

# Introduction to Islam and Science

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رحمه الله

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For Ali, may Allah have mercy on him.  
Your light continues to guide those who  
seek knowledge

I kindly ask every reader who benefits from these pages to remember Ali in their prayers, to ask Allah to forgive him, elevate his rank, and grant him a place among the righteous.

May this work be a source of ongoing reward for him, and a means of goodness for all who read, learn, and reflect.

## About the Authors

Ali, may Allah have mercy on him, was born in Kuwait and raised in the United Kingdom, which gave him a natural command of both Arabic and English. He noticed early on how difficult Islamic studies can be for those who do not speak Arabic, so he dedicated himself to creating channels that simplify religious knowledge in both languages. He spent his time reading hadith collections and English Islamic texts to make their meanings clearer and easier for others to understand. This book grew out of that passion during his years studying medicine abroad.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# **The compatibility of Islam and the Physical Sciences**

## **Introduction**

Science is beautiful, and most times it complements the even more majestic religion of Islam. But Science should be seen as something complementary to our faith in Islam, not as a main foundation of your faith in Islam. Science can be good supporting evidence, and can give another layer of Tafsir to Quran and Sunnah, but it is only that. A side-support, not the main foundation of our reasons to believe in Islam.

There are many things in the Quran and Sunnah that can be related to Science. Whether it be biology, physics, astronomy and what else there is. There are times when modern understandings

of Science are supportive of Islam, and there are times when Science conflicts with Islam. One explanation of why conflict may exist between Islam and Science is that Science is being misinterpreted as something conflicting with Islam. Other times, Science is not ambiguous and is in a position where it directly conflicts with Islam.

Regarding the latter, it is not a complicated issue. We can analyze the claims made by the Scientists, and find that they may be claims built upon incomplete evidence. Limitations in human cognition, understanding, and technology often produce images that are incomplete. It is like having an image-generating AI. Whatever prompts it is given, it will produce an image based upon them, even if the prompts are incomplete, are conjecture, hypothetical, or simply are weak evidence. Overall,

however, Islam and Science agree in the vast majority of cases.

Science is a tool, and a methodology of understanding the universe. But it is only one methodology. If Science conflicts with Islam, then the methodology of that Science must be re-examined. If Science contradicts the Quran, which is a book revealed by Allah, the All-Knowing, All-Wise, and All-Powerful, then evidently there is a flaw in that which attempts to challenge the All-Knowing, All-Wise, and All-Powerful.

Indeed, **Allah said** in the Quran:

الحمد لله الذي أنزل على عبده الكتاب ولم يجعل له عوجًا

- Sahih International:

*[All] praise is [due] to Allah, who has sent down upon His Servant the Book and has not made therein any deviance. (Al-Kahf, Ayah 1)*

And **Allah** also said:

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

• Sahih International:

*This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah. (Al-Baqarah, Ayah 2)*

And **Allah** said about those who are conscious of him:

أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

• Sahih International:

*Those are upon [right] guidance from their Lord, and it is those who are successful. (Al-Baqarah, Ayah 5)*

Allah, the All-Knowing and All-Wise and All-Powerful, in the Quran that he revealed, has assured us of the quality and truth of the Quran he sent. Thus, if the arrogant and ignorant claim that their methodology and claims are true, despite its conflict with the Quran, then we know that they are the defective ones, and absolutely not our Rabb, Allah. He has assured us that his book, the Quran, is true. He has assured us of our success if we obey him, and follow his book. And what is success?

**Allah says** in the Quran:

كل نفس ذائقة الموت وإنما توفون أجوركم يوم القيامة  
فمن زحزح عن النار وأدخل الجنة فقد فاز وما الحياة  
الدنيا إلا متاع الغرور

• Sahih International:

*Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on*

*the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion. (Āl-‘Imrān, Ayah 185)*

Success is being spared from the Hellfire, and being admitted to Jannah.

## **Flaws in Science itself**

There are notable flaws in scientific methodologies, which should be mentioned. We can broadly categorize them into flaws inherent to humans themselves, such as cognitive biases, and then flaws inherent to the scientific method itself, like limited context and insufficient technologies.

Despite the glory and magnificence of the Scientific Methods, and their ability to

allow us to draw accurate conclusions and facts, we cannot be objective and honest if we do not acknowledge the flaws. These flaws are a large part of why Science is only a side-evidence, a complementary proof, a bonus supporting evidence for Islam and our faith in it. Flaws in Science also explain its possible contradictions within itself, and its conflicts with the absolute and objective truth of Islam.

Now onwards with the introduction to the flaws.

## **Scientific Method flaws: Humans**

Cognitive biases are those most often discussed. They include the famous confirmation bias, where humans are more likely to interpret and understand something according to whatever

confirms their own preconceptions. An example would be a Geologist studying a newly discovered geological formation, like the “Eye of the Sahara”, and saying that it must have been formed by a meteorite impact, when it was actually a volcanic explosion from below the surface combined with a series of other Geological phenomena. The geologists claimed that it is of a meteorite impact because of observations that were similar to previous crater sites, but they evidently were wrong upon further investigation.

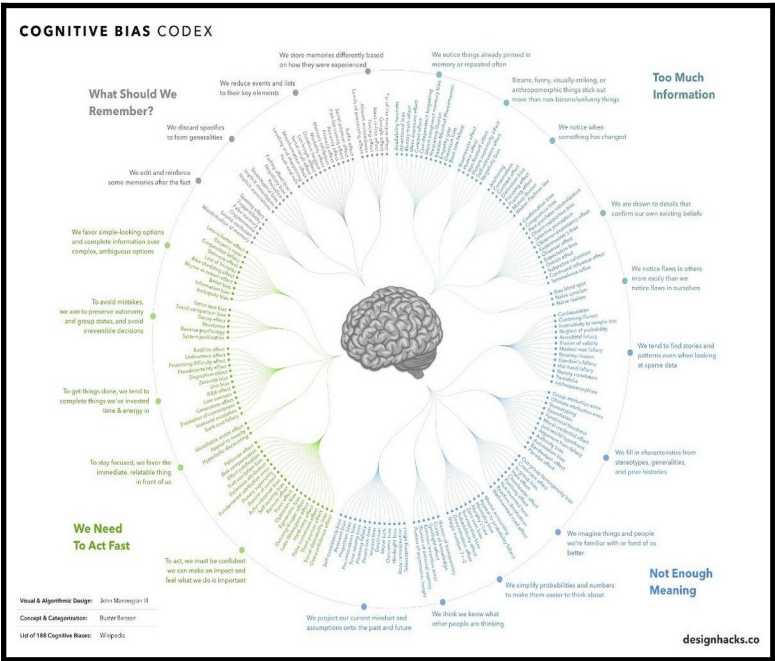
Another is Survivorship bias. This one occurs when conclusions are drawn from an incomplete dataset that only considers the "survivors" or successful cases, ignoring those that did not make it past a certain point. This can lead to overly optimistic or skewed results because the failures are not considered.

An example of survivorship bias is like when during World War II, military analysts examined the damage on returning aircraft to determine where to add armor for better protection. They saw that the wings and tails of the surviving planes were most often hit. However, this analysis ignored planes that were shot down and did not return. The crucial insight was to armor the areas that showed no damage on the returned planes (such as engines and cockpits), as damage in those areas likely led to the planes being shot down. Ignoring the planes that didn't return would have led to reinforcing the wrong areas.

There are many issues in data analysis, such as P-hacking, where insignificant data is manipulated to appear significant. There are also correlation-causation fallacies, and there are some quite

hilarious examples of those, but that is a topic for another time.

Overall, the seemingly absolute and objective Science still depends on the understanding and observational capacities of humans, which are quite limited, weak, and defective. Our cognition is full of biases, and our perception of the world is completely subjective.



1. I have only mentioned a few biases. In the above image, we can see even more cognitive biases that are in-built and present in every human. Such a cognitively defective brain at times believes itself to have a better understanding than the God that created it.

Scientific Method flaws: Technological limitations.

Many flaws are linked to technological limitations. It may be a limitation in telescopes, used to observe space, or in microscopes, to observe the microscopic realm accurately. There are limitations in

the efficiency of tools and instruments, and their efficacy. Limitations in seismic waves and computation, to serve as another example, also would've posed many challenges in analyzing the structure of that which is deep underground, such as deeper parts of volcanoes, underground water, caverns, and the very structure of the Earth. There are even great limitations on how much of the universe itself we can see, hence the title of "observable universe".

There's no better place to look for scientific technological limitations than Medicine. Despite the near Sci-Fi level technologies pioneered and invented for Medicine, there are still many limitations we face. Flaws in treatments are abundant, like in many autoimmune diseases. Limitations in treatment options for diseases, like the terrible neurological disease of Alzheimer's, the

irreversibility of Diabetes Mellitus type 1<sup>1</sup>, and even infections like HIV and Malaria.

Flaws in imaging cannot be ignored either. Despite the incredible technologies invented for imaging, there are still issues, such as the dyes that may be required as an injection for the success of certain procedures (or at least greater clarity), which patients can develop severe reactions to. There is the poor image quality of ultrasounds, the potentially dangerous radioactivity of Nuclear Medicine, and so on.

Limitations in results of Labs can also be another issue. The nonspecificity of tests (like those for tumor biomarkers), or simply the ineffectiveness of tests, false

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<sup>1</sup> There are actually some potentially groundbreaking treatments for reversing Diabetes Mellitus type 1. In this disease, Insulin-producing cells of the Pancreas are deleted by the Immune System. Stem cell technology may allow for the implantation of viable new cells to replace the dead ones, and other Immune Modulating technologies may be able to stop the immune system from destroying those new cells.

positives or negatives, etc. There are many other issues that can be mentioned in Medicine, or outside of it. Issues in dating technologies, like Carbon Dating and the likes, can lead to strange or inaccurate results, or simply produce greatly skewed time-spans for events, like the dating of fossils and events of their time period.

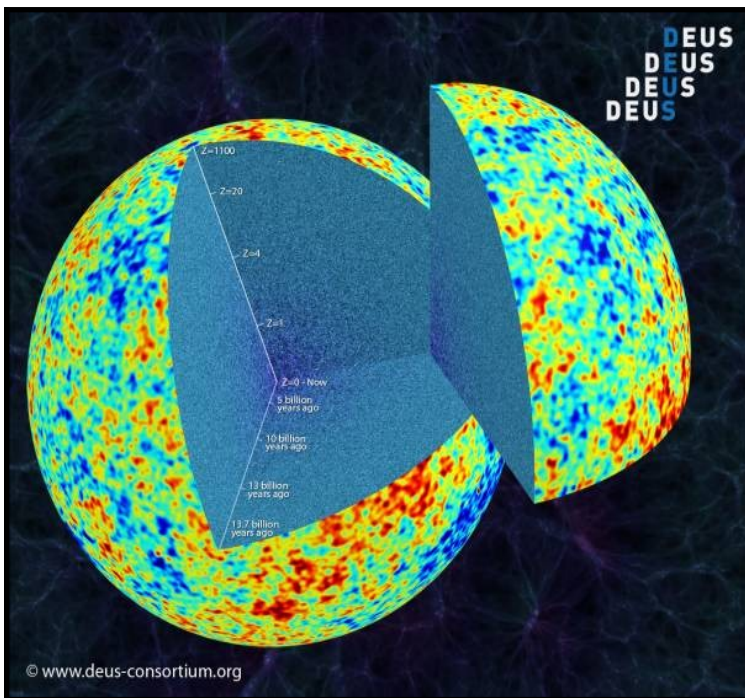
Of course, due credit and respect must be given to current technologies, as there are truly some mind-blowing products, such as the MRI machine, which exploits some of the most incredible physics, or the use of computers to generate 3D images of a human's insides. Not simply limited to Medicine, but many fields, like Astrophysics, Particle physics, Engineering, Geology, Chemistry, and so on.

## **Scientific Method Flaws: Incomplete Picture**

This is one of the largest holes in the Scientific Method. There are things we do not know, and there are things that we cannot know. There is the unknown, and there is the unknowable.

A famous example is the universe itself. We can only see part of the universe. Hence the name, “observable universe.” It is unknown how far the universe extends beyond that observed border, but there most certainly is something

beyond, as the expansion of the universe is known, and the universe is not static as images are. What is beyond the border is something we cannot know as it is physically far too distant from us, and thus we cannot observe what is there.



2. Above is an image of the part of the universe that is actually physically observable. We observe using technology that detects Cosmic

Background Radiation, but there is a limit to how much of this Radiation actually reaches Earth, and thus there is a limit to how much we as humans can actually know of the universe.

We can also use another geological example. The Earth consists of many layers, and these layers form over millions or even billions of years, as material ever-so-slowly deposits upon the Earth. We can date the formation of each layer, and see that there is a chronological order to their deposition, and that it occurred extremely slowly. However, there are gaps in the conformity of these layers. There are gaps that are sometimes in the hundreds of millions of years worth of deposited material.

These layers allow us to study the Earth, but with hundreds of millions of years worth of material completely gone, we cannot produce a proper image of what actually occurred during that period. This means that there aren't simply small unknowables, there are gigantic unknowables. These missing layers of Earth are called "unconformities." A famous example is "The Great Unconformity", which represents an unbelievable 1.2 billion years of missing rock from the record of the Earth. This further adds to the mystery of this planet.



3. The Great Unconformity can be seen above. The layers above and below the line have a 1.2 billion year gap between them. Many more such unconformities exist, showing us the sheer amount of missing history.

We can mention many other missing pieces of the world, from a very incomplete fossil record, to an incomplete understanding of particle physics. There are also many more types of flaws in Science, such as the

everchanging nature of Science. One day a fact is presented as undeniable truth with its evidences, and tomorrow it is completely abrogated and disproven.

## Conclusion

To briefly conclude, Islam and Science often work very well together and thus are of a high compatibility. When Science is affirmed by Islam, we accept it as a nice complementary support for our faith, but definitely not as a main foundation for our faith in Islam. We do not accept it as a main foundation due to the inherent weaknesses and flaws of Science itself, and the everchanging nature of Science. When Science and Islam are in conflict, we do not doubt Islam for a second. It is always correct.

