

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

296825 - There is no contradiction in the Qur'an; a response to apparent contradictions

the question

I scrolled down and found a youtube comment that kind of confused me because I know that the Quran is infallible and there aren't any contradictions in it. So can you please explain and fix what the person said with Ayat from the Quran:

Who was the first muslim

quran 6:14 says mohammad

Quran 7:143 says it was Moses

Quran also says Adam was muslim.

Quran 2:29 earth was created first, then heaven

Quran 79:27-30 heaven was created first then earth

quran 7:54 - took 6 days to create universe

Quran 41:9-12 - took 8 days to create universe

What is man created from

Quran 19:67 - nothing

Quran 96:2 - blood clot

Quran 21:30 - water

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Quran 16:4 - small seed

Quran 15:26 - Clay and mud

Thank you very much

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

It is essential to note that the Glorious Qur'an does not contradict itself. Allah, may He be glorified, says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah , they would have found within it much contradiction"

[an-Nisaa' 4:82].

Secondly:

With regard to the first issue, the response is that with regard to who was first, it may refer to who was first chronologically, in which case the matter of who was first is relative, as it may refer to a certain time, or a certain people; or it may refer to who was first in the sense of attaining perfection, that is, who was foremost in attaining perfect and certain faith, with no element of doubt.

As for the first to be Muslim among all of humanity, that was Adam (peace be upon him), because he is the father of them all.

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For more details on this matter, please see the answer to question no. [184941](#).

Secondly:

With regard to the order in which things were created, Allah created the earth, then the heaven, then He spread the earth after that. Ibn Katheer said: The verse in al-Baqarah - *“It is He who created for you all of that which is on the earth. Then He directed Himself to the heaven, [His being above all creation], and made them seven heavens”* [al-Baqarah 2:29] - points out that the creation of the earth came first, so it explains what is mentioned in general terms in the verse: *“Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and earth in six days”* [al-A’raaf 7:54].

Thus a differentiation is made between what has to do with the earth and what has to do with the heaven, so Allah stated that He created the earth first, because it was like the foundation, and the basic principle is to start with the foundation, then after that the roof, as He says (interpretation of the meaning): *“It is He who created for you all of that which is on the earth. Then He directed Himself to the heaven, [His being above all creation], and made them seven heavens”* [al-Baqarah 2:29].

With regard to the words,

“Are you a more difficult creation or is the heaven? Allah constructed it.

He raised its ceiling and proportioned it.

And He darkened its night and extracted its brightness.

And after that He spread the earth.

He extracted from it its water and its pasture,

And the mountains He set firmly

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As provision for you and your grazing livestock”

[an-Naazi'aat 79:27-33],

This passage tells us that the spreading of the earth came after the creation of the heaven; this spreading of the earth is explained by the words “*He extracted from it its water and its pasture*”, and that came after the creation of the heaven.

With regard to the creation of the earth, that came before the creation of the heaven, according to the text.

End quote from *Tafseer Ibn Katheer* (7/156).

See also the answers to questions no. [31865](#) and [145809](#).

Thirdly:

With regard to the creation of man, the order of his creation is as follows: Allah, may He be exalted, created Adam (peace be upon him) from the earth, i.e., from what it contains, then mixed its earth with water to make clay, and the clay was sticky or viscous. Then this viscous clay became odorous. As that clay was mixed with sand, this is *salsaal* (sounding clay). Hence every time Allah mentions the creation of Adam in the Qur'an, He refers to one of the stages through which the process of his creation and formation from clay went. There is no contradiction in the verses of the Qur'an, as is quite clear to any rational person who thinks and reflects.

Then after that the sons of Adam became numerous, and they were created from water, meaning the man's semen which contains the sperm that fertilizes the woman's egg. This is something that is very well known.

See the answers to questions no. [4811](#) and [110417](#).

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Fourthly:

With regard to the passage in which Allah, may He be exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And man says, ‘When I have died, am I going to be brought forth alive?’

Does man not remember that We created him before, while he was nothing?”

[Maryam 19:66-67].

In this verse Allah, may He be exalted, tells us that man is astonished and thinks it unlikely that he will be brought back to life after he dies. This is similar to the verses in which Allah, may He be exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And if you are astonished, [O Muhammad] - then astonishing is their saying, ‘When we are dust, will we indeed be [brought] into a new creation?’”

[ar-Ra’d 13:5]

“Does man not consider that We created him from a [mere] sperm-drop - then at once he is a clear adversary?”

And he presents for Us an example and forgets his [own] creation. He says, ‘Who will give life to bones while they are disintegrated?’

Say, ‘He will give them life who produced them the first time; and He is, of all creation, Knowing’”

[Yaa-Seen 36:77-79].

But here Allah says: *“And man says, ‘When I have died, am I going to be brought forth alive?’ Does man not remember that We created him before, while he was nothing?”* [Maryam 19:66-67],

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referring to the beginning of man's creation as evidence for his re-creation. In other words, Allah, may He be exalted, created man when he was nothing, so won't He bring him back to life after he has become something? This is like the verse in which Allah, may He be exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning): *"And it is He who begins creation; then He repeats it, and that is [even] easier for Him" [ar-Room 30:27].*

See: *Tafseer Ibn Katheer* (5/251).

Man was nothing before Allah created Adam (peace be upon him); in other words, Allah created him from nothing.

The verse quoted above does not say that Adam was not created from something, as mentioned in the question. Rather the verse says that he was nothing, meaning that he did not exist at all, and that which does not exist is nothing. What is meant here is to denounce the disbelievers for saying that, and not remembering how they were first created, for that is something most astonishing to those who think by means of analogies. For bringing something into existence from nothing, with no precedent, is more astonishing and more unlikely than re-creating existing things for which there is a precedent, but they disintegrated and their composition changed. This is an analogy based on something that is seen and known, even though both matters are the same for the Almighty.

End quote from *at-Tahreer wa't-Tanweer* (16/146).

Ibn Taymiyah said: Because man knows that he was created after having been nothing, he is reminded of that as evidence of the power and ability of the Creator to change what is ordinarily the case.

Hence Allah, may He be exalted, mentioned that with regard to the creation of Yahya ibn Zakariyya (peace be upon him), and with regard to the second creation. Allah, may He be exalted,

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says (interpretation of the meaning):

"[He was told], 'O Zechariah, indeed We give you good tidings of a boy whose name will be John. We have not assigned to any before [this] name.'

He said, 'My Lord, how will I have a boy when my wife has been barren and I have reached extreme old age?'

[An angel] said, 'Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, for I created you before, while you were nothing''"

[Maryam 19:7-9]

And He, may He be exalted, says:

"And man says, 'When I have died, am I going to be brought forth alive?'

Does man not remember that We created him before, while he was nothing?"

[Maryam 19:66-67].

Thus man is reminded of what he knows, that Allah created him when he was nothing, as evidence and proof of His ability to do such things, and to do that which is easier than that.

End quote from *Minhaaj as-Sunnah* (1/373).

For more information, please see the answer to question no. [170649](#).

And Allah knows best.