

Circle: The uproar about human cloning and the Islamic viewpoint

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But scientists who have been involved in animal cloning experiments warned that most cloned animals suffer from severe birth defects or die, and they said human clones could suffer the same fate.

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- ◆ The way the Capitalists argue good and bad is from the angle of benefit and freedom. This is false as man does not have the capacity to decide right and wrong for himself. It is Allah (swt) who decides for us the halal and haram.
- ◆ Advances such as these make some believe that science has all the answers, they have the arrogance to think that they are creators when they undertake experiments such as the cloning of animals. The immense scientific developments point to the greatness of Allah (swt), His Might, His wisdom and the perfection of His creation, they indicate that Allah is their Creator. Allah (swt) says: *"And We created everything according to a precise measure."* [TMQ 54:49] *"He has created everything and has measured it exactly according to its due measurements."* [TMQ 25:2]
- ◆ Despite the statements by many that these are great breakthroughs for humanity at large the reality of scientific discovery in the West is that they are spurred by the quest for benefit with no boundaries. E.g. Biotech companies, gene patenting, etc.
- ◆ Although these things are results of scientific experiments, and science is common and is not specific for a particular culture or point of view, its uses and applications are based on the way of life and are specific for each culture. The advances in genetics that have appeared in the western world are adopted and utilized by the west because they are of certain benefit. This is based on the fact that the western world has adopted a way of life that separates life from religion, and it is the human who makes the legislation for the life affairs. They believe that supremacy is for the people.
- ◆ Capitalist societies only consider material benefit of any value and disregard the other values, from the general populous to the large companies, e.g. some ethicists in the west believe this breakthrough in genetics could lead to pressures on parents to abort foetuses if they don't pass the 'quality test' – shows the criteria of benefit and individualism with no boundaries.

- ◆ Today a confusion exists in the minds of the Muslims, some believe that anything from the West is evil including technology, others believe like the Muslim rulers that we should take everything from the West including its rotten system of life. Prophet (saw) said: *"You will follow the ways of those before you or hand span by one hand span and yard by yard even if they entered a lizards hole you would enter it and even if they slept with their wives in the road, you would do it"*.
- ◆ We are allowed in Islam to take things which are generic to any civilisation, but the Kuffar have implanted in the Muslim rulers the love for the Western system to the extent that they want to take everything from them and force to upon the Muslims. As if they are blind to the problems the Capitalist ideology creates in this life and in the Akhira.
- ◆ In Islam, the humans are bound to run their life affairs according to the commands and the prohibitions of Allah, Halal and Haram. The role of the mind is to understand the text and not to legislate the text and the laws.
- ◆ Science, although common among all nations and is not specific for a particular view of life, its products and applications, however, are to be used according to the Islamic Sharia. What is allowed can be taken and used, and what is prohibited is to be left out. This is the way that we should view and deal with all things that are the products of science.
- ◆ Explain the Islamic verdict on Cloning & Human cloning. Human cloning is Haram, animal and plant cloning is allowed. [\[See Reference – section from Cloning book\]](#)

Reference

Scientists blast human cloning plans

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WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Scientists at a contentious meeting at the National Academy of Sciences on Tuesday blasted researchers who say they plan to begin attempts to clone a human being within the year.

The conference exposed a deep, bitter rift among scientists over the issue, with researchers trading unusually harsh comments Tuesday.

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Zavos and Antinori bristled at that kind of criticism Tuesday, telling a colleague at one point, "I am not going to allow you to lecture to me."

"They may be calling us mad scientists, which of course we're not, but this is very important," Zavos said during a heated exchange with a colleague.

Zavos and Antinori say there will be no more chance of a deformed child than through ordinary reproduction. They say they have 200 couples from "all over" -- the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Japan -- willing to participate in their experiments. Zavos said cloning provides their only hope for having a child.

"Additional screening methodologies will be developed in order for us to be able to screen the tissue culture cells, the reprogramming process, and the pre-implantation embryos and post-implantation embryos and fetuses in order for us to yield a normal, healthy child," Zavos said.

But Ian Wilmut, whose research led to the cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1997, said screening attempts like the ones Zavos promised won't work.

"It is not possible to think of a way of screening out effectively the most appropriate embryos, and hence, what we should expect would be late abortions -- either occurring spontaneously or being induced deliberately in the second or third trimester of pregnancy -- in order to prevent the birth of abnormal children," Wilmut said.

Also discussing plans to clone a human was Brigitte Boisselier, research director of Clonaid -- a group linked to the Raelian Movement, which posits that human life is the result of extraterrestrial genetic experiments.

"I hope it's done properly in a very safe way," Boisselier said. "I'm doing it in the hopes that I can publish that very soon and share this with you."

Zavos and Antinori have not disclosed where they will conduct their research, only that it will not be conducted in the United States. Two dozen countries ban human cloning, and a U.S. ban on the procedure is working its way through Congress with White House support.

On Tuesday, President Bush reiterated his opposition to human cloning.

"As you know I supported the anti-cloning legislation in the Congress," Bush told reporters as he vacationed in Texas. "And I'll be making a statement about my views on how life and science should interface when I'm ready."

Anti-abortion groups are outraged by the cloning plans, and Antinori has said he may be forced to work in a remote country or even on board a ship moored in international waters.

Washington's human cloning conference opened Tuesday to discuss the scientific, medical and ethical issues involved in human cloning.

Britain's House of Lords voted earlier this year to legalize only the cloning of human embryos for therapeutic, or research purposes, a move praised by Antinori. But the Vatican holds that no human being should be denied the fundamental right to be conceived and born the natural way, and it called human cloning "grotesque."

But cloning would produce "ordinary children," Antinori said. "They will be unique individuals, not photocopies of individuals."

CNN Medical Correspondent Elizabeth Cohen contributed to this report

From Cloning book by AQZ

Cloning

Cloning is to make a duplicate copy of the original living thing such as a plant, animal or human.

Human cloning is to make a duplicate copy of the human himself. A particular human can be duplicated by taking a living cell from that human, taking out the nucleus of that cell, and implanting it in a woman's egg after taking out the nucleus of that egg. This is done in a way similar to fertilisation or artificial insemination, by which the nucleus of the cell that was taken from the body of a particular person, is inserted in the egg that was taken from a woman, by using special chemicals and a

specific electric current to combine the nucleus of the cell with the egg. After they are joined together, the egg (that has the cell's nucleus) is implanted in a woman's womb so that it can reproduce, grow, and divide and form a complete foetus which is then born as in a natural birth. This will be a duplicate of the original person from whom was taken the cell whose nucleus was taken and implanted in the woman's egg.

The impregnation in the process of human cloning takes place between the human body cells and not the sexual cells. Every human has millions, even billions of cells in his body. Every cell has 46 chromosomes, which is the genetic substance that carries all inherited characteristics of the person, besides the sexual cells, which come from the testicle of a man and the ovary of a woman. Each cell of the sexual cells in both man and woman has only 23 chromosomes, which is half of the total chromosomes in the body cells.

In natural fertilisation, the spermatozoa of the man which has 23 chromosomes joins with the ovum of the woman which also has 23 chromosomes. Hence, a total of 46 chromosomes are there, half from the man and half from the woman and, therefore, the baby will take from the characteristics of both the man and the woman.

In the cloning procedure the cell, which is taken from the body of a particular person, has 46 chromosomes, which includes all the inherited characteristics of that person. The baby, who is born as a result of the cloning procedure, inherits only the characteristics of the person whose cell's nucleus was used. He will be a genetic duplicate of that person just like making a copy using instant colour photocopying, where you get an exact duplicate.

Natural fertilisation can only occur with a male and a female using the sexual cells. Cloning, on the other hand, can be done with or without a male, by using body cells and not sexual cells. This can be done without a male, by taking a body cell from a female. The nucleus is extracted, which has 46 chromosomes, i.e. all the inherited characteristics. Then this nucleus is implanted in a woman's egg after the egg's own nucleus has been removed. The egg is then implanted in a woman's womb. After implanting this egg in the woman's womb, it starts to reproduce, divide, grow, and become a foetus. Then, it becomes a full being. When it is born, it will be a duplicate of the female from which the cell was taken. Therefore, the cloning process in this case has been done in all of its stages without the need for a male.

In natural fertilisation, the characteristics that are inherited are taken from both the father and the mother. As a result, the children will not be identical. The similarities between the children and the parents, and among the brothers take different forms in terms of the shape, height, profile, colour, mental abilities, and the congenital psychological characteristics.

Inheritance of characteristics in the case of cloning results in the transfer of all the characteristics of the person whose cell was used, male or female. The newborn will be a duplicate of the original person in terms of height, profile, colour, mental and other congenital psychological characteristics. This means that it inherits all congenital characteristics. However, the gained characteristics are not subject to inheritance. If the cell is taken from a respected scholar, an outstanding *mujtahid*, or a distinguished physician, the clone will not inherit these characteristics because they were gained and not congenital with that person.

The discovery of the cloning process has uncovered one of the laws that Allah (swt) installed in the cells of the humans and animals. The cloning process has demonstrated that any body cell of humans or animals can produce children, if the nucleus of that cell is extracted and implanted in a woman's egg after removing its own nucleus, just like the male sperm when it fertilises the egg from a female.

This is the reality of human cloning. There is another kind of human cloning which is the foetal cloning. This is done by making a duplicate of the foetus which is formed in the womb of the mother. In this process, a person can make clones of his children during the foetal period. At the start of the formation of the foetus in the mother's womb, doctors can divide the newly formed single cell (zygote) into two cells and even more. Therefore, the process will produce more than one cell that is a duplicate of the original zygote. This will result in twins born out of this foetal cloning, and will be a duplication of the zygote, which they were copied from.

Cloning has already been done with plants and recently in animals. It has not been done with humans yet. So, what is the shari'i ruling on cloning?

The aim of cloning in plants and animals is to improve quality and increase productivity, and to find a natural cure for many common human diseases, especially the acute ones, instead of using chemical drugs which have harmful side effects on man's health.

The improvement in the quality of plants and animals and the increase of productivity is not prohibited from a shari'i perspective, and it is among the things that are allowed. Also, the use of plants and animal cloning to cure human diseases, especially acute ones, is allowed in Islam. It is even recommended because seeking a cure for illness is recommended and manufacturing medicine for curing is recommended as well. Imam Ahmad narrates from Anas, he said; that the Prophet said, **"Allah (swt) has created the illness and the cure. So seek a cure."** Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah also narrated from Usama bin Sharik, he said; I was with the Messenger when (Bedouins) came to him and asked: "Oh Prophet, should we seek a cure for our illness?" He said, **"Yes. O servants of Allah, seek a cure. Allah Almighty did not create a disease without creating a cure for it."**

Therefore, it is allowed to use the cloning process to improve the quality of plants and to increase their productivity. It is also allowed to use the cloning process to improve the quality of cows, sheep, camels, horses, and other animals, in order to

increase productivity of these animals and to increase their numbers, and to utilise this to cure many of the human diseases especially the acute ones.

This is the ruling concerning cloning plants and animals. As for cloning human beings, assuming it will happen although it has not happened yet, it is as follows:

For foetal cloning, the zygote is formed in the womb of a wife as a result of the husband's sperm and the wife's egg. That zygote is divided into many cells, which can divide and grow. These cells are divided so that each cell becomes a foetus by itself, as a duplicate of the original zygote. Then, if they were to be implanted in the womb of a foreign woman or in the womb of the husband's second wife, these two forms of cloning would be *Haram* because this would result in mixing of kinship. Then, it would cause loss of kinship, and Islam has prohibited this.

If on the other hand, one or more of these zygotes were implanted in the wife's womb (who was the source of the original cell) then this form of cloning would be *Halal*. This is because it is a multiplying of the zygote, which existed in the wife's womb through a medical procedure to bring about identical twins.

This is the rule concerning foetal cloning.

As for the cloning of humans, it has not been achieved yet although scientists say that cloning of animals is a step in that direction. Cloning of humans would be done by taking a body cell from the male, extracting its nucleus, merging it with a female's egg after removing the egg's own nucleus. This male nucleus in a female egg would be transferred to a woman's womb to double and grow. Hence, it would become a foetus and then a baby, which is a duplicate of the original male from whose body the cell was taken. Also, cloning could be done among females only without a need for a male. This is done by taking a cell from the body of a female and extracting its nucleus in order to merge it with a female's egg. Then, the egg is transferred to a woman's womb after it is merged with the cell's nucleus, to grow and become a foetus and then a baby, which is a duplicate of the female from which the cell was taken. This is what happened with Dolly, the sheep, where the nucleus was taken from a sheep's breast cell. Then, the elements related to the breast were taken out from this nucleus and the nucleus was placed in a sheep's egg after removing its own nucleus. The cell was placed in the womb of a sheep to multiply and grow, and become a foetus. Dolly, the sheep, was born as an exact duplicate of the first sheep from which the cell was taken.

This cloning of humans, males or females, if done, would be a disaster for the world. This would be the case whether the aim was to improve quality, select the offspring which is smarter, stronger, braver, healthier, or more beautiful, or if the aim was to increase the number in order to increase the population or to make the state stronger. This would be a cause of evil. It is *Haram* and not allowed. This is because of the following:

1. The production of children in this manner is different from the natural way that Allah has made humans to reproduce their offspring.

Allah says,

“And that He (Allah) created the pairs, male and female. From Nutfah (drops of semen – male and female discharges) when it is emitted.”
[TMQ An-Najm:45-46]

He also says,

“Was he not a Nutfah (drops of semen) poured forth? Then he became a clot; then (Allah) shaped and fashioned (him) in due proportion. And made him in two sexes, male and female.” [TMQ Al-Qiyamah:37-39]

2. The children who are born out of cloning females, without a male, have no fathers. In addition, they will not have mothers if the egg that was merged with the nucleus of the cell was placed in the womb of a female different from that female whose egg was used in the cloning process. This is the case because the female whose womb was used to implant the egg is no more than a place to house the egg. This will lead to the loss of that human, where he has no father and no mother. This contradicts the saying of Allah ta'ala,

“O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female.”
[TMQ Al-Hujurat:13]

and also His saying,

“Call them by the names of their fathers, that is more just in the sight of Allah.”
[TMQ Al-Ahzab:5]

3. Loss of kinship. Islam has obligated preserving affinity and maintaining it. Ibn Abbas said that the Prophet of Allah said, “Whoever claims relationship by birth to other than his father or belonged to other than those he belongs to, then the curse of Allah, the Angels, and all the people be upon him.” (Narrated by Ibn Majah). Abi 'Uthman an-Nahri said

that he heard Sa'd and Abu Bakrah each of them saying that they had heard and understood from Muhammad saying, **"Anyone who makes a claim for somebody other than his father and he knows that he is not his father, then Paradise is forbidden for him."** (Narrated by Ibn Majah). Abu Hurayrah also narrated that he heard the Prophet of Allah saying (when the verse of cursing was revealed), **"Any woman who introduced to some people an offspring that does not belong to them, then she has nothing to do with Allah and she will not enter Paradise; and any man who denies his son while looking at him, Allah will not reveal Himself to him and Allah will disgrace him in front of the first and last generations."** (Narrated by Al-Darimi).

The cloning which aims at producing people who are outstanding in terms of their intelligence, strength, health, and beauty would mean choosing the people with characteristics among the males and the females regardless of if they were married couples or not. As a result, the cells would be taken from the males who had the required characteristics, and the eggs would be taken from selected women and implanted in selected women. This would lead to the kinship being lost and mixed.

4. The production of children through cloning prevents applying many of the shari'i rules, such as the rules of marriage, kinship, alimony, fatherhood, sonship, inheritance, custody, *Maharim* and *'Usbat* (forbidden degrees of consanguinity) in addition to many other shari'i rules. The affinity would get mixed and would be lost. This goes against the natural way that Allah has created people, in terms of reproduction. This is an evil process and it would change the structure of society.

Therefore, human cloning is *Haram* from a shari'i perspective and it is not allowed.

Allah ta'ala said quoting the cursed shaytan,

**"I will command them to change the creation of Allah."
[TMQ An-Nisa':119]**

The creation of Allah is the nature (*fitra*) which Allah has created in people at birth, and the nature (*fitra*) of reproduction of humans from a male and a female through the fertilisation of the sperm of the male with the egg from the female. The law of Allah is that this process is to be done between a male and a female with a valid contract. It is not the nature (*fitra*) that reproduction and birth are achieved by cloning. This is in addition to the fact that this would happen between a male and a female who do not have a valid marriage contract that binds them.