

Flat Earth in Qur'an?really?

It was in the Golden ages of the Muslims, from about 1400-1500 CE, in where 3 brothers named: Mohammed, Shakir and Hassan, they toured the surface area of the earth from a angle at the Red Sea, when people thought the world was flat. They also discovered that the heavenly bodies and celestial spheres were subject to the same physical laws as Earth.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age#Astronomy

Moreover, Abu Hanifa in about 700 CE, he believed the Earth was spherical. Many other Islamic scholars had a mutual agreement that celestial bodies are round, which among them was:

- > Ibn Hazm (about 1000 CE)
- > Abul-Faraj Ibn Al-Jawz (1201 BC)
- > Ibn Taymiya (about 1200-1300CE)

Moreover, Ibn Taymiya said:

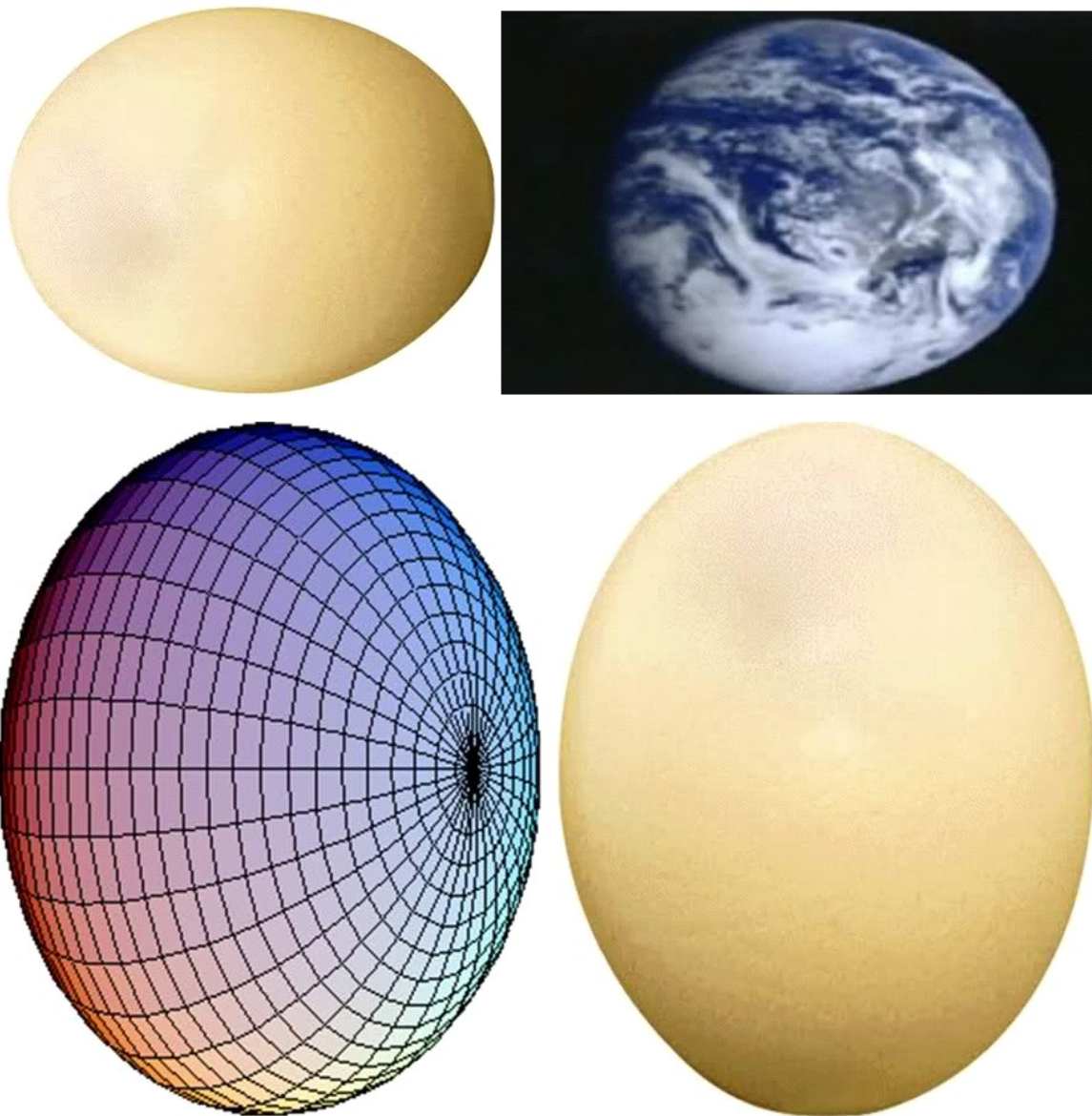
"Celestial bodies are round - as it is the statement of astronomers and mathematicians - it is likewise the statement of the scholars of Islam."

Source: http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Spherical_Earth

Abul-Hasan ibn al-Manaadi, and Abul-Faraj Ibn Al-Jawzi have said that the Muslim scholars are in agreement that all celestial bodies are round. Also, the spherical astrolabe was first invented by Muslims during this period, which enables to take altitudes and to solve other problems of practical astrology. In combination, what we have here is that the Muslims during the Golden Ages, they discovered that the Earth was not flat, but was spherical and the

celestial bodies are round.

Later on, the next person who proved the Earth was spherical, was: Sir Francis Drake in 1577 CE, who sailed around the Earth, proving that it was oblate spheroid, in the shape. In fact, the Earth is like a sphere that is slightly flattened at the top and bottom and bulging at the equator. Today, science tells us that the Earth is immensely close to an oblate spheroid shape:



"The shape of the Earth is very close to that of an oblate spheroid, a sphere squished along the orientation from pole to pole such that there is a bulge around the equator."

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth>

"The true shape of the Earth called an Oblate Spheroid. The term "Oblate" refers to it's slightly oblong appearance. The term "Spheroid" means that it is almost a sphere, but not quite."

Source: <http://regentsprep.org/Regents/earthsci/units/introduction/oblate.cfm>

But the Quran says over 1,420 years ago:

Surah Hajj 22:61:

"That is because Allah merges night into day, and He merges day into night, and verily it is Allah Who hears and sees (all things)."

Surah Luqman 31:29:

"Seest thou not that Allah merges Night into Day and he merges Day into Night; that He has subjected the sun, and the moon (to his Law), each running its course for a term appointed; and that Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do?"

Surah Fatir 35:13:

"He merges Night into Day, and he merges Day into Night, and he has subjected the sun and the moon (to his Law): each one runs its course for a term appointed. Such is Allah your Lord: to Him belongs all Dominion. And those whom ye invoke besides Him have not the least power."

Surah Hadid 57:6:

"He merges Night into Day, and He merges Day into Night; and He has full knowledge of the secrets of (all) hearts."

The Arabic word in these verses I mentioned, for the word "merges" is: "wayujilu," which means "merges." (*)

Hence, the Quran says that the night merges to day, and day merges to night. Merging is a gradual and slow process; the night slowly merges to the day, and the day slowly merges into the night. IF the Earth was flat, there would have been a sudden change meaning it would NOT have been a gradual process, which science has recently discovered. Hence, Quran implies here in these 4 above verses, that Earth is spherical.

Moreover, the Quran says:

Surah Zumar 39:5:

"He created the heavens and the earth in true (proportions): He makes the Night overlap the Day, and the Day overlap the Night: He has subjected the sun and the moon (to His law): Each one follows a course for a time appointed. Is not He the Exalted in Power - He Who forgives again and again?"

Here, the Arabic word used in Surah Zumar 39:5, comes from the root "Kawwara" which means to "overlap, wrap" or to "coil," (*) like how you coil a turban around your head, or how you coil something around an object.

It also means:

Lanes Lexicon, Volume 7, Page 165:

"(Kaf-Alif-Ra) To wind, twist."

1. to roll, to roll up, to coil, to wind
2. to make round
3. to clench

Source: <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%D9%83%D9%88%D8%B1>

Sakhr Dictionary:

"clew , conglomerate , conglobate , ball , agglomerate , roll."

ArabicLookup Dictionary:

نتيجة البحث عن : وسع	
agglomerate	formed or growing into a mass
ball	form something into a ball by winding, squeezing, etc
clew	to roll; to collect thread into a coherent mass
conglobate	to form into a ball or rounded mass
conglomerate	to collect into a mass; conglobate
roll	cause something to move on wheels or rollers or by turning over and over , make something or be made into the shape of a ball or cylinder
saddle	seat, often of leather, for a rider on a horse

So, this overlapping and coiling of the Night unto the Day and vice versa, is ONLY possible if the shape of the earth is oblate spheroid/spherical, indicating that the Earth is spherical, according to Quran, which science has discovered

not too long ago. Moreover, the Quran says:

Surah Naziat 79:30: Ali Unal :

"And after that He has spread out the earth in the egg-shape (for habitability)."

Surah Naziat 79:30: Rashad Khalifah:

"He (Allah) made the earth egg-shaped."

Surah Naziat 79:30: Syed Vickar Ahamed

"And more, He has extended the earth (far and wide also in the shape of an egg)."

Surah Naziat 79:30: QXP - Shabbir Ahmed:

"And after that He made the earth shoot out from the Cosmic Nebula and made it spread out egg-shaped. ('Dahaha' entails all the meanings rendered (21:30), (41:11))."

Surah Naziat 79:30: Yahiya Emerick:

"He shaped the earth as an egg after that."

The Arabic word used for "earth" in this verse is "ard" which has the following meanings: earth, underworld, land, ground, grounds, soil, globe (*,*,*).

The Arabic word used in this verse is "Dahaha" which one of the meanings is "egg-shaped." (*). It also comes from the root word "daha" and has got many translations, and some are: "expanded," or "stretched out," or "wide expanse." It also means "egg-shaped." (*). The Arabic word "Dahaha," also comes from the root "Dhuya," which means "egg shaped," and refers to the shape of an Ostrich egg. (* *).

Koran.Izlam.net dictionary/exegesis:

"The ground, its territory and egg ostrich shape."

Mohit Dictionary (By al-Firuzabadi):

"The egg of the ostrich `in the sand."

Lisan Arab Lexicon:

"Expanded it to an ostrich egg."

Source:

<http://koran.iszlam.net/program.php?lang=English&csize=248>

Moreover, let us read what a scholar of the name of: Muhammad Mohar Ali says about this Arabic word:

The Qur'an and the Orientalists, Pg.75:

"Now, the very first expression in the series, dahaha, is noticeably distinctive and different in genre from the rest. Watt, following many other previous translators, renders it as "spread out". But the exact and correct meaning of the term, keeping in view its root, rather provides a very positive Qur'anic evidence in support of the spherical shape of the earth. For daha means to "shape like an egg", its noun being dahiyah, which the Arabs still use to mean an egg."

The correct translation is the above ones, which translates the word "Dahaha" as: "egg-shaped." Others translate of the word "Dahaha" as "expanse," or "stretched." Skeptics will wrongly use translations like "wide expanse," to try and prove it that Quran means earth is flat. These translations ("expanse," or "stretched.") talk about the land (crust) not the globe. The reason why, is because the term "ard" can also means "land or ground." (*,*,*,*). Translations like "wide-expanse," ONLY describe the land, NOT specifically the shape or globe which does not prove the Earth is being described as flat.

Hence, if you translate the Arabic term "dahaha" as "expanse, expanded," or

"stretched," then the correct translation of "ard" should be "land/ground." This would mean the verse is saying the land has been stretched out/expanded out, which is scientifically true. Refer to this article. The most scientific way to translate Surah Nazi at 79:30 (in this age of science and technology) is to translate "ard" as "globe/earth," and "dahaha" as "egg-shaped." This would mean the verse is saying the globe has been made egg-shaped which is scientifically true.

Others skeptics will claim that the Arabic word "Dahaha," from the root "daha" also means "flatness" according to this source (*). From this, they will make an allegation that this verse means the globe is flat. This Arabic word has MORE than 1 meaning, and you have to choose the correct meaning. A word may have 10's of meanings. 2 maybe correct, 3 maybe correct. Not all meanings of a word will be correct in every sentence, and this is common in every language. For example: supposed someone tells me: "I have a pig as a pet." If you go to Dictionary.com and Oxford Dictionary, one of the meanings of "pig" is "police officer". So, if I chose the wrong meaning to the word "pig," it would read: "I have a police officer as a pet." When the person says: "I have a pig as a pet," it does NOT mean "I have a police officer as a pet." So, this was just an example showing you that you have to choose the correct meaning.

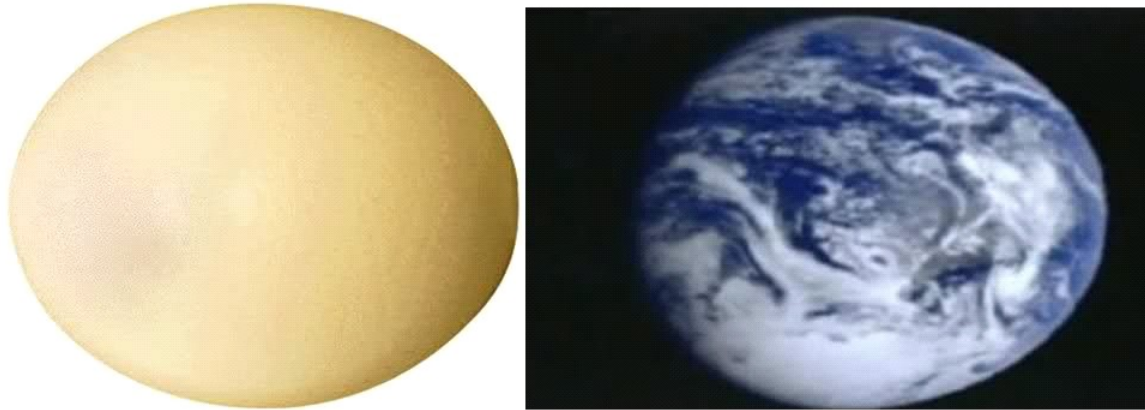
Similarly, the correct meaning for "Dahaha" which comes from the root word "daha" (*) is "egg-shaped. Moreover, "Dahaha," also comes from the root "Dhuya," which means "egg shaped," and refers to the shape of an Ostrich. (* *). This is the correct meaning here, which specifically describes the shape of the Earth. Other translators who have translated as "wide expanse, extended, stretched," describe the land of the Earth, as the Arabic word "ard" also means "land," (* *) but these translations don't describe the shape of the Earth. Today, scientific established facts inform us that the Earth is the shape of an egg and today, the shape of the Earth is very similar to the shape of an Ostrich.

Furthur proof that early Muslims did NOT believe the Earth to be flat:

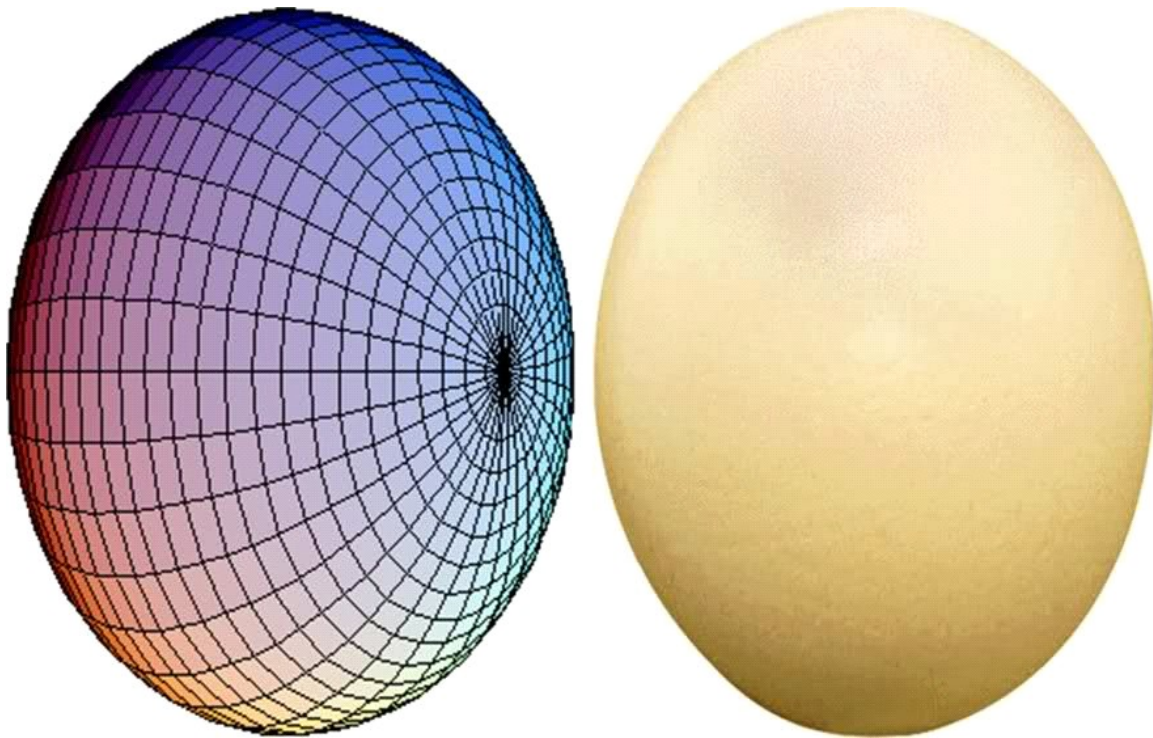
Ibn Kathir's tafsir - Surah Baqara 2:255:

"In addition, Ad-Dahhak said that Ibn `Abbas said, "IF the seven heavens and the seven earths were flattened and laid side by side, they would add up to the size of a ring in a desert, compared to the Kursi."

The above saying of Ibn Abbas clearly shows that the companions of Muhammad believed that the Earth was NOT flat.



ABOVE: The shape of an ostrich egg, in comparison to the shape of the Earth.



ABOVE: The shape of an ostrich egg, in comparison to the oblate spheroid shape.

So, since we have to choose the correct meaning of the Arabic word "Dahaha" for today's age, we see that the Quran describes the EXACT shape of the Earth, over 1,420 years ago, when people thought the Earth was flat.

This once again proves that Quran is a divine revelation because no-one 1,420+ years ago would have thought that the Earth was the EXACT shape which we now know it. Thus, this proves Quran is in perfect harmony with established science.

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