

Comparison of the Prophet Adam with Archaeological Findings of Modern Humans in Morocco, North Africa

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to conduct a comparison between the story of Prophet Adam in the Quran and archaeological findings related to modern humans in Morocco, North Africa. This study employs a qualitative descriptive analysis approach through a literature review. The results of this study discuss the relationship between the story of Prophet Adam in the Quran and the evolution of modern humans represented by archaeological discoveries in Morocco, North Africa. It examines the comparison between religious narratives and archaeological findings and their implications for our understanding of human origins. This research provides deeper insights into how religious narratives can be integrated with scientific findings in understanding the origins of humanity.

Keywords: Comparison, Prophet Adam, Quran, Archaeological findings

INTRODUCTION

Human origins are one of the most profound and intriguing mysteries in the course of human history. The question of how humans first appeared on earth, as well as the stories surrounding their creation, have been the subject of discussion, research and speculation throughout the ages. In various religious beliefs, one of the central figures in the story of human creation is Prophet Adam, who is considered to be the first human being created by Allah or God. However, on the other side of the scientific world, archaeological discoveries have revealed puzzling findings. One of the most recent concerns in archaeological research is the discovery of modern human fossils in Morocco, North Africa, which raises questions about the extent to which this finding relates to religious views on human origins.

Disputes regarding the first individuals to inhabit the earth are still an ongoing topic of discussion today, including in terms of age and location. This is based on archaeological findings scattered in various parts of the world. According to experts, there are twenty entities that have similarities with the Adam race or homo sapiens sapiens (150,000-120,000 BC), but not the Adam race itself. (Musofa 2017) Humans have always had a deep interest in understanding their origins. The question of how humans first appeared on earth has been an ongoing debate for centuries. In various religious and cultural traditions, the concept of human origins is very important, and it is often a key element in religious beliefs and rituals.

In major religions such as Islam, Christianity and Judaism, Prophet Adam is honored as the first human being created by God. The story of Prophet Adam has major implications in religious beliefs, ethics and practices around the world. Understanding religious perspectives on Prophet Adam is important in this context. Archaeological discoveries involving modern human fossils in Morocco, North Africa, have changed our understanding of early human development. The findings show evidence of modern humans much earlier than previously

understood, and this raises questions about how humans first spread to different regions of the world. (Yulizar 2019)

Research and understanding related to human origins, the Prophet Adam, and archaeological discoveries in Morocco North Africa are important steps in responding to fundamental questions about human existence and also illustrate advances in science, technology, and the history of human thought. By combining these three elements, we can achieve a more comprehensive view of our origins as humans.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive analysis method with a literature review approach. The data processing process is carried out through data review and collection, followed by analyzing the results and making conclusions. The type of data used includes qualitative data from primary and secondary data sources. The Qur'an is the primary data source, while books, journal articles, both in the context of Islamic and scientific perspectives, as well as the use of technology in the form of Artificial Intelligence in the form of ChatGPT.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Origin of Man

The process of human creation by Allah SWT comes from the ground, which then Allah SWT forms it into semen. In the womb, the semen undergoes transformation into a clot of blood, then into a lump of flesh, and finally develops into bones covered by a layer of flesh. In the fourth month, Allah SWT Ta'ala breathes the human spirit into it, so that at that time, the fetus is alive. This story is immortalized in the words of Allah SWT in QS. Al-Mu'minun [23] verses 12-14 "And indeed We have created man from the essence (of earth). Then We made it into semen in a firm place (the womb). Then We made that semen into something that clings, and after that We made it into a lump of flesh, and We made it into bones, and then We clothed it with flesh. After that, We made him into another creature. Glory be to Allah, He is the best of creators."

The fetus continues to grow and develop until finally, Allah SWT gives permission for the human to be born into the world after being in the womb for 9 months and 10 days. When humans are born into the world, they come into this world without bringing anything. Their souls and bodies are still pure, innocent, and in accordance with the new human nature. Even so, every individual born has been given by Allah SWT two responsibilities, namely as a servant of Allah and as a caliph on earth. This is in line with the words of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala in QS. Adz-Dzariyat [51] verse 56 "And I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me." (Kanastiti, n.d.)

In the words of Allah SWT in QS. Al-Baqarah verse 30, "And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels. 'I want to make a caliph on earth'. They said, 'Do you intend to make therein one who will destroy and shed blood, while we praise you and sanctify your name?' He said, 'Indeed, I know what you do not know'." That is the chronology of the beginning of the creation of the first human being by Allah SWT. Of course it will be very related to the life of every human being, considering that any human being is a descendant of Prophet Adam 'Alaihis Salam and Siti Eve.

Prophet Adam in Religious Perspective

Allah SWT has commanded us to read that it is God who created man from a clot of blood, which in Arabic is called al-'alaq, and this is where the name of this surah comes from. In conveying the origin of man, the Quran explains this in various ways. Some verses state that man was created from the ground, specifically referring to the first human being, Prophet Adam a.s. While the verse we read indicates that other humans, after Prophet Adam, came from a clot of blood, referring to the fetus that grew from the marriage between a man and a woman while in the mother's womb for nine months or more.

In fact, both earth and clot of blood are inferior substances, even considered disgusting by some. Hence, the message is that humans should not be arrogant. Regardless of how much

a human being achieves, the essence of humanity comes from a humble element, which is earth or a clot of blood. Eventually, all humans will return to the soil when they die and are buried, so their bodies will decompose and reunite with the soil, becoming part of the natural cycle of life (Mohammad et al. 2008).

The story of Prophet Adam and Eve is symbolic and applied to the figure we today refer to as “the first man.” This first human is believed to have developed a system of knowledge that later became the basis for the development of geometry, mathematics, and language. Thus, Adam can be considered as an individual who is referred to as “human” after he understood divine revelation in the form of geometry, numbers, and letters, which later developed into language, writing, ancient knowledge, technology, until the digital era based on the knowledge of tawhid. Therefore, Prophet Adam and Eve represent unique human figures who became the ancestors of generations of humans who inherited the tradition of learning and knowledge, with the aim of constantly improving the morals of their descendants through the transmission of culture and moral values, both orally and in writing, which is now known as “Bani Adam” or “Humanity”.(Kun Fayakun : Book 4,5,6 Bundle Edition: Man Arofa Nafsahu Faqod Arofa Robbahu 2018)

Archaeological Discoveries of Modern Humans in Morocco, North Africa

Archaeological research has revealed that modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) originated in eastern North Africa around 80,000 years ago. At that time, sea levels were about 140 meters lower than they are today. Although there is debate about the hypothesized origin of humans from North Africa, the history of human ancestors also includes settlements in peninsular Arabia and the Eastern Mediterranean. However, scientists agree that *Homo sapiens* is the only extant human species dating back to around 30,000 years BC.

The period between 80,000 BC and 20,000 BC remains a mystery in the history of human civilization. However, after 20,000 BC, archaeological evidence suggests that human ancestors began practicing hunter-gatherer life. During this period, there was also global climate change with the melting of ice caps. Before 13,000 BC, a number of regions, such as Northern Europe, North America, Northern India, Madagascar and New Zealand, were still covered by ice sheets, and these regions were virtually uninhabited. The following is a map of the world that reflects the conditions in 13,000 B.C. (Sani 2022).

Table 1. Archaeological findings related to modern human civilization

| Estimated Year | Location | Findings |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 20,000 SM - 6000 SM | Tasmania, North Africa, Southeast Asia (Sundaland) | Hunter's footsteps |
| 20,000 SM - 4300 SM | West Scotland | Mesolithic to Neolithic Transition |
| 20,000 SM - 9600 SM | Europe | Hunter's footsteps |
| 20,000 SM - 10,000 SM | Euphrates riverbank | Former hunter camp |
| 20,000 SM - 6000 SM | Amazon | Hunter's footsteps |
| 20,000 SM - 6500 SM | Yangtze River, China | First rice farming |
| 20,000 SM - 8500 SM | Jordan Valley | Neolithic Architecture |
| 20,000 SM - 7000 SM | Turkey | Neolithic Architecture |
| 8000 BC | Indonesia | Mount Padang site in West Java |
| 8500 BC | Mesopotamia | Tell Brak, the world's first city |
| 7000 SM - 5000 SM | North America | Hunter's footsteps |

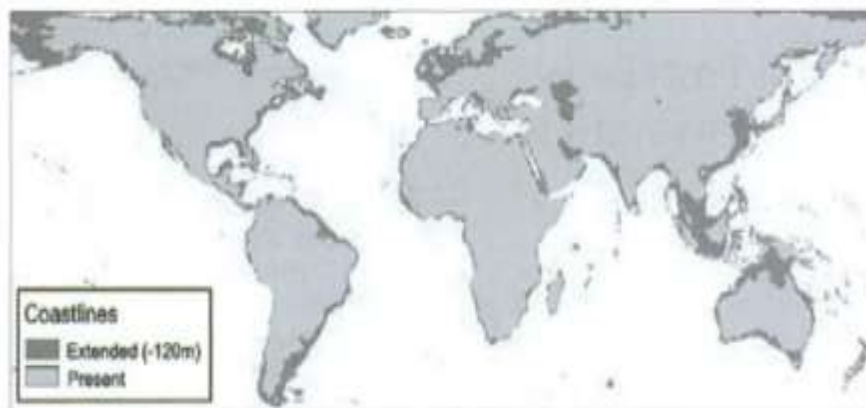
Human anatomy that could be considered "modern" was first recorded in fossils found around 195,000 years ago in Ethiopia. Experts found archaeological evidence that gave a clear indication that human behavior was different from earlier hominids. These people used rough stones as hunting tools, a tool that is less efficient than the "modern" humans found in the last 164,000 years in southern Africa. This is also where evidence of the presence of more sophisticated "modern" humans was found, as they were able to forage and process shellfish and other marine resources.

This strengthens the evidence that early modern humans migrated from Africa, crossed the ocean, and changed their diet to rely on marine resources such as shellfish and others. These findings indicate that the ancestors of modern humans did not migrate directly north to Egypt and Palestine. The DNA traces suggest that they first migrated eastward, reached the coast, and then followed the coastline until they reached the west coast of the Red Sea on the Continental side. (Sudarmojo, n.d.)

The same situation is seen through fossils about the quality of life of "modern" humans estimated to have lived 50,000 years ago, where the findings illustrate the human response to the pressures of natural habitat and climate in the time before and after the ice age. The various stone tools found show regularity in the reproduction and duplication of increasingly advanced tools, for example, there is a change from the basic material of tools from hatu to bone with a variety of tools such as knives, weapons, drilling tools, and stabbing tools. mutations that allow humans to communicate through certain languages. Evidence of this change as seen through fossils of human life around 100,000-50,000 years ago somewhere in East Africa. Experts continue to argue, despite the many fossils found to explain the ability of human language.

Experts then began to examine the areas in the human brain called Broca and Wernicke. Broca is the area of the brain involved in many perceptual and cognitive tasks while Wernicke is the area that maps human language abilities. At the same time, the growing state of the primate brain and the limbic system that controls nonverbal sounds (laughing, crying, etc.) were discussed. It turns out that experts managed to explain that the human language center began to undergo modifications of the neural circuitry common to all primates. This modification also marks the improvement of linguistic communication skills that seem to exist only in humans.

This means that the development of human organs and brains involved in language has been genetically inherited in human descendants, and this happened after the human lineage separated from the descendants of primates such as chimpanzees and bonobos. This finding strengthens experts' suspicions that humans have begun to use spoken language through modification through the voice membrane. (Prof. Dr. Alo Liliweri 2010) Prof. Zuraina Majid's discovery in a valley near Tampan City, hidden under volcanic dust and about 74,000 years old, provides evidence that humans had arrived in Peninsular Malaysia before the catastrophic eruption of Mount Toba in Indonesia. The ancient stone tools found are believed to be from modern humans of the *Homo sapiens sapiens* type. Therefore, the Kota Tampan site has important value as evidence of the existence of modern humans before they traveled to Australia. The combination of DNA trace analysis and the discovery of these ancient tools strengthens the evidence of modern human migration from Africa to Australia via the Peninsular Malaysia route. (Sudarmojo, n.d.)



Figur 1. Image of coastal expansion (due to 120 m sea level fall), calculated from "Global Bathymetry", 25,000 BC - 1500 years ago (Smith & Sandwell 1997).

The entire modern human journey mentioned above is not merely a leisure journey, but a journey aimed at maintaining the survival of the modern human race. It is also a key factor in the spread and development of the entire human population to date.

CONCLUSIONS

Comparing the story of Prophet Adam from a religious perspective with the archaeological findings of modern humans in Morocco, North Africa, yields some important insights into human history and the relationship between religion and science. In many religions, including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, Prophet Adam is regarded as the first human being created by Allah or God. His story has deep theological value and plays a role in religious beliefs, ethics and practices. While the story is regarded as fact in religious beliefs, the understanding of the narrative may vary between religions.

The discovery of modern human fossils in Morocco, North Africa, has shaken the conventional view of human origins. The evidence suggests that modern humans may have appeared much earlier than previously thought, and the North African region is taking center stage in our understanding of the early human journey. A comparison between religious views of human creation and the scientific findings of archaeology illustrates the complexity of the relationship between religion and science.

This comparison provides a deeper insight into how humans first appeared on earth. Although religious views and scientific findings often differ in detail, both illustrate humanity's quest for an understanding of its origins. The merging of these two perspectives can help in understanding the diversity and complexity of humans in history. This study shows that a comparison between religious and scientific views is an important first step in exploring fundamental questions about human origins. It provides a foundation for broader discussions on human identity, ethics, and the role of religion in an increasingly complex modern society.

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