A Study of Geographical Importance of Ahghaf Land in Quran

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Extended Abstract

Abstract:

Quran is the perfect scripture for the guidance of humans and the words of which are the best words in directing humans. The true scholar is one who the light of knowledge and wisdom together with God's light, faith and piety has enlighten all his soul. With regard to the advancement of various branches of science among Muslims and the need for getting to know with sciences which can make Quranic teachings applicable to every aspect of our life, it is necessary to pay due attention to various fields of Quranic verses and develop them beyond the regular realm, e.g. the geography. In Quran, there is a strong relationship with this branch of science and plenty of messages can be received through it.

This article deals with a part of this profound relationship and has a look at the unique region called "ahghaf" over the history. To state the importance of this region, according to the most authentic historical documents, the geographical position of which is primarily mentioned. Proportional to the terminological meaning of "Ahghaf" and the fact that their region while not free from sand dunes also contained water and trees, the quotation of those who say this region is located at the southern Saudi Arabia and in the proximity of Yaman seems more accurate.

Then, to elucidate this issue, it was necessary to put forward the history of the people living in this area according to the Quran, interpreters, historians and archeologists as well as the satellite photos so that we can have a clearer perception their life style. The point to be mentioned is that Ahghaf possesses natural potentialities in which the Hazramis and A’ad tribes have settled and due to their blasphemy, arrogance and disobedience to the divine messenger,

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they have suffered divine tribulation. Their relics in the depth of 12 m. of sand dunes in that region during Imam Kazem (AS) reign and in the end of the 20th century have been discovered.

The next stage deals with the significance of geographical position of this region in Quran and attempts are made to convey the related messages. Of course, before mentioning why Quran calls A'ad region as Ahghaf, this issue is considered whether Ahghaf in the era when A'ad settled in that area have been given to this region or this name has been given to this region later.

Hence, after expressing the comments on the more accurate comment, it can be said that Ahghaf (i.e. sand dunes) has been formed after the divine tribulation and happening some events on this region. However, it may be before this event sand dunes have existed in that region and this matter makes the tribulation through sands more logical. Therefore, it is obvious that God the Ahghaf has exemplified it as Ahghaf for our understanding to remind us of Kavir and sand desert to ask this question that how was this region that the God has mentioned it as Ahghaf. When through Quran and Archeological works and historical quotations referring to the geographical characteristics before divine tribulation, it can be understood that the difference of these two regions after seven days have increased and this is the chastisement for those people who have arrogantly and pride disobedient to God.

Following to the elaboration of this topic dealing with this region and the Quranic messages gained from them. It is hoped that through presentation part of the efforts made by the Muslim geographers in various eras we can appreciate their attempts.

**Key words:**

Quran, Geography, Ahghaf, Garden of Eden