CHAPTER IV

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF MAN
The science of human reproduction as revealed in the Holy Quran proves beyond doubt the truthfulness of the word of Allah. So close is the similarity between the teachings of the Holy Quran and the process that has so far been discovered by the biologists that one is forced to admit the all time and all embracing virtue of the Quranic Science.

There are millions of cells in the human body and these belong to a variety of form, size and shape. Of course, the female egg is the largest of all these while the male sperm is the smallest. A woman is born with a certain compliments of immature eggs in the ovaries whereas millions of sperm cells are deposited by a male at any one time. The reason for such enormous production of sperms is simple. A large number of them perish in vagina itself as the environment there is acidic and the mature egg expires if it is not fertilized within twenty four hours of its being cast free from the overy (Weisz, 1963).

"Surely we have created man from the union of life germs (of two sexes)." (Latif, 1969).

The Almighty Allah has created everything in pairs and there are male and female sexes for each species. It is natural, therefore, that each sex should contribute its share of reproductive fluid and the mingling of the reproductive cells

1. Al-Dahr : 02
therein should result in fertilization. Once fertilized, the egg moves along and is safely lodged in the womb. It starts drawing upon resources of the mother. And this is what we learn when we recite the thirteenth verse of Surah Al-Muminun and find that Allah placed man as small quantity in a safe lodging firmly established and there he assumed a leach-like form, something that clings. Afterwards the Almighty Allah fashioned him in due proportions.

The Arabic word 'Alaq' has been variously translated. While Abdullah Yusuf Ali (1938) translated it as a clot of congealed blood and as a 'leach-like clot', Arberry (1963) thinks that it means blood clot. To Syed Abdul Latif (1969) it means a 'clot' only, whereas Marie Bocaille (1978) argues that 'something that clings' is the translation of the word 'Alaq'. In the opinion of the present author, Bocaille's translation is more appropriate for a human being never passes through the stage of being a 'blood clot'. The same is true for another translation of this term 'adhesion' which is equally inappropriate. The original sense of a leach-like thing which clings seems to be more correct from the point of view of human embryology.

Once clinged, the human embryo successively passes through stages of 'chewed flesh', osseous tissues appear and it becomes clad in flesh. Such a description of the embryo inside the uterus corresponds exactly to what the scientists have been able

1. Al-Muminun : 13
to discover so far. Biologists tell us that after cell division begins during the first month, arms, legs, eyes, ears, stomach and brain begin to form and the embryo looks like a lump of flesh. Later, this lump of flesh or foetus as it is called by the biologists shows signs of the digestive system. Kidneys are formed and begin to secrete urine. In this way the Almighty Allah creates another living creature within a prescribed period of time and this is a fact which was revealed for the benefit of the 'Ummah' centuries before Harvey (1651) could make a simple yet fundamental statement in the history of embryology that 'all life initially comes from an egg.'

That the sex of a child is ordained by Almighty Allah at the time of conception was counselled to the Holy Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him) at Mecca when the fortieth and the fiftieth verses of Surah 'Al-Shura' were revealed to him.

1. Al-Shura : 49-50
of conception. The twenty three chromosomes carried by human egg and contributed by the mother as also the twenty three chromosomes carried by the human sperm and contributed by the father are all alike except for one difference. While the mother produces only one kind of egg, each containing an 'X' chromosome, the father produces two kinds of sperms in exactly equal numbers; one bearing an 'X' chromosome while the other a 'Y' chromosome. Now if an sperm with an 'X' gets into the egg and it pairs up with 'X' already there a daughter is born. Fertilization between an sperm with a 'Y' and an egg with a 'X' chromosome results in the birth of a son.

The above findings clearly demonstrate the significance of Quranic teachings and dispel the unfounded myths which persisted for several centuries before the mechanism of sex determination in man could be discovered by men of Science. Why should we not therefore, bow our heads before our Creator and announce that Allah has created man from something which clings. And indeed reproduction is not the lot of all members of a generations. Causes may vary, inhibiting thereby the fertilization of an egg by a sperm in the fallopian tubes and its transfer to uterus where it may be implanted, nourished and grown until the birth of the baby. Thus, Allah may ordain the breaking up of any link in this process of reproduction and make one childless. Of course, 'He knoweth why He doth so, the powerful'.

1. Al-Shura : 50