

# Islamic Cosmology

## Lesson 2



# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- Time-frame and Formation
  - There are multiple verses in the Quran that indicate that the universe was created in “six days”.

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ

*“Your Lord is God who created the skies and the earth in six days...”* Quran 7:54

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ

*“God is He who created the skies and the earth and what is between them in six days...” Quran 32:4*

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- What is meaning of the word day **أَيَّامٍ** ?
  - 1. The word certainly does not refer to a 24-hour period because this is an earthly phenomenon and has no meaning before the creation of the earth and the sun.
  - 2. The word is not used in its literal sense but in its figurative sense. Hence, the word refers to an unspecified period of time where something of importance occurs.

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- Example of the figurative usage of “day” in the Quran:

وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ

*“And these days [of varying conditions] We alternate among the people...”* Quran 3:140

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

فَهَلْ يَنْتَظِرُونَ إِلَّا مِثْلَ أَيَّامِ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ

*“What are they waiting for but a period of punishment like the one that came to those before them?...”* Quran 10:102

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

وَإِنَّ يَوْمًا عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ مِّمَّا تَعُدُّونَ

*“...a day with your Lord is like a thousand years in your reckoning.”*

Quran 22:47

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- What does the Quran say about the process of creation within these 6 days?

قُلْ أَيْنَكُمْ لَتَكْفُرُونَ بِالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَتَجْعَلُونَ لَهُ أَندَادًا ذَلِكَ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*“Ask them: Do you reject him who created the earth in two days (epochs) and ascribe equals to him? He is the Lord of all realms.” Quran*

41:9



# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ مِنْ فَوْقِهَا وَبَارَكَ فِيهَا وَقَدَّرَ فِيهَا أَقْوَاتَهَا فِي أَرْبَعَةِ أَيَّامٍ سَوَاءً لِّلسَّائِلِينَ

*“He set in the earth firm mountains towering over it, blessed it, and apportioned in it sustenance in four days (epochs) in due measure for those who ask for sustenance.”* Quran 41:10

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ ائْتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ

*“Furthermore, he turned toward the sky, when it was like smoke, and he said to it and to the earth, “Come willingly or unwillingly.” They replied, “We come willingly.” Quran 41:11*

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

فَقَضَاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ

*“Then He made the sky into seven skies in two days (epochs)...”* Quran  
41:12

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- According to these verses:
  - 1. The earth was created in 2 days
  - 2. The earth was arranged in 4 days
  - 3. The skies/heavens was created in 2 days
  - 4. They also indicate that the earth was created and its sustenance determined in 6 days *before* the sky was created

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- Maurice Bucaille proposes a strong solution:
  - the 2 epochs for the earth's and the sky's creation are simultaneous, not consecutive; the remaining 4 epochs are left for arranging the earth
  - The 6 epochs: the first period in both the earth's and the sky's creation is the initial process of making matter as a single mass that is then divided into the raw material for the skies and the raw material for the Earth

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا

*“Do the unbelievers not know that the skies and earth were joined together, then we clove them asunder?...”* Quran 21:30

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- This verse shows a time when all matter was like smoke or gas, after which God called forth the sky and the earth as if to separate:

ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ ائْتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ

*“Furthermore, he turned toward the sky, when it was like smoke, and he said to it and to the earth, “Come willingly or unwillingly.” They replied, “We come willingly.”* Quran 41:11

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- The second period for the sky is when it is made into seven skies

فَقَضَاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ

*“Then He made the sky into seven skies in two days (epochs)...”* Quran  
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# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- In Surat al-Nazi'aat, the two epochs for the creation of the sky are mentioned:

أَأَنْتُمْ أَشَدُّ خَلْقًا أَمْ السَّمَاءُ بَنَاهَا

*“Are you harder to create or is the sky? He made it.”* Quran 79:27

رَفَعَ سَمَكَهَا فَسَوَّاهَا

*“He raised its canopy and then fashioned it in due measure.”* Quran 79:28

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

- The second period for the earth is when it was formed into a planet from a gaseous, smoke-like mass.
- the third thru sixth periods for the earth are mentioned in two places.
  - 79:30-32 mentions the four stages and tells us that the earth was made after the sky
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# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ دَحَاهَا

*“And after the sky, he spread the earth.”*

أَخْرَجَ مِنْهَا مَاءَهَا وَمَرْعَاهَا

*“He brought forth from it its water and plants.”*

وَالْجِبَالَ أَرْسَاهَا

*“And he fixed the mountains.”*

# The Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ مِنْ فَوْقِهَا وَبَارَكَ فِيهَا وَقَدَّرَ فِيهَا أَقْوَاتَهَا فِي أَرْبَعَةِ أَيَّامٍ سَوَاءً لِّلسَّائِلِينَ

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# The Sun, Moon and Stars

- Celestial bodies that emanate light:

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَّرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِّينَ وَالْحِسَابَ

*“He is the one who made the sun brilliant and the moon a light, and he designated phases for it so that you might know the number of years and other such calculations.”* Quran 10:5

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

وَجَعَلَ الْقَمَرَ فِيهِنَّ نُورًا وَجَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ سِرَاجًا

*“He made the moon a light in them (i.e., in the seven skies), and he made the sun a lamp.” Quran 71:16*

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرَاجًا وَقَمَرًا مُنِيرًا

*“Blessed is he who made stars in the sky and made therein a lamp and a light-giving moon.” Quran 25:61*

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

- The orbital paths of the sun and moon:

وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى

*“He subjugated the sun and the moon. Each travels for a set period...”*

Quran 13:2



# The Sun, Moon and Stars

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

*“He is the one who created night and day, and the sun and moon, each swimming in its orbit.”* Quran 21:33

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبِينَ

*“He subjugated the sun and the moon, both steady in their paths...”*  
Quran 14:33

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ بِحُسْبَانٍ

*“The sun and the moon are on calculated courses.”* Quran 55:5

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَسْجُدُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ وَالنُّجُومُ وَالْجِبَالُ  
وَالشَّجَرُ وَالذَّوَابُّ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ

*“Do you not know that whoever is in the skies and whoever is on earth prostrates to God along with the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, the trees, animals, and many people...”* Quran 22:18

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

- The fate of the sun, moon and stars:

إِذَا الشَّمْسُ كُوِّرَتْ وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ انْكَدَرَتْ

*“When the sun is wrapped up [in darkness]. And when the stars fall, dispersing...”* Quran 81:1-2

# The Sun, Moon and Stars

وَجُمِعَ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ

*“and when the sun and the moon are joined together...”* Quran 75:9

- In approximately 5 billion years, the sun will begin the helium-burning process, turning into a red giant star. When it expands, its outer layers will consume Mercury and Venus, the Moon and ultimately the Earth.