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The Holy Qur'an And The Sciences Of Nature

Mehdi Golshani



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Preface

The study of the Qur'anic view concerning the cognition of nature has a long history in the Islamic world. In the golden era of Islamic civilization, most of the learned Muslim scholars considered the Qur'an as the source of their inspiration in their study of nature, and they viewed the discovery of the secrets of nature as a way for their familiarity with the signs of Allah in natural world and an effective way for proximity to Allah.

The rise of modern science and its rapid development was after the decadence of the sciences of nature in the Islamic world. When, about two centuries ago, Muslims started to import Western science, several attitudes developed in the Islamic world. Some scholars saw modern science as the only key to their future development and discarded the Qur'an completely. On the other hand, some scholars saw the root of all sciences in the Holy Qur'an and tried to adapt the Holy Qur'an with findings of modern science. Finally, some eminent Muslim scholars, viewed the Holy Qur'an as the source of their worldview and inspiration in the discovery of nature, but they also recommended the use of the methods and tools of modern science. This writer belongs to the last category.

This book contains several essays which were first presented at some international conferences, but are now ordered in a logical order. These essays deal with different aspects of the relation of the sciences of nature with the Holy Qur'an, among which are the following subjects:

- the Islamic conception of knowledge;
- the reason for the significance of the sciences of nature from the Qur'anic viewpoint;
- the necessity of binding science with moral values;
- the necessity of binding science with wisdom;
- epistemology from the Qur'anic viewpoint.

In my humble view, the neglect of the Qur'anic worldview has deprived many Muslim scholars from the comprehensive inspirations of the Qur'an concerning the study of the natural world. I hope and pray that this humble presentation would work as a small spark in attracting Muslim scholars' attention to this comprehensive world view, in the revival of scientific spirit in the 'Ummah, and in promoting scientific knowledge in the Muslim world.

The English edition of this book was published in New York twice. Then the expanded edition was published by the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran, Iran. Now that the last edition is being republished by Amin Research and Cultural Centre (ARCC) of Malaysia, I would like to thank Mr. Ramin Ghavifekr of this center's publication department for his effort in publishing this book, and Mr. Mohamad Mohideen Jalaluddin for the typesetting of the book.

Mehdi Golshani

29 September 2011, Tehran, Iran

