

REFUTATION OF THE DOUBTS OF THE
APOSTATES AND HYPOCRITES
(3)

Dust and Clay as Components of Man's Creation

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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The character to the right is a smug, self-proclaimed apostate¹ who produces shallow critiques of Islām, the Qur'ān and the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in exchange for financial support from his pleasure-seeking audience to the tune of thousands per month, a



miserable price for telling lies—similar to how a prostitute sells her body, dignity and honour for a miserable price for the pleasure of anyone who pays.

¹ He refers to himself as an “apostate” within his branding and marketing.

The tactic is to **quickfire** a long list of doubts so that collectively they appear very weighty and to make it difficult to respond to each one, as most people will not have the patience to hear explanations of each one, and most people do not have the means (the tools and resources) to verify the claims made. So with that in mind, we will choose a set of these doubts and through them, establish that this individual is **a resentful liar**.

The Doubt:

The apostate provided the following title:

3. Dust (3:59), Clay (15:26)

This doubt relates to the creation of Ādam and the verses that pertain to it. The apostate stated: “... the author of the Qur’ān says that humans were created from dust or from clay. We still have to find out scientifically that such a thing happened somewhere in our history, it didn’t.”

Response to the Apostate

1. This is from the affairs of the unseen and humans, obviously, did not witness their own creation, and nor the creation of the heavens and earth:

مَا أَشْهَدْتُهُمْ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَا خَلْقَ أَنْفُسِهِمْ

“I did not make them witness to the creation of the heavens and the earth or to the creation of themselves.” (18:51).

As such everything is pretty much speculation in this regard from a scientific point of view. Given that the only possibility outside of creation through knowledge, will, intent, wisdom and power is **randomness of physico-chemical dynamics**, naturalists and materialists must describe and establish how biological life emerged. In doing so, they have to bring together various materials and components to see if they can synthesize the biochemical building blocks of life within experiments that must incorporate **physicochemical randomness** and **absence of experimenter steering**—which of course is never the case and is impossible. So whatever the case, whether creation by intent or by randomness of physico-chemical interactions, the components of living things will remain the same.

Further below, we shall look at research in this area to see how clays are being utilised in these endeavours.

2. That which the Qur’ān indicates, in sequence, is that from the dust, soil (turāb) of the earth (3:59) is that which makes up one of the components of human life and which when combined with water, forms a wet,

adhesive clay (ṭīn lāzib, 37:11). Then out of an extract of this clay (sulālah min ṭīn, 23:12), after it has undergone decomposition, a darkened, malleable clay is formed (ḥamā' masnūn, 15:26), which after losing its moisture turns into another more rigid clay (ṣalṣāl, 55:14). Out of this material—as well as many other components and steps that we have not been informed of—along with, water, a rūḥ (soul, spirit) and so on, a man was created. One should note that the Qur'ān does not detail every single aspect of the creation of man and nor all of his individual components, but only alludes to that in which there are lessons for man—his humble origins out of the dust and clay of the earth and then his reproduction and propagation through an emitted fluid. In light of this, he has no grounds at all for arrogance and disbelief, since he neither created himself, nor the means through which he reproduces, and that when he dies, he will return back to what he started out as from the very beginning, the dust of the earth! **“From the earth We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will extract you another time.”** (20:55).

3. We cannot really say anything further aside from the fact that **there is nothing that can disprove that the dust and soil of the earth and the extract of clay thereby produced are components of man's**

creation, since this is from the affairs of the unseen. Rather, the current status of origins of life research is one in which **various clays** are an integral part of trying to get the basic building blocks of life going. Given this, the debate about man's origins would simply be about whether it was via **choice with intent**, meaning by design, or purely through **random physicochemical dynamics**. And since no one has witnessed that event, then, all knowledge about it is speculative, save what we have been informed in revealed knowledge, that one of the components of the creation of man is extract of clay.

So as we stated, there is nothing to disprove this, whilst at the same time, there is what lends support to it in current theories and research.

4. In a 2014 lecture titled “The Origins of Life: From Geochemistry to Biochemistry”² Nita Sahei, professor at the University of Akron and origin-of-life researcher—whilst speaking about the current status of origin of life research, and presenting the various ideas and the necessary components—lists the types of molecules that would have to be coordinated to form life in the lab, including, “four nucleotides, twenty amino-acids, there could be a few lipids that could involve... **several clays**

² Refer to: https://youtu.be/CeVk9yC0_vk at 48m:30s. The lecture was at the Institute for the Science of Origins at Case Western Reserve University.

and other minerals.” This is because clays provide a structure within which polymers can form that can soak up water and allow biomolecules and biochemical reactions to take place. Origin of life researchers are obviously trying to validate the synthesis of biological life purely through physicochemical dynamics, in the absence of choice with intent and absence of goal-seeking and goal-steering mechanisms, which is **an absolute impossibility**—and a discussion of the evidence for that is outside the scope of this article. However, if we look at the research they are conducting and read the scientific papers they are writing we can see that there is nothing far-fetched at all in clay being a component of man’s creation.

5. In a November 2014 paper published in *Nature*, researchers at Cornell University speak of hydrogels made from **geological clay minerals** in which complex biomolecules form and biochemical reactions take place in an enhanced manner. In their conclusion, the researchers state; “In the clay hydrogel, nucleic acids were concentrated and protected, and the central biochemical reactions, transcription and translation, were not only preserved but also consistently enhanced in the clay hydrogel environment.”³ Covering this research, an article in *Nature World News* titled “Life

³ Refer to <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep03165>.

Might have Evolved in Clay, Researchers Find” states: “Hydrogels are currently being studied extensively in tissue engineering. These gels are extremely flexible, almost like natural tissues, which make it an ideal tissue growth supporter.”⁴ And on its own website, Cornell University covered the research with an article titled, “Before cells, biochemicals may have combined in clay” in which it is stated: “Clay – a seemingly infertile blend of minerals – might have been the birthplace of life on Earth. Or at least of the complex biochemicals that make life possible, Cornell biological engineers report in the Nov. 7 online issue of the journal *Scientific Reports*, published by Nature Publishing.”⁵

Whilst this is a model being pursued in scientific research to explain how life “evolved”—using clay hydrogels and polymers—our poor bankrupt apostate boldly exclaims, “We still have to find out scientifically that such a thing happened somewhere in our history, it didn't.” As if the apostate peeked into history and verified that indeed it did not happen like that, if we assume that the evolutionary model of random physicochemical dynamics leading to the cybernetics of

⁴ Refer to <https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/4784/20131106/life-evolved-clay-researchers-find.htm>.

⁵ Refer to <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2013/11/chemicals-life-may-have-combined-clay>

biological life is true, **which it isn't**.⁶ So just look at the ignorance and arrogance of this smarmy apostate.

6. In their paper, “Recent advances in clay mineral-containing nanocomposite hydrogels” Zhao et al. state: “Clay mineral-containing nanocomposite hydrogels have been proven to have exceptional composition, properties, and applications, and consequently have attracted a significant amount of research effort over the past few years. The objective of this paper is to summarize and evaluate scientific advances in clay mineral-containing nanocomposite hydrogels in terms of their specific preparation, formation mechanisms, properties, and applications... In particular, clay mineral-containing nanocomposite hydrogels are attractive as vehicles for the controlled encapsulation and release of drugs, **as tough and adjustable scaffolds for tissue engineering**, as nano-sized biosensors for diagnosis, and as wet and soft dressings for wound healing... Accordingly, the hydrogels exhibit exceptional optical

⁶ Once design with intent, knowledge, will, power and wisdom is rejected, then the only alternative is the synthesis of life through random physicochemical dynamics. As such, naturalists, materialists and atheists grope in the dark with creative, inventive theories and “affirming the consequent” logical fallacies to construct make believe stories about the origin of cybernetic [information-driven] biological systems.

and mechanical properties, swelling–deswelling behavior, and stimuli-responsiveness, reflecting **the remarkable effects of clay minerals**. With the pivotal roles of clay minerals in clay mineral-containing nanocomposite hydrogels, the nanocomposite hydrogels possess great potential as superabsorbents, drug vehicles, tissue scaffolds, wound dressing, and biosensors.”⁷ In plain language, these clay gels provide the ideal medium for numerous processes and interactions that involve biological life.

7. In an October 2003 New Scientist article titled, “Clay’s matchmaking could have sparked life”, Phillip Cohen writes: “Two of the crucial components for the origin of life— genetic material and cell membranes— could have been introduced to one another by **a lump of clay**, new experiments have shown. The study of montmorillonite clay, by Martin Hanczyc, Shelly Fujikawa and Jack Szostak at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, revealed it can sharply accelerate the formation of membranous fluid-filled sacs. These vesicles also grow and undergo a simple form of division, giving them the properties of primitive cells. Previous work has shown that the same simple

⁷ Published in the journal “Soft Matter”. Refer to <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2015/sm/c5sm01277e> for the full paper (requires login).

mineral can help assemble the genetic material RNA from simpler chemicals. ‘Interestingly, the clay also gets internalised in the vesicles,’ says Leslie Orgel, an origin of life expert at the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences in San Diego, California. ‘So this work is quite nice in that it finds a connection between the mechanism that creates RNA and encloses it in a membrane.’”⁸

8. Choy, J.H. et al. in the paper “Clay minerals and layered double hydroxides for novel biological applications” discuss “the pharmaceutical and biological applications of clays, clay minerals and layered double hydroxides (LDHs). **Novel nanohybrids of clay mineral-/ or LDH-biomaterials, including vitamins, drugs, and DNA strands** are discussed for possible future developments in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, medicine as well as information storage.”⁹

9. In another paper, mention is made of wet/dry cycles acting upon clay minerals to enable polymerisation of amino acids: “Under fluctuating wet/dry cycles clay minerals can polymerize amino acids upto oligomers, acting probably as a dehydration-condensation agent. The interlayer surfaces and edges of clay minerals are

⁸ Refer to <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn4307-clays-matchmaking-could-have-sparked-life/>

⁹ Applied Clay Science Volume 36, Issues 1–3, April 2007, pp.122-132

unique areas for chemical evolution and should be investigated more in the study of prebiotic chemistry.”¹⁰ Whilst this is in the context of prebiotic chemistry in an evolutionary paradigm, it illustrates **the suitability of clay and its derivatives as a medium for the biochemistry of life.**

10. We could go on and on and cite many different articles and papers here, however, the point should be clear: There is nothing to disprove that clay and its extracts or derivatives—as indicated in the Qur’ān—were one of the components in the creation of man.

Coming back to the apostate’s claim, “We still have to find out scientifically that such a thing happened somewhere in our history, it didn't”, then this shows his ignorance and stupidity. If creation through **choice with intent** is rejected, then the only thing you have left to go on is **random physicochemical dynamics**, and upon that, it absolutely must be the case that some combination of amino acids, lipids, minerals and clays were involved in the evolution of biological life and eventually man—this is what origin of life researchers are pursuing today. So the bold claim of this apostate, “it

¹⁰ Akira Shimoyama, Clay Minerals and Amino Acids in Relation to the Origin of Life. 1981 Journal of the Clay Science Society (Japanese), Volume 21 Issue 3 Pages 93-101

didn't"—within a naturalist, materialist setting—is at odds even with that version of reality. This clueless apostate does not know what he is talking about and it is clear that he is providing entertainment for an ignorant, gullible audience, some of whom are willing to part with their money for the experience.

In short, the creation of man is from the affairs of the unseen and we do not know the full, step by step, technical details as to how man was created. We have only been informed of a very small amount of detail—that he is created out of dust, clay, water, which are some of his components—and only these details are revealed for the purpose of informing man of his humble origins and of his eventual destination: back to the earth from which he came and was made out of.

In fact, whether you believe in a creator or not, this much cannot even be disputed, namely that dust, and extracts of clay, given what has preceded, and water are components of man's creation. The real issue is as to whether it took place via choice with intent or via the randomness of physicochemical dynamics.

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Note: In general, apostates are either confused individuals who think they are upon something or those who develop emotional, financial or ideological grounds for leaving Islam due to maltreatment, bad experiences and so on, and then they try to intellectualise and rationalise their decision. However, there are also those that believe they have strong intellectual grounds and may be sincere in that belief. However, that sincerity can easily be tested through the removal of their doubts. It is important to note that we distinguish between the type of apostate we are refuting in these articles—one that is active in spreading deliberate lies and disinformation and for whom sincerity and pursuit of truth cannot be affirmed— and those who are genuinely confused and believe they have some rational or intellectual basis for what they are upon. For such people, gentleness and an understanding of their situation and circumstances is no doubt required. As for propagandists and deliberate, calculated liars, then they are treated as liars are to be treated.