

## **The Secretes of the Heavens as a Source of Provisions for all Creatures: Sciencing the Signs**

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**Abstract:** Life on the earth is dependent upon the provisions created by Allah the almighty. Many of these provisions are essentials for life on this world. This paper seeks to study the atmosphere, sky or heavens as a source for essential provisions needed for the sustenance of all living things (both plants and animals) by synthesizing scientific facts and the divine knowledge from Al-Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad SAW. The paper found that all the essential needs of human beings and all other living creatures were made possible through the creation of heavens (Atmosphere) in addition to the protection it gives to life on earth. The paper therefore recommends that all people should be sensitized to protect the integrity of the atmosphere and to explore more ways to of using atmospheric resources to improve quality of life on earth.

**Keywords:** Secretes of the Heavens, Source of Provisions, Creatures

## **Introduction**

The Quran which divinely revealed to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. was sent down as one of the prophet's miracles which remained to this day. Quran is the word of Allah that cannot be changed or be amended; it is a guide to the human race about various aspects of life in this world; and the most important source of knowledge to the Muslim. What was stated and revealed in the Holy Quran over 14 centuries ago is still relevant and beneficial to the human race (Sohib, 2009). All knowledge available today has proved the truth of the Qur'an, and directly proves that Islam is the true religion of Allah.

Several times this overall reference book mentioned the creation of heavens and earth as signs and evidence of the existence of Allah, the Almighty. Atmosphere and all it entails above us is an important component of the environment where we live. Everything was created in a perfect order by Allah SWT. Human beings and of course all living and non-living creatures are nothing but servants of Allah; they all worship Allah in their own ways ordained by Him. Allah says: *"And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge."* (Rum, 30: 22).

The heaven above us holds many secrets and wonders which science has brought to light in just recent times; the wonders and miracles that would make us appreciate the blessings of our Lord the most. Science today is just proving what had been revealed more than 1400 years ago to Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Man as a living creature has been provided with provisions without him asking for them. Allah provides us with all what we may need to survive and worship Him alone. Among these provisions is the atmospheric resources like, sunlight, rain, wind, gases and other properties which help us live a fulfilled life. It is imperative therefore, to synthesise the scientific discoveries and the verses of the Holy Qur'an as well as the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad SAW especially on how atmosphere functions as a source of sustenance to mankind on earth.

In order to get better understanding of the secrets behind the creation of the atmosphere above us, the resources it contains, how to best use them religiously, this paper discusses the relevant verses in the Quran relating on the concept of atmosphere, sustenance or provisions and how that is proved by scientific knowledge.

## **Method**

This research method uses a qualitative approach and uses a descriptive type of research. The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach, namely a research approach without using statistical figures but with descriptive exposure, which is trying to describe a symptom, event, event that is happening at the present time, where this research becomes the focus of attention to then be described as it is.

## **The Atmosphere, Sky Or Heavens**

The hollow space above our heads to the level that our eyes can see is commonly referred to as sky. Though the religious meaning of the heavens goes beyond the observable sky, for the purpose of this study, sky or heavens would be used interchangeably to mean the earth's atmosphere.

The clouds in the sky, the wind that is blowing, the sunshine we see etc are all a elements of the Earth's atmosphere which stretches from the surface of the planet up to as far as 10,000 kilometers (6,214 miles) above. After this altitude, the atmosphere blends into space (Encyclopedia, 2022).

Earth's atmosphere composed of about 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, 0.9 percent argon, and 0.1 percent other inert gases (such as carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and neon) (Encyclopedia, 2022). Other properties include water vapour, dust and ash particles. These gases are found in layers (troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere) defined by unique features such as temperature and pressure.

## **Functions Of The Atmosphere**

Atmosphere, the protective layer of gases that make up Earth's atmosphere is very much essential for life on the earth. The Earth's atmosphere protects and sustains the planet's inhabitants by providing warmth and absorbing harmful solar rays. In addition to containing the oxygen and carbon dioxide, which living things need to survive, the atmosphere traps the sun's energy and wards off many of the dangers of space as noted by Kazmeyer, (2018). Atmosphere basically performs the following life-supporting functions.

### **1. Provision of essential gases for living things**

Oxygen and carbon-dioxide which are necessary for life are provided in the atmosphere. If atmosphere were to go, all life will cease to exist on the face of the earth. Oxygen is also essential for burning while other gases such as nitrogen are also required by plants to grow and manufacture their own food (Iwena, 2015).

### **2. Temperature Regulation**

One of the most important benefits the atmosphere provides is maintaining the Earth's temperature at a livable range. On the moon, which has no protective atmosphere, temperatures can range from 121 degrees Celsius in the sun (250 degrees Fahrenheit) to -157 degrees Celsius in the shade (negative 250 degrees Fahrenheit). On Earth, however, molecules in the atmosphere absorb the sun's energy as it arrives, spreading that warmth across the planet. The molecules also trap reflected energy from the surface, preventing the night side of the planet from becoming too cold (Kazmeyer, 2018).

### 3. Radiation

The atmosphere serves as a protective shield against radiation and cosmic rays. The sun bombards the solar system with ultraviolet radiation, and without protection, that radiation can cause severe damage to skin and eyes. The ozone layer high in the Earth's atmosphere blocks much of this radiation from reaching the surface. Dense layers of molecular gases also absorb cosmic rays, gamma rays and x-rays, preventing these energetic particles from striking living things and causing mutations and other genetic damage. (Kazmeyer, 2018).

*"And We have made the heavens as a canopy well-guarded: Yet do they turn away from the Signs which these things (point to)." (Al-Anbiya: 32)*

Atmosphere protects life on the earth from harmful objects and harmful radiations and it is also guarded in such a way that the air molecules do not escape into space.

### 4. Physical Protection

. According to NASA, more than 100 tons of space debris strikes Earth every single day, mostly in the form of dust and tiny particles. When they encounter the molecules that make up Earth's atmosphere, however, the resulting friction destroys them long before they reach the ground (Al-Kaheel, 2022). Even larger meteors can break up due to the stresses of atmospheric re-entry, making catastrophic meteor strikes an incredibly rare occurrence. Without the physical protection of the atmosphere, the surface of the Earth would resemble that of the moon, pockmarked with impact craters (Kazmeyer, 2018).

### 5. Weather and Water

The atmosphere also serves an important purpose as a medium for the movement of water. Vapor evaporates out of oceans, condenses as it cools and falls as rain, providing life-giving moisture to otherwise dry areas of the continents (Iwena, 2015). According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the

Earth's atmosphere holds around 12,900 cubic kilometers (3,100 cubic miles) worth of water at any given time. Without an atmosphere, it would simply boil away into space, or remain frozen in pockets below the surface of the planet (Kazmeyer, 2018). Allah SWT says:

*"By the sky which returns."* (Quran 86:11)

### **The Concept Of Rizq (Provision Or Sustenance) In Islam**

Rizq is very wide in both meaning and scope. It most at times depends on the angle one is looking at it. Some scholars translate Rizq as 'sustenance', 'provision' and some call it 'blessings' (Lukman, 2021). It can also be seen as something that brings benefit or that which repels harm. Given that, it is quite difficult to encapsulate the meaning of Rizq in a single translation because Rizq is sustenance, provision, blessings, wealth, health, or even the greying hair is Rizq from Allah. Rizq is not only the physical; it encompasses everything from that which is emotional and spiritual as well, such as the feelings of contentment and peace. (Luqman, 2021)

This Definition of Al-Rizq is very close to that of "resource" in geography and other geo-sciences. A resource is defined as anything that man need and value or found useful (National geographic Society, 2022). Anything in our environment (provided by Allah SWT) for us; for our own benefit is a resource and of course Rizq or provision.

### **TYPES OF RIZQ**

The term 'rizq' in the Islamic context is used to mean wealth, but there is a wider meaning to it. It refers to all of the bounties of Allah which are needed for us to be successful in this life and the hereafter. Rizq not only refers to money and income but also means Iman, akhlaq, noble offspring, etc. Therefore, there are two kinds of rizq (sustenance):

1. Material Rizq: Some call "the lower Rizq" which consists of money, food spouses, children, and so on.
2. Higher Rizq: Some call it "elevated Rizq" which consists of guidance, Iman, taqwa, generosity, comprehension, wisdom, light, cleaning of the soul, elevation in Jannah (Paradise), forgiveness, and the ability to do numerous good deeds.

### **Allah Is The Source Of All Provisions**

The word Rizq is mentioned 123 times in the Quran and most of which essentially addresses how it comes from Allah the Exalted. It is He who determines what a person will obtain in this life. It is Allah who gives us happiness and Allah who sets the events for sadness. He is Allah Ar-Raziq and Ar-Razzaq, The Provider. This is described by Allah Himself in the Quran:

*“Indeed, it is Allah who is the (continual) Provider, the firm possessor of strength.”*

(Surah Adh-Dhariyat, 51:58)

*And indeed, it is Allah who is the best of providers* (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:58)

The word ‘Razzaq’ is a hyperbolic or active expression of the word ‘Raziq’. Both words literally mean ‘The Provider’ but the former signifies a more profound meaning in the abundance of Rizq that Allah provides His creation with and how His Rizq reaches anybody and everybody it has been written for. Allah says in the Qur’an;

*“And the earth We have spread out (like a carpet); set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance. And We have provided therein means of subsistence, for you and for those for whose sustenance you are not responsible”* (Hijr 15:19–20)

*“And there is not a thing but its (sources and) treasures (inexhaustible) are with Us; but We only send down thereof in due and ascertainable measures.”* (Hijr, 15:2)

People, birds, fish, animals, insects and reptiles are all creatures, needs food, air and water. Allah has bestowed His sustenance on each and every creature on earth and all must work and search for their provision. Allah(SWT), the Most High says:

*“And He set on the earth firm mountains standing above its surface, and He blessed the earth and measured therein nourishment for all things, in four periods: in accordance with the needs of the seekers”.* (Qur’an 41:10)

People are seekers of sustenance, for food, water and money etc on this earth. In our organized society we get them through working in different fields such as: agriculture, industry, cattle-rearing, commerce and other kinds of employment such as carpentry, tailoring, engineering, etc.

Allah (SWT) has provided such basic requirements as oxygen, sunlight and rain in order that land can be irrigated, plants cultivated and animals reared. For man to survive and be healthy and strong in both body and mind he needs to think, work and to organize his life around him.

### **Rain As A Source Of Rizq**

#### **Water Cycle**

In 1580, Bernard Palissy was the first person to describe the present day concept of ‘water cycle’ (Naik, n.d). He described how water evaporates from the oceans and cools to form clouds. The clouds move inland where they rise, condense and fall as rain. This water gathers as lakes and streams and flows back to the ocean in a continuous cycle.

This is described by the Qur’an in the following verses:

*“And We send down water from the sky according to (due) measure, and We cause it to soak in the soil; and We certainly are able to drain it off (with ease).”* (Al-Qur’an 23:18)

*“Seest thou not that Allah sends down rain from the sky, and leads it through springs in the earth? then He causes to grow, therewith, produce of various colours.”* (Al-Qur’an 39:21)

*“He sends down rain from the sky and with it gives life to the earth after it is dead: Verily in that are Signs for those who are wise.”* (Al-Qur’an 30:24)

Evaporation was explained thus;

*“By the Firmament which returns (in its round),”* (Al-Qur’an, 86:11)

Winds Impregnate Clouds:

*“And We send the fecundating winds, then cause the rain to descend from the sky, therewith providing you with water (in abundance).”* (Al-Qur’an 15:22)

*“Seest thou not that Allah makes the clouds move gently, then joins them together, then makes them into a heap?—then wilt thou see rain issue forth from their midst. And He sends down from the sky mountain masses (of clouds) wherein is hail: He strikes therewith whom He pleases and He turns it away from whom He pleases. the vivid flash of His lightning well-nigh blinds the sight.”* (Al-Qur’an 24:43)

*“It is Allah Who sends the Winds, and they raise the Clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills, and break them into fragments, until thou seest raindrops issue from the midst thereof: then when He has made them reach such of His servants as He wills, behold, they do rejoice!”* (Al-Qur’an 30:48)

No other text dating back 1400 years ago gives such an accurate description of the water cycle and modern Hydrology agrees perfectly with this Qur'anic description.

Surah Ibrahim verse 32 says:

*“It is Allah who created the heavens and the earth and sent down rain from the sky and produced thereby some fruits as provision for you and subjected for you the ships to sail through the sea by His command and subjected for you the rivers”.*

### **Functions Of Rain To Living Creatures**

One may reflect on how difficult it is to live during the drought or where rain does not fall; the dusty wind, dry lands and plants, shrinking water sources, and the prickly hot temperatures. But when it rains, everything changes; the land becomes muddy, greeneries are everywhere, water ditches are easily found, and the temperature is cool or brisk. Rain is a *ni'imah* and *rahama* which Allah the Exalted pours down for the sake of His slaves.

*“Allah sends the winds that stir up clouds and then He spreads them in the sky as He pleases and splits them into different fragments, where after you see drops*

*of rain pouring down from them. He then causes the rain to fall on whomsoever of His servants He pleases, and lo, they rejoice at it, although before that they were given to despair. See, then, the tokens of Allah's Mercy: how He revives the earth after it is dead. Verily He is the One Who will revive the dead. He has power over everything." (Ar-Rum: 48-50)*

To be able to feel the pleasure of every drops of the rain showering on our lands and appreciate the blessings of Allah on us we need to think deeply on how rain supports our lives. According to Baderi, (2022) there are three major functions of rain, thus;

**The first function: To grow vegetation (crop plants, trees, grasses etc)**

Vegetation is a mother term for all the plants that cover the surface of the earth. No matter how skillful you are in nurturing a plant, it would be impossible to grow it without water. Hence, it is undeniable that after the rain, various plants which withered and hidden inside the earth before, would live and grow profusely in an instant.

*"And of His Signs is that you see the earth withered, then We send down water upon it, and lo! it quivers and swells. Surely He Who gives life to the dead earth will also give life to the dead. Surely He has power over everything." (Fussilat: 39)*

Allah said in another verse:

*"We also sent down blessed water from the heaven, wherewith We caused gardens and harvest-grain to grow, and tall palm-trees with their thickly-clustered spathes; all this as sustenance for Our servants..." (Qaaf: 9-11)*

*"And it is He Who sends forth winds as glad tidings in advance of His mercy, and when they have carried a heavy-laden cloud We drive it to a dead land, then We send down rain from it and therewith bring forth fruits of every kind. In this manner do We raise the dead that you may take heed." (Al A'araf, 7: 57)*

**The second function: Water source for The Living Creatures**

All Creatures on this earth, particularly the living ones, will not be able to maintain their lives without water to drink. Hence, such water is the primary need of all creatures. So was their condition, which since the beginning of the creation of the earth, Allah the Exalted has provided them everything, water and plants; All to preserve the living of men in particular, and all creatures in general.

*"and thereafter spread out the earth, and brought out of it its water and its pasture, and firmly fixed in it mountains; all this as provision for you and your cattle." (An Naziaat: 30-33)*

Exalted be He, Who had prepared every single need of His creations even before they asked for it. This, undoubtedly, is a strong evidence of Allah's generosity which has been forgotten by many of the men.

### **The third function: Remind you of the Power of Allah the Almighty**

Though the natural process of rain formation is scientifically known, but reflecting minds always glorified their Lords for all the blessings and favours he bestowed on them. Allah the most high says:

*"(To guide) those who use their reason (to this Truth) there are many Signs in the structure of the heavens and the earth, in the constant alternation of night and day, in the vessels which speed across the sea carrying goods that are of profit to people, in the water which Allah sends down from the sky and thereby quickens the earth after it was dead, and disperse over it all manner of animals, and in the changing courses of the winds and the clouds pressed into service between heaven and earth." (Al Baqarah, 2:164)*

It is part of Allah's blessings that the sea/ocean water evaporates under the sun leaving the salty part behind; water went up as vapours, but poured down in the form of water drops and not streaming like a waterfall. Allah says:

*"Did you cast a good look at the water that you drink? Is it you who brought it down from the clouds or is it We Who brought it down? If We had so pleased, We could have made it bitter. So why would you not give thanks?" (Al Waqi'ah: 68-70)*

Allah indeed has power over everything, as mentioned in the fiftieth verse of Rum, and 31st verse of chapter Fussilat above.

### **Fossil Fuel As A Form Of Rizq**

If sustenance is considered in its wider meaning, the energy resources such as fossil fuels can also fall within the meaning of sustenance. Many countries explore their lands in search of oil, coal or gas which are considered so valuable because they generate income/wealth to the countries.

Scientifically, process of fossil fuel formation takes place over the time span of hundreds of millions of years to produce a variety of fossil fuels including coal, oil, and natural gas. All these materials are produced from organic materials and are transformed over a large time span due to burial by sediment, pressure, and temperature.

Decomposed plants and animals are could not have been found in the Earth's Crust if vegetation would have not flourished on the earth as a result of rain and other atmospheric resources. This is justification that plants and other vegetative cover of the earth that spring out from rain are 'Rizq' as Allah said in Suratu Qaf, verse 11: "...as sustenance or provisions for our servants".

Fossil fuels including oil, coal and gas have been powering economies of many countries for over 150 years and currently supply about 84% of the world energy needs (Environmental And Energy Study Institute, EESI, 2021 and Robert, 2020). This is the energy that is used to heat and provide electricity to homes and businesses and to run cars and factories. Unfortunately, fossil fuels are a nonrenewable resource and waiting millions of years for new coal, oil, and natural gas deposits to form is not a realistic solution. Fossil fuels are also responsible for almost three-fourths of the emissions from human activities in the last 20 years.

### **Atmosphere As A Source Of Renewable Energy: A Remedy To Climate Change And A Provision From Allah**

Renewable energy is energy from sources that naturally replenished (EIA, 2022). Renewable energy is an alternative to fossil fuels which are attributed to global warming and climate change (SIEMEN, 2022). The renewable energy sources include, Solar energy, wind energy, hydro-power, bio-fuels etc (Jaelani and Nurjati, 2017). All of these are directly related to the atmosphere are even atmospheric resources. Therefore, if fossil fuels, which are also indirectly gotten from vegetation which is atmospheric dependent becomes a problem to the world, another blessings from the almighty to remedy the problem is also coming from the heavens (atmosphere). Allah says:

*“He is the One Who sends down rain from the sky, from which you drink and by which plants grow for your cattle to graze. With it He produces for you ‘various’ crops, olives, palm trees, grapevines, and every type of fruit. Surely in this is a sign for those who reflect. And He has subjected for your benefit the day and the night, the sun and the moon. And the stars have been subjected by His command. Surely in this are signs for those who understand. And ‘He subjected’ for you whatever He has created on earth of varying colours.<sup>1</sup> Surely in this is a sign for those who are mindful.” (Annahl, 16: 10-13)*

In this verse, hydropower, bio fuel, vegetation resources, solar energy which are all renewable energy sources were captured and Allah says “it is a sign for those who ‘reflect’, ‘understand’, and are ‘mindful’. So, the whole Idea of renewable energy has been captured in the Holy Qur’an some 1400 years ago. This is indeed a great miracle that science is proving.

### **Various Factors That Will Help Prosper Our Rizq**

With all that has been said about Rizq, there are times where we still struggle to understand and feel threatened while looking at our bills. We feel insecure about whether we can get through the year with what we have. Some might even

consider investing in means that are illegal in Islam to pull through. No doubt these whispers come from Satan. Allah mentions in Surah Al-Baqarah:

*“The Devil threatens you with (the prospect of) poverty and bids you to the shameful deed (of stinginess), while Allah promises you forgiveness and (great) bounties from Him. And Allah is All-Bountiful, All-Knowing.”* (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:268).

The key to prosperity in our Rizq is something that everyone can achieve. Since Rizq comes from Allah, getting closer to Him will automatically earn the individual His favours. Allah Himself promises in various Qur’anic verses and hadith narrations the keys to Rizq, some of which are:

### 1. Swalat

A prayer commonly associated with Rizq is the Dhuha Prayer. Nevertheless, Allah mentions prayer in its entirety in the following verse, signalling that any prayer done with sincerity and solemnity may bring the Rizq one requires:

*Who provide for you. And the ultimate outcome is (only) for (the people of) righteousness.”* (Surah Taha, 20:132)

### 2. Supplications

The Prophet S.A.W. used to make this supplication in his mornings. It is notable that the Prophet continued reciting this prayer despite being the closest to Allah. Hence every Muslim should follow in his footsteps and continue asking from *Ar-Razzaq*, no matter our status in this world.

*“Oh Allah, I ask of you for beneficial knowledge, good provision and deeds that are accepted!”* (Musnad Imam Ahmad)

### 3. Istighfar

In Suratu Nuh (AS), Allah tells us of the story of the Prophet Nuh A.S. who preached to his people to worship Allah. Among his call to them was the seeking of forgiveness (*istighfar*), which results in Rizq from Allah S.W.T:

*“And I said, ‘Seek your Lord’s forgiveness, for He is truly Most Forgiving. He will shower you with abundant rain. And he will supply you with wealth and children, and give you gardens as well as rivers.”* (Suratu Nuh, 71:10-12).

After the call to seek forgiveness, Allah tells us in the following verse that he will send Rizq in multiple expressions. A simple prayer of ‘*astaghfirullah*’ with the heart and soul put into it could open the gates of Rizq.

Other means to be blessed with Rizq include having *taqwa* (mindfulness in Allah), constantly having *tawakkul* (reliance) upon Him and giving charity in His name.

This does not mean that these deeds should be neglected if one is already rich or living the easy life. In response to such an attitude, Allah S.W.T. warns us firmly in the following verse:

*“And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will surely increase you (in favour); but if you deny, surely My punishment is severe'.”*  
(Surah Ibrahim, 14:7)

Indeed, everything belongs to Allah and man has no right to boast and be arrogant of the Rizq he is given to possess.

#### **4. Striving towards seeking sustenance**

From Prophets of Allah to messengers and other noble and chosen people, they have way of seeking sustenance. Prophet Musa A.S. was a herd man; He reared animals, prophet Dawud, was a blacksmith or metal engineer and so on. Muslims are to strive to look for sustenance while relying on Allah as the provider of all Rizq. Striving is shari'ah while depending on Allah as a provider is *tauhid*. This is under the principle of “*Al-akhdhu bil asbab*”: following natural ways of getting something while relying on Allah.

The equation of natural resources and human effort to obtain sustenance has very eloquently been presented in Suratul -Waqe'ah. Allah says:

*“Then tell Me about the seed that you sow in the ground. Is it you that make it grow, or are We the Grower? Were it Our Will, We could crumble it to dry pieces, and you would be regretful (or left in wonderment). [Tafsir Ibn Kathir] (Saying): “We are indeed Mughramun (i.e. ruined or have lost the money without any profit, or are punished by the loss of all that we spend for cultivation)! (Tafsir Al-Qurtubi. “Nay, but we are deprived!” Then tell Me about the water that you drink. Is it you who cause it from the rainclouds to come down, or are We the Causer of it to come down? If We willed, We verily could make it salt (and undrinkable): why then do you not give thanks (to Allah)? Then tell Me about the fire which you kindle. Is it you who made the tree thereof to grow, or are We the Grower? We have made it a Reminder (of the Hell-fire in the Hereafter), and an article of use for the travelers (and all the others, in this world). Then glorify with praises the Name of your Lord, the Most Great.”(Waqi'ah, 63-74).*

Shari'ah way is to put your effort and rely on Allah, not to be deceived by your efforts, intellect, experience etc.

#### **Deprivation From Allah's Provisions**

Allah's blessings upon us are numerous and uncountable. He provides basic provisions and favors for all mankind.

##### **Laziness/Greediness**

At one end of the scale, some people are lazy and have no inclination to work for the sake of earning their provision. At the other end of the scale, some people behave as oppressors and tyrants, amassing fortunes out of their own greed and not for the good of society. They use the poor and needy for their own ends and

neglect their welfare. This is despite the fact that Allah (SWT) has made it obligatory to help the poor so that no one remains in need. Hence, the real reason for people's poverty in most cases is the deprivation of their rights by the rich and powerful, upon whom Allah has placed responsibility to alleviate their burden.

### **Sinning**

Sins deprive a person of provision (*rizq*) in this life. In Musnad Ahmad it is narrated that Thawbaan said: "The Messenger of Allah (SAWS) said: 'A man is deprived of provision because of the sins that he commits.'" (Ibn Maajah, 4022)

*"And whatever calamity befalls you, it is according to that which your own hands have earned - and Allah forgives much."* (Qur'an 42/30)

*"Whatever good comes to you is from Allah, and whatever evil comes to you is from yourself."* (Qur'an 4/79)

### **Pollution and Environmental Degradation**

Atmospheric resources are provisions by Allah Ta'ala for the sustenance of all creatures. Unfortunately, man is tempering with the natural balance and composition of the atmosphere thereby degrading the atmosphere. When the atmosphere is depleted, the resources therein cannot be properly used. Therefore all the living creatures are deprived of those resources, example of this is air pollution and its resultant effect of global warming and subsequently climate change. Muslims are enjoined to preserve, protect and restore the environment. Prophet SAW said:

*"The world is a green and pleasant thing. God has made you stewards of it, and looks at how you behave."*

People are vicegerents of Allah on the Earth, therefore responsible for ensuring full function of the environmental resources for the benefit of all living creatures.

### **Conclusion**

There is no doubt Quran verses give guide and guidance to those who think. Thus, sky, is the vast reservoir of Allah's blessings created by Him for the sustenance of mankind and all living things. The inspiration one may get from reading the Qur'an verses which science has proven is that the Holy Quran has remained relevant over time and serves as a guide to the way of life for the people who believe in Allah and His Messenger. It is the sources of all knowledge and a divine reference.

It is true that "Science without religion is blinded, whereas religion without science is lame". Symbolically, science and technology cannot ignore and rule out religion, but should be used as a tool for the development of the religion itself as was rightly captured by Yusoff, (2009).

The advancement of science and technology indeed is benefiting human being in many aspects of their life. But in the other hand, unconsciously, it made us easily neglected Allah the Almighty. As the result, many signs of Allah's power around you became meaningless to us. Due to the revealing of the processes of those signs, such as the sun eclipse, the rain, earthquake, and others, your heart got hardened and untouched at the time you saw it, and nowadays you often name it as natural phenomena or the like.

Needless to say that such attitude reflected how far away one has been from the values of faith in Allah, the Almighty. When the rain comes, one didn't think of it as the sign of Allah's power, but merely a part of natural cycle on earth. The rain comes because it's rainy season already, and it would stop at the drought season. Why don't you ask yourself: "Who arrange the seasons, and create and regulate the sun's revolution?"

Realizing the potential of such laziness in thinking, the Messenger of Allah SAW S felt the need to warn his companions from it. who said that,

*"it had rained with the Blessing and Mercy of Allah" is the one who believes in Me and does not believe in the star, but he who said it had rained because of such and such (star) is a disbeliever in Me and is a believer in the sta.'* (Bukhari and Muslim).

Likewise are the sayings which we usually say every time the rain comes: "This continuous rain is because the rainy season has begun." But rarely did we realize that the rain streamed down purely due to Allah's order and His grace. We neglected Allah, and we remembered the season. May Allah have mercy on us.

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