

SADR – THE HUMAN DOSSIER

Insofar as the Quran informs us about the recording of one's action and that the dossier of all the deeds will be handed over to the individual on the Day of Judgement, there must be suitable mechanisms and facilities available for accomplishing these tasks. In several places in the Quran (Q. 11:5; 28:69), mention is made of *sadr* to imply memory that stores the particulars of one's activities, acquired information and knowledge. Consider the following verses:

“Say, whether you hide what is in your *sadr* or reveal it,
God knows it all....” (Q. 3:29)

“Nay, here are signs, self-evident in the *sadr* of those
endowed with the knowledge and none except the
unjust reject Our Signs.” (Q. 29:49)

It is only justifiable, therefore, to consider *sadr* as the auxiliary memory (AM) of the *qalb* where all the information about the conscious activities (i.e., activities carried out with the knowledge of the *qalb*) and information acquired from the surroundings (experience, observation, etc.) are stored. *Sadr* mentioned in the Quran may be treated as the brain memory. The *Sadr* (auxiliary memory of the *qalb*) constitutes the record of all activities of the individual performed during his life. It is the record or the dossier that is preserved and handed over to the individual on the Day of Judgement.

“Truly, man is ungrateful to his Lord. And to that (fact)
he bears witness (by his deeds). And violent is he in his
love for wealth. Does he not know- when that which is
(locked up) in (human) *sadr*(s) is made manifest – that
their Lord had been well-acquainted with them that Day
(the Day of Judgement)?” (Q. 100:6-11)

“...On the Day of Judgement, We shall bring out for
him a scroll, which he will see spread open. (He will be
told): Read your (own) Record; sufficient is yourself
this day to make an account about yourself.”

(Q. 17:13-14)

“That Day you shall be brought to judgement. Not an
act of yours that you hide will be hidden.” (Q. 69:18)

Besides *sadr*, tissues of other body organs also store information relating to their activities, as it is mentioned in the Quran that body parts can witness for the actions of the individual suggesting that information on the activities carried out by each organ of the body is available.

“That Day shall We set a seal on their mouths. But their
hands will speak to us, and their feet bear witness, to all
that they did.” (Q. 36:65)

“At length, when they reach the (Fire), their hearing,
their sight, and their skins will bear witness against
them, as to (all) their deeds. They will say to their
skins: Why bear you witness against us? They will say:
(Allah) has given us speech,- (He) Who gives speech to

everything: He created you for the first time, and unto Him were you to return. You did not seek to hide yourselves, lest your hearing, your sight, and your skins should bear witness against you! But you did think that Allah knew not many of the things that you used to do! But this thought of yours which you did entertain concerning your Lord, has brought you to destruction, and (now) have you become of those utterly lost!”

(Q. 41:20-23)

This implies that the chromosomes in human body cells have excess memory space over and above that required for storing the memome. These blank sectors must be serving as storage of information on the activities carried out by the respective cells. It is presumed that irrespective of the genre (e.g., biological software, acquired information, etc.), information is stored on the chromosome by the same mechanism although we cannot say what the mechanism is.

Where are the *qalb* and *sadr* located? The Quran informs that the *qalb* resides in *sadr*.

“...Truly, it is not their eyes that are blind but their *qalb*(s) which are in their *sadr*(s).” (Q. 22:46)

Although the Quran clearly distinguishes the *qalb* from the *sadr* in the verse above (Q. 22:46), it is seen that the two are treated synonymously by the translators of the Quran to mean heart, chest, etc. Disregarding these interpretations we may reasonably suppose that the *qalb* and *sadr* are located in the brain. They may be treated as specialized tissues of the brain. Nonetheless there is difficulty in tracing their exact anatomical locations. Once we know the location of one, the location of the other can be found out as the Quran reveals that the *qalb* resides in *sadr*. The Quran throws some light on the location of *sadr*.

“Every man’s fate We have fastened on his own neck:
On the Day of Judgment We shall bring out for him a
scroll, which he will see spread open.” (Q. 17:13)

This verse associates one’s fate with the scroll (dossier) to be produced on the Day of Judgement. Since the Quranic verse (Q. 100:6-11) reveals that it is *sadr* that forms the dossier of a person, the revelation that “Every man’s fate We have fastened on his own neck” (Q. 17:13) may be taken to mean *sadr* is located in the neck region, i.e., the lower part of the brain. This, in turn, would suggest that the *qalb*, which resides in the *sadr*, is also situated at the lower part of the brain. The lower part of the brain is cerebellum (Fig. 1). Thus we may zero down to cerebellum as the most probable location of the *qalb* and *sadr*.

Going by this reasoning, the cerebellum must be a hub of information processing and transmission of commands for voluntary (conscious) activities. The available literature on cerebellum does support this view. The cerebellum is located in the hindbrain at the base of the skull nearest to the neck. It is also called “little brain”. The cerebellum contains nearly 50% of all neurons in the brain, although it constitutes about 10% of total brain volume. The cerebellum receives about 200 million input fibers; in contrast, the optic nerve is composed of a mere one million fibers [1]. It coordinates voluntary movements (e.g. walking, posture, speech) and is important for learning motor

(skilled) behaviours [2]. These are conscious (voluntary) activities commanded by the *qalb*. The cerebellum has been compared to a powerful computer, capable of making contributions both to the motor dexterity and the mental prowess of humans. It handles an enormous amount of information received by it and after processing sends out decisions (output information) to various other regions of the brain, telling them what to do and when to do it [3]. All these activities compare well with the functions of the *qalb* and are therefore suggestive of the location of *qalb* in cerebellum. Since the *qalb* is situated in *sadr*, the location of *sadr* may also be thought of in cerebellum. We also cannot say with our present limited knowledge whether the whole of cerebellum or a part of it forms the *qalb* and *sadr*. Further studies are very much needed to understand the human brain from the Quranic perspective.

References

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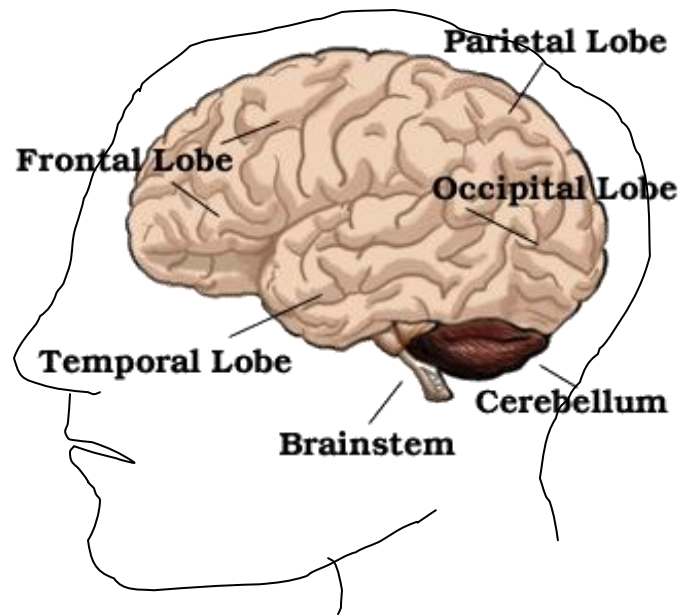


Fig. 1. Cerebellum – the supposed location of *qalb* and *sadr*

