PREFACE

Perhaps from time immemorial the humankind is broadly divided into two categories viz. believers and nonbelievers and it cannot be denied that in most of the cases nonbelievers are the pioneers in scientific development. Even there is a notion among the mass people that religion and science are opposite to each other; since the basic doctrine of Religion is faith and science never rely on faith and don't care about existence of any supernatural power like God. But as a human being we have many limitations and ultimately we like to take refuge of a supernatural power, may be called Allah or God or other name by the believers of the respective faiths. However, human mind is by nature curious and always inclined to know the facts or reasons behind all natural laws and phenomena.

In my college life, I was highly impressed with the notable remark *'Science without religion is lame and religion without science is blind'* made by of one of the most famous scientists of last century viz. Albert Einstein. This encouraged me to study religious books particularly Al-Qur'an, the principal book of the religion of Islam with due sincerity. I studied many books on the relevant subjects in Bengali, particularly some books composed by one Engineer Nurul Islam from Bangladesh. Though, I was not agreed with many of his ideas, but he has put forward arguments in his favour. I also studied the famous book *'The Bible, The Quran & Science'* by Maurice Bucaille, a French Physician. Moreover, I read some articles on the Qur'an and science composed by now world famous scholar of comparative religion Dr. Zakir Naik, which articles were published in *Islamic Voice*, a fortnightly published from Bangalore, India. Even in many forums of the Islamic thinkers and theologians, I witnessed their clear-cut claim that the knowledge revealed in Al-Qur,an is in the background of various modern scientific inventions and discoveries. Later on ,I also studied the Book *'Universe and Man (Scientific and Qur'anic Descriptions)'* composed by Professor A. Rahman, my teacher at the Department of Physics, Gauhati University and after that the world famous book *'A Brief History of Time'* by Stephen Hawking. However, a book named *'How the Quran Guides Science'* written by Harun Yahyia, a famous scholar from Turkey highly inspired me to take up a research study on the scientific aspects of the Qur'an. The present study thus focuses on the scientific indications revealed in the Qur'an to open the inherent

properties of the nature before the mankind particularly those relating to the science of astronomy.

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For the last 1400 years many scholars have studied and interpreted the revelations of the Qur'an and it is not out of context to mention that innumerable treatises have been composed by experts at different parts of the world on this great scripture. It is my candid submission that I have no expertise on the Great knowledge reveled in the Qur'an. However, I have made this noble attempt as a student cum researcher who is highly interested to unearth the scientific ideas of modern times indicated in this great book of knowledge.

Since, the Qur'an is a great book of knowledge covering various subjects of study; this research work has been done with an interdisciplinary approach. Studies on the astronomical ideas in the Qur'an has been given due importance as per objective of the research programme. Moreover, since the Qur'an is claimed to be a great source of knowledge on metaphysics, the same has been discussed in brief under a special section in chapter-III of the thesis to give coverage on the metaphysical ideas revealed in the Qur'an.

During my research work I have consulted different treatises on the scientific aspects of the Qur'an composed by different scholars of national and international repute. I am to mention specially about the website with URL http://www.islamcity.com/MOSQUE/ARABICSCRIPT/AYAT particularly because from this web site, I have collected the relevant revelations of the Qur'an in Arabic text, which helped me enormously to expedite this extensive work successfully. Since, the Muslims of the world believe the Qur'an to be the divine book revealed to Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh), sufficient care is taken to make this research work an objective study and to avoid unwanted controversy.