Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: Nature and Environment in World Religions

Topic: "Quranic Perspective of Nature and Environment"

Hypothesis: It is not the population explosion, but the explosion of selfishness, irresponsibility, and greed is the cause of environmental degradation and global warming.

When: May 23-25, 2016

Where: Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

Presentation: Imam Ali Siddiqui

Muslim Institute for Interfaith Studies & Understanding, Lorton, VA

Abstract:

Allah first created the universe and then created the first human being, who was followed by the creation of its mate. The human population exploded exponentially. Allah reminded human beings in the Quran, “O human being! Be mindful of your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul, and from this soul created its mate, and from them Allah has spread a multitude of men and women.” (Quran 4:1)1 Allah promised their sustenance, “We provide for them and for you.” (Quran 17:31)2 A large family was a blessing in agrarian societies to grow food and raise animals for the family and community. In the beginning the community and its members took their responsibility seriously and worked hard for the family and their community; however, the sense of responsibility diminished overtime and selfishness set in. The explosion of irresponsibility and greed took the individuals and communities on the course of war, destruction, degradation of the environment, and eventually resulting in global warming. My paper will discuss that it is not population explosion, but the explosion of selfishness, irresponsibility, and greed that is the cause of environmental degradation and global warming. The solution(s) lies in the return to the time tested traditions of sharing, saving, reducing waste, protecting environments, and turning to alternate sources of energy such as solar, wind, and waves.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Paper:** **Quranic Perspective of Nature and Environment**

**Quranic Perspective of Creation and Provision**

Allah first created the universe and then created the first human being, who was followed by the creation of its mate. The human population exploded exponentially. Allah reminded human beings in the Quran, “O human being! Be mindful of your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul, and from this soul created its mate, and from them Allah has spread a multitude of men and women.” (Quran 4:1)1 Allah promised their sustenance, “We provide for them and for you.” (Quran 17:31)2

Allah then created a process of procreation to populate the earth, “And of Allah’s signs is that Allah created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and Allah placed between you love and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought?” (Quran 30:21)3 Thus Allah established the institution of marriage to ensure the preservation of the human species and continuation of the human race, “O human beings! Be careful of your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul, and from it created its mate, and from them has spread many men and women" (Quran 4:1)1

Allah also established a process to provide the sustenance for the growing human race, “It is Allah who produces, gardens with (both) climbing and un-climbing plants, and dates, and tilts which produce of all kinds, and olives, and pomegranates, similar in kinds and different in variety: Eat of their fruits in season, but render the dues that are proper on the day of harvest. But waste not by excess: for Allah does not love those who waste.” (Quran 6:141)4 Sustenance of all Creation is assured, "There is no creature on the earth except that its sustenance is upon Allah, who knows its habitation and its storage. All is written in the Book clearly." (Quran 11:6)5

A large family was a blessing in agrarian societies to yield crops and raise animals for the family and the community. In the beginning the community and its members took their responsibility seriously and worked hard for the family and their community; however, the sense of responsibility diminished overtime and selfishness sets in.

The explosion of irresponsibility of world leaders and greed of the rich and powerful for profit and world domination took individuals and communities on the course of war resulting in dehumanization, death of human beings, and destruction of the land. By clear cutting trees in the forests of the US for housing and in the jungle of the Amazon for the exploration of natural resources is having a detrimental impact on the environment. The forests are the lungs of the earth, by cutting trees degradation of the environment started, increasing carbon dioxide level, and eventually resulting in global warming. A 1.5 degrees Celsius increase in temperature38 will drown many nations in the world such as the island state of Maldives in the Indian Ocean. ([http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/sinking-states-climate-change-and-the-pacific/April 18](http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/sinking-states-climate-change-and-the-pacific/April%2018), 2016)

**The Population Explosion**

It was predicted32 that “on October 31(2011), to be precise - a boy will be born in a rural village in the state of Uttar Pradesh (India). His parents will not know it, but his birth will prove to be a considerable landmark for our species as his arrival will mark the moment when the human population reaches 7 billion.”

Uttar Pradesh, India is also my birth place. I could have been that child and my birth could have been an alarming event. Why? Should it be? No child comes in the world without his/her provision. It is neither a burden on the parents nor on the community. Allah speaks in Quran: “And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. (Quran 17:31)2

Allah provided for that long awaited 7-billionth child, just as He provided for Adam and, Eve, in Paradise. Allah also provided for them even when they were banished from Paradise and landed in an unfamiliar place, the earth, without any skills. Allah will continue to provide for the 8-billionth child and even the 14-billionth child just like He provided for Hajirah (as), the second wife of Ibrahim (as) and their new born son, Ismail (as) in barren land without water and vegetation. Allah ordered Ibrahim (as) to take Ismael (as) and his mother, Hajirah (as) and leave them at the “God-forsaken place,” called Bakkah, a barren valley with no vegetation or even water. (Quran 14:38-39)6 “So be patient. Indeed, the promise of Allah is true. And let them not disquiet you who are not certain (in faith).” (Quran 30:60)7

Indeed, the promise of Allah is true (Quran 30:60)7; however, Our Creator wants us to get off our rear end and work for it. Allah will reward us for our work: "Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any of you, be a male or a female.” (Quran 3:195)8 It is also the advice of Prophet Muhammad (saw) to make efforts first then put our trust in Allah. “‘A man said, “O Messenger of Allah, should I tie my camel and trust in Allah, or should I untie her and trust in Allah?” Prophet Muhammad (saw) replied, “Tie her and trust in Allah.”’ (Hadith narrated by Anas ibn Malik (as) in the Book of Sunan At-Tirmidhi #2517)25

**Exploitation of Population Explosion**

The Industrial Revolution of 18th and 19th centuries eschewed God, Religion, and spiritual teachings. They were at war with the church in Europe. As a matter of fact, they considered it as a hindrance towards progress. They didn’t even care about Population Explosion. They needed more hands in the factories to be successful, produce more, sell more, and ship more. They also created a myth and hope for farm-hands to make more money and a steady income. They left farms in America and Europe to work in the factories. This was repeated later in Asia and Africa. Additionally, industries imported laborers from the colonies to keep the factories humming in Europe.

The factories used coal to run their factories and they built smoke stacks to let out the smoke in the air polluting the environments. Chemical plants dump waste water in the rivers, the lakes, and the ocean. They started the process creating the problem of Global Warming, but they didn’t know and they didn’t care. Profit and the material gain became their ultimate goal. They wanted to achieve it at any cost. They didn’t give a damn about the environment. They exploited the increase in the population to produce more to make more profit. Capitalism was working for them.

On the other hands, some human beings have taken the increase in population as a burden and they are overwhelmed with it. When family planning was adopted as a policy, in the case of China, to control population growth it resulted in a gender imbalance34 and an insufficient child birth rate to meet the manpower requirements for the future national needs. Allah speaks in Quran: “And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you.” (Quran 17:31)2 Family planning applies birth control methods and abortion procedures in case of undesired pregnancy. In response to birth control methods Prophet Muhammad has challenged the Muslims: “There is no soul that is to be till the Last Day, but it will come into life.”

“We resorted to “Azl” (a birth control technique) then we asked the Messenger of Allah (saw), and he said: “What! Do you do it?” He said this three times. “There is no soul that is to be till the Last Day, but it will come into life.” (Hadith narrated by Abu Said (ra) and reported in the book of Bukhari)22

As early as 1798, human beings were overwhelmed with the growing world population. Reverend Thomas Malthus27 wrote in his book, [An Essay on the Principle of Population](http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html), “the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man." The historian [Thomas Carlyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Carlyle) referred to Malthus' subject of economics as the "dismal science".Nevertheless, it was presented as an analysis of prevailing conditions. Maybe in 1798 situations became so dire that the people lost hope even in Their Creator who has repeatedly reminded human beings that they will be taken care of, "There is no creature on earth except that its sustenance is upon Allah. Allah knows its habitation and its storage. All is written in the Book clearly (Quran 11:6)9

Europeans responded to this reported imbalance between population growth and lack of capacity of the earth to produce to meet human need by migrating out of Europe. It was also added with other factors like regional conflicts, wars, and religious discriminations. Europeans were able to transfer their population from Europe to the Americas, Australia, New Zealand, and Southern Africa. The impact of European migration and colonization has additional consequences beyond the scope of this paper.

**The Challenge**

The World Population will continue to grow. It is given and it is by design by the Creator, Allah; however, Global Warming is the result of irresponsible human behavior including excessive use of our natural resources, use of fossil fuels, generating waste, and human greed. Global warming is now the challenge of today’s human beings to turn the tide of irresponsibility and greed, finding solutions and implementing them. According to Islam, the purpose of human creation is to act as the Vicegerent of Allah on earth and its custodian, ‘Allah told the angels when creating Adam: “I am about to create my Vicegerent on the earth.” (Quran 2:30)10  who will live in the service of Allah, the Creator in harmony with other creations, “We have not created human beings and Jinn kinds but to serve Me.” (Quran 51:56)11

As Vicegerents of Allah, we are charged with and required to realize the purpose of our creation to be the shepherd of human beings and trustee of resources that Allah has created for our benefit, necessitates protecting those resources, controlling our greed, stopping wars and violence, and stop destroying the earth. We are entrusted to use these resources wisely and do not waste them, to plan and protect these resources for future generations.

We share this planet and all its resources. We shall think about future generations. Although, Allah will provide for them, like He has provided for us; however, we are not free of our responsibilities. We shall use these resources wisely to meet our needs, reduce waste to save for the future and protect environments, and we shall not pollute.

We shall think about how this planet was about 1-2 million years ago36, or during the time of Adam and Eve, Ibrahim, Sara, Hajirah, Ismail, and Ishaq aka Isaac. We shall leave this planet at least close to that state, if not better. It will be our contribution to the wellbeing of our planet and our future generations. That is really a tall order. After all we are the Vicegerents of Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of all. Chinese philosopher Laozi30 said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step...” Let’s get started.

When we talk about population explosion, we should also take into consideration “the Noah Factor”. (Quran 11:3812, 54:11-1213) When Allah drowned all people and animals and destroyed everything except those who got on Noah’s ship. Allah gave authority to Noah (ra) to build a new human civilization and the animal kingdom. Any event of this magnitude could also happen in the future.

Let’s look at “the War Factor” and look into devastating wars. Wars from ancient times until World War II were face to face combat, the death toll, and destruction was limited to fighting armies and the surrounding areas. When the soldiers went on a rampage in looting, killing, and raping, even then, it was limited. Modern warfare, starting WWII, and the use of aircraft and atomic bombs, is more devastating and murderous. The war death toll is in millions35. The war death toll from the modern wars with the use of advance missiles system, drones, latest fighters and bombers, depleted Uranium bullets, and potential of use of Nuclear weapons is already in the millions and it may be higher.

“The Noah Factor” was about the Anger of God; however, devastation of wars is caused by greed and it is the thirst to grab more by World Powers, small or super. The profit motives of the Military Industrial Complex and International Corporations, war is always remaining a Present Danger. Approximately every 10 years the used arsenal is replenished and the old, outdated, and ineffective weapons are replaced. It also required updating software and upgrading hardware. The new and advanced weapons needed to be tested. In the Quran, Allah mentioned another ancient people, called ‘Ad and warning the believers that they should not act like them when they were given authority: “Then remember the favors of Allah and do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption.” (Quran 7:74)14 We should tell the Power to be to stop wars, stop destroying land, consuming resources needed for growing population, and polluting environment. Resolve conflicts through negotiations and treaties.

**The Explosion of Irresponsibility and Greed**

In the Quran, Allah warned us, “The mutual rivalry (Competition) for piling up (the worldly things) diverts you (from the more serious things).” (Quran 102:1)15

Abdullah Yusuf Ali has explained this verse on Greed, “Acquisitiveness, that is, the passion for seeking an increase in wealth, position, the number of adherents or followers or supporters, mass production and mass organization, may affect an individual as such, or it may affect whole societies or nations. Up to a certain point it may be good and necessary.” (Commentary by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, n 6257, p 1780)21

[Mahatma Gandhi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5810891.Mahatma_Gandhi)29 has also warned, “The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.” (<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/427443-the-world-has-enough-for-everyone-s-need-but-not-enough>, April 13, 2016) It is not the population explosion, but the explosion of greed including selfishness, and irresponsibility is the cause of environmental degradation and global warming. Dr. David Suzuki33 stated in his blog:

“Resolving the problem of climate change will cost, but it will be much more expensive to follow the defeatist advice of industry shills, whose greed and lack of care for humanity will condemn our children and grandchildren to an uncertain future.” (How Greed and Disregard for Humanity- Feed Industry Attacks on Climate Change).

Allah the Creator has repeatedly reminded human beings that they will be taken care of, "There is no creature on Earth except that its sustenance is upon Allah. Allah knows its habitation and its storage. All is written in the book clearly." (Quran 11:6)9. It is human greed which has destroyed the capacity to produce to meet the needs of the growing population which is safe and friendly to the earth, environment, and human beings. Some did see population growth as an opportunity; however, their motivation was profit. They plant, grow, produce, and distribute at a level of the Economy of Scale. It gave birth to Agri-business, Corporate form, mechanization, pesticides, GMOs, and the self-destruction genes40 by Monsanto. It destroyed small and local farms which were planting, growing, harvesting, and producing earth friendly produce, grains, milk, dairy products, and animals and applying sustainable methods.

**Cooperation between all Nations:**

Global warming is a worldwide problem and it is an overwhelming problem. It will require a call to all nations to cooperate to reduce it with specific goals and actions. Allah commanded us, “Cooperate in good and righteous deeds, but do not cooperate in sin and transgression.” (Quran 5:2)16 It will require a broad cooperation between Interfaith movement, International cooperation, and Intercommunity efforts to mobilize all communities, centers of power, unions, schools, scientific and engineering community, businesses, parents, and teachers to tackle an overwhelming Challenge of Global Warming for the good of the earth and sustainability.

The solution(s) lies in the return to the time tested traditions of sharing, saving, reducing waste, producing locally, protecting environments, and turning to alternate sources of energy like solar, wind, and waves. The new energy sources overtime will become affordable. The future new homes and buildings will be equipped with solar panels and equipment to harness the solar energy. Every light pole, traffic signal, public BBQ grills in camp sites and picnic area will be equipped with solar panels to cook without starting fire (or worrying about leaving the park without putting out fire). City busses, school busses, and light trains/trams will be equipped with solar panels and equipment to reduce greenhouse gases and avert the threat of global warming. Tens and hundreds of students in small towns and villages in Pakistan are already benefitting from Solar Lights to allow them to do their homework at night. It is the gift of several worldwide charities from many countries of the world.

**Four Pillars of Sustainability**

Allah created the universe and all there is with a simple command: Kunn, Be! And all happened on the Command of Allah: Fia Kunn! (Quran 36:82)17 Then Allah created the Process of Procreation. Allah informed the angels about the creation of a human being who will be the Khalifah, a Vicegerent on the Earth. Allah, then, created Adam, from ingredients chosen from the earth, fashioned it, blew His Sprit (Ruho-(A)llah) into it, and Adam came alive. Allah gave knowledge to Adam about the nature of all things and elevated Adam above the Angels and Jinns. “Such is Allah, your Lord and the Creator of all things. There is no god but Allah. It is Allah who made for you the earth as a resting place, and the sky a canopy, has given you shape – and made your shapes beautiful , and has provided for your sustenance, of things Tayyab (pure and good); such is Allah your Lord.” (Quran 40:62)18 Allah’s commandment on food and behavior is matter of faith for Muslims: “wa sa’mea’na waTaa’na, we listen and we obey.” (Quran 2:285)19 Now the rest of the world is also reaching to the same conclusion: “Eat Tayyab (pure and good)” through “*trial and error,*” and through scientific research and analysis; however, if you are doubtful, if it is Tayyab (pure and good), stay away from it, “…Thus the one who avoids doubtful matters saves him/herself in regard to his/her religion and honor …” (Hadith narrate by Abi Abdullah bin an-Nu’man ibn Basheer, and reported in the books of Bukhari23 and Muslim24)

There are Four Pillars of Sustainability:

Halal, Haram31, Tayyab, and Israaf

Halal and Haram

God has divided the animal kingdoms and all consumables into two categories: Halal and Haram.

1. Halal

Halal are those animals which are allowed for human diet including Fruits, and vegetables.

2. Haram

Haram are those animals which are declared as sacred or protected. They are important part of the ecosystem like pig, vultures, and crows to keep the environment clean by consuming dead animals and things. They may have other purposes such as transportation, preparing land, and some of them may be harmful for human consumption. These animals keep balance, mizan, in the ecosystem. Islamic Concept of Haram can protect many animals and keeping them off the Endangered Species List, Red List.

Halal and Haram categorization also help to protect species of animals important for our existence and ecosystem.

3. Tayyab

Tayyab means good, clean, pure, and free from impurities. Tayyab is the process to keep what Allah has made Tayyab, good, clean, pure, and free from impurities through the Tayyab process which is natural, organic, wholesome, and pure. The process has to be applied to farming, planting, harvesting, processing, prepping, and cooking. Allah reminded us, “It is Allah who made your shapes beautiful, and has provided for your sustenance, of things Tayyab (pure and good)…” (Quran 40: 62)18 This is my understanding that Allah has made us beautiful and we shall keep its beautiful shape by consuming Tayyab (Pure and good) food.

Tayyab processes which keep the process and the end product pure and good is also a sustainable process. It uses the land and resources wisely and efficiently without the use of chemicals. It also protects the land by rotating crops, planting according to season, and letting part of the land rest for the next season. For that we have to keep all processes Tayyab (Pure and good) to yield Tayyab (Pure and good) food. Commercial and corporate farms and Agri-business are about profit and greed, cutting corners, and making the bottom line pretty for the stock holders.

4. Israaf

Israaf meansWaste, Excessive use, and Extravagance. In other words, Israaf means using or consuming resources of food, water, land, and other resources more than needed or required. It will be excessive in consumption and it will be a waste. It will also deny the use of these resources by other fellow human beings. Allah does want us to eat, drink, and enjoy bounties of Allah; however, He does not like waste and over consumption, “Eat and drink, but do not waste. Indeed, Allah does not love those who are wasteful.” (Quran 7:31)20 Once again, commercial and corporate Agri-business is profit based and looks out for the interests of stock holders. That forces the industry to apply an economy of scale and exploit the needs of the market, in farms, factories, and distribution system. It results in wastage of resources in all cases.

Allah, the Creator and the Sustainer of the universe, creates, but the human being destroys it through waste, over consumption, by applying alien processes, tools, and chemicals to cultivate it. They also create waste by over planting, over grazing, single crops, out of season crops, and by using genetically modified organisms. Waste reduces resources in meeting the needs of an increasing population: “Eat and drink, but do not waste. Indeed, Allah does not love those who are wasteful.” (Quran 7:31)20

**Summary**

In summary, Allah has created the universe, living organisms, and human beings. Then Allah created their sustenance and established a system of procreation. It is given that the world population will continue to grow and the Creator will continue to provide for their needs, but not for their greed. Human greed has taken a toll on the earth and its environment which threaten its existence with global warming as a result of using fossil fuel, industrialization, corporate farming and wars for control over the world resources. Humans will continue to destroy the earth, the place of our dwelling and our sustenance by continued exploitation of it for corporate profit. The wise inhabitants have to find natural ways for living to survive and sustain the earth and Allah’s bounties for generations to come. Global Warming37 is causing an overwhelming worldwide problem. It requires all human beings and their religious institutions to work together and cooperate with all nations at every level. The problem will not be solved in a short period of days, weeks, months, even years. We will be successful with our dedication, commitment, and sacrifices. Prophet Muhammad (saw) has told us, “Know that victory will come with Sabr.” (An-Nawawi Forty Hadith, Hadith 19)26

Sabr is the characteristic of conscientious humans who remain focused during difficult periods with hope of success because their belief in Allah, the Lord of the Universe and still keep the struggle going, without any concern for frustrating opposing views, shortcomings, setbacks, always staying positive, and keeping the focus on the prize.

As Arundhati Roy39 stated with hope, “A better world is possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” (Arundhati Roy, War Talk)

**Notes**

1. Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Text, Translation, Commentary, The Holy Quran, (Washington D.C.: Islamic Center of Washington D.C. by Khalil Al-Rawaf Publisher, 4th Edition, 1946) Quran 4:1
2. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 17:31
3. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 30:21
4. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 6:141
5. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 11:16
6. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 14:38-39
7. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 30:60
8. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 3:195
9. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 11:6
10. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 2:30
11. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 51:56
12. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 11:38
13. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 54:11-12
14. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 7:74
15. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 102:1
16. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 5:2
17. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 36:82
18. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 40:62
19. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 2:285
20. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, Quran 7:31
21. Yusuf Ali, Text, The Holy Quran, n.6257, p1780.

“The mutual rivalry (Competition) for piling up (the worldly things) diverts you (from the more serious things).” (Quran 102:1) Acquisitiveness, that is, the passion for seeking an increase in wealth, position, the number of adherents or followers or supporters, mass production and mas organization, may affect an individual as such, or it may affect whole societies or nations. Up to a certain point it may be good and necessary.

1. [Muhammad M. Khan, Translation of the Meanings, Sahih Al-Bukhari, Imam Muhammed Ibn Ismaiel Al-Bukhari,](http://www.amazon.com/Translation-Meanings-Sahih-Al-Bukhari-Arabic-English/dp/9960717313/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1460687264&sr=1-3&keywords=Hadith+Books+Bukhari" \o "The Translation of the Meanings of Sahih Al-Bukhari: Arabic-English (English and Arabic Edition)" \t "_blank) (Kazi Publications, Lahore, 1976)
2. Khan, Translation of the Meanings, Sahih Al-Bukhari
3. A.H. Siddiqui, Translation, Sahih Muslim (M. Ashraf Publishing, Lahore, 1970)
4. Abu Khaliyl, Translation, The Book of Sunan At-Tirmidhi #2517, Abu `Isa Muhammad ibn `Isa at-Tirmidhi (Maktaba Dar-Us-Salam Inc., New York, NY, 1997)
5. Ezzaddin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies, Translation, An-Nawawi Forty Hadith, Imam Yahya Sherfuddin An-Nawawi (The Holy Koran Publishing House, Damascus, 1976).
6. [An Essay on the Principle of Population](http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html), Rev, Thomas Malthus, Printed for J. Johnson, in St. Paul’s Church-Yard, London, 1798: "The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation. They are the precursors in the great army of destruction, and often finish the dreadful work themselves. But should they fail in this war of extermination, sickly seasons, epidemics, pestilence, and plague advance in terrific array, and sweep off their thousands and tens of thousands. Should success be still incomplete, gigantic inevitable famine stalks in the rear and with one mighty blow levels the population with the food of the world" (Malthus T.R. 1798.An Essay on the Principle of Population. Chapter VII, p 44)
7. The historian [Thomas Carlyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Carlyle) referred to Malthus' subject of economics as the "dismal science". <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Essay_on_the_Principle_of_Population>, April 14, 2016.
8. [Mahatma Gandhi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5810891.Mahatma_Gandhi) has warned, “The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.” (<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/427443-the-world-has-enough-for-everyone-s-need-but-not-enough>, April 13, 2016)
9. Laozi. “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step ...” From the quote 千里之行，始於足下, by the Chinese philosopher Laozi (c 604 bc - c ... Sometimes this quote is erroneously attributed to Laozi's contemporary, Confucius (c 551 bc - c ....[...](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/a_journey_of_a_thousand_miles_begins_with_a_single_step)https://en.wiktionary.org/.../a\_journey\_of\_a\_thousand\_miles...
10. Khan, Translation of the Meanings, Sahih Al-Bukhari, “That which is lawful is clear and that which is unlawful is clear, and between the two of them are doubtful matters about which many people do not know. Thus the one who avoids doubtful matters saves him/herself in regard to his/her religion and honor …” Narrate by an-Nu’man ibn Basheer, and reported in Hadith in the books of Bukhari and Muslim.
11. Leo Hickman, The Guardian, The Population Explosion, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jan/14/population-explosion-seven-billion, January 26, 2016
12. “How Greed and Disregard for Humanity - Feed Industry Attacks on Climate Change”, Dr. David Suzuki, EcoWatch, September 25, 2013
13. Jane Golley and Rod Tyers, China’s Gender Imbalance and its Economic Performance, Centre for China in the World/Research School of Economics, “According to the United Nation’s (UN) Population Prospects 2010 revision, China’s sex ratio at birth (SRB) reached 120 (male births per 100 female births) in 2005-10, compared with a world average of 107. This earned China first place on the global ranking of imbalanced sex ratios at birth…” Australian National University, August 2012, Retrieved April 18, 2016
14. List of wars by death toll, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll>, Retrieved April 13, 2016
15. Scientists agree that our early ancestors, Homo erectus, first appeared in Africa 1–2 million years ago. They spread throughout the world and evolved into ancient humans. Most believe that modern humans evolved in Africa, and gradually replaced all the other ancient humans (the 'Out-of-Africa' theory). [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/), Retrieved April 13, 2016
16. From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85°C. To put this into perspective, for each 1 degree of temperature increase, grain yields decline by about 5 per cent. Maize, wheat and other major crops have experienced significant yield reductions at the global level of 40 megatonnes per year between 1981 and 2002 due to a warmer climate. Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice havediminished and sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The Arctic’s sea ice extent has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 million km² of ice loss every decade. Given current concentrations and on-going emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century, the increase in global temperature will exceed 1.5°C compared to 1850 to 1900 for all but one scenario. The world’s oceans will warm and ice melt will continue. Average sea level rise is predicted as 24 – 30cm by 2065 and 40-63cm by 2100. Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions are stopped. Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990.Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades. It is still possible, using a wide array of technological measures and changes in behavior, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Major institutional and technological change will give a better than even chance that global warming will not exceed this threshold. UN Sustainable Development Goals, [http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/April 12](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/April%2012), 2016
17. “With sea levels steadily rising, spurred by melting glaciers and ice sheets and thermal expansion of the ocean as the water warms, small island developing states (SIDS) are increasingly besieged, their shores nibbled away by a swollen tideline. Latest [reports](http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm) by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) project a sea level rise in the range of [26 to 82 cm](http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2013/10/what-the-new-ipcc-report-says-about-sea-level-rise/) by 2100. The rate of rise is dependent on whether the temperature increase is kept to a minimum [forecast](http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/04/degrees-of-change-the-ipcc%E2%80%99s-predictions-for-future-temperature-rise/) of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, or whether it reaches worst-case projections of 4.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.” Sinking States: Climate Change and the Pacific, <http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/sinking-states-climate-change-and-the-pacific/>, April 18, 2016.
18. “A better world is possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” War Talk, Arundhati Roy, War Talk,South End Press, **200**3
19. Tim McDonnell, Self-destruction genes could keep GMOs from spilling into the wild, Grist/Climate Desk, January 23, 2015, Retrieved May 23, 2016.

**Bibliography**

1. Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Text, Translation, Commentary, The Holy Quran (Washington D.C.: Islamic Center of Washington D.C. by Khalil Al-Rawaf Publisher, 4th Edition, 1946)
2. Muhammad M. Khan, Translation of the Meanings, Sahih Al-Bukhari, Imam Muhammed Ibn Ismaiel Al-Bukhari (Kazi Publications, Lahore, 1976)
3. A.H. Siddiqui, Translation, Sahih Muslim (M. Ashraf Publishing, Lahore, 1970)
4. Abu Khaliyl, Translation, The Book of Sunan At-Tirmidhi #2517, [Abu `Isa Muhammad ibn `Isa at-Tirmidhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tirmidhi) (Maktaba Dar-Us-Salam Inc., New York, NY, 1997)
5. Rev. Thomas Malthus, [An Essay on the Principle of Population](http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html) (Printed for J. Johnson, in St. Paul’s Church-Yard, London, 1798)
6. The Population Explosion: Causes and Consequences,” Carolyn Kinder, <http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1998/7/98.07.xhtml>
7. UN Sustainable Development Goals, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/> Retrieved April 12, 2016
8. [Mahatma](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5810891.Mahatma_Gandhi) Gandhi, “The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.” (<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/427443-the-world-has-enough-for-everyone-s-need-but-not-enough>, Retrieved April 13, 2016)
9. Leo Hickman, The Guardian, The Population Explosion,

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jan/14/population-explosion-seven-billion, Retrieved January 26, 2016

Definitions and Acronyms

Allah Arabic word for the God, the Creator, the Sustainer

Allah has 99 names.

Acquisitiveness The passion for seeking an increase in wealth, position, the number of adherents or followers or supporters, mass production and mas organization, may affect an individual as such, or it may affect whole societies or nations. Up to a certain point it may be good and necessary. (Commentary by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, n 6257, p 1780)

Halal Permitted, allowed

Haram Sacred, protected, forbidden, guarded

Israaf Waste, Excessive, unrestraint use of resources, lack of control

Khalifah Vicegerent

ra radi Allah alehe, May Allah be please with him.

saw sallallaho alehe wa sallum, May Allah bestow blessing on him.

Tasmiyah Taking Allah’s permission before slaughtering an animal for consumption as human has no right to take life.

Tayyab Pure, good, wholesome, natural

Zabiha Slaughtering an animal in humane manner and invoking Tasmiyah.