



active nerve cell

Memory

Allah, Most High, says:

﴿ وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ ﴾

"And also in your own selves (are signs). Will you not then see?"
(Soorah Adh-Dharyyat 51:21)

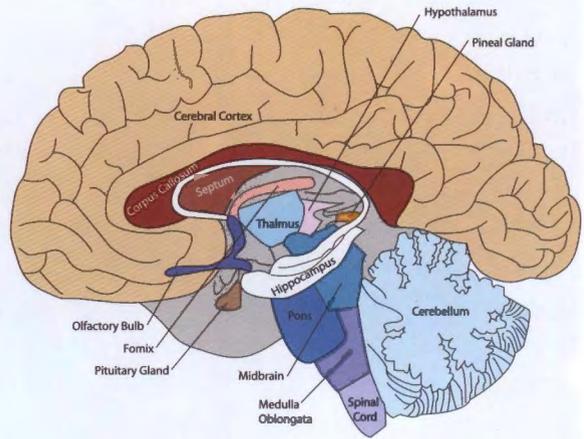
Every one of us has something in his brain called memory that plays a crucial role in our lives. The scientists have derived this fact from Allah's saying:

﴿ وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَمَسَخْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِهِمْ فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مُضِيًّا وَلَا يَرْجِعُونَ ﴾

"And if it had been Our Will, We could have transformed them (into animals or lifeless objects) in their places. Then they should have been unable to go forward (move about) nor they could have turned back." (Soorah Ya Seen 36:67)

How do you find your way back to your house? It is because you

The **Hippocampus** is a major component of the brain. It belongs to the limbic system and plays important role in long-term memory and spatial navigation. In humans and other primates' the **Hippocampus** is located inside the medial temporal lobe.



know where your house is. How did you know that? It is because the location of your house is registered in your memory. While you are in your shop, how do you know that these wares are taken from here and that one is taken from there? It is because all these wares are registered in your memory.

In your house, you know the location of each of the things you need, where have you kept the knowledge of all this? While at school, when you read some books and you have to sit for a test, how do you do the test? All this information has been stored in your memory. Any person who does not have memory is virtually dead. It is impossible for such a person to learn or teach. Allah says:

﴿وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَمَسَخْنَهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَكَاتِبِهِمْ فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مُضِيًّا وَلَا يَرْجِعُونَ﴾

"And if it had been Our Will, We could have transformed them (into animals or lifeless objects) in their places. Then they should have been unable to go forward (move about) nor they could have turned back." (Soorah Ya Seen 36:67)

The scientific articles that discuss memory have this to say: "When a man lives up to the age of sixty, his memory would have stored more than sixty billion pieces of information. If we wanted to convert these huge pieces of information into books, we would need thousands of volumes, all storing information whose exact place in the brain we are yet to discover until now. There are new theories hypothesizing that memory has no place in the brain and that it is only connected to man's psychology.

All this information that comes to a person, some of it is stored in a near place so that it can be easily recollected; some of it is stored in a location at a medium distance, and some is stored in faraway locations, and some is not stored at all. If the information is stored, it gets distributed according to its type. There is a memory for smelled things, there is a memory for visible things, there is a memory for faces, there is a memory for colors, there is memory for perfumes, and there is a memory for names. This is very subtle.

If we want to recollect something or we want to know something, the scholars say: "The memory uses a codification method within an incredibly short time. If you are presented with a perfume, you smell it because you already have stored up in your memory ninety-seven different kinds of perfumes. This particular perfume that is presented to you passes through all these kinds until it is matched and you then say: The name of this perfume is such and such.

The same applies to the smelt things, visible things, foods, tastes, faces, names, numbers and everything. The available information about memory is very little, yet they are full of facts that dumbfound intelligent people.

Some scholars say that the human memory works as a dictionary and instant interpreter. The astounding thing is that the nerve cell is indivisible, neither does it die. If it is split and dies, then the man will lose all his experiences. A person tells you that he has forty years of experience in medical practice, another tells you that he has fifty years of experience in law while another person tells you that he has so much experience in industry. All these experiences accumulate with man's advancing age. If he loses his memory, he would lose all his experiences in one fell swoop.

The memory alone is a great sign among the Signs of Allah that indicate His magnificence. This reminds us again of Allah's saying:

﴿وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ﴾

"And also in your own selves (are signs). Will you not then see?"
(Soorah Adh-Dhariyat 51:21)¹

1 From the book: *Al-'Ijaz Al-'Ilmi Fil-Kitab Was-Sunnah*, by An-Nabulsi