

Astronomy, from 50 thousand years ago to 5 thousand years ago

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Of the human imagination at ancient times, the earth was the center of the universe and the sky revolved around the earth with all its stars, those were seemed as bright fixed points on it. They experienced this pattern for thousands of years. But who had the first correct attitude in knowing the sky and the earth? Who was the first astronomer, and who discovered that Earth is a planet? Who had the first knowledge about the stars? Who first categorized the stars as constellations?

Noone knows what was the history of this hundred thousand years to answer these questions, but the answer is very easy through revelation. In the Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah, and in verse 30 where God says, "And He taught Adam (peace be upon him) the names of all things." These names included everything that was needed for human life on earth. The names of the manifestations of nature such as the sky, the sun, stars, mountain, stone, tree, flower and plant, and everything that was needed by mankind, were taught to Adam (PBUH) by God Almighty, through angels. Among the teachings of the angels to this prophet (PBUH) were the sciences of astronomy and medicine as stated in a narration as follows

"When God - Blessed and Exalted - sent Adam (pbuh) down from Paradise to earth and taught him sciences, the angel educated him astronomy and medicine as well."

Therefore, fifty thousand years ago, Adam (pbuh) knew the names of some stars that were necessary to guide him in mountains, deserts, and through the sea, and he recognized these stars. Also, his family did not uninform from his knowledge. Among this awareness was knowing the planets, the most prominent of which is Venus. This planet, which is known as the morning (evening) star, is so striking in its appearances before (after) sunrise (sunset). He also knew Mars and Jupiter and was aware of their daily movement across the sky.



Venus by Andrew Allan, Scotland, 19 July 2020.

With increasing of the human race and their dispersion, it is certain that knowledge and science also be dispersed, and most of generations of Adam (pbuh) remained unaware of the knowing. For finding the secrets of nature, they observed and kept in thier mind believing that the earth should be in the

center of the universe and assumed that the sun, moon and stars revolve around the earth. These observations in the sense modern time wasn't scientific and were mainly directed to practical face in life. Issues related to atmospheric and celestial events, and most importantly, seeking for signs of good omens and bad luck across the universe.



The stars rotating around the pole, ESO.

Finding the knowledge about universe was done slowly with many experiences, and it was not sustainable due to instrumental and mental limitations. Otherwise, during these fifty thousand years, a lot of information should have stayed. Most of the astronomical knowledge about the stars, planets, and constellations reached us through the writings of the Greeks, which were translated into Arabic and Persian contexts.