

[12] Let us take the last digit of all the verses from the missing Basmalah to the extra Basmalah. If we write down the number of every sura, followed by the last digit in every verse in that sura, we end up with a long number, of 1988 digits, which is divisible by 19 (Figure 2).

9 127 11 123 13 43 15 99 17 111 25 77 27 29
Every sura number is followed by the number of verses in that sura.
This long number equals 19 x 48037427533385052195322409091.
[Figure 1]

9 1234567890123... ..27 1234567890 ... 789
The sura number is followed by the last digit in every verse number from Sura 9 to Sura 27, Verse 29.
[Figure 2]

Appendix 30

Polygamy

Polygamy was a way of life until the Quran was revealed 1400 years ago. When the earth was young and under-populated, polygamy was one way of populating it and bringing in the human beings needed to carry out God’s plan. By the time the Quran was revealed, the world had been sufficiently populated, and the Quran put down the first limitations against polygamy.

Polygamy is permitted in the Quran, but under strictly observed circumstances. Any abuse of this divine permission incurs severe retribution. Thus, although polygamy is permitted by God, it behooves us to examine our circumstances carefully before saying that a particular polygamous relationship is permissible.

Our perfect example here is the prophet Muhammad. He was married to one wife, Khadijah, until she died. He had all his children, except one, from Khadijah. Thus, she and her children enjoyed the Prophet’s full attention for as long as she was married to him; twenty-five years. For all practical purposes, Muhammad had one wife—from the age of 25 to 50. During the remaining 13 years of his life, he married the aged widows of his friends who left many children. The children needed a complete home, with a fatherly figure, and the Prophet provided that. Providing a fatherly figure for orphans is the only specific circumstance in support of polygamy mentioned in the Quran (4:3).

Other than marrying widowed mothers of orphans, there were three political marriages in the Prophet’s life. His close friends Abu Bakr and Omar insisted that he marry their daughters, Aisha and Hafsa, to establish traditional family ties among them. The third marriage was to Maria the Egyptian; she was given to him as a political gesture of friendship from the ruler of Egypt.

This perfect example tells us that a man must give his full attention and loyalty in marriage to his wife and children in order to raise a happy and wholesome family.

The Quran emphasizes the limitations against polygamy in very strong words: “If you fear lest you may not be perfectly equitable in treating more than one wife, then you shall be content with one.” (4:3) “You cannot be equitable in a polygamous relationship, no matter how hard you try.” (4:129)

The Quranic limitations against polygamy point out the possibility of abusing God’s law. Therefore, unless we are absolutely sure that God’s law will not be abused, we had better resist our lust and stay away from polygamy. If the circumstances do not dictate polygamy, we had better give our full attention to one wife and one set of children. The children’s psychological and social well-being, especially in countries where polygamy is prohibited, almost invariably dictate monogamy. A few basic criteria must be observed in contemplating polygamy:

- 1. It must alleviate pain and suffering and not cause any pain or suffering.
- 2. If you have a young family, it is almost certain that polygamy is an abuse.
- 3. Polygamy to substitute a younger wife is an abuse of God’s law (4:19).

Appendix 31

Evolution: Divinely Controlled

We learn from the Quran that evolution is a divinely designed fact:

Life began in water:	“From water we initiated all living things.” (21:30, 24:45)
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Humans not descendants of monkeys:	“He started the creation of man from mud.” (32:7)
Man created from “aged” mud:	“I am creating the human being from ‘aged’ clay.” (15:28)

Evolution is possible only within a given species. For example, the navel orange evolved from seeded oranges, not from apples. The laws of probability preclude the possibility of haphazard evolution between species. A fish cannot evolve into a bird; a monkey can never evolve into a human.

Probability Laws Preclude Darwin’s Evolution

In this computer age, we have mathematical laws that tell us whether a certain event is probable or not. If we throw five numbered cubes up in the air and let them fall into a guided straight line, the probability laws tell us the number of possible combinations we can get: $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 = 120$ combinations. Thus, the probability of obtaining any combination is 1 in 120, or $1/120$, or 0.0086. This probability diminishes fast when we increase the number of cubes. If we increase them by one, the number of combinations becomes $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 = 720$, and the probability of getting any combination diminishes to $1/720$, 0.0014. Mathematicians, who are very exacting scientists, have agreed that the probability diminishes to “Zero” when we increase the number of cubes to 84. If we work