

# ***Natural Phenomenon Manifested in the Confluence of Two Bodies of Flowing Water: An Exegetical Approach with Scientific Discourse***

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## ***Abstract:***

*This paper aims to illustrate some important dimensions of the natural phenomenon embodied two bodies of water flowing together which has been mentioned in the Holy Qur'ān at different places, indicating certain properties and aspects of water. Relevant Qur'ānic Scripture encompasses the apparent aspects of the phenomenon including the hidden wonders. During the study, the qualitative approach has adopted using exegetical view along with modern data regarding this topic. The phenomenon has also been elaborated by the illustration of jointly flowing rivers observed at Kund Park near Attock Bridge Khairabad (KPK Pakistan) in addition to various other global examples regarding confluence of major bodies of water. This paper endorsed that the phenomenon is beneficial for the whole biological kingdom and humanity with the lesson of global mutual co-existence. This study may cause to broaden one's mental horizon when we consider it in the current contextual domain with respect to the centuries ago revealed Scripture. It enables the scholars to interpret Scripture in contemporary context delivering more comprehensible dimensions and lucid tone to lead human being towards Ultimate Reality.*

***Keywords:*** Natural Phenomenon, Scientific Advancement, Exegetical Approaches, Contextual Domain, Ultimate Reality

## **1. Introduction**

This paper discusses natural phenomenon projected by mutual flowing of two bodies of water, modern advancement in the field of oceanography. It aims to visit Qur'ānic Scripture where mysteries and

wonders were expressed centuries ago when there didn't exist any scientific progress to expose the realities and benefits associated with the two seas flowing together without mixing with each other. The phenomenon of sea's water is attached with a lot of importance, which is linked with the various properties and behaviour from atomic structure to that of its ebbs and tides. Oceans occupy about 72% of surface of the Earth, so, countless flashes of Divine manifestation may be observed in the phenomenon associated with water behaviour and aqueous life.

It is eloquently stated in the Holy Qur'ān that flowing of two seas, their mutual contact, and barrier between them elaborating what is apparent phenomenon and what does Scripture represents the hidden wonder. In addition to more than 40 time mentioning river in different verses regarding this world and in relation to the Hereafter where an aesthetical sketch of rivers in paradise has been drawn by the Holy Qur'ān. Exegetical approaches highlighted that various dimensions associated with the phenomenal expression in the light of relevant verses, which make it more public, presenting the universality of Qur'ānic data. It invites every fact-finding mission to know various dimensions of the phenomenon up to possible extent reality or ultimately towards Ultimate Reality.

It is important to note that when the Holy Qur'ān was revealed, these types of behaviour of water like Surface Tension, Viscosity, Salinity and PH Scale values were not introduced. Modern science exposed the barrier or layer between the bodies of water flowing together, each side keeps its distinctive concentration, temperature, and each mass of water preserved its properties at the point where the two seas meet where a curtain and barrier prevents each water from mixing.

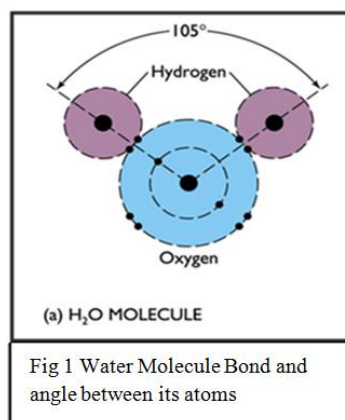
Concisely, there are multiple views regarding these verses as well as exegetical trends with respect to scientific data having many

confrontations and various responses of scholars towards scientific exegesis (*Al-Tafsīr al- 'Ilmī*). However, here we required to discuss the phenomenon under some titles. We visited Kund Park near Attock Bridge to get data observing jointly flowing two rivers.

We took pictures of different pose of river Indus and river Kabul flowing together and behaviour of both water to clarify certain aspects at Kund Park. Furthermore, we discussed this phenomenon along with some examples of bodies of water around the globe and their confluence with tabular illustration that makes exegetical interpretations more comprehensible and well spoken. We may judge the Divine guidance into abroad spectrum of life by pondering our attention to the multiple aspects of verses elaborating this phenomenon.

## 2. A Brief Sketch of water Properties and its Behaviour of Confluence

Prior to discuss the confluence of water we may analyse some water properties in order to get familiarity towards possible causes of separation, concept of barrier and beneficial aspects associated with this phenomenon. The properties of the seawater like temperature, density here density means is mass per unit volume of seawater, salinity and the role of chemical bonds in water molecule, a beautiful natural view of composition of 'Hydrogen' and 'Oxygen' making ( $H_2O$ ) and angle between both gaseous atoms of water, these characteristics of water are significant regarding the elaboration of multiple aspects of this phenomenon. It is governed by temperature and salinity and to a lesser extent, by hydrostatic pressure. As salinity increases, the density increases; while temperature increases, the density decreases.<sup>1</sup>



The degree between Hydrogen and Oxygen varies from 105 to 109 degree due to the pairs of Oxygen electrons in the outer shell, which are not bonded with the Hydrogen, see fig 1. It has been stated in ‘A Coastal and Marine Atlas’ for Ocean Conservancy as:

*“Salinity and temperature are important seawater properties that, along with wind, influence water dynamics such as ocean current strength and direction.”<sup>2</sup>*

Certain properties for example Surface Tension<sup>3</sup>, Viscosity<sup>4</sup>, Salinity (salt content of seawater), PH Scale<sup>5</sup> have significant role in the behaviour of different types of water and their mutual comparison. Anomalous Thermal Expansion<sup>6</sup> expresses a unique conduct of water against the extreme boiling and melting points of temperature. In the confluence of both bodies of water these properties and certain other characteristics may play an important role.

The properties of water like thermal, physical, chemical and viscosity, all these are exactly what they must be in specific order for life to exist as well as it is an expression of the Divine Mercy with in the water for existence of various biological kingdom while awe of the flow of water expresses Divine Majesty and Power.

## 2.1 Phenomenal Elaboration and Modern Advancement

What is the factor that separate fresh water from that of salt water in estuaries. It is the ‘Pycnocline Zone’<sup>7</sup> separating the two layers where the difference of densities can be observed, exposed by modern approaches. The zone of separation has a different salinity for both bodies

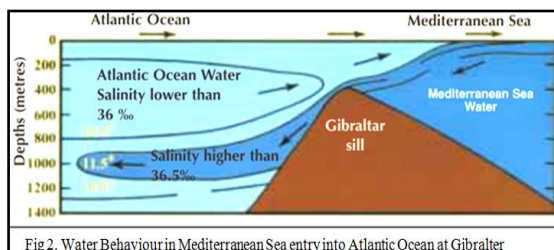


Fig 2. Water Behaviour in Mediterranean Sea entry into Atlantic Ocean at Gibraltar

of water. This phenomenon takes place in numerous places around the globe, some exegeses referred the subject verses to the different seas at the end of their own observations, like the partition phenomenon

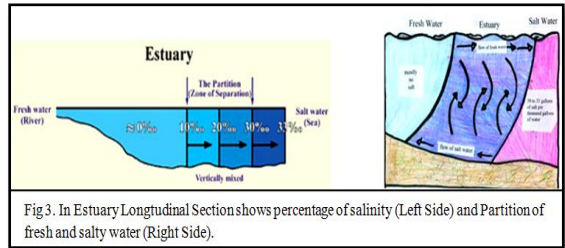


Fig 3. In Estuary Longitudinal Section shows percentage of salinity (Left Side) and Partition of fresh and salty water (Right Side).

between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean at Gibraltar (See fig 2.)

In longitudinal and transverse segments study of water level and difference of density gradient,<sup>8</sup> which are responsible for the life in different zone of water shown in Fig 3.

## 2.2 Phenomenon Observed at Kund Park (Attock Khairabad)

River Indus and River Kabul meet together near Attock Bridge (Khairabad). Briefly stated that the Indus River is one of the longest rivers in Asia, national river of Pakistan. It is also known as Sindhū or Abāsīn. In the book '*Tārīkh-e Peshāwar*', Abāsīn has been translated as the father of rivers mentioning four names of river due to different context.<sup>9</sup>

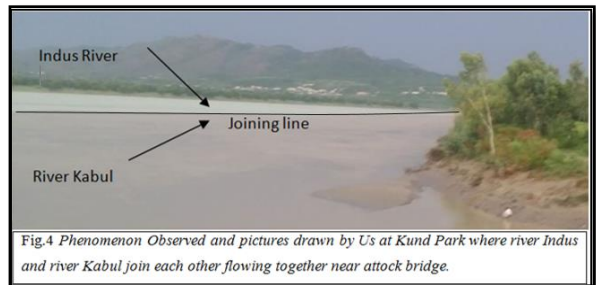


Fig.4 Phenomenon Observed and pictures drawn by Us at Kund Park where river Indus and river Kabul join each other flowing together near attock bridge.

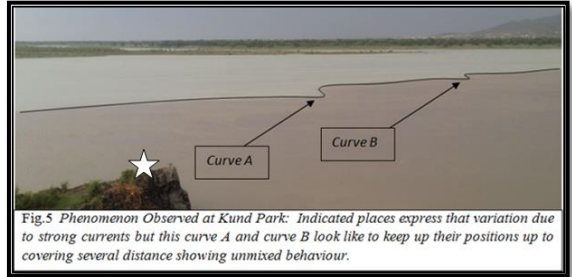
The origin of this river is China Tibetan Plateau having total drainage area exceeding 1,165,000 km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>10</sup> While River Kabul is a 700-kilometres long and empties into the Indus River near Attock Pakistan.<sup>11</sup>

One may observe it for further elaboration Figure 4 has been captured by us during the visit near Kund Park. A line between both after meeting and jointly flowing can be seen at Kund Park where this line

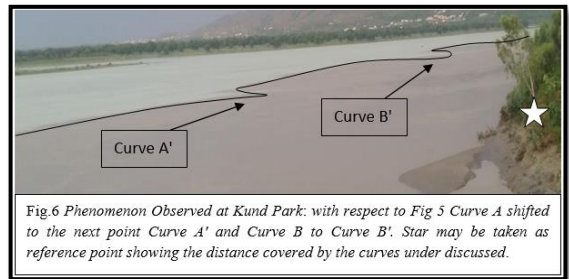
maintains its existence up to a distance presenting unmixed behaviour of the water of Indus River and Kabul River.

### 2.3 Junction of Indus River and River Kabul (Kund Park)

It is interesting to note that some time River Indus hits River Kabul and a curve in joining line may exist due to currents of different pressure. One may observe in fig 5 where Curve A and Curve B with respect to a reference point star when both Curves flow along with approximately equal difference between themselves.








But by dint of 'Barrier' between them Curve A may be indicated as Curve A' after covering some distance at new place and similarly Curve B becomes Curve B' where the change in location has also been indicated with reference to another star as shown in fig 6.




This shifting of Curve A and Curve B (imagine we are observing them in video or computer animation) reaching next position to Curve A' and Curve B'. It apparently shows the role of barrier and unmixed behavior as indicated in the shape of curve at joining line. Properties of both waters may also be judged in order to know how both behave in accordance with their intrinsic characteristics.

### 2.4 Lesson form the World Major Bodies of Water

The appearance of this phenomenon may also be visited around the globe observing this strange behaviour of different bodies of water where their confluence taken place displaying a barrier between them. Some important examples from global confluence of two bodies of water have been given briefly in the following tabular illustration to visit charisma in the creation of Allah Almighty.<sup>12</sup>

#	Location	Elaboration	Figure
1.	<b>Lytton, BC Canada</b>	Confluence of the Thompson river the 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest river of British Columbia and Fraser Rivers the longest river in Canada.	
2.	<b>Canyonlands National Park, UT, USA</b>	The Colorado River and Green River, Both the rivers meet in Canyonlands National Park in Utah.	
3.	<b>Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Rivers (Devprayag, India)</b>	Both the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Rivers are Himalayan rivers of Northern India and are of significant importance for Hindu culture.	
4.	<b>Mosel and Rhine Rivers (Koblenz, Germany)</b>	The Mosel River flows through France, Luxemburg, and Germany, eventually meeting with the Rhine River (Swiss Alps) in Koblenz.	
5.	<b>Rhone and Arve Rivers (Geneva, Switzer-land)</b>	The Rhone runs through France and the Swiss Alps. It has a much bluer color than the Rhone, the two of which meet in Geneva.	



6.	<b>The meeting of two oceans in The Gulf of Alaska</b>	The gulf has different slow moving currents, which harbor distinct sediments, one with a higher amount of heavier clay that contains iron and changed appearance.	
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Form this observation we may think that how they meet and how they treat in first contract without disturbing the individuality of each other up to certain limits. Following the character and manner prescribed in the Qur'ānic Scripture as *'they don't encroach their prescribed limit'* a lesson for respect of individual personal privacy and one's right to be acknowledged. What a style of mutual living so closely without disturbing any other right of individuality. This concept may be extended to the worldwide living of different sects and religions notwithstanding their differences, and possibility of their mutual survival.

### **3. Different Exegetical Approaches: A Broader Sketch of Phenomenon**

When we go through the exegetical history, we come to know several trends from very beginning to that of present time and contextualization of these relevant verses with respect to time and space. Number of exegetes have common views but other different approaches make the phenomenon more lucid and clear. We may observe various elaborations regarding traditional, ethical, scientific, metaphysical and beneficial aspects, cognition of self as well as an invitation and call to human mind towards Ultimate Reality. Some prominent exegetical interpretations are as under:

There are certain views of scholars that amplify one's thought. Muḥammad bin Jarīr al-Ṭabarī pointed out offspring of both waters quoting views of scholars about the characteristics of both rivers. He defined the



size where coral is larger in size having red shading as compared to pearl having green shading and corals.<sup>13</sup>

Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī commented regarding benefits, natural tendency and characteristics of both rivers. He put as:

وعلى الأول فالفائدة إظهار القدرة في النفع فإنه إذا أرسل الماءين بعضهما على بعض وفي طبعهما بخلق الله وعاداته السيلان والالتقاء ومنعهما البرزخ الذي هو قدرة الله أو بقدرة الله يكون أدل على القدرة مما إذا لم يكونا على حال يلتقيان ... أن الحكماء اتفقوا على أن الماء له حيز واحد بعضه يجذب إلى بعض كأجزاء الزئبق<sup>14</sup> ...

Al-Rāzī discussed the nature of both rivers adding that it is an expression of Lord Omnipotence that the barrier in between these bodies of water having an ability to mix with each. Moreover, intellectuals are agreed upon the view that the barrier between waters exist and attracts one another like the components of mercury.

According to Tafṣīr al-Marāghī both waters do not breach their respective limits, their mixing may create great malfunction and failure for biological and zoological kingdoms. If sweet water trespasses and encroaches over salty one then it is not in favour of climate restoration.<sup>15</sup>

Wahbah Bin Muṣṭafā al-Zuḥaylī remarked further as:

فالعذب للشرب وسقي النبات والحيوان، والملح لتطهير تجمع الماء من الجراثيم، وإصلاح طبقة الهواء، وإخراج اللؤلؤ والمرجان.<sup>16</sup>

So, sweet water is for drinking and plants and animals also need to be watered and salty water for purification, refreshing the air layer, atmosphere and climate, and extracting the pearls and corals.

Fauzi Ismail expressed in the conference organized by Institute of Islamic understanding Malaysia about the verses 55:19-21 and 25:53.<sup>17</sup> He

said that these are the source for the scientific awareness, these verses indirectly, elucidate the concept and characteristics of the membrane. It is an inspiration for him to conduct research on Membrane Technology.<sup>18</sup> However, Ibn Huthaymīn explained the hidden condition of fresh water in salty reservoirs of water in accordance with the views of scholars of geography and exegetes. He put as:

*“In the deep seas, there are sweet springs that stem from the earth, so that the divers dive into it (seas) and drink from it as sweet and fresh water. However, the sea waters do not spoil it (making it salty). When it has been proved then there is no objection to add the opinion of both scholars of geography and exegetes that, Allah has power over all things.”*<sup>19</sup>

In mystical approach scholars also put their views and interpretations with different style for the contribution in the field of Tafsīr-i Ishārī. Sahl bin Abdullah al-Tustarī, Abdul Raḥmān al-Sulamī<sup>20</sup> and Al-Qushayrī,<sup>21</sup> explained the verses, approximately, in same and similar way for example Al-Tustarī quoted here as:

*“One river out of two is the river of Heart (Qalb) consisting the essence of faith, gnosis, Tawḥīd, willingness, love, ecstasy and sadness. While other river is the river of body and soul (Nafs), the barrier (Barzakh) of infallibility, goodness to bring into agreement or harmony.”*<sup>22</sup>

Ṭanṭāwī the most prominent figure for scientific exegesis explained the verse enlarging his discussion regarding the benefits of this phenomenon where bitter water does not exceed the limit to make the sweet water as bitter one. He further advised to observe the nature, rich study of universe to proceed further for betterment of Muslim Community (Ummah). He penned the words of motivation to study the natural phenomena and to get rid of the deep slumbering of ignorance.<sup>23</sup>

We may find certain exegetical view and interpretations like traditional, mystical (*Tafsīr-i Ishārī*), where scholars having traditional cum modern approaches towards the phenomenon commenting multiple aspects. These elaborations may expand the views of observer and thinker towards the apparent and hidden signs in Lord's creation. It leads us towards and the gnosis of truth ultimately.

### **3.1 A Glimpse of 'Ilm al-Munāsabāt' to make Phenomenon More Explicit**

We may add in the light of correspondence and relation among the verses (*'Ilm al Munāsabāt*) that (*maraja*) means to set free the two rivers, (*yaltaqiyān*) means their mutual contact and flowing and (*barzakh*) is the barrier between them. After the refrain "*which of favour of your Lord would you both deny.*"<sup>24</sup> Next verse highlights the beneficial aspects of the phenomenon that is the pearls and corals come forth from both bodies of water, one having green shade and the other of shading red respectively. So, what an aesthetics sketch may be imagined reciting these verses. After the same refrain Allah Almighty showing His Might and Control over the big vessels with lofty sails raised high in the sea like mountains have also been discussed.<sup>25</sup> Advantage of these container may not be ignored when we observe in current context.

According to Dr Bakrī Shaykh Amīn, relation (*Munāsabah*) among the verses and chapters (Surah) exist, to uncover it needs more struggle and painstaking endeavour, due to unaware of relation, and it doesn't mean that relations exist not. One who pays attention may be able to know this correspondence.<sup>26</sup>

Hence, it may be stated further that the strength of barrier between the both bodies of water associated with the factor of production and offspring like biological life, pearl and coral etc. It manifested various

dimensions when we correlate the verses of Sūrah Al-Raḥmān with previous verses, mentioned regarding another phenomenon, known as ‘Lord of two easts and Lord of two west’.<sup>27</sup> Al-Rāzī when elaborates one phenomenon discussing the other to make them more explicit simultaneously. He narrates mutual link in this context along with the stated views of *Mufasssirīn*, generalizing that the Lord of easts of sun and Lord of east of what is other than sun (and similarly Lord of two wests) this (elaboration) encompasses the whole (universe). Then he further integrates this explanation including the next verses regarding the phenomenon of two rivers 55:19-20 (*maraj al-baḥrayn*) and previous verses in which earth has been explained in 55:17. He added as:

في تعلق الآية بما قبلها فنقول لما ذكر تعالى المشرق والمغرب وهما حركتان في الفلك

ناسب ذلك ذكر البحرين ...<sup>28</sup>

We say regarding the relation of verse with previous verse where east and west, two motions heavenly have been mentioned which is appropriate (*munāsab*) to the discussion of two rivers (in the next verse) ... what has been stated by al-Rāzī discussing ‘*Munāsabah*’ among the stated verses. The relationship between both phenomena may be seen in modern research as:

*“Solar radiation is responsible for manifestations of life activities both in the biosphere and, particularly, in the “upper living film” of the ocean. Living organisms in the photic layer convert solar energy into mechanical or biochemical energy.”*<sup>29</sup>

Furthermore, Robert Stewart also commented:

*“Light is rapidly absorbed in the ocean. 95% of sunlight is absorbed in the upper 100 m of the clearest sea water.”*<sup>30</sup>

Dr Wahbah al-Zuhaylī on the topic of balance in his commentary of Sūrah Al-Raḥmān also expresses that the establishment of justice, hierarchy and equilibrium in everything subject to the universe is the mercy and favour of Almighty Allah in the waterless zone like two easts and two wests and in the ocean like miracle of two rivers, both are the examples of the stability.<sup>31</sup>

The investigation in modern day links the relation of both phenomena one associated with solar in verse (55:17), with the phenomenon of both river confluence having biological organisms. We may state, the solar radiation and its impact upon the ocean depends upon the phenomenon mentioned in verse (55:17), the role of ocean is also essential for living organisms.

Samarqandī stated that the phenomenon and its unmixed behaviour and discussed its beneficial aspects. He correlate the verse of Sūrah al-Qamar<sup>32</sup> declaring earth and air as a Barzakh between the river of Heaven and River of Earth.. He correlates further the next verse commenting advantage of ships and inspiring humanity that how they can disbelieve quoting the refrain:

*“which of favour of your Lord would you both deny.”<sup>33</sup>*

Therefore, number of scholars linked the verses and chapters of Holy Qur’ān to the other relevant places in order to get more and more awareness and understanding and guidance.

### **3.4 Exegetical Response towards Theological Confrontation**

Regarding theological confrontation, Ibn Huthaymīn replied to the confused minds those who say that the pearls come out from salty water instead of sweet, as:

والذين قالوا بهذا اضطربوا في معنى الآية: كيف يقول الله: (منهما) وهو من أحدهما؟

فأجابوا: بأن هذا من باب التغليب،... مثلما يقال: العمران لأبي بكر و عمر ،

ويقال: القمران للشمس والقمر...، والمراد من واحدٍ منهما.<sup>34</sup>

Those who say that there is a trouble in the meaning of the verse, but how God says (out of them) while it is out of one. Therefore, we add that this statement is of question of preference and dominion ‘Bāb al-Taghlīb’, e.g. ‘‘Uamrān’ is for Abu Bakr and Omar, and ‘Qamrān’ is for the sun and the moon, ... it means from one of them.

Although Ibn Huthaymīn tried to justify but Amīn Ahsan Iṣlāhī clarified quoting encyclopedia Britannica adding that it does not need to defend as neither it is what that would make difference as per Qur’ānic claim. It is the law of nature that things are created from partnership of opposites as baby nourished in the mother womb but it is from both father and mother. Similarly, pearl nourishment may take place in bitter and salty water (but the role of sweet water may not be ignored).<sup>35</sup>

As according to Ibn ‘Ashūr:

أَيُّ يُخْرِجُ اللَّؤْلُؤَ وَالْمَرْجَانُ بِسَبَبِهِمَا، أَيُّ بِسَبَبِ جَمْعِهِمَا يُخْرِجُ مِنْهُمَا كَمَا يُقَالُ:

يَتَحَلَّقُ الْوَلَدُ مِنَ الذَّكَرِ وَالْأُنْثَى.<sup>36</sup>

This elaboration supplements the claim mentioned later in the discourse theological confrontation.

Sa’dī discussed the phenomenon in accordance with Scripture and its beneficial aspects towards humanity as:

"ويحصل النفع بكل منهما ، فالعذب منه يشربون وتشرب أشجارهم وزروعهم ،

والمالح به يطيب الهواء ويتولد الحوت والسماك واللؤلؤ والمرجان ، ويكون مستقرا

مسخرا للسفن والمراكب " انتهى من " تيسير الكريم الرحمن " <sup>37</sup>

Shanqīṭī elaborates the phenomenon commenting on Lord's dominion and the barrier also inaccessible by naked human eye.<sup>38</sup> While Ibn Ashūr remarked as par excellence stratagem along with explaining reason why these waters mix not due to physical belongings.<sup>39</sup> Al-Rāzī also added in the exegesis of Surah 55, shedding light on scientific and philosophical observations. He replied with different approaches producing various answer but once he also put that it is stated that 'one came out from the city' while he came from his home located in the village.<sup>40</sup>

Hence, scholars tried to defend the reproach regarding the phenomenon up to their possible approaches.

#### 4. Divine Mercy-cum-Majesty in relation to Natural Behaviour

Flowing rhythm and attitude of river apparently expose the Divine Majesty, while number of manifestations from this phenomenon uncover the Divine Mercy. For example comparing water viscosity, we may be able to know that it has very low degree of viscosity which is required limit for the aqueous life. Scientifically speaking we may state that water is 10 billion times more fluid than tar, 100 times more than olive oil, and 25 times more than H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (Sulfuric Acid). This short comparison shows, water has a very low degree of viscosity. These properties are responsible for the survival of biological life.

Michael Denton expressed in his book "Nature Density" that:

*"If the viscosity was higher, the controlled movement of large macro-molecules and particularly structures such as*



*mitochondria and small organelles would be impossible, as would processes like cell division.*”<sup>41</sup>

Let us ponder over the anomalous thermal expansion of water in which temperature falls below 4°C, which is responsible for the floating of ice, and the possibility of life within the sea. According to Dr Zaghloul Najjar, Barrier between the seas was studied by means of chemical analysis of infinitesimal portions and through infra-red rays and radiation. It was found that invisible separating line demarcates both the waters flowing without mixing adjacent side horizontally and vertically.<sup>42</sup> He added further the significance of the phenomenon for the life on the surface of the seas and life under the surface of water.<sup>43</sup> It is also strange to note that two types of water from one well in America and three types of water from one reservoir in Russia existing vertically having different taste and different types of life and animal inside. Animals of beautiful shape exist in fresh water and animals of ugly shape sustain in salty water.<sup>44</sup>

When fresh water enters into the estuary (the wide part of a river at the place where it joins the sea) up to some kilometers in the sea, fresh water of river does not mix with the salty water of the sea. Due to this natural phenomenon, when tide occurs in the sea because of moon and sun gravitational pull, sea water may access and reach to the crops of fertile soil and field. It is interesting to note that, only the fresh water can access the crops due to not mixing with salty water. Consequently, crops remain safe from the harmful effects of salty water of the sea. Because of scientific research, we can concentrate on the facts exposed by the Holy Qur’ān and Divine Mercy upon us. It is also indicated by the reiteration that which of your Lord favours and expression of power will you deny?

Sheikh Muhammad Matwallī al-Sha‘rāwī highlighted the benefits of phenomenon beneath earth when one digs to get water from it, what a

strange thing that both waters sweet and salty have their own territory without mixing with each other he added as:

"الماء له استطرار فسلكه الله ينابيع في الأرض ، فالإنسان يحفر في مكان من الأرض فيجد الماء عذباً ، وفي موقع آخر يدق الإنسان الأرض ويحفرها ليجد الماء ولكنه مالح . لماذا إذن لم يتسرب الماء المالح إلى الماء العذب وكلاهما تحت الأرض؟ إذن لا بد أن للماء المالح مسارب تختلف عن مسارب الماء العذب ولا يطغى أحد على الآخر ."<sup>45</sup>

Low viscosity of water is essential not only for cellular motion but also for the circulatory system. It is possible for nutrients and Oxygen to be diffused throughout the organism due to low viscosity. The larger part of this planet has been filled with necessary quantity of water for life, where different creatures need different foods from water. Ryota Nakajima along with a research team of seven members came to know recently and published their research 11 may 2017, where as a concluding remarks they added as:

*"The confluence boundary between black and white water rivers may function as a boundary layer that offers benefits of both high food (zooplankton) concentrations from black water river and low predation risk from white water river. This forms a plausible explanation for the high density of ichthyoplankton<sup>46</sup> in the confluence zone."*<sup>47</sup>

Due to more than half of the world's inhabitants living near the water's edge. The ocean and its estuaries supply source of transportation for people and goods. About ninety percent of raw and manufactured materials are transported over the water of ocean. They have been a disposal site for some of man's waste products and are an economic asset. The oceans and the margins of the oceans provide important recreational resources.

Seashores are also beautiful due to atmospheric and oceanic weather control.<sup>48</sup> Emelyan M. Emelyano stated that:

“On a global scale, these processes in the ocean are either stimulated or hindered by solar energy. The photic layer of the World Ocean is responsible for about 43% of the total primary production of the earth’s biosphere. Representing the primary production of the World Ocean by C yields a value of about 20 billion tons per year.”<sup>49</sup>

So, the predation risk that is the killing of any sea animal, fish eggs and larvae and biological life by the animals of other side of barrier. Researchers admit the function of boundary layer between the two rivers as a protective layer. This calls to the mind towards the refrain “which of favour of your Lord would you both deny”<sup>50</sup> inspiring multiple aspects of phenomenon. Furthermore, impact of phenomenon on climate, economics, social life, the world’s fisheries along with biological life and environmental health balance, no doubt these gifts of Lord are manifested through this natural phenomenon.

## 5. Natural Phenomenon Leads towards Ultimate Reality

Muḥammad bin ‘Umar Al-Rāzī, explains the phenomenon with various dimensions. He added that before this verse in the Sūrah the phenomenon of two easts and two wests has also been stated which is associated with the motion of heavenly bodies. He further enlarges the discussion towards land and water (*baḥr and bar*). Then also discussed the phenomenon in scientific styles referring the scholars of Astronomy and Physics and what is behind the link of cause and effect ultimately with examples towards Ultimate Reality, He put as:

<sup>51</sup> فالذي يكون عنده قليل من العقل يرجع إلى الحق ويجعله بإرادة الله تعالى ومشيئته.

He who has even less intellectual capability turn towards the truth and makes it by the will of God and His Pleasure.

Like Baghavī, Khāzan, Zamakhashrī and al-Sha‘rāwī, Muḥammad Makkī al-Nāṣrī also stated that this separation (*Barazkh*) indicates the Might and Power of Allah Almighty.<sup>52</sup> It extends one’s thought towards Lord of the universe during the observation of phenomenon of the bodies of water flowing together.

Ibn ‘Ashūr further added regarding strange and unexpected creation is an evident towards Glory, Might and Power, Knowledge and Strategy governed by Allah Almighty.

وَذَلِكَ خَلْقٌ عَجِيبٌ دَالٌّ عَلَى عَظَمَةِ قُدْرَةِ اللَّهِ وَعِلْمِهِ وَحِكْمَتِهِ<sup>53</sup>

When Dr. William Hay<sup>54</sup> about the phenomenon, He put that to find this information in the Qur’ān, it is very appealing to me, this work exposed the hidden realities of the Scripture. Furthermore, he was inquired that whom do you think the original source of this information, he expressed as: “Well, I would think it must be of the divine being.”<sup>55</sup>

A famous French Marine Scientist, Jacques Cousteau embraced Islam<sup>56</sup> by virtue of phenomenon of water stated in the Sūrah Al-Raḥmān caused him to become a Muslim. It happened due to the research conducted regarding the ocean by German scientists and his contribution to the field of oceanography. They came to know after 1960 that the water of the Atlantic Ocean and discovered features entirely different from those of the Mediterranean Sea. They repeated the same experiment for different oceans.

Captain J. Cousteau when with his team came to know the two joining sea without mixing with different properties. He expressed as:

*“This (phenomenon) greatly puzzled us. An incredible barrier prevented the two seas from coming together.”*<sup>57</sup>

According to J Cousteau, both waters gush forth to each other at an angle 45 degree, developing and forming reciprocal dam that acts like the

teeth of the comb, due to this both water remains separated.<sup>58</sup> He expressed that when I told Maurice Bucaille about this phenomenon and findings, he informed me that it is not something strange because noticeably stated in the Holy Qur’ān. Due to this information, I believed that, it is the reality that Qur’ān is the ‘Word of Allah’. So, I chose Islam, the true religion. Further he added that the spiritual potency inherent in the Islamic religion gave me the strength to endure the pain, what I had been suffering from the loss of my son.”<sup>59</sup>

Holy Scripture itself express:

أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَهْمَارًا وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ<sup>60</sup>

‘Abdullah Yūsuf ‘Alī translated these verses as:

*“Or, Who has made the earth firm to live in; made rivers in its midst; set thereon mountains immovable; and made a separating bar between the two bodies of flowing water? (can there be another) god besides Allah? Nay, most of them know not.”*<sup>61</sup>

That is the pioneers of Islamic geography managed these texts to stimulate consideration of the greatness of the creation of the earth and its components, which had the greatest impact in enriching the geographical studies in Islamic civilization.

This verse is one out of those cosmic verses rendering the evidences regarding Divine Divinity (*Rabūbiyyah*) which made the rivers of different properties, adjacent to each other and without intermingling, one’s water is very tasty and sweet, and the other water is very salty, but does not mix with each other.<sup>62</sup>

Al-Shuhūd stated the uplifting of research and contemplation towards the sign of Allah Almighty mentioning the verse of joining of two rivers while flowing

ولقد تدبر رواد الجغرافيا المسلمون هذه النصوص المحفزة على النظر في عظمة خلق الأرض

ومكثّراتها؛ مما كان له أكبر الأثر في إثراء الدراسات الجغرافية في الحضارة الإسلامية<sup>63</sup>

It is clear that these natural signs are not accidental and that they are all the products of a perfect creation engineered by Lord. This discussion broadens the human thought towards the various aspects of sea's water and its characteristics. If we rethink the stated realities, no doubt this contemplation leads one's mind towards the concept of Oneness of Lord and His Omnipotence and Omnipresence that is our thinking ultimately towards Ultimate Reality.

## 6. Concluding Remarks

In the light of this discourse, we may add that as time goes on unknown and hidden realities of revealed Scripture are being transpired. It is well-know, when we consider different Qur'ānic themes in current contextual domains. Some unattended facets of the phenomenal indication of the Qur'ān with reference to multiple relations of verses ('Ilm al-Munāsabāt) may also open the avenue of research for humanity depending upon scholar's own exertion, painstaking work and ability of inference.

Hence, due to scientific findings (when results are probably closer to the reality) greater the fact finding ratio lesser will be the ambiguity and misunderstanding of Scripture and greater will be the scholar's insight towards multiple phases of the natural phenomenon mentioned in revealed guidance .

Thematic exegetical discourse in order to visit Qur'ānic concept, needs a full-fledged approach of scholars having traditional and modern

knowledge for example concerning the thesis under discussed, oceanography and chemistry of water is compulsory to be known, etc. It may be a team work of scholars specialized in relevant aspects prescribed in the verses. This elaboration may cause to broaden the mentality of the reader from any segment of society and any religion in front of results disclosed by that research team. In this manner, research may afford insight into manifold dimensions of the phenomenon it may be a compelling factor towards the gnosis of Allah Almighty, the God in Islam.

Moreover, exegetical interpretations and scientific elaborations may create a thought having a trajectory that begins from the study of nature and signs. When one observes the phenomenon with multiple measurements considering how the signs of Divine Manifestation have been dispersed and scintillated everywhere. From this study, it is also obvious that this phenomenon is related to the service of humankind .

Various global examples of confluence of bodies of water display beautiful panorama. Apparent flow of the river is an expression of Divine Majesty along with hidden manifold examples of Divine Mercy. It has beneficial aspects for humanity. Exegetical elaboration with modern approach calls the human intellect towards Creator. Form this observation we may think that how both bodies of water meet with each other and how they treat in the first contract without disturbing the individuality of each other up to certain limits. Qur'ān declared that, 'they don't encroach their prescribed limit.' It is a lesson for human race to respect of individual personal privacy. It also projects a concept to acknowledge the rights of each other mutual living without disturbing any other. This concept may be extended to the worldwide living of different sects and religions notwithstanding their distinctions and dissimilarities; they may survive mutually without any harm.



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- <sup>5.</sup> *The pH scale counts how acidic or basic an aqueous solution is. It ranges from 0 to 14 where pH 7 is neutral, pH less than 7 is acidic and greater than 7 is basic.* (for further information one may visit <http://chemistry.elmhurst.edu/vchembook/184ph.html> )
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