

# Perfection in creation from the perspective of the Quran: The necessity of the creation alterations

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## Abstract

**Background and Objective:** To meet the growing need for food and drugs to improve quality of life, new technologies (e.g. biotechnology and genetic engineering) have attracted politicians and food producers worldwide. Aberrant application of these technologies could cause irreparable consequences that can be life threatening. Changes of genetic entity for improvement and reconstruction of the creation for usage in modern world are main topic under consideration in these technologies. However, there are many controversies for their application in the world.

**Method:** In this study, by reviewing the Quran, Hadiths, and articles, we tried to provide a discussion on limitations, justifiability or illegality of the creation change. The researchers observed all ethical issues in the study and declared no conflict of interests.

**Results:** The provided data showed that change in the creation occurs naturally in the physical dimension, in contrast to the spiritual view, and seems to be allowable provided by the preserve of the entity of the creation.

**Conclusion:** With respect to the ethical issue and nature of the creatures, manipulation of the creation for the sake of their improvement in function and activity toward normal status seems to be allowable.

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## Summary

**Background and Objective:** Nowadays, human beings are challenging with recent evolutions in the fields of biology and biotechnology. Production of genetically engineered plants and animals, production of recombinant microbes, tissues engineered constructs, manufactured blood cells, cell therapy and tissue transplantation, artificial fertilization, technologies such as gene repair systems, and finally construction of genpets are among recent achievements of human beings (1-4). Construction of these products is mainly based on current needs and the limitations on supplying foods and medications.

**Method:** This study utilized 'content analysis' and is categorized as descriptive research. In this study, by reviewing the Quran, Hadiths, and articles we tried to

provide a discussion on limitations, justifiability or illegality of the creation change.

**Results:** In the Quran, any change in our creation is regarded as a temptation by the devil. However, does change refer to the procedures we are exploiting in the field of biotechnology and biology? Are these activities considered intervention in the God's creation? Could these technologies affect the human spiritual and religious experience and change its nature? To respond to these questions, we tried to provide a discussion on limitations, justifiability or illegality of the creation change by reviewing the Quran, Hadiths, and articles (5-7). The provided data showed that change in the creation occurs naturally in the physical dimension, in contrast to the spiritual view, and seems to be allowable provided that entity of the creation is well-maintained. Accordingly, with respect to the ethical issue and nature of the creatures, manipulation of the creation for the sake of their improvement in function

and activity toward normal status seems to be allowable.

Based on the national bioethical regulations, any change for synthesis of engineered creatures should be accompanied with no change in the species specific traits (5). Furthermore, these changes should not have any impact on the human beliefs in the origin of the creation. Ortiz G et al. presented the health, welfare, and preservation of their intrinsic value as prerequisites for construction of transgenic animals (6). It seems that any types of changes in the human genome should be done after comprehensive analysis of their complications on target populations and probably on their offspring.

There are many interpretations on the Quran verses that are warning us about temptation of devils for doing change in the God's creature. One of these verses is Surat An-Nisa [verse 119].

“And I will mislead them, and I will arouse in them [sinful] desires, and I will command them so they will slit the ears of cattle, and I will command them so they will change the creation of Allah. And whoever takes Satan as an ally instead of Allah has certainly sustained a clear loss“

In Tafsir-Almizan, it was noted that, regardless to its intrinsic entity, manipulation of the creature, either at their appearance or at fitrah, for some purposes such as improvement of the quality of life, may reflect existence of a defect in the God's creation (10). However, perfection in the creation has been noted in different surah of the Quran (e.g. As-Sajdah, At-Tin, and Al-Mulk).

- We have certainly created man in the best of stature (At-Tin, Verse 4).

- Then return [your] vision twice again. [Your] vision will return to you humbled while it is fatigued (Al-Mulk-Verse 4).

- Who perfected everything which He created and began the creation of man from clay (As-Sajdah, Verse 7).

Although the perfect creation of God has been emphasized in the above mentioned verses, the inability of humans for understanding the creation of themselves or other creatures has been described in the Quran. Genetic changes happen in our life naturally; therefore, gene alteration is not a new event introduced by us. The difference in the creation has been described in different Surahs, including An-Nur and Ar-Rum. Thus, it seems that the command that devil likes to give for misleading us is not about current technologies for physical changes (known as biotechnology or genetic engineering), but is mainly related to those things that target our belief, entity, tendencies, and fitrah

**Conclusion:** Taken together, this study supported that changes in the creature is an achievable event at both natural and artificial levels. However, any alteration at spiritual view or changes that cause someone to have a wrong idea or impression are not allowable. Furthermore, any attempt for such types of allowable changes should be analyzed from different viewpoints

and its disadvantages should be considered, mainly for the next generation.

### Ethical Considerations

#### Compliance with ethical guidelines

In conducting this research, there was no need to follow the ethical guidelines.

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#### Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

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