CREATION OF THE BIOSPHERE
Fashioning of the earth: Allah has created the entire biosphere and to Him belongs all that is in the heavens, on the earth, between them and beneath the soil. He comprehended in His design the sky which was all a haze; created the heavens without anything to rest on and placed on the earth, mountains least it could shake. He scattered various species of animals over the earth. And He has created the heavens and the earth and all that there is in between in six days, the measure of a day being a tremendously long period of time according to human reckoning.

1. Ta Ha : 6
2. Al-Araf : 54
3. Al-Sajdah:5
The fact is again emphasized in the fiftyninth verse of Surah Al-Furqan:

"He Who created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them in six periods." (Sher Ali, 1965)

Such is the nature of the creation of the earth revealed to us in the Holy Quran. We have been ordained that while being mindful of His omni-presence and supreme power, it should be clearly understood that He has not created anything in vain.

"Verily in the alteration of night and day and in all that God hath created in the heavens and in the earth, are signs (full of meaning) for those who are mindful of God." (Latif, 1969)

Should we, therefore, not conduct experiments to discover as to why in agricultural plots, adjacent to each other, the crop yield is different. Of course we should.

"Go through the earth and note how He first createth and how after a while giveth a fresh life to the created objects." (Latif, 1969)

The above recitations from the Holy Quran make it incumbent

1. Al-Furqan : 59
2. Yunus : 6
3. Al-Ankabut : 20
upon Muslim Scientists to understand the truth behind the creation of the planets, the earth, and the animals living on or in it.

It is really amazing that the presence of smoke in the early stages of the Universe as referred to in the holy verse cited below corresponds exactly to the concept of the primary nebula of gaseous material conceived by modern scientists who accept that the solar system started out as a hot, rapidly rotating ball of gas which was made up of free atoms (Weisz, 1963).

(1)

"Thereafter He turned to the sky when it was smoke."

Hydrogen atoms which were probably the most abundant gravitated towards the center of the ball and the earth began as a glowing mass of free hydrogen and other types of atoms. The atoms then sorted out according to their mass; heavy ones like iron and nickel sinking towards the center while the lighter ones like hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon remaining in the outermost layer. Of course, in the beginning the temperature was too high for the formation of any compound but as the earth cooled down, stable bonds began to be formed between the atoms and simple compounds appeared. It must have been at this juncture that the above named four elements may have played a conspicuous role in the formation of living things (Buffaloe & Throneby, 1969).

Creation of living things: As the temperature of the globe became sufficiently low to permit the formation of compounds, the atoms of hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon joined together in various.

1. Ha Mim-Sajdah: 11
combinations. Water was thus formed by the combination of hydrogen and oxygen and this simple compound became of paramount importance from the point of view of biology.

The above facts of biology could well be said to be a scientific explanation of the following verse of the Holy Quran.

اَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ رَفَعْنَاهَا وَجَعَلْنَاهَا مَكَانً عَلِىً

"The heavens and the earth were closed up, then we rent them and we have made of water everything living." (Daryabadi, 1957)

And when the temperature fell further, wrinkles and folds were formed in the crust of the earth. Torrential rains started and the basins and shallows got filled up with water. In this way oceans were formed and it was this oceanic water having in it large quantities of $\text{CH}_4$, $\text{NH}_3$, $\text{O}_2$, and HCN that set the stage for the formation of living matter. The carbon atoms must have played the key role in the formation of living matter as is evident from the fact that carbon to carbon combinations occur almost exclusively within the living organisms (Weisz, 1963).

That water is predominant on our globe is an undisputed fact of Science. It was and is even now the most essential component of living matter. Protoplasm contains eighty five percent of water and on an average as much as ninety percent of anything living is water. Water is also an excellent solvent for a great variety of substances and is an ideal medium for chemical reactions. And since living processes are based on chemical reactions it can be easily understood that nothing but water could have been the basis of life.

1. Al-Anbiya : 30
And of water hath God created every moving object."

(Latif, 1969)

The Almighty Allah has thus formed a planet of hard shell which is most suitable for the existence of all kinds of life. Here the conditions are neither excessively hot nor cold for the sustenance of life. Oxygen and carbon dioxide, on which the existence of plants and animals depends, are available in sufficient quantities. And so we can rightly claim that Allah has given us a perfect universe for living till a particular time for He Who gave life to a lifeless thing is indeed powerful to give life to the dead on the day of resurrection.

"Is not He (Who gave life to a lifeless thing) powerful enough to give life to the dead (on the day of resurrection)?" (Latif, 1969)