Quick Notes for Quran Study 9 - Study Information

- **Study Leaders:**
  - Edip Yuksel (Reads and provides commentary)
  - Dr. Rashad Khalifa (Provides extensive commentary, scientific explanations, and answers questions).
- **Date of Recording:** 05/12/1989

Quran Verses Discussed

- Sura 70 (The Ma'arij/The Ascensions): Verses 1–44
- Reference Verses:
  - Sura 26 (Quran in Arabic/foreign tongue)
  - Sura 95:4 (Human created in best design)
  - Sura 32:7 (Perfected everything He created)
  - Sura 21:38 (Human created hasty)
  - Sura 4:25 (Permission to marry slaves)
  - Sura 29:45 (Salat protects from sin)

Detailed Summary of Discussion

1. Sura 70:1–4 (Time Relativity & Angels)

- Relativity of Time:
  - Verse 4 states angels ascend in a day equal to 50,000 years.
  - Edip explains that time is relative, not absolute. Just as a fly's 3-month lifespan feels like a lifetime to it (equivalent to 50 human years), divine time operates on a different scale.
  - Speed of Light: Dr. Khalifa and Edip discuss Einstein's relativity. Rashad uses an analogy of traveling with a picture at the speed of light to explain how time would stand still, or go backward if exceeding light speed.
  - Scientific Fact: Rashad notes that the speed of light is actually "very slow" on a cosmic scale (e.g., light takes 100,000 years to cross the Milky Way).

2. Sura 70:5–18 (The Day of Judgment)

- Horror of the Day:
  - The sky will be like molten rocks (or lava) and mountains like fluffy wool.

    - Selfishness: Disbelievers are described as so selfish that they would offer their own children, spouses, and tribes as ransom to save themselves from the fire (Verses 11-14).
- Hell Calling: Hell is personified; it calls out to those who turned away and hoarded wealth (Verse 17). Edip notes that the Quran often personifies objects (Earth, Heavens, Records) to show they have a form of consciousness or "speech" (signals).

3. Sura 70:19–35 (Traits of Believers vs. Disbelievers)

- Human Anxiety: Humans are created "anxious" (Halu'a). When adversity touches them, they are despondent; when wealthy, they are stingy.
- The Exception (The Worshipers):
    - Only those who observe Contact Prayers (Salat) are free from this anxiety.
    - Traits: They give to the poor (2.5% Zakat), believe in Judgment Day, fear God's requital, keep their chastity, keep their word/trusts, and stand firm in testimony.
- Chastity & Marriage:
    - Chastity: Dr. Khalifa emphasizes the critical importance of chastity (Verse 29). He announces an upcoming appendix on "Chastity and Virginity" for children, warning that violating this law destroys future happiness and marriage.
    - Social Commentary: The group discusses the moral decay in society (premarital sex, STDs, AIDS) and the responsibility of parents to guide their children against these norms.
    - "Legally Theirs": Verse 30 mentions relations with spouses or what is "legally theirs." Rashad explains this covers all legal forms of union, including common law marriage or cultural arrangements where a couple commits to live together forever, even without a ceremony.

4. Scientific & Social Discussions

- Evolution:
    - Dr. Khalifa asserts that evolution is a divinely guided process, not random. He cites the complexity of the fly's eye (4,000 lenses) as proof of independent creation of species, though micro-evolution occurs (e.g., navel oranges).
    - Seven Earths: Sura 65:12 mentions seven earths. Rashad explains God created six other lifeless planets identical to Earth to prove to atheists

on Judgment Day that life does not randomly evolve just because conditions are right.

- Marriage Laws:
    - A discussion arises regarding marriage responsibilities. Rashad clarifies that if a man divorces a pregnant woman, he must support her. If she refuses to nurse, he must hire a wet nurse.
    - Arranged Marriage: Rashad notes that arranged marriages or inheriting a brother's widow (if consensual) are valid cultural practices if they follow Quranic principles of mutual consent.

Administrative & Personal Notes

- New Translation Update: Dr. Khalifa mentions a mistake found by Poopak in the new translation (Sura 65:8) which will be fixed.
- Farsi Translation: Good news is announced that a Farsi translation of Rashad's work is underway by Behruz.
- Next Week: Apamea will teach the next 19 Suras (71–89).
- Al-Fatihah: The group recites Al-Fatihah to close the session, with a reminder to ask God for their dearest wishes.