



The Quran's attitude toward the environment

LESSON PLAN 1 PRESENTATION

YAQREEN™
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH



environment.

What comes to mind when you hear this word? What is your understanding of this term?



Does the Qur'an speak about the environment?

The Qur'an speaks

- 1 With your group, study the *ayat* assigned to your section of the class.
- 2 Highlight relevant words, imagery, and repeated ideas.
- 3 Identify a distinct theme that connects your *ayat*.



What do you notice?

part 1

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْفُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَّاحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and **[His] directing of the winds and the clouds** controlled between the heaven and the earth are **signs for a people who use reason.** [2:164]

What do you notice?

part 1

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ يُرْسِلَ الرِّيَّاحَ مُبَشِّرَاتٍ وَلِيُذِيقَكُمْ مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَلِتَجْرِيَ
الْفُلُكُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

And of **His signs** is that He sends the wind as bringers of good tidings and **to let you taste His mercy**, and so the ships may sail at His command, and so **you may seek His bounty**, and that, perhaps, you **may be grateful**. [30:46]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمُوتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَثَّ فِيهِمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَهُوَ
عَلَى جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ

And **of His signs** is the creation of the heavens and earth and what He has dispersed throughout them of creatures. **And He is all-capable** of gathering them when He wills. [42:29]

What do you notice?

part 2

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ
وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ الْفُلْكَ لِتَجْرِيَ فِي الْبَحْرِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ الْأَنْهَارَ (32) وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ
دَائِبَيْنِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ (33) وَأَتَاكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ مَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا
تُحْصُوهَا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ (34)

It is Allah who created the heavens and the earth and sent down rain from the sky and produced thereby some fruits **as provision for you** and **subjected for you** the ships to sail through the sea by His command and subjected for you the rivers. And **He subjected for you** the sun and the moon, continuous [in orbit], and **subjected for you** the night and the day. And **He gave you from all you asked of Him**. And if **you should count the favor of Allah**, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, mankind is [generally] most unjust and ungrateful. [14:32-34]

What do you notice?

part 2

وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ وَمَنَافِعُ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ * وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا جَمَالٌ حِينَ تُرِيحُونَ وَحِينَ تَسْرَحُونَ * وَتَحْمِلُ أَثْقَالَكُمْ إِلَىٰ بَلَدٍ لَّمْ تَكُونُوا بَلِغِيهِ إِلَّا بِشِقِّ الْأَنْفُسِ إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ * وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ * وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ... هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لَّكُمْ مِنْهُ شَرَابٌ وَمِنْهُ شَجَرٌ فِيهِ تُسِيمُونَ * يُنبِتُ لَكُمْ بِهِ الزَّرْعَ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالنَّخِيلَ وَالْأَعْنَابَ وَمِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And the grazing livestock **He has created for you**; in them is **warmth and [numerous] benefits**, and from them you eat. And **for you in them is [the enjoyment of] beauty** when you bring them in [for the evening] and when you send them out [to pasture]. And **they carry your loads to a land you could not have reached except with difficulty to yourselves**. Indeed, your Lord is Kind and Merciful. And [He created] the **horses, mules and donkeys for you to ride and [as] adornment**. And He creates that which you do not know. It is He who sends down rain from the sky; from it is drink and from it is foliage in which you pasture [animals]. **He causes to grow for you thereby the crops**, olives, palm trees, grapevines, and from all the fruits. Indeed in that is **a sign for a people who give thought**. [16:5-8, 10-11]

What do you notice?

part 3

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا

And cause not **corruption upon the earth** after it has been **set aright**. [7:56]

الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ بِحُسْبَانٍ * وَالنَّجْمُ وَالشَّجَرُ يَسْجُدَانِ * وَالسَّمَاءَ رَفَعَهَا وَوَضَعَ الْمِيزَانَ * أَلَّا تَطْغَوْا فِي الْمِيزَانِ * وَأَقِيمُوا
الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ

The sun and the moon [move] by **precise calculation**, And the stars and trees prostrate. And the heaven He raised and **imposed the balance**—that you not **transgress within the balance**. And **establish weight in justice** and **do not make deficient the balance**. [55:5-9]

What do you notice?

part 3

وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَى فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ

And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to **cause corruption therein** and **destroy crops and animals**. And **Allah does not like corruption**. [2:205]

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

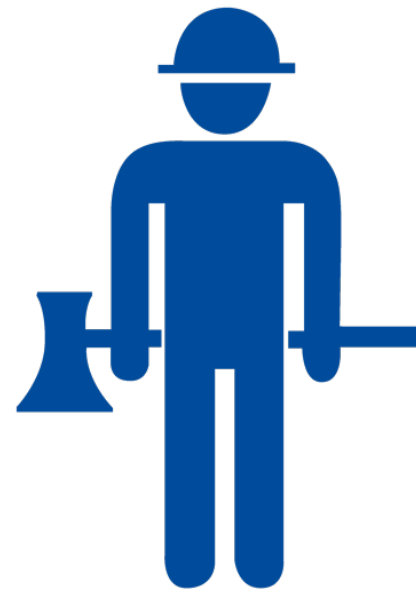
Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]. [30:41]

Major Quranic themes

on the environment



A sign for us to observe and contemplate in order that we may achieve faith and gratitude.



An object created and subjugated to predetermined patterns and courses, and then made subservient for our utility and enjoyment.



An object balanced and “set aright” by Allah with the possibility of corrupting or preserving it through human actions.

The state of our world





The state of our world

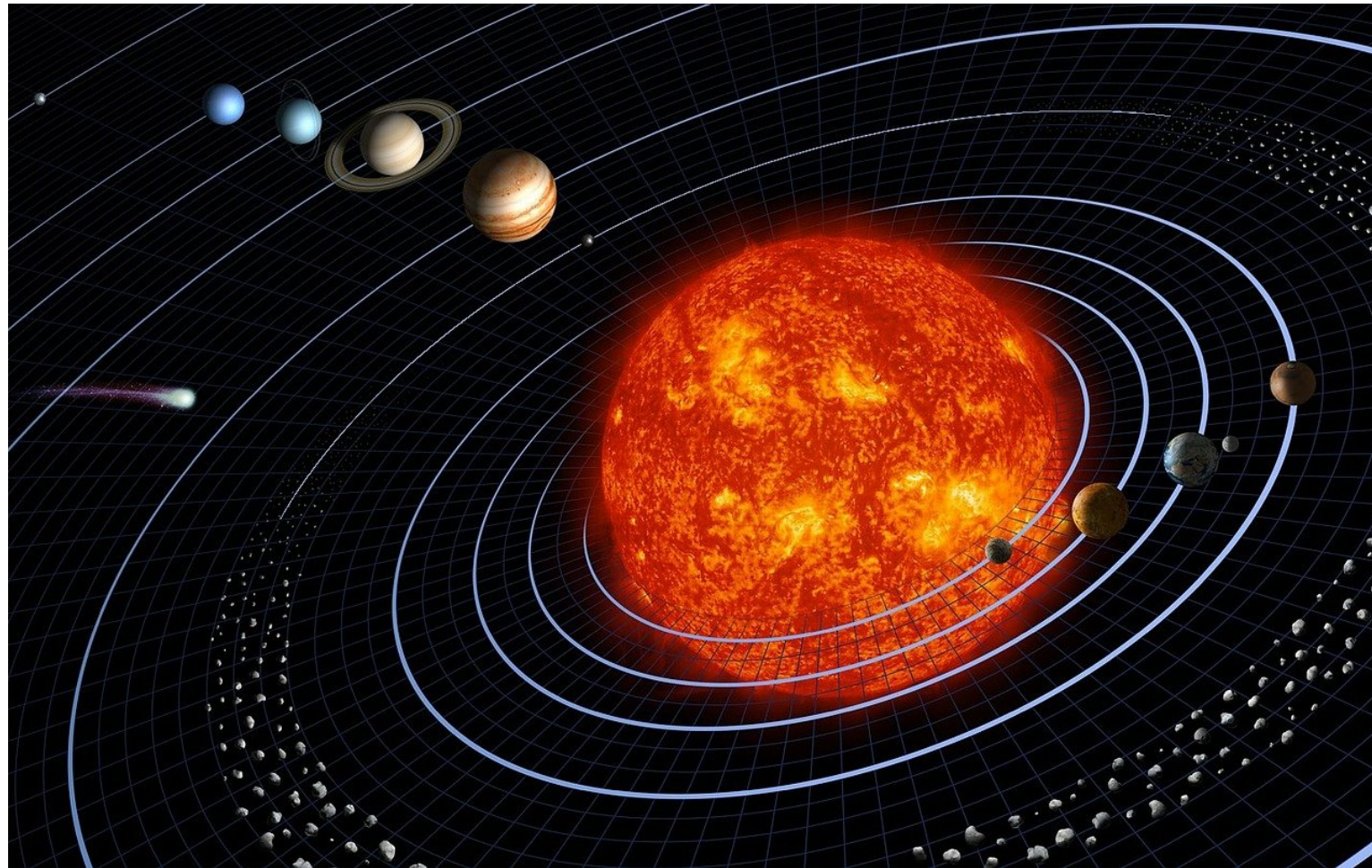
Share

How do you feel after watching this video? What specific words and images resonate with you and why?

Reflect

What is this video communicating? Draw parallels between the message(s) in this video and the Quranic attitude toward the environment.

Anthropic principle



“And **I don't want to get too spiritual, but how are we not a miracle** when we are perfectly positioned to the sun so we don't burn, but not too distant, so we don't turn to ice. Goldilocks said it best: **we are just right.**”

Final thought

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا

“And do not spread corruption upon the earth after it has been set aright”

How do we interpret our *moral responsibility* toward the environment enjoined upon us by Allah?