Quick Notes for Quran Study 2 - Study Information

- **Study Leader:** Dr. Mahmoud Sabahi (Chemistry background, led the teaching).
- **Date of Recording:** 08/04/1989

Quran Verses Discussed

- Sura 95 (The Fig): Verses 1–8
- Sura 96 (The Embryo): Verses 1–19
- Reference Verses:
  - Sura 87 (Creation and shaping)
  - Sura 93, 92, 100, 91, 81 (Referenced regarding God "swearing" by created things)
  - Sura 1 (Al-Fatihah - recited at the end)

Detailed Summary of Discussion

1. Sura 95:1–8 (The Fig)

- Swearing by Objects:
  - Dr. Sabahi notes that there are approximately 12 Suras where God begins by swearing by created things (e.g., the Sun, Moon, Night, Day).
  - Sura 95 is unique as it is the only one where God swears by plants (Fig and Olive).
- Symbolism of the Plants and Locations:
  - Dr. Khalifa explains the specific symbolism linking the verses to God's messengers:
    - The Fig: Represents Adam (universal association with fig leaves/Paradise).
    - The Olive: Represents Jesus (Mount of Olives).
    - Mount Sinai: Represents Moses.
    - The Honored Town (Mecca): Represents Abraham and Muhammad.
  - Theme: These symbols represent one continuous message delivered through different messengers.
- The "Missing" Verse 5:
  - A printing error was discovered in the draft translation where Verse 5 was missing in both English and Arabic.
  - Lesson on Preservation: Dr. Khalifa uses this to teach that the Quran is not "ink and paper." He references the mathematical code (the number 12,692 on the wall representing the total sum of verse

numbers). This total is divisible by 19 only if the missing Verse 5 is included and the two "false verses" (9:128-129) are excluded. This proves the missing verse belongs, even if a printer drops it.

- "The Best Design" vs. "Lowest of the Low":
    - Physical Design: Hamid demonstrates the importance of the opposable thumb and human balance (walking on one leg at a time).
    - Spiritual Design: Humans started in a high society (best design) but were reverted to the "lowest of the lowly" (this world) due to their decision to side with Satan.
    - Redemption: Humans have the capacity to rise from this low state through belief and righteousness.

2. Botanical & Scientific Discussion

- Figs and Olives:
    - Hamid notes that figs can produce two crops a year, whereas olives often alternate bearing (heavy crop one year, light the next).
    - Health Benefits: It is noted that olive oil is unique because it helps reduce cholesterol, unlike many other fats.
- Chemical Isomers (Chirality):
    - Dr. Sabahi (a chemist) discusses the complexity of plant chemistry.
    - The "Glove" Analogy: He explains that synthetic chemists struggle to replicate plant molecules because of Chirality (handedness). A molecule can have a "right-handed" and "left-handed" version (mirror images). Plants naturally produce the effective version, while synthetic versions often lack potency because they cannot perfectly replicate this orientation.

3. Theological Questions (The "Why Create Us?" Debate)

- The Question: Robert asks: If God knew the majority of humans would fail and go to Hell, why create them at all?
- The Answer (Second Chance Theory):
    - Dr. Khalifa explains that humans already existed and committed a "crime" (siding with Satan).
    - This life is a Second Chance. Without this life, humans would have gone straight to Hell.
    - The "Worth It" Logic: It is worth creating the universe to save the millions who do succeed.
- Specific Group Statistics (Somalia):

    - Dr. Khalifa uses Somalia as an example of God's mercy regarding the age of responsibility (40 years old).
    - He states that while the situation in Somalia is tragic, the majority of Somalians dying before the age of 40 are going to Heaven because they die before reaching the age of full accountability.

4. Sura 96:1–19 (The Embryo)

- The First Revelation: These were the first verses revealed to Muhammad in the cave.
- Translation Debate ("Clot" vs. "Embryo"):
    - A debate occurs regarding the translation of the word 'Alaq.
    - Dr. Bucaille's View: Dr. Khalifa mentions meeting Dr. Maurice Bucaille (author of The Bible, The Quran, and Science), who was "very angry" at translators using the word "Clot" because a clot is dead blood, whereas an embryo is living, dividing cells.
    - Linguistic Meaning: The word literally means something that "hangs" or "suspends" (like a leech), which accurately describes the implantation of the zygote in the uterus.
    - Consensus: "Embryo" is the preferred translation over "Clot."
- The Pen: Verse 4 mentions God teaches by means of the pen. This highlights the power of literacy and written records in human advancement and religion.
- Transgression of the Rich:
    - The Sura warns that humans transgress when they perceive themselves as "rich" (independent/self-sufficient).
    - Dr. Sabahi warns that wealth (financial or otherwise) often leads to ego worship.
- Preventing Prayer:
    - The Sura condemns those who forbid others from praying.
    - Dr. Sabahi draws a parallel to pre-revolution Iran, where praying was mocked as "uncivilized," versus post-revolution Iran, where it became forced/political.

Administrative & Closing Notes

- Next Schedule:
    - Next week: Lory will teach up to Sura 105.
    - Following week: Ahmad Rayan will finish the Quran (Suras 106-114).
- Al-Fatihah Recitation: The group recites Al-Fatihah for:
    - Philip and Evelyn (Evelyn traveling to Oregon).

- Ibi Abib (Son of Mahmood and Linda).
- Catherine (Birthday tomorrow).
- Martha (Birthday in absentia).
- Maryam (Offering thanks).