

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

**The Emergence of the Semen Between Backbone and the Ribs:
Review of the Scholars' Interpretation of Surah At-Tariq Verse 7**

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ABSTRACT

The verse 7 of Surah al-Tariq mentions human creation from semen that emerges between the backbone and the ribs. However, interpretations of the words al-sulbi and al-tara'ib in verse 7 in the verse have been debated among scholars due to their irrelevance to modern scientific discovery about human creation. This study aims to review various scholars' interpretations of the verse to determine whether the translation of meaning matches modern scientific facts. Library research methodology is used to analyse the explanations of the scholars. The findings reveal that some scholars support the Quran in interpreting the verse and others are against it. Among the view are the verse is incompatible with modern medical knowledge, assumptions of the meaning are made, the Quran does not directly refer to the production of semen, and the Quran refer to the child who comes out from between the backbone and the ribs which is the womb. Further studies need to be conducted to determine the exact meaning of the verse since the views seem unable to clarify the verse.

Keywords: *Sulbi, Tara'ib, Human, Quran, Modern Science, Integration of Naqli and Aqli*

INTRODUCTION

The translation of the Quran is of paramount importance for two main reasons. First, it serves the purpose of conveying the message of Islam to non-Muslims and inviting them to contemplate the Quran's message. Second, it facilitates the understanding of the guidance revealed by Allah SWT and His desires for Muslims who communicate in languages other than Arabic. Without Quranic translation, it would be challenging for them to understand the Quran and Islam. The interpretation of the Quran in the context of modern scientific knowledge has always been a subject of debate.

In Surah al-Tariq, verse 7, the Quran mentions the creation of humans from semen emerging between the backbone and the ribs. However, the terms al-sulbi and al-tara'ib in this verse have raised questions among scholars, given their seeming irrelevance to contemporary scientific understanding of human development. Some scholars support the Quranic interpretation of the verse, while others are against it. The divergent opinions within the scholarly community suggest that this verse's exact meaning remains elusive. Hence, it becomes evident that further studies are warranted to unravel the intricacies of this verse and its compatibility with modern scientific understanding. This research endeavours to contribute to this ongoing discussion, examining the significance of the work and its relevance in addressing the intricate matter of reconciling religious text with scientific discovery.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses library research methodology by analysing interpretations done by various scholars regarding verse 7 of Surah At-Tariq. This study classifies scholars' opinions into two categories, which are scholars who support the Quran and scholars who are against it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Opinions that support the Quran

This interpretation suggests that the verse refers to fluid (mā'a) rather than sperm and that this fluid comes from between the backbone or loins and the ribs. Even if the Quran referred to sperm, it's argued that the testes, where sperm is produced, are located between the loins and the ribs. This aligns with the physiological understanding of human anatomy.

The second interpretation posits that the verse describes the emergence of a baby from the mother's womb, which is located between the backbone or loins and the ribs. This interpretation emphasizes the thematic context of the verses, focusing on the theme of resurrection. It suggests that the verse is metaphorical and does not refer to semen.

The third opinion considers the terms "Al-Şulb" and "Al-Tarāib" as linguistic indicators for the man and woman, respectively. In this view, the verse refers to sexual intercourse, with the ejaculatory fluid issuing between the man and woman during this intimate act. This interpretation is in harmony with both the linguistic context and scientific understanding.

Opinion that is against the Quran

Dr. William Campbell's interpretation raises a different perspective on the Quran verse in question. He argues that the specific mention of "gushing fluid" coming from a location "between the loins and the ribs" implies a description of the moment of adult reproduction rather than embryonic development. Using physical terms like "sulb" and "tara'ib" suggests a literal, non-euphemistic description. He highlights that the mention of semen coming from the "back or kidney area" appears to be at odds with the physiological understanding of sperm production in the testicles.

CONCLUSION

This study's findings show differences among scholarly communities in interpreting the Quran, and the verse has no conclusive meaning. Thus, further studies must be conducted to understand the verse and ensure the Quran is interpreted correctly.

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