

THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

The Noble Quraan corrected the wrong theories about the universe in more ways than one.

As regards the shape of the earth, it actually gives its exact shape. It tells us that the earth is shaped like an egg.

Focus on Sura al-Nazi'at (ch. 79): verse 30:-

“And the earth, moreover, has he shaped like an egg;”

The Arabic word for the expression, '**shaped like an egg**', is '**daha**'. **Its noun is 'dahiah', which the arabs still use to mean an egg.**

The ancient and not so ancient commentators of Al-Quraan did not explain the term '**daha**' as such, because it did not blend with the popular belief of the shape of our planet!

Instead, the word '**daha**' was rendered as '**stretched out**', thus obscuring the scientific truth of this wonderful sign!

The egg of a chicken is not perfectly spherical. It is slightly rounded on one side while the other side is slightly pointed. There is a slight curving around its centre. This ties in perfectly with the fact that there is a bulge around the equator.

We do know that the slant of the earth, tilted at about 23. 25 degrees gives us seasons.

Had it not been so tilted, vapours from the oceans would move north and south, piling up continents of ice.

Now for a practical demonstration of what has been stated:

Take an egg and place it on a table.

You will notice that it tilts slightly.

Now spin the egg at a very fast pace. You will notice that the egg appears round or almost perfectly spherical.

This is an '**optical illusion**', which means that it appears almost perfectly round because of the fact that it is spinning so very fast.

Remember, our planet rotates on its own axis at one thousand six hundred kilometres an hour.

This is the reason why photographs of the earth show that the earth is almost perfectly round.

Then, the earth must be slightly rounded on the one side and slightly pointed on the other for it to have a slant, tilted at 23.25 degrees.

The slightly pointed side of the egg is lower than the slightly rounded side, and the same would apply to the earth!

An object that is spherical cannot have a tilt.

All praise belongs to our Rabb who alone knows the deepest and finest mysteries of the universe !

Worksheet

1) Why does the earth appear spherical i.e., like a soccer ball?

2) In Sura al Hijr (ch. 15): verse 19 the word **daha** does not appear; yet it is translated in the same manner as Sura al-Naziat (ch. 79): verse 39 where the word **daha** appears. Offer comments.
