

Exploring Scientific Indications of 'Arham' through Medical Technology in Ar-Ra'd Verse 8

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Abstract

Surah Ar-Ra'd, the 13th chapter of the Quran, offers profound guidance and wisdom for humanity, encompassing various aspects of life. Within this surah, verse 8 introduces the term "Arham," derived from the root word رحم (rahīma), signifying mercy and compassion. "Arham" is intricately linked to Allah's attributes of mercy and encompasses all aspects of creation, including kinship relations and the womb. This article delves into the scientific indications embedded in Surah Ar-Ra'd, verse 8, particularly focusing on the interpretation of "Arham" as the womb and its correlation with modern medical instrumentation technology.

Drawing from thematic interpretation methodologies, this article examines the theme of the Quran, identifies relevant verses, and prioritizes discussions based on Quranic language style. The thematic analysis of "Arham" unfolds through the lens of medical instrumentation technology, elucidating the advancements in understanding the womb's structure, health, and predictive capabilities. By integrating qualitative literature-based methods, the discussion not only presents factual information but also explores the underlying meanings and implications of "Arham."

This thematic interpretation aims to enhance understanding and appreciation of the Quran's guidance while highlighting the compatibility between religious teachings and scientific advancements. The discussion underscores the significance of embracing both spiritual and scientific knowledge in enriching human comprehension and addressing societal issues.

Introduction

Letter Ar-Ra'd is the 13th letter in the sequence of the Qur'an with 43 verses and its name is taken from verse 13. This letter contains guidance for life and divine wisdom for humanity. In this surah, there are also verses that contain profound meanings and invite Muslims to contemplate the greatness of Allah and explore the signs of His magnificence in the universe. One interesting word to analyze thematically is "Arham" found in verse 8. (Witro et al., 2020)

Etymologically, the meaning of the word "Arham" comes from the root word رحم (rahīma). This root word has a basic meaning related to mercy, compassion, and affection. Terminologically in the Qur'an, the word "Arham" is often used to refer to Allah's mercy that encompasses all His creatures, familial relations, and the womb (place of the fetus). (Windah, 2019)

Referring to the book *Al-Mu'jam Al-Mufahros li Alfadzil Qur'an Al-Fawahiys*, the word "rahima" has 31 derivations spread across hundreds of verses. (Az-Zuhaili, n.d.) These derivations include:

1. Past tense verbs (Fi'il madhi): with pronouns such as: rahimtahu, rahimnaa, rahimnaahu, rahimahu.
2. Present tense verbs (Fi'il mudhori'): tarhamna, tarhamni, yarhamu, yarhamukum, yarhamnaa, sayarhamuhum, turhamuun.
3. Imperative verbs (Fi'il amr): irham, irhamnaa, irhamhaa.
4. Nouns (Ismun masdar): rahmatun, rahmatika, rahmatuka, rahmatina, rahmatuhu, bir-rahmah, al-arham, ar-raahimiin, ar-rahman, ar-rahim, rahiiman, ruhama', arhamukum, arhamihinna.

The meaning of "rahima" in *Nuzhah Al A'yun An Nawadzir* by Ibnul Jauzi represented by the word "ar-rahmah" has 16 meanings, including paradise, Islam, faith, prophecy, the Qur'an, provision, blessings, well-being, victory, trustworthiness, consciousness, forgiveness, the Hour, love, and protection (al-jannah, al-islam, al-iman, an-nubuwah, al-qur'an, al-mathor, ar-rozaq, an-ni'mah, al-'afiyah, an-nashr, al-manah, ar-riqqoh, al-maghfiroh, as-sa'ah, al-mawaddah, al'ishmah). (Reif, 1971)

"Arham" can also be connected to one of Allah's Beautiful Names, "Ar-Rahman" (The Most Compassionate) and "Ar-Rahim" (The Most Merciful), which signify Allah's boundless mercy and compassion. These two names indicate the attribute of Allah's Compassion and Mercy that encompass all His creatures. (Zubairi et al., 2022)

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The implication of the meaning of Arham is the extensive compassion that covers all aspects of life, all creatures, and embraces everything. Understanding the meaning of "Arham" also has a spiritual dimension, inviting Muslims to contemplate Allah's mercy and embrace His compassion.(Adela, 2019)

Allah says in Surah Ar-Ra'd verse 8: "Allah knows what every female carries and what the wombs lose [prematurely] or exceed. And everything with Him is by due measure."

Explanation in Aisarut Tafasir (by Syaikh Abu Bakar Jabir al-Jazairi) is as follows: The meaning of "مَا تَحْمِلُ كُلُّ أُنْثَىٰ" is what they carry, whether male or female, one or more, white or brown. And further, "وَمَا تَعْبِضُ الْأَرْحَامُ" refers to the decrease in menstrual blood and the increase.(Jazairi, 2007)

The lesson from the verse is the greatness of Allah's power and the vastness of His knowledge and the determination of the creed of destiny and fate.(Kok & Ab. Samad, 2017)

It can be understood that the term "arham" in this verse refers to the womb, which medically is the reproductive organ of a woman as part of the reproductive system (a biological process aimed at maintaining and continuing the survival of a species). This verse can be categorized as a verse containing scientific indications.(Pakravan & Motaharipour, 2019)

As explained in Prof. Qurays Shihab's book, "Mu'jizat Al-Qur'an Ditinjau dari Aspek Kebahasaan, Isyarat Ilmiah, dan Pemberitaan Ghaib", he presents several scientific indications found in the Qur'an, besides those related to human reproduction there are events in the universe, the separation of two seas, clouds, mountains, green plants, solar and lunar calendars, etc.(M. Quraish Shihab, 2014)

Agus Purwanto, a Muslim scholar from a General Science background, has also explored scientific indications in the Qur'an. He, as a Physics lecturer in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the Surabaya Institute of Technology, wrote in his book "Nalar Ayat-ayat Semesta" that there are approximately 800 verses in the Qur'an identified to present scientific information.(Agus Purwanto, 2015)

In his effort, Purwanto categorized these scientific verses into various themes, similar to what Rahman (1996), a professor of Islamic thought at the University of Chicago, did. Inspired by the study of verses with scientific indications, the author of this article will try to discuss the scientific indications in Surah Ar-Ra'd verse 8 with the choice of the word "arham," which in this verse is interpreted as the womb (of women) and relates it to the current developing medical instrumentation technology.(Rahman, 1996)

The urgency of this discussion is to increase understanding about the womb, which previously could not be identified in detail in terms of structure, health, size, and predictions of the fetus within it. With advances in medical instrumentation technology, we can diagnose in detail. Although the womb and related matters are the will and power of Allah, humans as His creatures using discovered technology can predict and estimate. The implementation of this medical instrumentation technology has significant impacts, although not without shortcomings and errors which are inherent human characteristics.

Method

This article employs a thematic interpretation method. Thematic interpretation of the Quran can be categorized into four types: thematic by surah, thematic by term, thematic by concept, and thematic by figure. (Adlini et al., 2022) This article falls under the thematic by term category, with the term analyzed being "Arham."

Following the steps of the thematic interpretation method, as outlined below:

Determining the theme of the Quran. Identifying and gathering all verses related to the theme (including derivations, keywords, and definitions). Determining the relevant discussion elements corresponding to the verses. Prioritizing discussions based on the Quranic style of language before other discussions. Organizing discussions into several subsections for clarity and coherence. Linking discussions to phenomena occurring and providing solutions to societal issues. In this regard, the chosen approach is scientific indications utilizing medical instrumentation technology. Utilizing a qualitative literature-based method, the author not only presents facts but also endeavors to elucidate and explore the underlying meanings behind the information. This provides a rich interpretative dimension to the discussion of "Arham," enabling readers to grasp the complexity and implications of the topic more thoroughly.

Discussion

Surah Ar-Ra'd, the 13th surah in the Quran, is classified as both Madinan and Meccan. This is because some of its verses were revealed after the Hijrah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to Madinah, while others were revealed in Makkah. Therefore, there are opinions that Surah Ar-Ra'd is both Madinan and Meccan.(Halik et al., 2022)

Regarding the context of revelation (asbabun nuzul) for verse 8 of Surah Ar-Ra'd, At-Thabrani and others narrate from Ibn Abbas that the Prophet was approached by Arbadh bin Qais and Amir bin Thufail, who came to Madinah. Then Amir said, "O Muhammad, what will you give me if I embrace Islam?" The Prophet replied, "You will have the same rights as the Muslim community and you will also bear the same obligations as them." He then asked, "Will you hand over leadership to me after your death?" The Prophet answered, "That is not for you or your people." Finally, the two men left. Then Amir said to Arbad, "I will distract Muhammad with conversation, then strike him with the sword." They returned, and Amir said, "O Muhammad, come here! Let's talk." The Prophet got up and spoke to him, while Arbad began to draw his sword.

But as soon as he put his hand on the sword hilt, the Prophet turned and saw him. Then he left them both. Eventually, they left until they were in Ar-Raqm, whereupon Allah sent a lightning bolt that killed Arbad, and Allah revealed this verse: (By Jalaluddin As-Suyuthi, 2015)

"Allah knows what every female carries and what the wombs lose [prematurely] or exceed. And everything with Him is by due measure." (Quran 13:8)

Arham in the Qur'an

The term "arham" is the plural form of "rahim," which means womb. In the Quran, the term "arham" (al-arham) is used with three main meanings:(Fatoni & Amrullah, 2019)

1. In Surah Al-A'raf 151, Yusuf 64, 92, Al-Anbiya', Surat An-Nisa' 1, it refers to the attribute of Allah as the Most Merciful among the Merciful.
2. In Al-An'am 143-144, Ar-Ra'd 8, Ali Imran 6, Al Hajj 5, Luqman 34, Al-Baqarah 228, it denotes the womb as the place where the fetus develops.
3. In Surah Al-Anfal 75, Al-Ahzab 6, Muhammad 22, Mumtahanah 3, it refers more to kinship or affectionate relationships between siblings.

In this context, the focus is placed on the meaning of "arham" as the womb due to its inherent significance. The concept of "arham" in a woman's womb entails the command to be kind to both parents, especially to the mother, who is the bearer of the womb, to show appreciation for her role in carrying, giving birth to, and nursing the child.(Muslih, 2021)

The mother's womb is a primary symbol of love and care. The word "rahim" literally means "compassion" or "bestowing mercy." The connection between the fetus's place called "rahim" and its root word "rahima" lies in the concept of compassion and mercy associated with that place.

In the Quran, there are seven verses with different wordings but all conveying the meaning of the womb. These verses are as follows:

1. Buthun: An-Najm 32, Az Zumar 6, An Nahl 78
2. Mustaqor wa mustauda': Al An'am 98, Hud 6
3. Qororin Makin: Al Mukminuun 13, Al Mursalat 21

Among these variations of the term for womb used in the Quran (arham, buthun, mustaqor wa mustauda', Qororin Makin), "arham" is the most frequently repeated. The wisdom behind repetition in the Quran includes:(Mursalin, 2017)

1. Reinforcement and understanding of a concept or teaching. The Quran emphasizes to ensure that the message is accepted and well understood.
2. Reminder, motivation, and strengthening of faith: Repetition serves as a reminder of something important, motivates and strengthens the faith of Muslims, providing tranquility and confidence that Allah is Most Compassionate and Merciful.
3. Clarification of understanding: Repetition can also be used to clarify the understanding of a concept or teaching. By detailing or repeating various aspects of a teaching, the Quran helps Muslims to comprehend it more deeply.

The Connection between Arham and Allah's Decrees

One of the pillars of faith is belief in qadha and qadar, which is a manifestation of the power of Allah (SWT). Destiny encompasses Allah's decree regarding events in individuals' lives. A hadith states, "Allah has ordained destiny for every creature fifty thousand years before the creation of the heavens and the earth." (Narrated by Muslim)

There are several types of destiny determined by Allah, as follows:

1. **At-Taqdiirul 'Aam:** General destiny is Allah's decree that encompasses the entire universe. It demonstrates Allah's power in governing all events on earth. Surah Al-Hajj, verse 70, mentions, "Have you not considered that Allah knows what is in the heavens and what is on the earth? There is in no private conversation three but that He is the fourth of them, nor are there five but that He is the sixth of them - and no less than that and no more except that He is with them [in knowledge] wherever they are. Then He will inform them of what they did, on the Day of Resurrection. Indeed Allah is, of all things, Knowing." (Ridwan et al., 2021)
2. **At-Taqdiirul Basyari:** This destiny applies specifically to humans, where Allah records the covenant when He asked, as mentioned in Surah Al-A'Raaf: 172, "And [mention] when your Lord took from the children of Adam - from their loins - their descendants and made them testify of themselves, [saying to them], 'Am I not your Lord?' They said, 'Yes, we have testified.' [This] - lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, 'Indeed, we were of this unaware.'" Its purpose is to ensure that on the Day of Judgment, people cannot claim ignorance of the oneness of Allah.(Rukmana & Amalia, 2022)
3. **At-Taqdiirul 'Umri:** Lifespan destiny is Allah's decree for a fetus at four months. This decree includes happiness, suffering, death, deeds, and sustenance. "Indeed, one of you is assembled in his mother's womb for forty days..."
4. **At-Taqdiirul Sanawi:** Yearly destiny encompasses the writing of destiny for all living creatures on the night of lailatul qadar (the Night of Decree) every year. Surah Ad-Dukhaan, verse 4, explains, "The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter."(Mubarok & Ahmad Tarmidzi, 2022)

5. **At-Taqdiirul Yaumi:** Daily destiny establishes the daily decree that applies every day. Surah Ar-Rahman, verse 29, states, "There is no creature but that He holds its forelock. Indeed, my Lord is on a path [that is] straight." Explained in the tafsir Al-Mukhtasar, every day Allah honors and humiliates, gives and withholds, brings to life and causes death, and provides sustenance.(Rukmana & Amalia, 2022)

From the above explanation, it can be understood that "Arham" in the sense of the womb and events related to it are part of Allah's decree that cannot be annulled. Humans can only plan, but Allah is the ultimate determinant.

The connection between "Arham" (wombs) and Allah's decrees in the Quran is multifaceted and profound,

1. **Creation and Life:** The concept of "Arham" reflects Allah's creative power and His design for the continuity of life on Earth. The womb is where the miracle of life begins, and it's a testament to Allah's wisdom and mercy in designing this system.(Al-karasneh & Saleh, 2010)
2. **Decree and Destiny:** Allah's decrees encompass every aspect of existence, including the formation and development of life within the womb. The Quran often speaks about how Allah decrees the creation and sustenance of every living being, including humans, from the moment of conception.(Alfani & Istifarin, 2024)
3. **Mercy and Compassion:** The mention of "Arham" in the context of Allah's decrees underscores His mercy and compassion towards His creation. Allah's decree regarding the womb reflects His care for humanity and His provision of a nurturing environment for the unborn.
4. **Guidance and Wisdom:** The Quranic references to "Arham" remind believers of Allah's wisdom in His decrees. They serve as a reminder that everything, including the intricacies of human reproduction, is ordained by Allah with perfect knowledge and wisdom.
5. **Responsibility and Accountability:** Understanding the connection between "Arham" and Allah's decrees also underscores the responsibility humans have towards one another, especially towards family members and the vulnerable, such as unborn children. It reminds believers of their duty to protect and nurture life, guided by the principles of mercy and compassion laid out in the Quran.

In essence, the concept of "Arham" in the Quran serves as a profound reminder of Allah's sovereignty, mercy, and wisdom in His decrees, particularly regarding the creation and sustenance of life.

Medical Perspective

The uterus, an organ referred to as the womb, is part of the female reproductive system and plays a crucial role in the processes of pregnancy and childbirth. This organ, shaped like a pear, is situated in a woman's pelvis between the bladder and rectum. From a medical perspective, understanding the uterus is vital, especially for women, as this organ serves several key functions:

1. **Site of Fertilization:** The primary function of the uterus is to support and provide an environment for the embryo to develop after the egg, fertilized by sperm, becomes a fetus during pregnancy.(Killian, 2004)
2. **Site of Fetal Growth:** During pregnancy, the uterus plays a significant role in providing space for the fetus to grow and develop. The uterus undergoes anatomical and physiological changes during pregnancy to support fetal growth.(Liss et al., 2021)
3. **Menstrual Cycle Regulation:** The uterus is also involved in the menstrual cycle. If fertilization does not occur, the uterine lining (endometrium) that has grown will be shed during menstruation. During the menstrual cycle, the uterine lining undergoes cyclic changes in preparation to receive a fertilized egg (zygote). If fertilization occurs, the zygote will implant itself into the uterine lining, and the process of pregnancy begins. If fertilization does not occur, the uterine lining will be expelled in the form of blood and tissue during menstruation.(Murray & Orr, 2020)
4. **The uterus also has three main parts:** the fundus (upper part), corpus (middle part), and cervix (the neck of the uterus located at the bottom). During childbirth, uterine contractions help push the baby out of the uterus and into the outside world.
5. **Hormonal Balance Maintenance:** The uterus responds to various hormones, such as estrogen and progesterone, which play a key role in regulating the menstrual cycle, pregnancy, and childbirth.
6. **Importance of Health Checks:** Understanding uterine health is essential for early diagnosis and management of various conditions such as fibroids, cysts, endometriosis, or uterine cancer. Routine examinations, such as Pap smears, can help detect cell changes that may be signs of cervical cancer.(Susilawati & Ocviyanti, 2014)
7. **Reproductive Health:** Understanding the uterus is also crucial for planning pregnancy, monitoring reproductive health, and managing reproductive issues such as fertility or menstrual problems.(Hadisaputra, 2016)

Therefore, it is important for women to understand the role of the uterus in their bodies and maintain their reproductive health by undergoing routine examinations and adopting a healthy lifestyle. Consulting with healthcare professionals is also recommended to obtain further information about uterine health care and understanding.

Implementation of Uterine Observation Using Medical Instrument Technology Observation of the uterus using medical instrument technology can be performed to detect various women's reproductive health conditions or monitor pregnancy development. Some medical technologies and instrumentation used for uterine observation include:

1. **Ultrasound (USG):** This technology uses sound waves to create images of organs inside the body. In the context of the uterus, ultrasound can be used to visualize fetal development during pregnancy, detect structural abnormalities in the uterus, or evaluate other reproductive health conditions. (Maryam & Ervianti, 2023)
2. **Hysteroscopy:** This procedure involves the use of a tool called a hysteroscope to examine the uterus. The hysteroscope is inserted through the vagina into the uterus, allowing the doctor to directly view the uterine wall and associated organs. It is often used to diagnose and treat problems such as polyps, fibroids, or other abnormalities in the uterus.
3. **Hysterosalpingography (HSG):** This procedure involves injecting a dye into the uterus and fallopian tubes, while X-rays are used to create images of the uterus and fallopian tubes. HSG can help assess the structure of the uterus and check whether the fallopian tubes are open or not.
4. **MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging):** MRI is used to obtain highly detailed images of organs inside the body, including the uterus. It can help detect structural abnormalities or diseases in the uterus. (Wicaksono et al., 2013)
5. **Colposcopy:** Colposcopy is a procedure in which a doctor uses a special instrument (colposcope) to examine the cervix and surrounding tissues. It is usually performed after abnormal Pap smear results.
6. **Endometrial Biopsy:** This procedure involves taking a small sample from the inner lining of the uterus (endometrium) for further examination. It can help diagnose conditions such as endometrial cancer or hormonal disorders.

The use of these technologies helps doctors make more accurate diagnoses and plan appropriate management or treatment. It is always important to speak with a doctor or healthcare professional to determine which medical instruments are most suitable for specific health condition situations.

The advancement of technology in the medical realm has revolutionized the way health conditions are diagnosed and treated, particularly in the context of women's reproductive health. Through various technological innovations such as ultrasound imaging, MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), CT (Computed Tomography) scans, and advanced laboratory techniques, healthcare professionals can now obtain detailed insights into the health of the female reproductive system. For instance, ultrasound technology allows for non-invasive imaging of the uterus, ovaries, and surrounding structures, enabling the early detection of abnormalities such as fibroids, cysts, or tumors. MRI and CT scans provide further diagnostic capabilities, offering detailed cross-sectional images that aid in the evaluation of complex conditions like endometriosis or pelvic inflammatory disease.

Moreover, advancements in genetic testing and molecular diagnostics have facilitated the identification of hereditary conditions that may impact reproductive health, such as genetic mutations associated with inherited cancers or infertility. Additionally, the integration of digital health platforms and telemedicine services enables easier access to reproductive healthcare resources, allowing women to remotely consult with specialists, access educational materials, and track their reproductive health metrics.

Overall, the integration of technology into the field of women's reproductive health has significantly improved the accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for women worldwide.

Conclusion

From the discussion of Surah Ar-Ra'd verse 8 above, it can be concluded that in this verse, Allah conveys His knowledge that encompasses all things. Allah knows perfectly well what every woman carries in her womb, whether it be perfect or imperfect. This verse also mentions that Allah knows every development in the womb, which can be perfect or less than perfect growth. Not only that, Allah knows everything with full wisdom and justice, and everything has a destiny and measure that has been determined by Him. Thus, this verse affirms the power and knowledge of Allah that encompasses all aspects of life, from the greatest to the smallest, and everything is under His perfect control.

The presence of medical instrumentation technology such as Ultrasonography (USG), Hysteroscopy, Hysterosalpingography (HSG), MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), Colposcopy, Endometrial Biopsy, is to provide:

Accurate diagnosis: Instrumentation technology can provide a more accurate picture of the condition of the uterus, assisting doctors in diagnosing specific problems or conditions.

Medical intervention: In-depth observation through instrumentation can allow more targeted medical interventions, such as the removal of polyps or cysts, if found.

Reproductive health monitoring: This can help in monitoring women's reproductive health, for example, during pregnancy or infertility treatment.

Scientific research: Data obtained from observing the uterus through instrumentation technology can be used for scientific research in the development of reproductive care or further understanding of uterine anatomy and physiology.

Thus, with the presence of medical instrumentation technology as mentioned above, it can have a significant impact on knowledge about the uterus that was not previously discovered.

The term "Arham," the plural form of "rahim," etymologically means the womb to carry the fetus. "Rahim" originates from the Arabic language "rahima," which means to love, cherish, love, appreciate, and respect.

In the Qur'an, the term "rahim" is mentioned with various expressions. As follows:

1. Arham: Surah Ar-Ra'd 8, Ali Imran verse 6, Al Hajj 5, Luqman verse 34, Al-Baqarah 228.
2. Buthun: An-Najm 32, Az Zumar 6, An Nahl 78

3. Mustaqor wa mustauda' (Al An'am 98, Hud 6)
4. Qororin Makin (Al Mukminun 13, Al Mursalat 21)

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