

APPENDIX D

THE WORD “DAY” IN THE HOLY QUR’AN

In cited verse #(D-1), ALLAH (SWT) Says “Alr (the letters A, L, R), a book (The Holy Qur’an) whose Aayat (verses) were defined with the utmost precision then detailed from A Most Wise, A Most Knowledgeable”. This Aayah begins with the alphabetical letters “*a, l, r*”. This is to show that the Holy Qur’an is formed from the Arabic alphabet. However, each word and each Aayah in the Holy Qur’an is intended to convey precise information to us humans. If there is some misunderstanding from our part regarding the exact meaning of an Aayah or any word in an Aayah, therefore we have to study another Aayah containing the same word/s in order to come up with the correct meaning.

Unfortunately, there has been some confusion and misunderstanding among some of the Islamic scholars in defining the six days of the creation of the heavens and the earth. Calling a creation day an “*eon*” or an unidentified period of time is totally incorrect. ALLAH (SWT) Has Bestowed the Holy Qur’an on mankind. When He Tells about some of His creation, He Tells in a clear and defined words that we humans could understand.

To us humans a day is a period of time during which the earth completes one revolution about itself. The earth day is a local period of time associated with the speed at which the earth revolves about itself. The duration of a day of each planet in our solar system is different from the other. That is the duration of the earth’s day is different from the duration of Mars’ day, different from Venus’ day, different from Jupiter’s day and so on. In Chapter 3, we have learned that there are extraterrestrial planets beyond our solar system. Each of these planets has its own day whose duration is determined by its spinning rate. Accordingly when we talk about the universe and the celestial objects within, the word day must be specified. In the Holy Qur’an ALLAH (SWT) Has Given information about the creation of the heavens and the earth. Among the information He Has Given is the duration during which the heavens and the earth were created. To make this kind of information understandable to us humans, He Had to relate the creation duration to the time frame recognizable by us. The units specifying the time frame on the

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 الرَّ كِتَابٌ أَحْكَمْتُ آيَاتُهُ ثُمَّ فَصَّلْتُ مِنْ لَدُنِّ حَكِيمٍ خَيْرٍ ﴿١﴾
 الجزء الحادى عشر سورة هود

Cited Verse #(D-1)

In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Alr (the letters a, l and r), a book, whose Aayat were defined with the utmost precision then detailed from a Most Wise, A Most Knowledgeable.

(Part 11, Surat Hood "The Prophet Hood")

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَأَذِّنْ
 فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَىٰ كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ
 عَمِيقٍ ﴿٢٧﴾ لِيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ
 عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرَ اللَّهِ
 الْفَقِيرِ ﴿٢٨﴾
 الجزء السابع عشر سورة الحج

Cited Verses #(D-2)

In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

And proclaim the pilgrimage among the people, they will come to thee on foot and on every means of transportation, they come from every far away places. This is to witness benefits for them and to celebrate the Name of ALLAH in specified days over the cattle which He Has Provided for them, then eat from it and feed the distressed the needy.

(Part 17, Surat Al Hajj "The Pilgrimage")

earth are the earth's day, the month (the lunar month or the Gregorian month) and the earth's year (lunar or solar).

When ALLAH (SWT) Talks about events that occurred to His Prophets and Messengers and their people, or about matters that we (the current population) have to observe according to His rules, He Tells the duration of the events in days or years without specifying the length of these days or of these years, because those are the days and the years that we experience on the earth. On the other hand, when ALLAH (SWT) Talks about the creation of the heavens and the earth or about events that take place in the heaven/s, He Tells the mathematical relationship between the duration of such events and one of the units (year) in our time frame. In fact, this is the same concept we humans use when studying astronomy. The earth units of measuring distances and time are inadequate for such study instead astronomical units and light years are used. To unravel the confusion surrounding this issue let's study the Aayat where the word "day" is mentioned.

In cited verse #(D-2), cited verses #(D-3), and cited verses #(D-4), the words "specified days", "three days", and "seven nights and eight days" are mentioned respectively without defining how long those days are. Also in Surat Al Ma'edah, Aayah #89, in Surat Al Baqarah, Aayah # 184 and Aayah #203, the words "then he has to fast three days", "specified number of days", and "but if any one hastens to leave in two days" are mentioned respectively without defining how long those days are. This is because these days are earth days.

From the verses cited above, it is seen that the word "day" without specifying its duration is a period of time associated with the people living on the planet earth. On the other hand, in cited verse #(2-8), ALLAH (SWT) Says "verily a day in the sight of (at) thy LORD is equivalent to one thousand years of those what you count". Those years are lunar years [see Chapter 2]. In this verse, ALLAH (SWT) is Talking in general about a day (a period of time) in His sight, where there is no people involved nor associated with any location, such as a planet or any celestial object.

Before the creation of the heavens and the earth the time as a measure of duration or a period was not there, and in the hereafter the time as a measure of an elapsed period will not be there. The time as a physical quantity was created with the creation of the heavens and the earth. Therefore the information given in cited verse #(2-8) is intended to inform us humans about the time unit for the creation of the heavens and the earth. In many verses in the Holy Qur'an [some of them are cited in Chapter 3] ALLAH (SWT) Says that He Has Created the heavens and the earth in six days. That is ALLAH (SWT) Has Created the heavens and the earth in a period of time equivalent to six thousand of our lunar years [see Chapter 2].

In cited verse #(C-1), ALLAH (SWT) Says that the affair which He Has Commanded to be executed on the earth, returns back to Him [travels from the earth through the

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَيَنْقُومُ هَذِهِ نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فَذُرُّوْهَا
 تَأْكُلُ فِي أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَمْسُوهَا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذْكُمْ عَذَابٌ قَرِيبٌ ﴿١١﴾
 فَعَقَرُوْهَا فَقَالَ تَمَتُّعُوا فِي دَارِكُمْ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ ذَلِكَ وَعَدْ غَيْرُ مَكْدُوبٍ ﴿١٥﴾

الجزء الثاني عشر سورة هود

Cited Verses # (D-3)
In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
 And O my people, this female camel of ALLAH is a symbol to you, leave her to feed from ALLAH's earth and inflict no harm on her, or you will shortly experience torture. Then they killed her, and so he said "enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days, that is a promise not to be belied".
 (Part 12, Surat Hood "The Prophet Hood")

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَمَّا عَادًا فَهُلِكُوا
 بِرِيحٍ صَرْصَرٍ عَاتِيَةٍ ﴿٦٠﴾ سَخَّرَهَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَبْعَ لَيَالٍ وَثَمَنِيَةَ أَيَّامٍ حُسُومًا
 فَتَرَى الْقَوْمَ فِيهَا صَرْعَى كَأَنَّهُمْ أُعْجَازُ نَخْلٍ خَاوِيَةٍ ﴿٧٠﴾

الجزء التاسع والعشرون سورة الحاقة

Cited Verses # (D-4)
In The Name of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
 And for Ad, they were destroyed with ferocious exceedingly violent wind. Subjected it on them seven nights and eight days in succession, so you could see the people in it unconscious as if they are roots of hollow palm trees.
 (Part 29, Surat Al Haqqah "The Sure Reality")

heavens to ALLAH (SWT)] to report in a day equivalent to one thousand of our lunar years [see Chapter 2]. The affairs which ALLAH (SWT) Commands to be executed on the earth are related to its development and evolution. We have to keep in mind that creation is different from evolution. Creation of the heavens and the earth was completed during the creation period of six days (six thousand lunar years). Evolution of the earth started after the creation period has ended. Since the two processes complement each other, therefore the same time unit is used for both phases.

In cited verse # (2-7) ALLAH (SWT) Says “The angels and the spirit ascend to Him in a day measure thereof is fifty thousand years (lunar years)”. There should be no confusion between the day in this verse [fifty thousand (lunar) years] and the day in cited verses #(2-8) and #(C-1). The (day) in cited verses #(2-8) and #(C-1) is the time unit for the creation of the heavens and the earth and for the evolution of the earth thereafter, while the (day) in cited verse #(2-7) is the time unit for the movement of the angels and the spirit through the heavens. From these verses it is seen that evolution of the earth proceeds with much faster rate than the motion of the angels and the spirit.