punishes David' followers for a sin committed by Saul. Saul died years ago, yet God just now decides to punish people who had nothing to do with the decisions of their former leader. (2 Sam. 21:1).

VI- The Bible also contains several verses that sanction generational curses. Those are curses that are passed to the offspring of the sinners and last for several generations. We find these in Verses: Ex. 20:5, Ex. 34:7, Num. 14:18, Deut. 5:9, Deut. 23:2, and Deut. 23:3-4.

The Qur'an, on the other hand, declares unequivocally in several verses and Suras that "no person earns any sin except against himself", and "no bearer of burden shall bear the burden of another." We find that in Verses: 6:164, 35:18, 39:7, and 17:15.

#### 7. Forbidding Usury:

The evil destructive effects of usury have been well acknowledged by many economists and intellectuals over the ages. Here are some of the quotes about usury and the usury-based banking system:

- Francis Bacon: "Usury dulls and damps all industries, improvements, and new inventions, wherein money would be stirring if it were not for this slug." 3
- Thomas Jefferson: "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies."<sup>4</sup>
- John Adams: "Historically, usury was defined as any interest whatever on an unproductive loan.

  Our whole banking system I have ever abhorred, I continue to abhor, and I shall die abhorring." 5
- Henry Ford: "It is well that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for it they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning." 6
- John Maynard Keynes: "Nothing can preserve the integrity of contact between individuals, except a discretionary authority in the state to revise what has become intolerable. The powers of uninterrupted usury are too great. If the accretions of vested interests were to grow without mitigation for many generations, half the population would be no better than slaves to the other half."

More than a 1000 year before the times of the above intellectuals, the Qur'an condemns usury in the strongest terms. We find that in Verses: 2:275-280, 3:130-132, and 30:39. Nowadays, the prohibition of usury is the landmark of what is known as *Islamic Banking*.

Interestingly, the Bible forbids usury when dealing with a fellow Jew. We see this law repeated in several verses: Deut. 23:19, Ex. 22:19, and Lev. 25:36-37. But then, the Bible tells us that usury is allowed when dealing with non-Jews or gentiles (Deut. 23:20).

## 8. Forbidding Alcohol:

The Bible encourages drinking wine in a wide range of occasions. This has made intemperance in Christian countries frightfully prevalent, and almost respectable. We find this encouragement in Verses: Ex. 29:40-41, Deut. 14:26, Prov. 31:6-7, 1 Tim. 5:23, Eccles. 9:7, Eccles. 10:19, Amos 9:14. Ps. 104:15, and Judg. 9:13.

In Isa. 15:6, Jehovah is represented as being particularly fond of strong drink and aged wine.

In Joel 1:5,9,13, we read that one of the most direful calamities in the Bible was a wine famine.

In Jer. 35:2, God commanded Jeremiah to tempt with wine those who abstained from its use.

In John 2:1-10, we read that the first act in Christ's ministerial career was to manufacture six jars of wine for a wedding feast.

The Qur'an, on the other hand, prohibits drinking wine. We find this in Verses 2:219 and 5:90-91.

# 9. Assertion of the Corruption of the Bible:

There are many verses in the Qur'an that declare that the scripture of the-People-of-Book (the Jews and the Christians) is not authentic God's words, and that it was forged and corrupted. These verses further tell us that the forgeries and corruption took place both in the written documents and in the oral traditions. The Jews and Christians wrote their scripture with their hands and distorted it with their tongues and claimed that it was from God. We find these declarations in Verses: 2:79, 3:78, and 4:46.

Verse 2:79,

فويل للذين يكتبون الكتاب بأيديهم ثم يقولون هذا من عند الله ليشتروا به ثمنا قليلا فويل لهم مما كتبت أيديهم وويل لهم مما يكسبون. (البقرة 79).

So woe to their learned people, who write the law with their own hands and then say to the people, "This is from Allah," so that they might gain some paltry worldly end. (They do not see that) this writing of their hands will bring woe to them and what they gain thereby will lead to their ruin. (2:79)

Verse 3:78.

وإن منهم لفريقا يلوون ألسنتهم بالكتاب لتحسبوه من الكتاب وما هو من الكتاب ويقولون هو من عند الله وما هو من عند الله ويقولون على الله الكذب وهم يعلمون. (آل عمران 78).

And there is a party among them who twist their tongues while reciting the Book to make you think that it is part of the Book when in fact it is not. They say: 'It is from Allah', when in fact it is not from Allah. They falsely fix a lie upon Allah, and do so wittingly. (3:78)

Verse 4:46,

من الذين هادوا يحرفون الكلم عن مواضعه ويقولون سمعنا وعصينا واسمع غير مسمع وراعنا ليا بألسنتهم وطعنا في الدين ولو .(46). (النساء 46). (

The declaration that the Bible was forged and corrupted was a huge verdict that was announced in the early seventh century; i.e. 500 years before the biblical scholars of the middle ages in the West started questioning the credibility and authorship of the Bible. It preceded by 1200 years the conclusions of the biblical scholars of the early 19th century who finally reached the same verdict

that indeed Moses did not write the Pentateuch, and that the Bible was written by more than 50 authors over a period that spans 1000 years, and that it was corrupted and contained many forgeries.<sup>9</sup>

The above verses, therefore, are clear InfoMiracles in the Qur'an.

## 10. Schisms in Judaism and Christianity:

There are many verses in the Qur'an that describe wide and deep schisms in Judaism and Christianity. The Qur'an identifies five types of such schisms. The verses that relate to each type are given below:

- A. Schisms between the Jews themselves. Verses: 5:64, 10:93, 16:124, 27:76, and 45:17.
- B. The disagreement on the Bible. Verses: 11:110 and 41:45.
- C. Schisms on the essence of Jesus. Verses 4:157-158, 4:171, 5:17, 5:72-73, and 9:30-31.
- D. Schisms between the Jews and the Christians. Verses: 2:113, 2:253, 98:4, 16:63-64, and 42:13-14.
- E. Schisms between the Christian sects. Verse: 5:14, 43:63-65, 6:159, and 3:105.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had no external source to inform him about the details and extent of these schisms. The Bible itself could not be the source of this information. The above verses, therefore, are clear InfoMiracles.

# 11. Embryology Stages:

The credit for the development of modern embryology in the late 1950s is generally given to Karl Ernst von Baer and Heinz Christian Pander. Using ultrasound technology for uterine scanning, they were able to explain how the embryo develops in progressive steps.

Amazingly, although not a science book, the Qur'an contains precise description to the stages of the embryo development in the womb. We find the verses that describe embryo development in three different Surahs: 23:12-14, 22:5, and 40:67.

Verses 23:12-14.

ولقد خلقنا الإنسان من سلالة من طين. ثم جعلناه نطفة في قرار مكين. ثم خلقنا النطفة علقة فخلقنا العلقة مضغة فخلقنا المضغة عظاما فكسونا العظام لحما ثم أنشأناه خلقا آخر فتبارك الله أحسن الخالقين. (المؤمنون 12-14).

We created man out of the extract of clay. Then We made him into a drop of life-germ, then We placed it in a safe depository. Then We made this drop into a clot, then We made the clot into a lump, then We made the lump into bones, then We clothed the bones with flesh, and then We caused it to grow into another creation. Thus Most Blessed is Allah, the Best of all those that create. (23:12-14).

Verse 22:5,

يا أيها الناس إن كنتم في ربب من البعث فإنا خلقناكم من تراب ثم من نطفة ثم من علقة ثم من مضغة مخلقة وغير مخلقة لنبين لكم ونقر في الأرحام ما نشاء إلى أجل مسمى ثم نخرجكم طفلا ثم لتبلغوا أشدكم ومنكم من يتوفى ومنكم من يرد إلى أرذل العمر لكيلا يعلم من بعد علم شيئا وترى الأرض هامدة فإذا أنزلنا عليها الماء اهتزت وربت وأنبتت من كل زوج بهيج. (الحج 5).

O mankind! If you have any doubt concerning Resurrection, then know that it is surely We Who created you from dust, then from a drop of sperm, then from a clot of blood, then from a little lump of flesh, some of it shapely and other shapeless. (We are rehearsing this) that We may make the reality clear to you. We cause (the drop of sperm) that We please to remain in the wombs till an appointed time. We bring you forth as infants (and nurture you) that you may come of age. Among you is he that dies (at a young age) and he who is kept back to the most abject age so that after once having known, he reaches a stage when he knows nothing. You see the earth dry and barren and then no sooner than We send down water upon it, it begins to quiver and swell and brings forth every kind of beauteous vegetation. (22:5).

And Verse 40:67.

He it is Who created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clot; then He brings you out as an infant, then causes you to grow into full maturity, and then causes you to grow further so that you may reach old age, while some of you He recalls earlier. All this is in order that you may reach an appointed term and that you may understand (the Truth). (40:67).

All of the above verses are clear InfoMiracles in the Qur'an that preceded science discovery by more than 1,200 years.

#### 12. Source of Semen:

In the Qur'an, there are verses that locate from where semen is generated. In Verses 86:5-7, we read:

So let man consider of what he was created. He was created of a gushing fluid. Emanating from between the loins and the ribs. (86:5-7).

In embryonic stages, the reproductive organs of the male and female, i.e. the testicles and the ovaries, begin their development near the kidney between the spinal column and the eleventh and twelfth ribs. Later they descend; the female gonads (ovaries) stop in the pelvis while the male gonads (testicles) continue their descent before birth to reach the scrotum through the inguinal canal. Even in adulthood after the descent of the reproductive organs, these organs receive their nerve supply and blood supply from the Abdominal Aorta, which is in the area between the backbone (spinal column) and the ribs. The lymphatic drainage and the venous return also go to the same area.<sup>10</sup>

In another verse, we read that the semen is composed of secretions from different glands. In Verse 76:2, we read:

Verily We created man out of a drop of intermingled sperm so that We might try him, and We therefore endowed him with hearing and sight. (76:2)

The Arabic words 'نطفة أمشاح' means a small quantity of mingled liquids. This demonstrates another scientific fact; that the semen, which contains the sperm, does not consist of sperm alone. It is made up of a mixture of different fluids. Seminal fluid is a collection of substances secreted from the testicles, the seminal vesicles, the prostate gland and glands linked to the urinary tract.

# 13. Skin and Pain:

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Skin in the fingertips and the forehead is the most sensitive parts of the body to pain. It was originally thought that pain is caused by an excessive activation of the mechanoreceptors in our skin, but it's now clear that skin has specific pain receptors, called nociceptors. Charles Scott Sherrington is credited with discovering nociceptors in 1906.<sup>11</sup>

Amazingly, there is a verse in the Qur'an that identify the skin as the part of the body most sensitive to pain. It is Verse 4:56:

Surely We shall cast those who reject Our signs into the Fire; and as often as their skins are burnt out, We shall give them other skins in exchange that they may fully taste the chastisement. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise. (4:56).

The above verse tells us that to make the unbelievers suffer continuous pain, every time their skin (the part that feels pain the most) is burnt, it is replaced with a new skin.

#### 14. Animals and Birds Live in Communities:

Human beings are not the only residents of this universe. There are numerous creatures in the world and they all have their lives regulated in a way that indicates careful planning and elaborate design. Moreover, they all confirm the oneness of the Creator and the consistency of His law of creation.

In the Qur'an, there is one short verse that summarizes important concepts in animal behavior and ethology. It is Verse 6:38.

There is no animal that crawls on the earth, no bird that flies with its two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book (of decree). Then to their Lord will they all be mustered. (6:38)

The above verse tells us that all animals that walk on earth, be they insects, reptiles, or vertebrates and all flying creatures, including every winged insect or bird, and indeed every living creature, belong to a community which shares certain characteristics and a particular way of life, just as human beings do. God has not left any type of His creation without providing it with an elaborate plan to organize its existence and without taking account of what it does with its life.

The study of animals and their behavior is as old as man himself. This activity as a branch of science, however, only matured after world war II. Scientific research in zoology, animal behavior, and ethology in the last fifty years has indeed confirmed that animals, birds and fish live in communities, i.e. they organize, and live and work together.

## 15. Bee and Honey:

One outstanding example of an insect that lives in an organized community is the life of the bee in the wild. In the Qur'an, we find two verses, Verses 16:68-69, that describe the organized life of the bee community:

وأوحى ربك إلى النحل أن اتخذي من الجبال بيوتا ومن الشجر ومما يعرشون. ثم كلي من كل الثمرات فاسلكي سبل ربك ذللا يغرج من بطونها شراب مختلف ألوانه فيه شفاء للناس إن في ذلك لآية لقوم يتفكرون. (النحل 68–69).

Your Lord inspired the bee, saying: "Set up hives in the mountains and in the trees and in the trellises that people put up. Then suck the juice of every kind of fruit and keep treading the ways of your Lord which have been made easy." There comes forth from their bellies a drink varied in colors, wherein there is healing for men. Verily there is a sign in this for those who reflect. (16:68-69).

In Arabic, there is a distinction between an order given to a male subject, or an order given to a female subject. For example the verb 'to eat', if you order a male to eat, you say: 'كلى' 'kul.' If you order a female to eat, you say: 'كلى' 'kuli.'

In the above verses we find several orders that are given to female subjects: 'كلي', 'اتخذي', 'ملك', and 'خلي'. These all indicate that the bee community is controlled and dominated by the females. It is ruled by a queen, and it is the female bee that leaves its home, gathers food, and makes honey.

The bee colony in the wild is an engineering marvel. It is designed for efficiency. It has a unique annual cycle where the activities of the colony are prescribed according to the season of the year. Each of the inhabitants of the colony has its function and role. The colony operates using effective communication methods.<sup>12</sup>

The bee assimilates juices of various kinds of flowers and fruit and forms honey within its body, which it stores in its cells of wax. Only a couple of centuries ago humans came to know that honey comes from the belly of the bee.

But this fact was mentioned in the Qur'an 1,400 years ago in Verse 16:69 above. This verse tells us also that honey is a medicine that cures many diseases; a fact that was only confirmed by recent research.<sup>13</sup>

#### 16 & 17 - Verse 21:30. Two InfoMiracle in One Verse:

In Verse 21:30, we read the following:

أولم ير الذين كفروا أن السماوات والأرض كانتا رتقا ففتقناهما وجعلنا من الماء كل شيء حي أفلا يؤمنون. (الأنبياء 30). Did the unbelievers (who do not accept the teaching of the Prophet) not realize that the heavens and the earth were one solid mass, then We tore them apart, and We made every living being out of water? Will they, then, not believe (that We created all this)? (21:30).

The first part of the above verse states that the heavens and earth were once one single entity and then this entity was parted asunder to start the creation of the universe. This initial breakup or separation was not an explosion, but a process in which the components of an entity were teared and separated from each other. This is exactly the core of the Big Bang theory.<sup>14</sup>

The second part in the above verse asserts that every living thing is made out of water. It is now agreed as a scientific fact that the presence of water is a necessary condition for life. <sup>15</sup>

The Qur'an contains several other verses that amplify the importance of water in all aspects of life. These are Verses: 30:24, 36:34, 45:5, and 50:9.

# 18. An Expanding Universe:

In Verse 51:47, we read:

AND IT IS We who have built the universe with [Our creative] power; and, verily, it is We who are steadily expanding it. (51:47). <sup>16</sup>

The expansion of the universe is an essential ingredient of the Big Bang theory. Verse 51:47 above that tells us that the universe is steadily expanding. Stephen Hawking, in his book, 'A Brief History of Time', says, "The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of the great intellectual revolutions of the 20th century." The Qur'an mentioned the expansion of the universe in the early 7th century.

# 19. The Atmospheric Layer - A Skin of Light:

In Verse 36:37, we read:

And the night is another Sign for them. We strip the day from it [similar to skinning the skin of an animal] and they become plunged in darkness. (36:37).

This verse contains the Arabic verb 'naslukhu' 'نسلخ', which literally translates into 'to skin' the skin of an animal. The translator of the above verse used 'strip' as a translation to 'نسلخ'.' I added the literal meaning of the verb 'نسلخ' between square brackets.

The verse tells us that the light around us during daytime is not emitted by earth; it is external to it, and it is in a layer like the skin of an animal. For the daytime to turn into night, this layer of light is skinned off like the skin of an animal.

This layer of light is formed when the atmospheric layer around earth scatters and reflects light rays coming from the sun. As earth rotates, light rays from the sun is cut off from the eastern part of the atmospheric layer, and that part turns dark. This darkness progresses from east to west as if the light layer is being skinned of the surface of the earth. At the same time, a skin of light is being laid on the western part of earth as these area are being lighted with sun light.

The natural process described above could have never been imagined by a human mind in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and was only observed and recorded after space travel in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is another example to how the Qur'an preceded science discovery by more than 1,200 years.

# 20. A Spherical Earth:

In the Qur'an, there are several verses that indicate that the earth is round, not flat. In Verse 79:30, we read:

And afterwards He shaped the earth into an egg-shape (like a baker who shapes the dough into egg-shape.) (79:30). 18

This above verse states that God created the earth in an egg-shape similar to a baker who shapes a dough in a ball. The Arabic dictionaries describe the verb 'daha' as shaping an object in an egg-shape like a baker who shapes the dough in an egg-shape.<sup>19</sup>

Verse 39:5:

He has created the heavens and the earth with truth. He makes the night to go in [flow over] the day and makes the day to go in [flow over] the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon. Each running (on a fixed course) for an appointed term. Verily, He is the All-Mighty, the Oft-Forgiving. (39:5).

The above verse is composed of several parts; each one conveys a certain fact. What concerns us here is the second part of the verse, in which, the Arabic verb 'بكور' 'yukawwir' is used to describe the flow of the night over a spherical object that is in the daytime, and the subsequent flow of the day over the same spherical object that is in the nighttime. The rotational motion described here is like rolling a turban around a head, or wrapping the bandage around an injured limb, which clearly indicates that the verse talks about an object that is round in shape.

And Verse 31:29:

Do you not see that Allah makes the night phase [merge] into the day and makes the day phase [merge] into the night and has subjected the sun and the moon to His will so that each of them is pursuing its course till an appointed time? (Do you not know that) Allah is well aware of all that you do? (31:29).

The above verse uses the Arabic verb 'يولج' which is translated into 'phase', or 'merge' to describe how darkness overflow light, and how light overflow darkness. This merging of the night into the day portrays a gradual change of the day into nighttime, and the subsequent merging of the day into the night portrays gradual change of the night into daytime. This gradual change is a characteristic of a spherical object as it rotates in front of a source of light.

# 21. The Water Cycle:

Most of the ancient thinkers and scholars were aware of the origin of rain and that it is a result of the evaporation of water from seas and oceans. However, they maintained the belief that water rising up through the earth contributed a great deal to rivers. Also, they did not know the source of underground water. They thought the water of the oceans, under the effect of winds, was thrust towards the interior of the continents.

It was Bernard Palissy who is generally credited with the discovery of the hydrologic cycle in 1580 CE. He was the first thinker to assert that rainfall alone was sufficient for the maintenance of rivers.<sup>20</sup>

There are several verses in the Qur'an that accurately describe the different phases in the hydrologic cycle. In Verse 7:57, we read:

And it is He Who sends forth winds as glad tidings in advance of His Mercy, and when they have carried a heavy-laden cloud We drive it to a dead land, then We send down rain from it and bring forth therewith fruits of every kind. In this manner do We raise the dead that you may take heed. (7:57).

The above verse describes the phase in which evaporated water forms the clouds; then, the winds push the clouds over land.

Verse 15:22,

We send fertilizing winds, and then cause rain to descend from the sky, providing you abundant water to drink even though you could not have stored it up for yourselves. (15:22).

The above verse describes how the winds impregnate the clouds. The Arabic word used here is 'الواقح' lawaaqih which is the plural of laqih from laqaha, which means to impregnate or fecundate. In this context, impregnate means that the wind pushes the clouds together increasing the condensation that causes lightning and thus rain.

Verse 23:18,

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We sent down water from the sky in right measure, and caused it to stay in the earth, and We have the power to cause it to vanish (in the manner We please). (23:18).

The above verse describes the preservation of fresh water in underground reservoirs (aquifers.) Man can access this water by digging a well.

Verse 24:43,

ألم تر أن الله يزجي سحابا ثم يؤلف بينه ثم يجعله ركاما فترى الودق يخرج من خلاله وينزل من السماء من جبال فيها من برد فيصيب به من يشاء ويصرفه عن من يشاء يكاد سنا برقه يذهب بالأبصار . (النور 43).

Do you not observe that Allah makes the cloud move gently then joins its pieces together: then gathers it into a mass of thick cloud: then you see that rain-drops fall down from its midst: and He sends down hail out of the high up mountains in the heaven: then He smites with it whom He wills and turns it away from whom He pleases: then a flash of lightning from it dazzles the eyes. (24:43)

The above verse describes the formation of the clouds that can produce rain. The clouds are formed in pieces that join each other to form larger clouds. Eventually, rain-producing clouds are formed. These clouds also send hail, snow and sleet.

Verse 39:21.

ألم تر أن الله أنزل من السماء ماء فسلكه ينابيع في الأرض ثم يخرج به زرعا مختلفا ألوانه ثم يهيج فتراه مصفرا ثم يجعله حطاما إن في ذلك لذكرى لأولى الألباب. (الزمر 21).

Do you not see that Allah sent down water from the sky, then made it flow on earth as springs and streams and rivers and then with it He brings forth vegetation of various hues; then this vegetation ripens and dries up, turning yellow, whereafter He reduces it to broken straw? Surely there is a lesson in this for those endowed with understanding. (39:21)

The above verse asserts that rain is the origin of all running freshwater from springs or rivers.

#### 22. Everything Is Made of Pairs:

Everything in this world exists in pairs. We can see around us males and females in humans and in animals, north-pole and south-pole magnets, day and night, and electricity and magnetism. But then duality is exhibited even in the subatomic world that is unobservable with the naked eye. We have matter and antimatter, electrons and positrons, and protons and antiprotons. All these facts were discovered in the last four centuries. Amazingly, there are several verses in the Qur'an that predicted the Duality in Creation. They are Verses 13:3, 20:53, 36:36, 43:12, 51:49, and 78:8.

Verse 51:49,

And of everything We have created pairs; perhaps you will take heed. (51:49)

Verse 43:12,

He Who created these pairs, all of them, and provided you ships and cattle on which you ride, (43:12).

Verse 78:8,

and created you in pairs (as men and women), (78:8).

Verse 36:36,

Holy is He Who created all things in pairs, whether it be of what the earth produces, and of themselves, and of what they do not know. (36:36)

The above verse says that everything is created in pairs, including plants and things that the humans do not know at present and may discover later. This alludes to the world of sub particles, or to the world of unseen spirits.

Verse 13:3.

He it is Who has stretched out the earth and has placed in it firm mountains and has caused the rivers to flow. He has made every fruit in pairs, two and two, and He it is Who causes the night to cover the day. Surely there are signs in these for those who reflect. (13:3).

And Verse 20:53.

The above two verses inform us about the existence of male and female organs in the plants. And similar to what happens in the human and animal worlds, the male organ in plants must fertilize the female organ in order for the plant to reproduce.

The discovery of sex in plants is usually credited to Camerarius who in 1698 CE published his sexual theory in plants in his landmark *De Sexu Plantarum Epistola*. Thus, regarding reproduction in plants, the Qur'an preceded scientific discovery by more than 950 years.

#### 23. Fine Tuning in the Universe:

Scientists are puzzled that there are indications that our universe is fine tuned to allow the existence of intelligent life. All the laws of nature have particular constants associated with them: the gravitational constant, the speed of light, the electric charge, the mass of the electron, and Planck's constant from quantum mechanics. All the above constants are critical to the formation of the basic building blocks of life. And, the range of possible values for these constants is very narrow, only about 1 to 5% for the combination of constants. Outside this range, life (in particular, intelligent life) would be impossible.

Amazingly, in the Qur'an we find several verses asserting that indeed the universe was created in a precise manner that makes it perfect for human life. We read this assertion in Verses 13:8, 15:19, 15:21, and 54:49.

Verse 54:49,

We have created everything in a determined measure. (54:49).

The above verse clearly asserts that everything is created in a precise and exact measure and proportion. Thus, indeed, if the physical constants discussed above were higher or lower than their current values by a small percentage, life would not exist.

Verse 15:21,

There is nothing except that its treasuries are with Us and We do not send it down except in a known measure. (15:21).

The above verse asserts that the components of the ecosystems are in a precise manner to allow human life to flourish. Thus, we have the right amounts of oxygen and nitrogen in the air, the right properties of water that make it support life, .. and so on.

Verse 15:19,

As for the earth, We have stretched it out and have cast on it firm mountains, and have caused to grow in it everything well-measured. (15:19)

The last part in the above verse asserts the proper balance in the ecosystems that allows the continuity of life on earth.

#### 24. A Prophecy:

The Qur'an contains many prophecies that were later came true. In Verse 5:67, there is a prophecy that God protects His Prophet, and that Prophet Muhammad will not be killed by any human:

... Allah will certainly protect you from the evil of men... (5:67).

## 25. A Prophecy:

In Verse 33:40, there is a prophecy that Prophet Muhammad will not have any surviving sons (he was survived by 4 daughters).

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the Prophets. Allah has full knowledge of everything. (33:40).

#### 26. A Prophecy:

In Verses 30:2-3, there is a prophecy that the Romans will defeat the Persians after being defeated by them previously.

The Romans have been defeated in the neighboring land; but after their defeat they shall gain victory in a few years. (30:2-3).

# 27. A Prophecy:

That the Qur'an will be preserved and protected from change or corruption (Verses: 15:9 and 41:42). And that the Language of the Qur'an is Arabic, and Arabic will be preserved from change (Verses 12:2, 13:37, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7, 43:3, and 46:12).

# 28. A Prophecy:

That Islam will eventually prevail and spread among nations (Verses: 9:33, 48:28, 61:9, and 24:55).

#### 29. A Prophecy:

Foretelling the fate of several persons who would live and die as disbelievers (Verses: 73:11-26, 96:9-18, and 111:1-5).

## **30. Literary Miracles**

The is a big source of InfoMiracles. We have seen in #2 above that the Qur'an challenged the Arab unbelievers, or, anyone, to produce ten or even one surah like the Surahs of the Qur'an. This challenge is still standing for 14 centuries for nobody was able to meet this challenge yet.

The failure to imitate the Qur'an is partly attributed the miraculous nature of the Qur'an as a literary genre. The Qur'an is unparalleled in its style, eloquence, conciseness, and power of expression.

There are tens of books (in Arabic) that discuss these issues.<sup>22</sup> Space limitation here does not allow us to discuss the subject in a duly way.

#### IV. Conclusions

About thirty InfoMiracles in the Qur'an are analyzed in this paper. In each case, it is shown that the information being examined could not have come from a human source, or from other scriptures. This information, therefore, has to originate from a divine source.

The effort here scratches the surface of the subject. The limit to analyze only few InfoMiracles is simply due to limitation of space in the paper. A recent work shows that the number of

InfoMiracles in the Qur'an is in the hundreds.<sup>23</sup> This is a strong evidence to the existence of God and that the Qur'an is God's words revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all translations of the Qur'an verses are from: Maududi, S.A. - *Tafhim-ul-Qur'an: The Meaning of the Qur'an*, Islamic Publications, 1972.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See for example: El-Zimaity, M.A. (1998), God's Names and Attributes, in Arabic and English.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See for example: <u>http://www.authorama.com/essays-of-francis-bacon-42.html</u>

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  See for example:  $\underline{\text{https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertlenzner/2011/11/06/thomas-jefferson-warned-the-nation-about-the-power-of-the-banks/#653c8b452b18}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.quotetab.com/john-adams-quotes-about-usury

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/henry ford 136294

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Keynes, J.M. (2015), *The Essential Keynes*, Penguin Books, Ch. 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See for example: *The Commentary of Abraham Ibn Ezra on the Pentateuch*, 1164, in which he was troubled by several verses in the Torah that didn't make sense or/and seemed not to be written by Moses but were added to the Torah (Gen. 12:6, Gen. 22:14, Deut. 1:1-5, Deut. 3:11, Deut. 31:9, and Deut. 34:1-12.) A brief review to Ibn Ezra's work and to other works that criticize the Bible can be found in: Mandurah, M. (2020), *25 Testimonies Against the Bible*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See for example: W.M. De Wette (1850), A Critical and Historical Introduction to the Canonical Scripture of the Old Testament. These conclusions were further affirmed by modern biblical scholars, such as, Richard Elliot Friedman (2011) in his book: Who Wrote the Bible?; and Bart D. Ehrman (2011) in his book: Forged. Writing in the Name of God. Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Naik, Z., The Qur'an and Modern Science - Compatible or Incompatible, p. 50.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Layman, M. (2019), The Remarkable Life of the Skin; an Intimate Journey, Bantam Press, pp 124-125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See for example: Seeley, T.D. (2019), *The Lives of Bees. The Untold Story of the Honey Bee in the Wild*, Princeton Univ. Press.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See for example: Altman, N. (2010), *The Honey Prescription; the Amazing Power of Honey as Medicine*, Healing Arts Press.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See for example: Chapman, A. (2018), Comets, Cosmology and the Big Bang. A History of Astronomy from Edmond Halley to Edwin Hubble, Lion Hudson Ltd.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Lecuyer, C. (2014), Water on Earth. Physicochemical and Biological Properties, Wiley, p 155.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The translation of this verse is from: Asad, Muhammad (1980), *The Message of Islam*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Hawking, S. (1988), A Brief History of Time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The translation of this verse is from: Naik, Z. - *The Qur'an and Modern Science - Compatible or Incompatible*, p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See for example: <a href="https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/ar-ar/">https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/ar-ar/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water cycle

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Quoted in: Taiz, L. & L. Taiz (2017), Flora Unveiled. The Discovery and Denial of Sex in Plants, Oxford Univ. Press, p 344.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Mandurah, M.M. (2021), InfoMiracles of the Noble Qur'an, Vol. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Mandurah, M.M., *InfoMiracles and a Mathematical Proof to the Existence of God*, submitted separately for publication in this Journal.