

3rd Stage: "...until you see rain-drops issue from the midst thereof."

Water particles that surround salt crystals & dust particles thicken and form rain drops. So, the drops, which become heavier than air, depart from the clouds & start to fall on the ground as rain.

Every stage in the formation of rain is told in the verses of the Quran. Furthermore, these stages are explained in the right sequence. Just as with many other natural phenomena in the world, it is again the Quran that provides the most correct explanation about this phenomenon as well, and more, that has announced these facts to people centuries before they were discovered by science

**Life Given to a Dead Land:** In the Quran, many verses call our attention to a particular function of rain, which is "giving life to a dead land": **We send down pure water from the sky. With it We give life to a dead land, and slake the thirst of many beings We have created, beasts as well as humans.** (Sura Furqan, 48-49)

In addition to furnishing the earth with water, which is an inevitable need of living beings, rain also has a fertilization effect.

Rain drops that reach the clouds after being evaporated from the seas, contain certain substances "that will give life" to a dead land. These "life-giving" drops are called "surface tension drops". Surface tension drops form on the top level of the sea surface which is called the "micro layer" by biologists. In this layer, which is thinner than one tenth of a millimeter, there are many organic leftovers caused by the pollution of microscopic algae and zooplankton. Some of these leftovers select and collect within themselves some elements which are very rare in sea water, such as phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and some heavy metals like copper, zinc, cobalt and lead. These "fertilizer"-laden drops are lifted up into the sky by the winds and after a while they drop on the ground inside the rain drops. Seeds and plants on the earth find numerous metallic salts and elements essential for their growth here in these rain drops. This event is revealed in verse

(Qaf,9) of the Quran: **And We send down from the sky rain laden with blessing, and We produce therewith gardens and grain for harvests.**

Salts that fall with rain are small examples of certain elements (calcium, magnesium, potassium) used for increasing fertility. The heavy metals found in these types of aerosols are other elements that increase fertility in the development & production of plants. A barren land can be furnished with all the essential elements for plants in a 100-year period just with these fertilizers dropped with the rain.

Forests also develop & are fed with the help of these sea-based aerosols. In this way, 150 million tons of fertilizer falls on the total land surface every year. If there were no natural fertilization like this, there would be very little vegetation on the earth & the ecological balance would be impaired. What is more interesting is that this truth, which could only be discovered by modern science, was revealed by God in the Quran 14 centuries ago.

The Weight of Clouds can reach quite astonishing proportions. A cumulonimbus cloud, commonly known as the thunder cloud, can contain up to 300,000 tons of water. The fact that a mass of 300,000 tons of water can remain aloft is truly amazing. Attention is drawn to the weight of clouds in this verse of the Quran (7:57): "It is He Who sends out the winds, bringing advance news of His mercy, so that when they have lifted up the **heavy clouds**, We dispatch them to a dead land and send down water to it, by means of which We bring forth all kinds of fruit." Give thanks O servant of God for such Divine Power. Also this verse (13:12): "It is He Who shows you the lightning, striking fear and bringing hope; it is He Who heaps up the **heavy clouds**." At the time when the Quran was revealed it was quite impossible to have any information about the weight of clouds.

A rainy day gently reminds those willing to listen: "Come back, come back, a thousand times come back." Our Prophet (p) said, "O Allah make the Quran the Spring of my heart." What a glorious request! If indeed the Quran was the Spring of our hearts, our hearts would be in bloom always with the freshness of nature's newness & nature's order: the green that cools our eyes, the fragrances that perfume our scent, the fruits that delight our taste & nurture our bodies, & the powers that remind us of life's bounty & delicacy. Without the rain there would be no **rainbow**.

Let's splash through Gibran's poem, Song of the Rain, for sweet inspiration.

I am dotted silver threads dropped from heaven  
Nature then takes me, to adorn  
Her fields and valleys.  
I am beautiful pearls, plucked  
by the daughter of Dawn  
To embellish the gardens.  
When I cry the hills laugh;  
When I humble myself the flowers rejoice;  
When I bow, all things are elated.  
The field and the cloud are lovers  
And between them I am a messenger of mercy.  
I quench the thirst of one;  
I cure the ailment of the other.  
The voice of thunder declares my arrival;  
The rainbow announces my departure.  
I emerge from the sea,  
Soar with the breeze. When I see a field in Need  
I descend and embrace the flowers and  
The trees in a million little ways.  
I touch gently at the windows with my  
Soft fingers, and my announcement is a  
Welcome song. All can hear, **but only  
The sensitive can understand.**  
The heat in the air gives birth to me,  
But in turn I kill it,  
I am the sigh of the sea;  
The laughter of the field;  
The tears of heaven.

#### **Filling your souls with my beauty.**

Walking in the rain is therapy for body & soul. It is better than seeking out a psychiatrist or taking a dose of aspirin. Keep the Quranic verses in mind as you go dancing in the rain. The Prophet (p) said, "**Two are the supplications that are always heard: the one made when the prayer is being called & the other at the time of rainfall.**" Are you sad? "In the hour of adversity be not without hope for crystal rain falls from black clouds." Let your spirits be lifted. "And you see the earth dead & barren. Then, when We send down water onto it, it quivers, swells & sprouts with luxuriant plants of every kind." (22:5) Let's all sing & hymn the praises of such a Merciful Creator.

**Rain: A Mighty Blessing!**

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With this water God revives a dead land



**Such will be the Resurrection (50:11)**

The Rain & the Quran are both resurrectors of the dead...dead lands & dead hearts. The Quran should be the Spring of our hearts & our Lord can make it so. Let this rainy season renew us once again. Let our return be to our Lord once again. Just as the rainy season returns, let us return. Let our hearts come back to life, as the countless fields come back to life.

For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens.

The rain sweeps before us with all the drama of a Shakespearean play. Pounding thunderstorms, magnificent, glittering raindrops, perfumed breezes, that magically transforms fields & trees into an extraordinary green, designed as if by the hand of some Great Artist. **And it is.** The rain, the sun should ingrain in us a deep & sensory awareness of nature's shifting moods. Weather's brooding omnipresence should fuse in our imagination with God – as if it were God's Great Face we glimpse behind the wind, rain & clouds. **And it is.**

"What we **don't know** about rain far outweighs what we do know." NASA keeps developing new radar in their continuous quest to understand God's Perfect Knowledge.

**"We send down pure water from the sky. that with it We may give life to a dead land & slake the thirst of things We have created, cattle & men in great numbers."**

(Quran: 25:48-49)

As the world turns and seasons change, our lives move inexorably toward their fated ends. Our minutes become hours, our hours days, our days weeks, our weeks years, and our years make up the totality of our lives. In these days of great imbalance, we are in greater need of connecting to the natural order that surrounds us. Each planet knows its course & each tree its cycle: “The stars & the trees submit in prostration.” The stars ornament the sky, and the trees the earth, and between the two realms resides man who is made up of both terrestrial & celestial elements, spiritual & bodily, willful and appetitive, angelic & bestial, light & dark. Each resides in us, at times compelling us to wrongs & at others to rights. In these latter days, it appears as if the bestial aspect of our natures is waxing & the spiritual is waning. Wordsworth reminded us of this when he wrote: *The world is too much with us; late and soon, Getting & spending, we lay waste our powers; Little we see in Nature that is ours; We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!* Morally ignoble!

The trees outside are blooming, and nature’s order is so palpable. No matter how disorderly man becomes, God’s order in His Divine creation is there to constantly remind us: “Come back, come back, a thousand times come back.” One hundred thousand times?

The weather outside should continue to occupy a central place in our inner lives. Whenever we’re hurting or our energies are scattered, mindfully shifting our awareness to the scent and feel of the air, or turning our faces skywards, always helps to steady our souls. Walking, running, dancing in the rain is the best therapy. Therapy for many so-called illnesses. Depression, hopelessness, despair. The rain washes it all away. Nature’s changes can have psychological as well as spiritual effects.

Attention to weather this way corrects one of the common mis-perceptions around the “inner” life: That it is self-contained & private – just me & my soul. But inner reflection is also

about attuning to the greater existence within which we all live. Like a meditation or prayer, contemplating a raindrop or even the force of a torrential downpour helps to remind us of one of religion’s core teachings: Before the infinite mystery of the cosmos, we humans are merely mortal creatures.

Birth, growth, maturity, decay, and death: these are the cycles we see around us, and these are our own reality. We too are part of nature, and it is our task to comply with the laws of nature and nature’s God. This is submission, what we call Islam. It is not a sociological category of creedal belief that determines how we are to be classified nor a culture or civilization – although those elements are invariably there. It is a state of being.

Rain is invigorating, soothing, energizing, and sets the cycle of growth in motion. Nothing good can happen without the rain. It is a precursor to our growth...a healthy & motivating growth. The paradox of the rain is that, in order for it to be a blessing, we must recognize and accept it as a blessing. It is preparing us for the good to come. Eventually it will sink down into the “earth” and produce a beautiful “crop.” Accepting the rain for the blessing it will become allows our progress to proceed. Rain always brings growth. It always brings healing. Rain brings wonderful changes if it is allowed to accomplish its purpose. Our growth & blossoming is at hand. So many people curse the rain & grow bitter against it. These are the people who never overcome their problems & never grow in their lives.

Rain is indeed one of the most important factors for the permanence of life on earth. It is a prerequisite for the continuation of activity in a region. Rain, which carries great importance for all living things, including human beings, is mentioned in various verses of the Quran, where substantial information is given about the formation of rain, its proportion and effects. This information, which never could have been known by the people of the time, shows us that the Quran is the word of God.

Let us examine the information given in the Quran about rain.

**The Proportion of Rain:** Rain is defined

as water sent down in “due measure.” The verse is as follows: “**He sends down water from the sky in due measure, and We raise to life therewith a land that is dead. Even so will you be raised from the dead.**” (Surat az-Zukhruf, 11)

This “measure” mentioned in the verse has to do with a couple of characteristics of rain. First of all, the amount of rain that falls on the earth is always the same. It is estimated, that in one second, 16 million tones of water evaporate from the earth. This number is equal to the amount of water that drops on the earth in one second. This means that water continuously circulates in a balanced cycle according to a “measure.”

Another measure related with rain is about its falling speed. The minimum altitude of rain clouds is 1,200 meters. When dropped from this height, an object having the same weight and size as a rain drop, would continuously accelerate and fall on the ground with a speed of 558 km/h. Certainly, any object that hits the ground with that speed would cause great damage. If rain happened to fall in the same way, all harvested lands would be destroyed, residential areas, houses, and cars would be damaged, and people would not be able to walk around without taking extra precautions. What is more, these calculations are made just for clouds at a height of 1,200 meters; there are also rain clouds at altitudes of 10,000 meters. A rain drop falling from such a height could normally reach a very destructive speed.

But this is not how it works; no matter from what height they fall, the average speed of rain drops is only 8-10 km/h when they reach the ground. The reason for this is the special form they take. This special form increases the friction effect of the atmosphere and prevents acceleration when the rain drops reach a certain speed “limit.” Today parachutes are designed by using this technique.

This is not all about the “measures” of rain. For instance, in the atmospheric layers where it starts to rain, the temperature may fall as low as 400 C below zero. Despite this, rain drops never turn into ice particles. This would certainly mean a fatal threat to the living things on the earth. The reason is that the water in

the atmosphere is pure water. As is well-known, pure water hardly freezes even at very low temperatures.

**The Formation of Rain:** How rain forms remained a great mystery for people for a long time. Only after weather radar was invented, was it possible to discover the stages. The formation of rain takes place in three stages. First, the “raw material” of rain rises up into the air. Later clouds are formed. Finally, rain drops appear. These stages are clearly defined in the Quran centuries ago where precise information is given about the formation of rain: **It is God Who sends the Winds & they raise the Clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills & breaks them into fragments, until you see rain-drops issue from the midst thereof. When He has made them reach such of his servants as He wills, behold, they do rejoice!** (30:48) Let us look at the three stages mentioned in the verse.

1st Stage: “It is **God** Who sends the winds...”

Countless air bubbles formed by the foaming in the oceans continuously burst and cause water particles to be ejected towards the sky. These particles, which are rich in salt, are then carried away by winds and move upwards in the atmosphere. These particles, which are called aerosols, form clouds by collecting around themselves the water vapor, which again ascends from the seas, as tiny drops by a mechanism called “water trap”

2nd Stage: “...and they raise the Clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills, and break them into fragments...”

The clouds form from the water vapor that condenses around the salt crystals or the dust particles in the air. Because the water drops in these are very small with a diameter between 0.01 and 0.02 mm, the clouds are suspended in the air and they spread in the sky. Thus the sky is covered with clouds.

(Surah Qaf, 9)

And God sends down from the sky **Rain**

laden with blessing. We produce therewith gardens & grain for harvests.