

The Human Embryo

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PART 1: READ

23:12	<p>وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ سَلَالَةٍ مِّنْ طِينٍ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) Man We did create from a quintessence (of clay);</p>
23:13	<p>ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) Then We placed him as (a drop of) sperm in a place of rest, firmly fixed;</p>
23:14	<p>ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of that clot We made a (fetus) lump; then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it another creature. So blessed be Allah, the best to create!</p>
23:15	<p>ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ لَمَيِّتُونَ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) After that, at length ye will die</p>
23:16	<p>ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تُبْعَثُونَ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) Again, on the Day of Judgment, will ye be raised up.</p>
39:6	<p>خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَانزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ يَخْلُقَكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِّنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ ذَلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ</p> <p>(Y. Ali) He created you (all) from a single person: then created, of like nature, his mate; and he sent down for you eight head of cattle in pairs: He makes you, in the wombs of your mothers, in stages, one after another, in three veils of darkness. Such is Allah, your Lord and Cherisher: to Him belongs (all) dominion. There is no god but He: then how are ye turned away (from your true Centre)?</p>
76:2	<p>إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَّبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا</p> <p>(Y. Ali) Verily We created Man from a drop of mingled sperm, in order to try him: So We gave him (the gifts), of Hearing and Sight.</p>

PART 2: LEARN

Summary of Verses:

- 1) The Qur'an determines that human development passes through stages (39:6)
- 2) The staging of human embryos was not described until the 20th century. Streeter (1941) developed the first system of staging.
- 3) However, the Qur'an was the first source to mention the developmental stages (23:12-16).
- 4) The Qur'an and Hadith also state that both parents share in the origins of the offspring: "O mankind! We created you from male and female." (49:13) and "We created mankind from a mixed drop (nutfah-amshaj)." (76:2) The mixed drop refers to the mixture and convergence of a small quantity of sperms with the ovum (and its associated follicular fluid) to form the zygote.
- 5) It has the form of a drop and consists of a mixture of male and female secretions." Then we made the drop into a leech-like structure ('alaqah)." (23:14) 'alaqah in Arabic means (i) to cling and stick to a thing; (ii) a leech or bloodsucker; (iii) a suspended thing; and (iv) a blood clot. Amazingly, each of the meanings of 'alaqah' can be applied to human prenatal development. For example, taking 'alaqah' to mean a leech we find that the embryo is surrounded by amniotic fluid just as a leech is surrounded by water. The human embryo clings to the mother's womb, in the same way that a leech clings to the skin. A leech is a pear shaped organism and thrives on bloodsucking.
- 6) At this stage the cardiovascular system has started appearing and the embryo is now dependant on the maternal blood for its nutrition like a leech!
- 7) As there were no microscopes or lenses available in the 7th century, people could not have known that the embryo has this leech-like appearance." Then out of that leech-like structure We made a chewed lump (mudghah)." This statement is from Surah 23:14. The Arabic word mudghah means "chewed up substance or chewed lump." Towards the end of the 4th week, the human embryo looks somewhat like a chewed lump of flesh. The chewed appearance results from the somites which resemble teeth marks. The somites represent the beginnings of the vertebrae (backbone).

References:

Gary Miler, the Amazing Quran

(<http://tawheednyc.com/quraan/The%20Amazing%20Quran.pdf>)

PART 3: THINK & CONNECT

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be unto him) is illiterate and had no microscopes or lenses to examine the development of the human embryo. How did he get all this information? There is only source: ALLAH.

Allah, who creates people, can take their lives away and can resurrect them any time He wants. Are we ready to meet Him? Do we follow His commands?