

PROOF OF THE EARTH SPHERICITY IN THE QURAN

H. Sayoud

EDT
Sayoud.net

In this survey, we will analyse the following verse of Surat Az-Zumar, referenced by [39-5], and which talks about the heavens, earth, night and day.

" خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ ۗ يُكَوِّرُ اللَّيْلَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ ۗ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ ۗ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۗ ۚ أَلَا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفَّارُ " [39-5]

Translation: "He created the heavens and the earth with truth. He **rolled** the night around the day, and **rolled** the day around the night, and He has disposed the sun and the moon, each moving for a specified term. Indeed, He is the All-mighty, the All-forgiver!"

By reading this verse, we understand that there are two important things: the night and the day that are both involved in a continuous rotation each around the other with high harmony.

Now, since the night and day are physically visible or perceivable on the surface of the earth (see figure 1), we deduce from that verse that the nightly area of the earth turns around the previous daily surface of the earth and that the daily area of the earth turns around the previous nightly surface of the earth too. See figures 2 and 3.



Figure 1: A view of the nightly and daily areas on Earth. ESA courtesy.

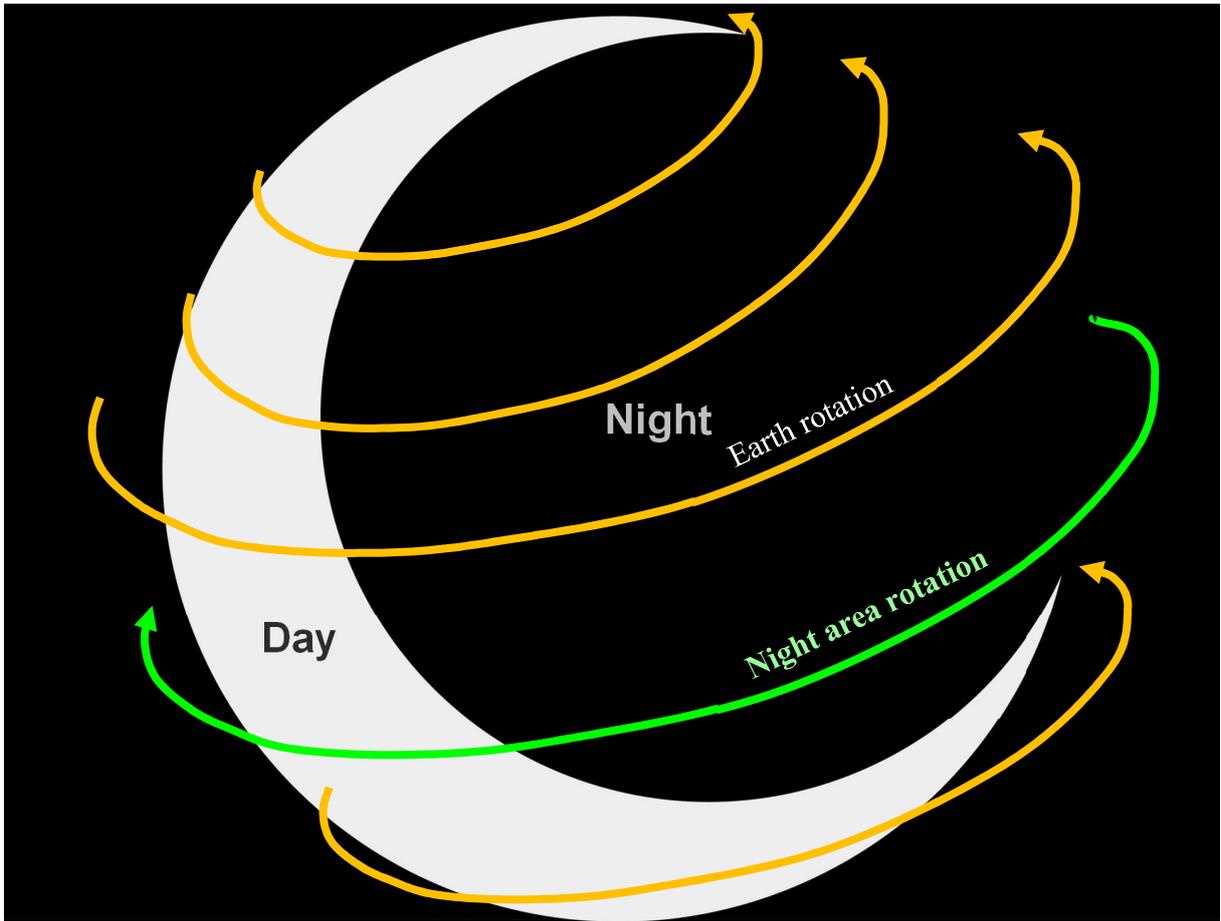


Figure 2: Night area rotation according to the Quran.

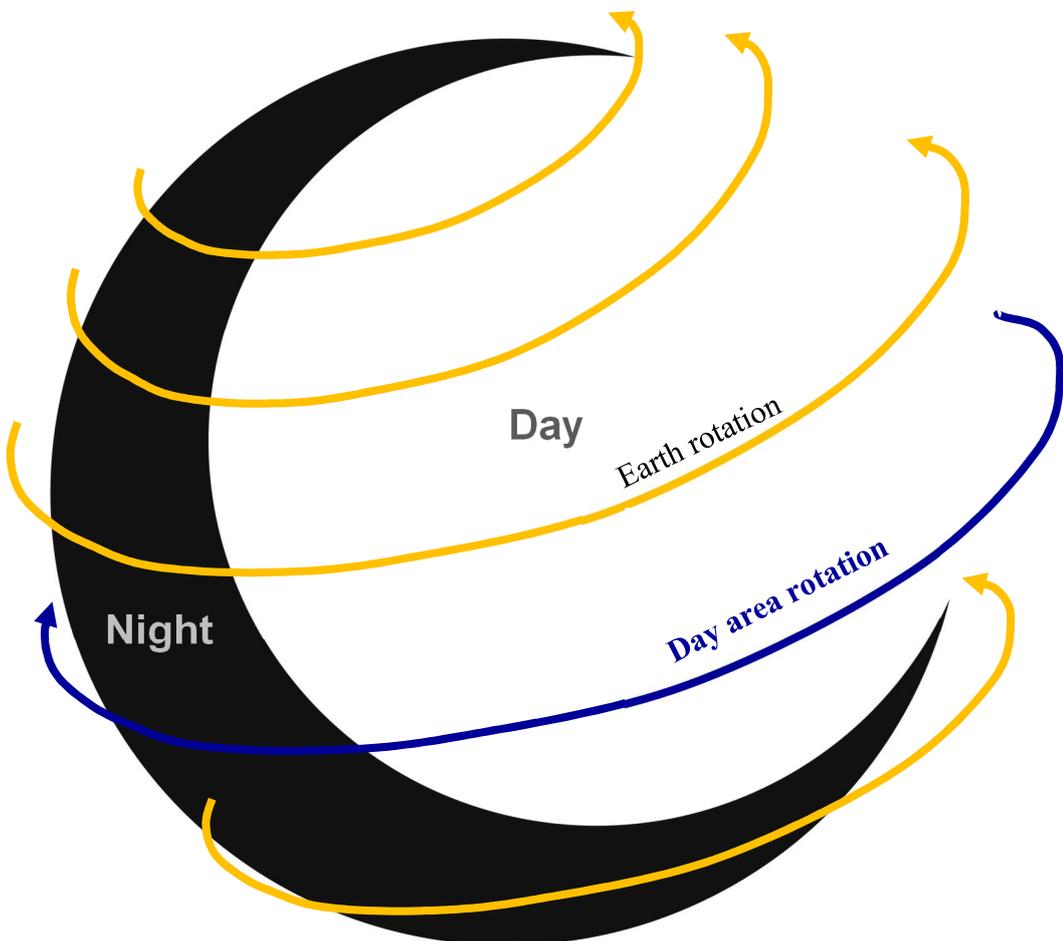


Figure 3: Day area rotation according to the Quran.

However, this phenomenon (nightly area turning around previous daily one and daily area turning around previous nightly one) cannot be realized except if the earth is really round (i.e. sphere) as illustrated in figure 4, since the verse uses the verb ROLL, which involves a rotative movement and not a linear one.

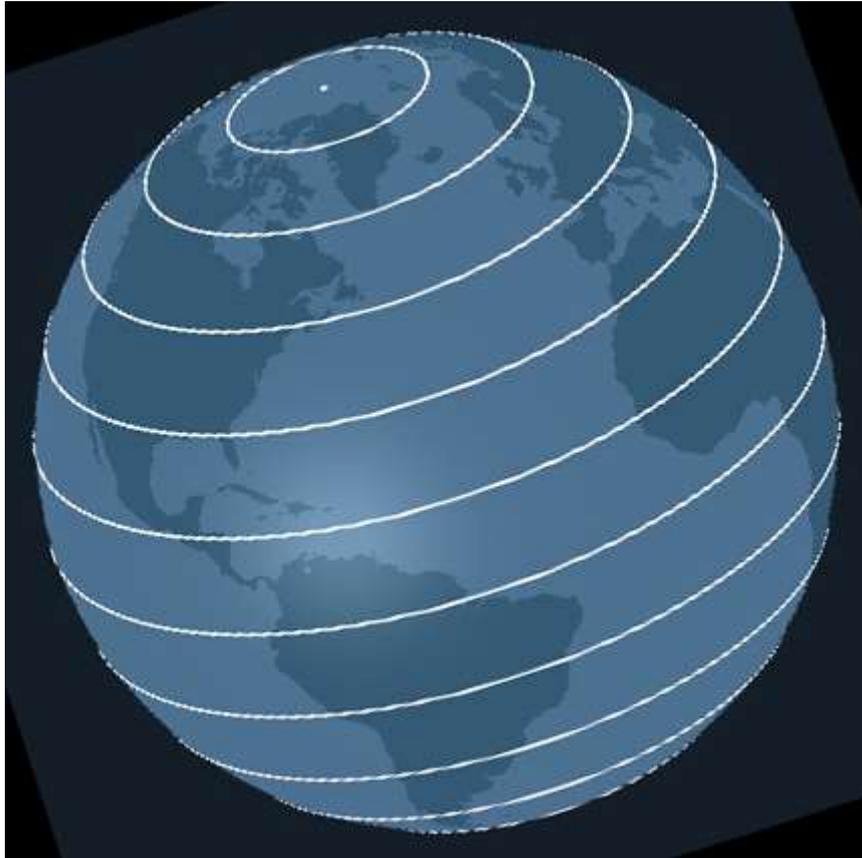


Figure 4: Illustration on the sphericity of the earth. NASA Courtesy

Effectively, this fact is in total concordance with astronomy and can be observed from satellites or space-based telescopes (NASA 2023), as we all know and consider trivial. In fact, the earth rotates on its axis, completing one revolution every 24 hours with respect to the Sun or 23 hours and 56 minutes with respect to the stars (Benson 2023).

However, 14 centuries before, human beings, and more precisely the Prophet, did not possess such facilities or such knowledge on the form of the earth (Bucaille, 2003).

Consequently, not only the previous verse represents a proof on the sphericity of the earth, but it also shows that the holy Quran could not come from a human author, known to be illiterate, from the seventh century.

References

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