TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	V11
Transliteration	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
Cosmology And Cosmogony	1
Classification of Creation Myths	2
Egyptian Creation Myth	5
Babylonian Creation Myth	6
Greek Creation Myth	7
Persian Creation Myth	11
Traditional Islamic Creation Narrative	11
CHAPTER ONE	
CREATION OF METAPHYSICAL COSMOS	17
First Creation	22
Throne and Water	23
Stylus and Guarded Tablet	26
The Contradiction	29
Prophetic Light as First Creation	31
Creation Motive	47
Metaphysical Time Scale	49
CHAPTER TWO	
THE BIG BANG	55
The Standard Model	55
The Moment of Creation	66
Inflationary Universe	71
Multiple Universe Theory	74

CHAPTER THREE	
CREATION OF THE HEAVENS	81
The Qur'anic Verses	81
Origin of The Heavens	84
Creation Time And Process	86
Characteristics of The Seven Heavens	94
The Ḥadīth Sources	106
Other Views on The Seven Heavens	117
CHAPTER FOUR	
THE EARTH	122
Formation of Earth	123
Formation of Moon	124
The First Four Billion Years	126
The March of Life	130
CHAPTER FIVE	
CREATION OF EARTH	134
The Qur'anic Verses	135
The Ḥadīth Sources	139
The Four Epochs	152
Earth's Atmosphere	155
Earth's Moon	156
Earth Expanded	158
Creation Order	159
CHAPTER SIX	
SEVEN EARTHS	163
The Qur'anic Verse and Hadith Sources	165
Contemporary Views	167
In Search of Earth-like Planets	170
Seven Earths Existing in Seven Heavens	178

APPENDIX 1 – QUR'ĀNIC EXEGESIS	182
Tafsīr Methodologies	184
Different Types of Tafsīr	186
APPENDIX 2 – THE ḤADĪTH	189
The Sanad and Matn	190
The Science of Criticism of Hadith Narrators	191
Classes of Ḥādīth	194
Categories of <i>Aḥād</i> Hādīth	194
Legal Significance of Ḥādīth	199
Compilers of Hādīth	204
BIBLIOGRAPHY	207