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INTERPRETATION AND VIEWS OF QURANIC COMMENTARIES ON THE PLANET BASED ON AL-KAWKAB AND AL-KAWAK IB TERMS

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Abstract:
This paper examines the occurrence of the terms al-kawkab (plural, al-kawakib) in the Qur’an and investigates the views of classical and contemporary Quranic commentaries concerning the interpretation of the meanings of these terms. In general, the Qur’an uses al-kawkab as the singular term and al-kawakib as the plural term. The argument among Quranic commentaries concerning the interpretation of the meaning of al-kawkab (plural, al-kawakib) in the Quran revolve around whether it refers to either a planet or a star. Thus, this paper attempts to reconcile this contradiction in the meaning of al-kawkab (plural, al-kawakib) among Quranic commentaries by considering the Arabic lexical sources as well as the various Quranic allusions. The data collections involved library research based on the primary and secondary sources relating to the planets in the solar system. After examining the views on the Quranic commentaries, the authors conclude that the meaning of the term al-kawkab (plural, al-kawakib) in the Quran refers to a planet.

Keywords: planet, al-kawkab, al-kawakib, Quranic commentaries, Islamic astronomy
This suggests that the nature of planets is to rise and set. Planets rise in the east and set in the west. Each planet moves around the sun in a movement called revolution. In terms of the Earth, one revolution term determines the annual long term. While the planets move around the sun, they also rotate on their own axis. One full turn determines the daily term. For us, the movement of celestial bodies in the sky is caused by the Earth’s rotation on its axis. This rotation, which takes 24 hours, gives the impression that the sun revolves around the Earth during the day and the sky is starry at night.

Conclusion

Based on the Quranic commentaries and their views regarding the Quranic verses discussed, it was concluded that only four verses touch upon and state the features and nature of planets in general: Surah al-An’am (6): Verse 76, Surah al-Nur (24): Verse 35, Surah as-Saffaat (37): Verse 6 and Surah al-Infitar (82): Verse 2. Among the features and characteristics of the planets that can be formulated are that they are an embellishment in the sky; they reflect light from other objects; they would fall, and they will rise and set. Whereas, Surah Yusuf (12) verse 4, does not specifically explain the planets, this verse is a symbol of the brothers of Prophet Yusuf and does not specifically refer to the number of planets. In conclusion, the explanation provided in the Quranic commentaries on the term al-kaw kab (plural, al-kawakib) clearly show the difference between the planets and stars. The physical features of planets are also obtained based on the interpretation in the Quranic commentaries. Therefore, it is be proven that the term al-kaw kab (plural, al-kawakib) means planet.