

Sea Phenomenon in Perspective Science and Religion (Islam)

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Abstract

Natural phenomena in recent years continuously emerging as the development of a modern era. One of these natural phenomena is discovery an undersea river Cenota Angelita in Mexico. There are Vertebrates and Invertebrates animal in various forms between a confluence two streams. These discoveries make curious various parties further examine both science and religious. This paper will explain the phenomenon of the sea from science and religion perspective by using literature study in qualitative-descriptive method. Thus, the sea is one of the things God created with various benefits and phenomena. The existence of verses that explain the phenomenon of the sea, shows the existence of harmony between Al-Qur'an and science.

Keywords: *Undersea river, Science and religious perspective.*

Introduction

A few years ago, the world was shocked by some rare natural phenomena, the undersea river Cenota Angelita discovery in Mexico. This phenomenon was discovered by Jacques Yves Cousteau, a French oceanographer. When he was conducting research and diving with his team, he found a natural phenomenon "a freshwater in the sea water". It makes Cousteau challenged to dive deeper until he finds a stream river-like with trees and leaves that fallen (Republika.co.id. accessed on May 11, 2017).

This phenomenon began revealed due to various related parties contributions including the Qur'an interpreters. Basically, in Islam, all phenomena that occur on this earth are the power of God so we can learn through revelation that has been revealed. As stated in the Qur'an Shad verse 27 which means (almanhaj.or.id. Accessed on May 11, 2017): "*And We did not create the heaven and the earth and that between them aimlessly...*". Muslims believed that the Qur'an was created long before science developed. Besides that, the authenticity has been guaranteed by God until life on this earth ends. As stated in His word: "Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian." (Surah al-Hijr: 9). Therefore, we can be sure that everything listed in the Qur'an is true.

Based on these explanations, this paper aimed to connect the phenomenon of the undersea river with an explanation of the sea in the Qur'an perspective.

Method

This research was conducted with literature study methods, that collect the information and data sourced by literature. This research used a descriptive-qualitative method which aimed to provide a clear, systematic, and actual picture of the phenomenon being observed. Qualitative in this research as the data obtained is in the form of verbal statements.

Discussion

As the earth, sky, plants and other contents of the earth, the sea is mentioned by Allah in His word in several verses, among others: Surah Al-Furqan verse 53 which means: "And it is He who has released (simultaneously) the two seas, one fresh and sweet and one salty and bitter, and He placed between them a barrier and prohibiting partition". (Q.S Alfurqon: 53); Q.S Ar-rahman verse 20 which means "between them is a barrier (so) neither of them transgresses" (Q.S. Ar-rahman: 20); Q.S Fathir verse 12 Meaning: "And not alike are the two bodies of water. One is fresh and sweet, palatable for drinking, and one is salty and bitter. And from each, you eat tender meat and extract ornaments which you wear, and you see the ships plowing through (them) that you might seek of His bounty; and perhaps you will be grateful". (Q.S Fathir: 12).

Based on the interpretation of the Qur'an, we can conclude the following:

1. River under the sea and a confluence of two streams

This phenomenon was explained in Surah Al-Furqan verse 53, as the *jalalain* interpretation is (And He who let the two seas flow) side by side (this one is fresh) very fresh refreshing (and another is salty and bitter) so salty bitter (and He made it between two barriers) the boundary that causes the two water not mixed, between one and the other (and the blocking barrier) that is the barrier that prevents them from mixing. Furthermore, it is explained again in the interpretation by Quraysh Shihab that Allah is the one who drains the waters of two seas, the fresh sea, and the salty sea. Each stream is side by side with each other. Even so, the two water were not mixed. All of that was created as a favor and a mercy to humans. This verse shows a blessing of Allah to His servants, namely in the form of not mixing saltwater that seeps or flows from the ocean to rocks near the coast with freshwater that seeps or flows into the sea from the mainland. Both are just meeting. Freshwater is flooded on salt water as if between them there is a separator that prevents the meeting of one another. "Hijran Mahjûran" means 'hidden boundary that we cannot see'. Not only that, there is even a constant law that regulates the relationship for the benefit of humans who live around the place and is very dependent on freshwater (tafsirq.com, 2015).

The next verse of the Qur'an is Q.S. Ar-rahman verse 20, as the *jalalain* interpretation is (Between the two there are limits) there is a barrier that limits both of them from the power of Allah Almighty. (which is not exceeded by each) one surpasses the other so that it mixes. Further explained in the interpretation by Quraysh Shihab that Allah released two seas, fresh and salty, side by side and met on its surface. Between the two seas, there is a barrier which is the power of God. Each one does not go beyond the other so it does not mix.

At the end of the 19th century until the 20th century the oceanographers tried to research around the phenomenon. In 1873, oceanographers managed to find differences in the characteristics of the sea in terms of salinity, temperature, flora and fauna species. Then in 1962, the expedition team of Germany researchers and also a well-known French oceanographer, Jacques Yves Cousteau managed to find a water barrier between the two seas, where the boundary water was composed of various different elements of the two sea water-forming elements (www.skeptis.org. accessed on May 26, 2017). This is also explained Allah in the Surah An-naml verse 61 (Ahmad, 2012).

On the website page of the Miracles of the Qur'an by Harun Yahya, it was explained that the cause of this

characteristic difference was the difference in water density which caused the formation of surface tension which prevented the two water from the confluence. This is also explained by Thalhas (2004: 115-116) in his book *Gem hidden*, that the explanation of the sea in the Surah Ar-rahmaan continues until verse 24.

2. Inside the sea are jewelry and fresh fleshed animals

Allah explained in Surah Fathir verse 12, the results of the discussion of the *Jalalain* and Quraisy Shihab interpretation, this verse explained the power of Allah, His wisdom and mercy, that He made two seas (sea and river) to benefits the population on earth and they are not the same. Because the benefit wants the rivers to be fresh to drink so they can be used to water plants, while the sea tastes salty and bitter so as not to damage the air covering the earth so the water does not change, as the seawater does not flow, so be salty prevents it from changing and so the animals that live (fish) are more attractive and nutritious. In addition, there are fish easily caught in the sea that can be utilized both meat, pearls, marjan and other jewelry obtained from the sea (tafsir.web.id2015).

Marjan is an animal of Cnidaria group known as the red coral (www.arkive.org). After dies, the skeleton can be used as a material for making jewelry such as a gemstone. These animals live in colonies at the bottom of sea waters, so to get it needed serious effort. This statement is in accordance with the word of God described earlier.

3. The sea can be used as a place to seek the gift of God (Rizqi)

The statement based on the following verse "*Wa taral fulka fiihi mawaakhira litabtaghuu min fadlihii wa la'allakum tasykuruun*". The word *mawaakhira* in the verse comes from the word *al-makhr* which means the voyage of the ark split the sea and is aided by the wind so that it makes a roar. This verse also relates to verse 24 of the Surah Ar-rahmaan says that the ark that sailed the sea with its high sail belongs to Him. The ark can move and transport a human from a place to another according to their needs and uses for the life and prosperity of mankind. According to Mufasssir, the mean of the ark is a ship as a sea transportation that has been used before the modern era. However, along with the times, sea transportation is currently not only ships, but some are also known by the public, including boats, motorbikes, and so on (Talhas, 2004).

Humans do not realize that God has subdued the sea in order to carry a ship crossing the ocean, moving from one place to another. The ship carried passengers, heavy items and their trade. As the grace of God and His gift, there are many benefits (tafsir.web.id, 2015).

As stated in the history of middle and high school books, sea transportation is the main transportation used by traders to expand their trading area, as well as

for scientists. In the evolution history, stated that Darwin used ships to carry out research in Galapagos (Campbell, et al., 2008). Thus, it can be seen that the gift that God-given is not only material but also knowledge. That is some explanation of the sea in the Qur'an.

Conclusion

Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that the sea is one of the things God created with various benefits and phenomena. The existence of verses that explain the phenomenon of the sea, showed the existence of harmony between Al-Qur'an and science. So it must be believed that Allah SWT has created and regulated all the phenomena that occur in this universe.

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