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Review Article

Medical embryology in the of light Qur'an and Hadith

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ABSTRACT

The conceptual description and obvious originality of human medical sciences gleaned from core and authentic religious texts and preaches are frequent expunged from the real face of the medical literature. Valuable comments and commentaries made concerning the chemical and molecular basis of medical embryology as found in the Qur'an and Hadith are discussed in the present review aims. Based on this aptly review, it is obvious that these early sources both had an excellent comprehension regarding medical embryology of the human body. Man's quest to food for thought and to keen know about his origin has led him to soul searching his ancestral and chemical roots and the best valid sourced data for him has been religious scriptures. Modern embryology is a fairly present-day development which lights to the day with the invention of microscope in the 17th century. However, the concept of the development of human being in the stage wise not recognized until much later. But as per fact and clearcut description the holy Qur'an and Hadith had provided a detailed explanation of the significant events in human development from the stages of basic chemical level crosses the molecular level up to level of organism development or even parturition and post-partum.

Keywords: Modern embryology, History of embryology, Chemical level, Embryology and religion

INTRODUCTION

Nature creates nature; Since perpetuity every mother's son Hanker's to understand and probe into vital 7 real secrets of nature; what, why, how, which, who and when creation lights to day (began) and his purpose in the universe. This inquisitive man sought the help of civilizations, nature, old manuscripts, sometimes even the prophesies of saints and above all regions. Greeks and Europeans thought that fetus was created from menstrual blood, or else they thought that fetus was fully created and was in a miniature form in sperm or in ovule. Aristotle thought that fetus was formed in uterus from a coagulum of blood and seed from menstrual blood. In 1604 Fabricius came out with excellent drawings of chick embryo. In 1673 Leeuwenhoek invented the first microscope. Malpighi in 1672 who is considered father of modern embryology thought poultry eggs contained a miniature chick and others thought that human being was fully formed in sperm or an ovum. Hartsoeker's drawing of a human spermatozoon in 1694 clearly had this impression that a

fully formed homo nucleus (human form) was formed in a spermatozoon or in ovum. In 1775 this controversy ended when Spallanzani showed the necessity of both ovum and sperm for the development of a new individual. It was in 19th century that the development cycle of mammalian ovum was discovered.¹

The writing notes of Von Baer, Haeckel and Darwin instigated the vital phase of "experimental embryology". In late 19th century the second phase called the "stage of mechanisms" puts its roots and scientists found chemical mechanisms of development by Otto Warburg.

The present stage may be aptly called the stage of "instrumentation". We could study role of nucleus, cytoplasm, cell hybridization, nuclear transplants, and gene cloning and other techniques at cellular and molecular level.² We can see in future a woman giving birth to, in essence, to herself, or to her sister, or even her mother; Thanks to cloning; Yes, we have come a long way but with the help of modern sophisticated techniques.³

Although there is a considerable amount of information in the Qur'an and Hadith about general medicine and embryology, there is a lack of reliable and crucial research. Hence, the purpose of this review is to accurately and adequately present the anatomical and medical contributions of the Qur'an and Hadith, with specific focus on medical embryology.⁴

QUR'AN AND HADITH: A PIOUS HISTORY

The modern scientific thought has undergone metamorphic changes over ages. Its spirit, however, has constantly remained to justify the existing fact on rational grounds. Eventually, the twentieth century has witnessed an unimaginable scientific advancement that has assigned a vital role to man on globe in conquest of universe.

Every verse of Quran is believed to be the candid and direct word of omnipotent God as per Islamic literature and every Muslim revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) through the noble angel Gabriel (AS) over a serene period of time (23 years) (610-632 AD). Though revealed during these years, the transmission of entire Qur'anic verses was purely conducted orally until it was compiled and canonized the year after prophet Muhammad (SAW) death in 632 CE.⁵

According to obvious Islamic faith and tradition, the Qur'an was first compiled into a real book format by Abu Bakr (RA). As per Islamic religious fact the Islamic empire began to grow, and myriad recitations were heard in far-flung areas, the rasm, or consonantal skeleton of the Quran was reassembled for orchestration in recitation (r. 644-656 CE). Under the direction of the third caliph Uthman ibn Affan (RA).

The strong sayings and credible line of transmission were collected and pen down in the ideal and noble formats. when creating the Islamic law Shariah, (Path) both the Qur'an and the Hadith were used.⁶

WHAT QUR'AN AND HADITH SAYS ABOUT MEDICINE?

The truth revealed from the matter of history concern there is an antagonistic and loyal relationship between religion and medical science, as the authority and power exerted by the Cristian church during the middle ages and renaissance stifled open scientific inquiries into natural phenomena, even if such empirical observations were substantiated by rational thought and calculations.⁷ This inharmonious relationship significantly slowed the progress of scientific discoveries and advancements, compelling scientists to work in secret out of fear.⁸ During the same period, the vast Islamic empire was the epicenter of all academia, as major cities consisted of large libraries containing the world's knowledge translated from most languages into Arabic. Unlike the Christian Church, Islamic teachings strongly encouraged and supported scientific research which led to many advancements and discoveries.⁹ In fact,

the Qur'an and Hadeeth recognize the pursuit of knowledge as being an act of worship to God. This supportive attitude towards scientific observation and opinion has resulted in numerous scientific superb achievements and the adoption of a tolerant attitude toward the expression and discussion of scientific observation and opinion.

The Qur'an and Hadeeth even include some of the discoveries made during the time of its creation. According to the Qur'an and Hadith, God created disease and a treatment for every disease. There is a prophetic tradition where prophet Mohammad (SAW) has been reported to have said that for every disease there is a remedy, and when the remedy is made apparent, the disease is cured by the permission of God.¹⁰

The medium through which this healing occurs is via the teachings and revelation of the Qur'an, a scripture that has been revealed as a "mercy and healing to those who think".¹¹ This form of healing treats, specifically, the heart, as God removes "rage form their hearts".¹² The Qur'an mentions "hidden" ailments meaning doubt, impurity, hypocrisy, disbelief, and falsehood, attributed as diseases.¹³

Hadith mentions that healing is in three things: a gulp of honey, cupping, and cauterizing, but that cauterization should be a last resort.¹⁴ Black cumin was also a source of treatment as was At-Talbina.^{15,16} Indian incense for throat trouble and pleurisy, eating dates protected against poison breastfeeding, ablution and forgiveness. Furthermore, the well of Zam Zam, a miraculously generated source of water in Mecca was believed to be a treatment for fevers.¹⁹ Thus, the Qur'an and Hadith offer treatments for numerous illnesses.^{17,18}

The importance of cleanliness was emphasized in prophetic traditions. For instance, Hadith states that while praising God is half of faith, cleanliness is the other half.²⁰ In another tradition, prophet Mohammad (SAW) is reported to have said that surgical circumcision, clipping or shaving the pubes, cutting the nails, plucking or shaving the hair under the armpits and clipping (or shaving) the moustache are all acts that benefit the body and thus bring one closer to God and the narration also warns those who are healthy to keep away from those who are sick.^{21,22}

Indeed, these Qur'anic verses motivated health consciousness. Verses from the Qur'an and many prophetic sayings deal with public and individual health.

MEDICAL EMBRYOLOGY: AT CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR LEVEL

The origin of species is more a literary expression than a logically consistent exposition. It is much inspired by atheistic and materialistic influences and is a root cause of pathetic rigmarole of misconceptions and myriad misjudgements. The Qur'an, revealed that mankind is a

creation par excellence. The omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient Allah (SWT) created man from vital kneaded clay and progressed him through multiple stages to his present being as is explicit from the Qur'anic verses.²³

CHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR STAGES OF HUMAN CONCOCTION

It reveals through its various verses in the pious Qur'an that human life, before its final stage of consummation, passed through the following seven stages which bestows a good room towards understanding the chemical composition of man-Inorganic matter, water, clay, adsorbable clay, physically and chemically altered mud, dried or highly purified clay and extract of purified clay.

The Qur'an has obviously and expressly explained its different biological stages because the human body has a diverse biological dimension of development as well and The Qur'an clearly underscore the fact that man has been created from a valuable and serene single cell. All these facts were anticipated by the Qur'anic verses fourteen centuries ago when the modern scientific research did not enjoy even an embryonic existence of human life. As a matter of fact, the systematic explanation and analysis furnished by the Qur'anic verses has not only made current scientific research possible but also added incalculably to its credibility, otherwise the modern scientists would be floundering in the dark of chaos and dead ill confusion. The study of the system of subsistence during this process is an interesting subject of a keen study; what we call as modern medical embryological science has learnt it after the long period of research over research spread over centuries.²⁴ The holy Qur'anic verses, however, unfolded these commendable and peerless facts fourteen centuries ago.

Inorganic matter of human creation

Allah (SWT) the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient states in the noble and peerless Qur'an- *It is he who created you from dust. (Al-Quran Ghafir 40:67)*. Few vital stages of biological evolution have also been mentioned in this verse: *Then from a drop of semen, then from a hanging nest (in the uterus), then he brings you forth as an infant. (Al-Quran Ghafir 40:67)*. But the dynamic and noteworthy point here is that Almighty Allah is associating these stages of evolution with His overriding as quality the Rabb (Sustainer) of all the worlds.

The Qur'an states-*And I have been commanded to submit only to the Rabb (Sustainer) of the universe. (Al-Quran Ghafir 40:66)*. Here the creation of human life follows the description of His sublimity as the Rabb (Sustainer) of the entire universe. Through the creative process of human life, man has been urged to reflection the fact as to how he had passed through various chemical and molecular processes. How he was organized from one condition to another and how he reached the destination of perfect creature finally; what we call as crown of creation. It is

really a manifestation of the sustenance of almighty Allah (SWT). Man, himself is a world of miracles and marvels to be explored with keen knowing and top-drawer food for thought.²⁴

Water as a part of human creation

The water is the second stage of chemical creation of human life as almighty Allah (SWT) very sheerly and clearly explains in the noble verse. *(Al-Quran Furqan 54). And it is he who created man from (a drop of semen like) water, then he has made for him blood ties and marriage relationships, (Al-Quran Al-Ambiya 21:30)*. This verse again rings us that almighty Allah's is the sustainer of the universe. *And your Rabb (Sustainer) is powerful, (Al-Quran Al-An'am 6:2)*.

It has been stated at another place: *And we made of water the sign (of life) of everything living (on earth). Will they not then believe (despite knowing these realities), (Al-Quran Al-Ambiya 21:30)*. These verses an open and clearcut invitation to faith for the scientists researching into the various stages of the evolution of man and the earth especially for medical embryology.²⁴

How clay is part chemical basis of human creation

The chemical creation of human life's third stage is clay. Almighty Allah (SWT) mentions in noble verses of the Qur'an: *It is he who created you from clay (i.e., He originated the chemical inception of human life on the planet earth from it), (Al-Quran Al-An'am 6:2)*. Here the special and noteworthy point is that the translators of the holy Qur'an have taken the same meaning of "Tin" and "Turab" and that is clay. A fallacy arises here whether these are two stages or one with two names. In order to extricate between these two words, we have taken the meaning of Tin as 'clay' and Turab as 'actually dust' mentioned by Imam Raghīb says: *The combination of dust and water is called Tin (Imam Raghīb, Al-Mufradat-P.312)*. Similarly, it is stated: *Tin is such clay which is kneaded with water, (Al-Quran Al-Ambiya 21:30)*.

Adsorbable clay is the 4th stage of human creation

The Allah the all-greatest mentions in the noble Qur'an: *Surely, we created them from sticky clay, (Al-Quran As-Saffat 37:11)*. Adsorbable clay is the next shape of "Tin" which in turn increases the thickness of the clay. When the flow of water from the clay stops, it is called adsorbable clay. At this stage clay becomes slightly firm and aptly robust and starts sticking.

Fifth stage which involves physical and chemical alteration of old mud

Almighty Allah (SWT) states in the worthy Qur'an: *And certainly, we originated the (chemical) creation of man from such ringing clay that was old and had become slime (due to the changes by sunlight, and other physical and*

chemical effects), (Al-Quran Al-Hijr 15:26). The above-mentioned draws attention that this stage comes after the stage of adsorbable clay. The originated word salsal means: *The jingling of the voice produced from the dried clay. That is why the dried clay is called salsal because it sounds*, (Imam Raghīb, Al-Mufradat-P.274) moreover It is mentioned in a very candid approach: *So, the word salsal means that dry clay which adds sound due to its dryness*. (Al-Munjid fi Lughah-P.446).

The condition of salsal can be keenly watched only after the drying of clay. It is so because the ordinary dust, which is called Turab, has no quality to bestow or confer sound. It provides a crystal clear and candy nut sonic complexion to its dryness when it dried up clearly. This was a physical change in it but the chemical change was also inevitable. So, there would be a change in the chemical features of this clay. The beneath verses of holy Qur'an verify the both facts: *They will be roasted in a scorching fire (i.e., join the fire)*, (Al-Quran Al-Ghashiyah 88:4).

They shall not taste therein (any kind of) cool nor drink except hot scalding water and pus (flowing from the wounds of dwellers in the hell), (Al-Quran Al-Naba 78:24-25). So, in hama' there is a valuable reference to that black clay whose blackness was produced due to heat and temperature. So, this word is pointing towards a special stage that is called burning and decomposing.²⁵

CONCEPT OF MASNUN

May be defined as something odorous and inconsistent. Derived from word "Sunn" which means gluing something. But here it means to be changed and produce bad odor as a result of change. Mentioned in the holy Qur'an: *So (now) look at your food and drink, they have not yet even become changed (stale)*, (Al-Quran Al-Baqarah 2:259).

With the passage of long time, the process of rotting and burning gets completed, the color of the adsorbable clay turned into black give rise to an odour in it as a result of burning. The densities produce odor during the process of burning which is not everlasting but stays until the process of the rotting of densities continues after densities are removed this odour is also get annihilated. So, the word "Salsal" is explicating that on landing to that very stage all the blackness and odour of the clay was removed and its densities were havocted too.

Dried or high-sounding purified clay which is 6th stage

Almighty Allah (SWT) mentions regarding this respect: *He created man from ringing clay, like baked pottery*, (Al-Quran Al-Rehman 55:14). When burning process attains completion the clay turned dried and this shape gets under to "Salsal Kal-Fakhkhar". The word fakhkhar is derived from fakhr means a preference. Normally a water pot is also called as fakhkhar. The exegetes says that baking

makes potsherd and water pot so robust and firm that it sounds.

Imam Raghīb says states regarding this matter; *Every exquisite and fine thing is called fakhir that is why refined cloth is called thawb fakhir and a fine she-camel is called naqah fakhir* (Raghīb Isfahani, Mufradat al-faz Al-Qur'an, P.627). And the word fakhkhar is an exaggerated version of it, which stands for excessive refinement. Muhammad Firuz Abadi says: *Al-Fakhir is a subject and fine (part) of everything*, (Al-Qamus-ul-Muhit 2:112).

The omnipotent Allah (SWT) mentions in Quranic verses at other places like: *He created man from ringing clay, like baked pottery and He created the jinns from a flame of fire*, (Al-Quran Al-Rehman 55:14-5). At another place it is mentioned: *And the jinns We created before, from intensely burning fire, (that was smokeless)*, (Al-Quran Al-Hijr 15:27).

So, this drags our mental heed towards the fact that fire is definitely involved in the creation and organizing of man but it should be clearcut to mind that it is not a creative matter as in the case of giants.²⁵

The drawing end (7th stage) extract of purified clay

Almighty Allah, states: *And surely, we (originated) the creation of man from the extract of (chemical parts of) clay*, (Al-Quran Al-Muminun 23:12). Here the obvious pure extract of clay has been pointed in which the real essence is being chosen. The process of purification of the adsorbable clay has been mentioned in a factual manner. The word "Sulalah" is fetched from the word "Salla" or "Yasullu" which to purify something from dirt. So Sulalah is a very pious and delicate shape of something and it is declared as the essence of that thing.

QURAN VS SCIENCES: A DYNAMIC SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

The modern scientific research also satisfies the Qur'anic literature of seven stages of chemical creation of human. The fact of modern scientific analysis of approach regarding the creation of man is completed in two stages of description: 1st stage: Inorganic matter stage and 2nd stage: organic matter stage

Inorganic matter stage

The concept that a ball of fire separated from the sun got revealed by science at this duration of stage. Because of this ball of fire, the earth lights to the day. Initially its temperature was very high. Then the earth started cooling gradually. The chemical relations of hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and carbon developed on the upper layer of earth which in turn results the following compounds existence: Water (H₂O), ammonia (NH₃), methane (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), hydrogen molecule (H₂).

The crust of the earth received these above said compounds. The air after freezing, turned into rain after a long duration of stretch, when the temperature of earth rushes very low. Endless raining over the earth for centuries bedraggled or swept the six compounds lying on the crust of the earth to the sea. They disappeared in the soil of seashore. So, this matter changed into inorganic matter at the first stage.

Organic matter stage

The clay was born as a result of the combination of inorganic matter and water in the second stage that what has been mentioned as "At-tin" (clay) in the holy Qur'anic text. The adsorbable clay lights to the day when this clay gets combined with these special compounds. It became the chemical extract of the clay when this matter was absorbed in the seashore by the combination of water and other chemical essences. This clay after dying turned into sounding potsherd after a long duration.

Finally, this clay changed into physically and chemically altered mud. So, after the all-process completion of all the stages the chemical creation of man was executed. The chemical creation of man we extract the point that the fundamental compounds in the chemical formation of human life are clay, inorganic matter and chemical extract of the clay as per the Qur'anic interpretation and the scientific research.²⁵

During these chemical stages myriad compounds of keen attention get formed but five peerless of them are worthwhile. They are mentioned beneath: Amino acids, fatty acids, glycerin, sugars, nitrogen gases.

The assemblage of above five compounds as the chemical extract of the clay are described by the holy Qur'an verses. Furthermore, as a result of the mutual chemical process of the above mentioned five compounds and complicated groups were framed: Adenosine phosphates, poly saccharides, fats, proteins, nucleic acids.

The two qualities were composed in the chemical extract of the clay because of the result of the mutual chemical process: Auto-reproduction, mutation.

The dynamic and serene quality of self-regeneration in a particular nucleic acid (Genetic material) named, deoxyribose nucleic acid kept by Allah (SWT), which by a self-propelled process, develops by the ratio of one to two and two to four. DNA is the protector of the eternity and continuity of life. Chromosomes are also made by this DNA. RNA is also framed by its command and control so its worth-while to say that if DNA a boss, RNA will be its subordinate.

Human character, qualities, appearance, construction and formation are engraved on DNA in the form of special codes. These codes are called genes. With this respect DNA is called mutation. Because of this mutation the

physical appearance of men, their embellishments, characters and outlooks become different from each other's.

This is the noble, idealist and top-drawer stroke of the creator. At this stage the process of life began and this stage also became the foundation of the commencement of life. The primary cells existed from these chemical stages and they became the prelude to life. At this stage the inorganic matter changed into organic matter and the qualities of auto reproduction and mutation were produced in it. Now Allah the highest commanded the compound reaching the stage of the sulalah min tin (chemical extract of clay) to become Adam.²⁴

It is mentioned in the holy Qur'an: *So, when I have fashioned his (outward) form in perfect proportion and breathed into (the inner most nature of this mortal) frame my own (light-diffusing) spirit, fall you down before him in prostration, (Al-Quran, Al-Hijr, 15:29).* It is the stage of beginning of life. The first human being was Adam (AS). The stage of commencement of life is based on: *I am going to create man from such ringing clay that is old and had become slime (due to the changes by sunlight, and other physical and chemical effects), (Al-Quran, Al-Hijr, 15:28).*

Upon the earth followed the final stage of chemical creation was aptly proven the man's physical appearance or in other words the auto reproduction and mutation the creation of man became revolutionary sagacious devising of almighty Allah (SWT). It was indicated that man was endowed with these qualities so that he may alter his habits, rise from the depths of darkness and achieve the enviable status of "Ahsantaqwim" (special creation); what we call as crown of creation.

CONCLUSION

The quintessence of this discussion is that every verse of holy Quran is the immortal and commendable source of pious and conceptual knowledge which hugs or cuddles all human and grandiose phenomena. Holy Quran and Hadith influenced and satisfied medical and scientific texts through myriads explanation especially emphasis is bestowed to diverse components of medical embryology. The Islamic literature not only confers cogent and elaborate explanation of man's inner propulsions and outer compulsions, also bestows core hearted insight into perfect surgeries of the cosmopolitan universe, and make our operative vision and perspective day lighted. As new age of modern technologies and modern medicine innovations, there is time to food for thought and appreciate the Islamic contribution to medicine. It is for the diverse reasons that discoveries and medical revelations in the noble and pious Quran and Hadith should not be fend-off.

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