EXPLORING AL-QUR'AN & SCIENCE

THE FRAGILE WEB ON STRONG THREADS

The Weakest of Houses, the Strongest of Threads



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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مَثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ ٱتَّخَذُواْ مِن دُونِ ٱللَّهِ أَوۡلِيَآءَ كَمَثَلِ ٱلۡعَنكَبُوتِ ٱتَّخَذَتۡ بَيۡتٗاۖ وَإِنَّ أَوۡهَنَ ٱلۡبُيُوتِ لَبَيۡتُ ٱلۡعَنكَبُوتِۚ

"…And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider, if they only knew."

SURAH AL-'ANKABUT 29:41

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise belongs to Allah, the All-Strong, the Exalted in Might, upon whom all creation depends and who needs no one. It is He who presents examples with a mosquito, a fly and a spider, so that His servants of knowledge may understand. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who taught his community to rely upon Allah as the bird does, which goes out in the morning hungry and returns in the evening full, and upon his family and Companions.

This eBook is dedicated especially to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

Whenever we see a spider's web glistening with morning dew, may we remember His words: ***"And these examples We present to the people, but none will understand them except those of knowledge"*** (29:43) — and may this eBook become *'ilmun yuntafa'u bih*, knowledge that is benefited from.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook shows ***a dawn scene in a Malay village***. Beneath a blue-green sky that slowly turns golden stand ***a wooden house on stilts***, coconut palms and a soft morning mist.

In the centre of the image, ***a spider's web*** is stretched between the twigs of a hibiscus bush, ***adorned with dewdrops*** that sparkle in the light of the rising sun. A ***small spider*** sits at the centre of its web, while ***some of the threads at the edge have broken*** and hang loose in the breeze. The image symbolises the theme of this eBook: ***the thread is strong, but the house is fragile — "And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider"*** (29:41).

Note: This image is ***a symbolic illustration*** only. ***Two gold lines*** at the bottom frame the author's name.

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Colour guide: green box = verse of Al-Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; blue box = scientific finding; blue table = comparison. Narrator names underlined in blue can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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THE FRAGILE WEB ON STRONG THREADS

Have we ever noticed a spider's web in the corner of the house or between the twigs in the morning? Its threads are fine, arranged neatly like the spokes of a wheel, and they glisten in the sunlight. Yet a single sweep of a broom or a strong gust of wind is enough to tear it apart. A spider's web does not protect its owner from heat, rain or enemies.

The Qur'an chose this small creature as an example for those who ***depend on other than Allah***: ***"The example of those who take allies other than Allah is like that of the spider who takes a home. And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider, if they only knew"*** (29:41). The surah itself is named ***Al-'Ankabut*** — The Spider.

Interestingly, modern science has found that ***spider silk*** is among the most remarkable materials in nature: for its weight it is stronger than steel, and some of it is ten times tougher than Kevlar. So a question arises: ***how can a house built from such strong thread be "the weakest of homes"?*** This eBook explores the verses, authentic Hadith and scientific findings about spiders — honestly, distinguishing between firm harmony and forced interpretation.

SPIDERS IN NUMBERS

Before exploring the verses of the Qur'an, here are some brief facts that will be explained in this eBook, together with their sources:

FACT	FIGURE AND SOURCE
Tensile strength of spider silk	About ***1 GPa*** — in the middle of the range of steel (0.2–2 GPa), but almost ***six times lighter*** (Oyen, University of Cambridge).
Toughness of Darwin's bark spider silk	About ***350 MJ/m³*** on average, up to ***520 MJ/m³*** — about ***10 times*** tougher than Kevlar (Agnarsson et al., 2010).
Length of that spider's bridge thread	Up to ***25 metres*** across a lake (Agnarsson et al., 2010).
Size of male versus female (golden silk spider, Nephila)	Females ***25–50 mm***; males only ***4–6 mm***. The females build the webs; the males build none (Britannica).
Males that die after mating (Argiope bruennichi)	Up to ***80%*** of males do not survive their first copulation (Schneider, 2014).
A mother eaten by her offspring (Stegodyphus lineatus)	The mother feeds her young from her own body tissue, and is then ***eaten by her offspring*** (Salomon et al., 2015).

Note: Translations of Qur'anic verses in this eBook are from Sahih International. The grade of each Hadith is stated in its Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com. Each scientific finding is accompanied by a link to its original source.

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THE MOST FRAGILE HOUSE

This chapter discusses the core verse of this eBook, Surah Al-'Ankabut 29:41, together with the two verses after it.

SURAH AL-'ANKABUT 29:41–43

مَثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ ٱتَّخَذُوا۟ مِن دُونِ ٱللَّهِ أَوْلِيَآءَ كَمَثَلِ ٱلْعَنكَبُوتِ ٱتَّخَذَتْ بَيْتًا ۖ وَإِنَّ أَوْهَنَ ٱلْبُيُوتِ لَبَيْتُ ٱلْعَنكَبُوتِ ۚ لَوْ كَانُوا۟ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

The example of those who take allies other than Allah is like that of the spider who takes a home. And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider, if they only knew.

إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِۦ مِن شَىْءٍ ۚ وَهُوَ ٱلْعَزِيزُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ ﴿٤٢﴾

Indeed, Allah knows whatever thing they call upon other than Him. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

وَتِلْكَ ٱلْأَمْثَٰلُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ ۖ وَمَا يَعْقِلُهَآ إِلَّا ٱلْعَٰلِمُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

And these examples We present to the people, but none will understand them except those of knowledge.

Translation: Sahih International — 29:41-43

A SURAH NAMED AFTER THE SPIDER

Surah Al-'Ankabut is the 29th surah of the Qur'an, containing ***69 verses***, and according to the majority of scholars it was revealed in ***Makkah***. It is named after the example of the spider in verse 41. The great theme of this surah is ***the testing of faith***: it opens with a stirring question:

SURAH AL-'ANKABUT 29:2–3

أَحَسِبَ ٱلنَّاسُ أَن يُتْرَكُوٓا۟ أَن يَقُولُوٓا۟ ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢﴾

Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe" and they will not be tried?

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا ٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ ۖ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ ٱللَّهُ ٱلَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا۟ وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ ٱلْكَٰذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

But We have certainly tried those before them, and Allah will surely make evident those who are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.

Translation: Sahih International — 29:2-3

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Ibn Kathir explains that Allah will surely ***test the believers*** according to the measure of their faith, to distinguish the truthful from the liars. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 29:2 Notice its link to the example of the spider: ***it is trials that reveal*** whether a person holds a firm rope or a fragile web. When life is calm, both look the same; when the storm comes, the difference becomes clear.

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CONTEXT OF THE VERSE — AFTER THE STORIES OF THE DESTROYED NATIONS

Before verse 29:41, Allah tells of earlier peoples — the peoples of the Prophets Nuh, Ibrahim, Lut and Shu'aib عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ, the peoples of 'Ad and Thamud, Qarun, Pharaoh and Haman — who relied on their strength, wealth and idols. Verse 29:40 concludes: ***"So each We seized for his sin."*** Then comes the example of the spider: everything they relied upon, however solid it looked, ***was no stronger than a spider's web***.

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 29:41 — THE EXAMPLE OF THE SPIDER'S HOUSE

Ibn Kathir explains that this verse is an example for ***the polytheists*** who took gods other than Allah, hoping those gods would ***help them, provide for them and rescue them*** in hardship. Their situation is like ***the spider's house, which is so weak and frail***; clinging to those gods is like clinging to a spider's web — ***it brings no benefit at all***. Had they known this reality, they would not have taken protectors besides Allah. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 29:41

Ibn Kathir then contrasts them with ***the believer***, whose heart is devoted to Allah, who does righteous deeds and follows His law. Such a believer has ***grasped the most trustworthy handhold*** (*al-'urwah al-wuthqā*), which will never break because it is so strong and firm (see Chapter 3).

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WORD BY WORD

ARABIC EXPRESSION	MEANING AND EXPLANATION
□□□□□□ (*mathalu*)	Example or parable. The Qur'an uses parables to bring abstract meanings close to things that can be seen.
□□□□□□□□□□□ (*auliyā'*)	Protectors, helpers or things relied upon — plural of *walī*.
□□□□□□□□□□□□□ (*al-'ankabūt*)	The spider. In Arabic, this word is usually treated as ***feminine (muannath)*** in its grammar.
□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□ (*ittakhaḏhat baitā*)	"It takes a house." This verb is in the feminine form, following the word *al-'ankabūt*.
□□□□□□□□ (*auhana*)	The weakest or most fragile — from *wahn*, weakness.
□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□	"If they only knew" — a rebuke that dependence on other than Allah springs from ignorance.

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 29:42–43 — ONLY PEOPLE OF KNOWLEDGE UNDERSTAND

Verse 29:42 affirms that ***Allah knows*** everything they call upon besides Him, and that He is ***Al-'Aziz*** (the Exalted in Might) and ***Al-Hakim*** (the Wise). Verse 29:43 states that these examples are presented to people, ***but none will understand them except those of knowledge*** (*al-'ālimūn*).

Ibn Kathir cites a narration of Ibn Abi Hatim from ***'Amr bin Murrah***, one of the Successors (*tābi'ūn*), who said: whenever he came across a verse in the Book of Allah that he did not understand, it grieved him, because he heard Allah say: ***"And these examples We present to the people, but none will understand them except those of knowledge."*** Tafsir Ibn Kathir 29:43

WHY A SPIDER, AND WHY A HOUSE?

The Qur'an could have likened false dependence to many things. Yet it chose ***a house*** — the very place where a person seeks safety, rest and protection for his family. Every human being longs for a home that shelters him. By choosing the image of a house, the verse speaks directly to that longing: the thing you hoped would shelter you is, in reality, ***the weakest of homes***.

It also chose ***a spider***, a creature that builds its house ***from its own body*** — the silk comes from within it. In the same way, many of the "houses" people rely on are spun from ***their own desires, assumptions and cleverness***. They feel solid because we made them ourselves, but what we spin from within ourselves cannot replace the protection of Allah.

REFLECTION — THE SPIDER WITHIN US

This example is not only for the idol-worshippers of the past. Every time we place ***all our hope*** in position, wealth, connections or our own cleverness — until we forget that everything is in Allah's hands — we are

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in fact ***building a spider's web*** in our hearts. It looks neat and orderly, but it cannot shelter us from the storms of life.

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EXAMPLES FROM SMALL CREATURES

The spider is not the only small creature used as an example in the Qur'an. Allah also presents examples with the ***mosquito*** and the ***fly*** — creatures that people regard as trivial.

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:26

۞ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ لَا يَسۡتَحۡيِۦٓ أَن يَضۡرِبَ مَثَلٗا مَّا بَعُوضَةٗ فَمَا فَوۡقَهَاۚ فَأَمَّا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ فَيَعۡلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ ٱلۡحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمۡۖ وَأَمَّا ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ فَيَقُولُونَ مَاذَآ أَرَادَ ٱللَّهُ بِهَٰذَا مَثَلٗاۘ يُضِلُّ بِهِۦ كَثِيرٗا وَيَهۡدِي بِهِۦ كَثِيرٗاۚ وَمَا يُضِلُّ بِهِۦٓ إِلَّا ٱلۡفَٰسِقِينَ ٢٦

Indeed, Allah is not timid to present an example - that of a mosquito or what is smaller than it. And those who have believed know that it is the truth from their Lord. But as for those who disbelieve, they say, "What did Allah intend by this as an example?" He misleads many thereby and guides many thereby. And He misleads not except the defiantly disobedient.

Translation: Sahih International — 2:26

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 2:26 — ALLAH IS NOT TIMID TO PRESENT AN EXAMPLE

Ibn Kathir mentions that when Allah presented examples with the spider and the fly, the hypocrites and polytheists mocked: ***"Why does Allah mention such trivial things?"*** So Allah revealed this verse: Allah is ***not timid*** to present an example with ***a mosquito or what is beyond it*** (*fa mā fauqahā*). Ibn Kathir cites two interpretations of "what is beyond it": either ***what is smaller*** than a mosquito, or ***what is larger*** than it. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:26

The same example can be ***guidance*** for the believers and ***a cause of misguidance*** for the defiantly disobedient. What makes the difference is not the example, but ***the heart that receives it***.

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SURAH AL-HAJJ 22:73–74

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ضُرِبَ مَثَلٞ فَٱسۡتَمِعُواْ لَهُۥٓۚ إِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ تَدۡعُونَ مِن دُونِ ٱللَّهِ لَن يَخۡلُقُواْ ذُبَابٗا وَلَوِ ٱجۡتَمَعُواْ لَهُۥۖ وَإِن يَسۡلُبۡهُمُ ٱلذُّبَابُ شَيۡـٔٗا لَّا يَسۡتَنقِذُوهُ مِنۡهُۚ ضَعُفَ ٱلطَّالِبُ وَٱلۡمَطۡلُوبُ ٧٣

O people, an example is presented, so listen to it. Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah will never create [as much as] a fly, even if they gathered together for that purpose. And if the fly should steal away from them a [tiny] thing, they could not recover it from him. Weak are the pursuer and pursued.

مَا قَدَرُواْ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدۡرِهِۦٓۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ٧٤

They have not appraised Allah with true appraisal. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might.

Translation: Sahih International — 22:73-74

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 22:73–74 — NOT EVEN A FLY CAN BE CREATED

This verse opens with a call to all humanity: ***"O people, an example is presented, so listen to it."*** All that is worshipped besides Allah ***cannot create a single fly***, even if they all gathered to create it. More than that, if the fly snatches something from them, ***they cannot recover it***. Some commentators, such as al-Qurtubi, mention that the idols were smeared with perfume, and flies would come and take it — and the idols could do nothing. Tafsir al-Qurtubi 22:73

The verse closes with a sharp conclusion: ***"Weak are the pursuer and pursued"*** (*dha'ufa at-tālibu wal-matlūb*). Then: ***"They have not appraised Allah with true appraisal. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might."*** This comparison is in close harmony with the example of the spider: the one who depends is weak, and what he depends on is weak too.

REFLECTION — SMALL TO THE EYE, GREAT IN LESSON

The mosquito, the fly and the spider — three creatures we shoo away every day. Yet Allah made all three ***teachers*** for humanity. Modern science now studies the mosquito's wing, the fly's eye and the spider's thread with great admiration. What people regard as trivial is ***full of wisdom from its Creator***.

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THE ROPE THAT WILL NEVER BREAK

If the spider's house is the symbol of fragile dependence, the Qur'an also describes ***the firmest rope*** — a support that will never break.

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:256

لَآ إِكۡرَاهَ فِي ٱلدِّينِۖ قَد تَّبَيَّنَ ٱلرُّشۡدُ مِنَ ٱلۡغَيِّۚ فَمَن يَكۡفُرۡ بِٱلطَّٰغُوتِ وَيُؤۡمِنۢ بِٱللَّهِ فَقَدِ ٱسۡتَمۡسَكَ بِٱلۡعُرۡوَةِ ٱلۡوُثۡقَىٰ لَا ٱنفِصَامَ لَهَاۗ وَٱللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٥٦

There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — 2:256

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 2:256 — AL-'URWAH AL-WUTHQA

Whoever ***disbelieves in Taghut*** (all that is worshipped besides Allah) and ***believes in Allah*** has grasped ***al-'urwah al-wuthqā*** — the most trustworthy handhold or rope, ***with no break in it*** (*lanfisāma lahā*). Ibn Kathir cites the view of the early scholars that *al-'urwah al-wuthqā* is ***faith***, ***Islam***, or ***the word lā ilāha illallāh***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:256

Notice the difference: even the strongest spider thread ***can break*** when its web is damaged. But the rope of faith ***will never break*** — because the One who holds it is Allah Himself.

SURAH LUQMAN 31:22

۞ وَمَن يُسۡلِمۡ وَجۡهَهُۥٓ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحۡسِنٞ فَقَدِ ٱسۡتَمۡسَكَ بِٱلۡعُرۡوَةِ ٱلۡوُثۡقَىٰۗ وَإِلَى ٱللَّهِ عَٰقِبَةُ ٱلۡأُمُورِ ٢٢

And whoever submits his face to Allah while he is a doer of good - then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold. And to Allah will be the outcome of [all] matters.

Translation: Sahih International — 31:22

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 31:22

This verse adds two conditions for holding the firm rope: ***submitting oneself completely to Allah*** (*yuslim wajhahū ilallāh*) and ***doing good***. Reliance is not merely a feeling; it is accompanied by righteous deeds. The verse closes with: ***"And to Allah will be the outcome of [all] matters."*** Tafsir Ibn Kathir 31:22

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SURAH ALI 'IMRAN 3:103

وَٱعۡتَصِمُواْ بِحَبۡلِ ٱللَّهِ جَمِيعٗا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُواْۚ وَٱذۡكُرُواْ نِعۡمَتَ ٱللَّهِ عَلَيۡكُمۡ إِذۡ
كُنتُمۡ أَعۡدَآءٗ فَأَلَّفَ بَيۡنَ قُلُوبِكُمۡ فَأَصۡبَحۡتُم بِنِعۡمَتِهِۦٓ إِخۡوَٰنٗا وَكُنتُمۡ عَلَىٰ شَفَا
حُفۡرَةٖ مِّنَ ٱلنَّارِ فَأَنقَذَكُم مِّنۡهَاۗ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ ٱللَّهُ لَكُمۡ ءَايَٰتِهِۦ لَعَلَّكُمۡ
تَهۡتَدُونَ ١٠٣

And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. And you were on the edge of a pit of the Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His verses that you may be guided.

Translation: Sahih International — 3:103

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 3:103 — THE ROPE OF ALLAH THAT UNITES

Allah commands: ***"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."*** Ibn Kathir cites that "the rope of Allah" is ***Allah's covenant***, or ***the Qur'an***. This rope not only connects the servant to his Lord, but also ***unites the hearts of people*** — as Allah united the tribes of Aws and Khazraj after a long enmity. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:103

REFLECTION — TWO KINDS OF THREAD

There are two kinds of thread in life. ***The spider's thread*** — spun by oneself, neat in appearance, but unable to bear a storm. And ***the rope of Allah*** — sent down from the heavens, connecting this world with the Hereafter, and never breaking. The question is: ***on which thread do we hang our lives?***

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THE FIRM TREE AND THE UNTWISTED THREAD

The Qur'an uses several other examples that complete the example of the spider: ***a tree with firm roots*** compared with ***a tree that is easily uprooted***, and ***the woman who untwisted her own spun thread***.

SURAH IBRAHIM 14:24–26

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ ٱللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِى ٱلسَّمَآءِ ﴿٢٤﴾

Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky?

تُؤْتِىٓ أُكُلَهَا كُلَّ حِينٍۭ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهَا ۗ وَيَضْرِبُ ٱللَّهُ ٱلْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

It produces its fruit all the time, by permission of its Lord. And Allah presents examples for the people that perhaps they will be reminded.

وَمَثَلُ كَلِمَةٍ خَبِيثَةٍ كَشَجَرَةٍ خَبِيثَةٍ ٱجْتُثَّتْ مِن فَوْقِ ٱلْأَرْضِ مَا لَهَا مِن قَرَارٍ ﴿٢٦﴾

And the example of a bad word is like a bad tree, uprooted from the surface of the earth, not having any stability.

Translation: Sahih International — 14:24-26

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 14:24–26

The good word — the testimony *lā ilāha illallāh*, according to Ibn 'Abbas — is likened to ***a good tree***: its root firmly fixed in the earth, its branches high in the sky, bearing fruit at all times by its Lord's permission. ***The bad word*** — disbelief — is likened to ***a bad tree*** that is ***uprooted from the surface of the earth, not having any stability***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 14:24

The spider's web and the uprooted tree share one feature: ***no firm foundation***. Both may look beautiful for a while, but cannot endure.

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SURAH AN-NAHL 16:92

وَلَا تَكُونُوا۟ كَٱلَّتِى نَقَضَتْ غَزْلَهَا مِنۢ بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ أَنكَٰثًا تَتَّخِذُونَ أَيْمَٰنَكُمْ
دَخَلًۢا بَيْنَكُمْ أَن تَكُونَ أُمَّةٌ هِىَ أَرْبَىٰ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ ۚ إِنَّمَا يَبْلُوكُمُ ٱللَّهُ بِهِۦ ۚ
وَلَيُبَيِّنَنَّ لَكُمْ يَوْمَ ٱلْقِيَٰمَةِ مَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿٩٢﴾

And do not be like she who untwisted her spun thread after it was strong [by] taking your oaths as [means of] deceit between you because one community is more plentiful [in number or wealth] than another community. Allah only tries you thereby. And He will surely make clear to you on the Day of Resurrection that over which you used to differ.

Translation: Sahih International — 16:92

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 16:92 — UNTWISTING A THREAD THAT WAS STRONG

Allah forbids the believers from being like ***the woman who untwisted the thread she had spun*** after it had become strong. Ibn Kathir cites that this verse is an example for ***those who break their covenants and oaths*** after binding them firmly. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:92

This example reminds us that ***even a strong thread is worthless*** if its own owner untwists it. The spider spins a strong thread but builds a fragile house; people can spin strong deeds and promises, then destroy them themselves through betrayal and sin.

REFLECTION — BETWEEN THE THREAD AND THE HOUSE

All three examples — the spider, the tree and the spinner — teach one principle: ***the strength of the material does not guarantee the strength of the structure***. What decides is the ***foundation*** of that structure and ***upon whom*** it rests.

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EVIDENCE FROM THE HADITH

This chapter presents ***nine Hadith*** related to the theme of this eBook — ***reliance upon Allah***, ***the weakness of this world as a support***, and ***small creatures*** that serve as lessons. Each Hadith is presented in full with its Arabic text, a chain of narration linked to the narrator pages on sunnah.com, a translation and its grade.

HADITH	THEME
Jami' al-Tirmidhi 2344	If you relied on Allah truly, you would be provided for like the birds.
Jami' al-Tirmidhi 2517	"Tie it, and rely (upon Allah)."
Jami' al-Tirmidhi 2516	"Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you" — the whole nation cannot benefit you except by Allah's decree.
Sahih al-Bukhari 6472	Seventy thousand enter Paradise without reckoning — they rely upon their Lord.
Jami' al-Tirmidhi 2320	If the world were worth a mosquito's wing to Allah…
Sahih al-Bukhari 4729	A huge, fat man who does not weigh a mosquito's wing with Allah.
Sahih Muslim 2957	The world is more insignificant to Allah than a dead young goat.
Sahih al-Bukhari 6416	"Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveller."
Sahih al-Bukhari 3320	The fly that falls into a drink.

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FIRST HADITH — THE PROVISION OF BIRDS FOR THOSE WHO RELY ON ALLAH

HADITH — JAMI' AL-TIRMIDHI, NO. 2344

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ الْكِنْدِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ الْمُبَارَكِ، عَنْ حَيْوَةَ بْنِ شُرَيْحٍ، عَنْ بَكْرِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ هُبَيْرَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي تَمِيمٍ الْجَيْشَانِيِّ، عَنْ عُمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «لَوْ أَنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَوَكَّلُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ حَقَّ تَوَكُّلِهِ لَرُزِقْتُمْ كَمَا تُرْزَقُ الطَّيْرُ تَغْدُو خِمَاصًا وَتَرُوحُ بِطَانًا» . قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ لاَ نَعْرِفُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ هَذَا الْوَجْهِ . وَأَبُو تَمِيمٍ الْجَيْشَانِيُّ اسْمُهُ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَالِكٍ .

TRANSLATION:

'Umar bin al-Khattab رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"If you were to rely upon Allah with the reliance He deserves, He would provide for you just as He provides for the birds: they go out in the morning hungry and return in the evening full."***

Abu 'Isa (al-Tirmidhi) said: This Hadith is hasan sahih; we know it only through this route. Abu Tamim al-Jaishani's name is 'Abdullah bin Malik.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi: from 'Ali bin Sa'id al-Kindi, from 'Abdullah bin al-Mubarak, from Haywah bin Shuraih, from Bakr bin 'Amr, from 'Abdullah bin Hubairah, from Abu Tamim al-Jaishani, from 'Umar bin al-Khattab رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi in Jami' al-Tirmidhi, Abwab al-Zuhd, Chapter on Reliance upon Allah, Hadith No. 2344.

GRADE: SAHIH — graded hasan sahih by Imam al-Tirmidhi; graded hasan (Darussalam) on sunnah.com.

Source: https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi:2344

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The bird ***goes out*** to seek its provision in the morning — it does not sit in its nest waiting for food to fall. True reliance means ***the heart depends on Allah*** while ***the limbs strive***.

Second: The spider depends on its web to catch prey; the bird depends on Allah and flies wherever it goes. This comparison reminds us: ***do not make tools and effort the thing you depend on***, but treat them as means, while the heart depends on the Provider.

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SECOND HADITH — "TIE IT, AND RELY UPON ALLAH"

HADITH — JAMI' AL-TIRMIDHI, NO. 2517

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو حَفْصٍ، عَمْرُو بْنُ عَلِيٍّ حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ سَعِيدٍ الْقَطَّانُ، حَدَّثَنَا الْمُغِيرَةُ بْنُ أَبِي قُرَّةَ السَّدُوسِيُّ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ، يَقُولُ قَالَ رَجُلٌ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَعْقِلُهَا وَأَتَوَكَّلُ أَوْ أُطْلِقُهَا وَأَتَوَكَّلُ قَالَ «اعْقِلْهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ» . قَالَ عَمْرُو بْنُ عَلِيٍّ قَالَ يَحْيَى وَهَذَا عِنْدِي حَدِيثٌ مُنْكَرٌ . قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى وَهَذَا حَدِيثٌ غَرِيبٌ مِنْ حَدِيثِ أَنَسٍ لاَ نَعْرِفُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ هَذَا الْوَجْهِ وَقَدْ رُوِيَ عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ أُمَيَّةَ الضَّمْرِيِّ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم نَحْوُ هَذَا .

TRANSLATION:

Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه said: A man asked: "O Messenger of Allah, shall I tie my camel and rely (upon Allah), or leave it loose and rely (upon Allah)?" He said: ***"Tie it, and rely (upon Allah)."***

'Amr bin 'Ali said: Yahya (al-Qattan) said: "In my view this Hadith is munkar." Abu 'Isa (al-Tirmidhi) said: This Hadith is gharib as a narration of Anas; we know it only through this route. ***Something similar has been narrated from 'Amr bin Umayyah al-Damri from the Prophet ﷺ.***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi: from Abu Hafs 'Amr bin 'Ali, from Yahya bin Sa'id al-Qattan, from al-Mughirah bin Abi Qurrah al-Sadusi, from Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi in Jami' al-Tirmidhi, Abwab Sifat al-Qiyamah wa al-Raqa'iq wa al-Wara', Hadith No. 2517.

GRADE: HASAN — this chain was judged gharib by al-Tirmidhi and munkar by Yahya al-Qattan, but the Hadith is supported by the narration of 'Amr bin Umayyah al-Damri; graded hasan (Darussalam) on sunnah.com.

Source: https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi:2517

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: Islam does not teach a reliance that ***abandons effort***. Tying the camel is effort; entrusting the outcome to Allah is reliance. The two go hand in hand.

Second: This Hadith also shows ***the scholarly honesty of the Hadith scholars***: al-Tirmidhi himself stated the weakness of this chain and mentioned another narration that supports it. It is this kind of honesty that we follow in this eBook.

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THIRD HADITH — "BE MINDFUL OF ALLAH AND HE WILL PROTECT YOU"

HADITH — JAMI' AL-TIRMIDHI, NO. 2516

حَدَّثَنَا أَحْمَدُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ مُوسَى، أَخْبَرَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ الْمُبَارَكِ، أَخْبَرَنَا لَيْثُ بْنُ سَعْدٍ، وَابْنُ لَهِيعَةَ عَنْ قَيْسِ بْنِ الْحَجَّاجِ، قَالَ وَحَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، أَخْبَرَنَا أَبُو الْوَلِيدِ، حَدَّثَنَا لَيْثُ بْنُ سَعْدٍ، حَدَّثَنِي قَيْسُ بْنُ الْحَجَّاجِ الْمَعْنَى وَاحِدٌ، عَنْ حَنَشٍ الصَّنْعَانِيِّ، عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ كُنْتُ خَلْفَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَوْمًا فَقَالَ «يَا غُلاَمُ إِنِّي أُعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ احْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ احْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلاَّ بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ وَلَوِ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلاَّ بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ رُفِعَتِ الأَقْلاَمُ وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ» . قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيحٌ .

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: One day I was behind the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he said: ***"O young man,***

I will teach you some words: Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. When you ask, ask Allah; and when you seek help, seek help from Allah.

Know that if the whole nation were to gather together to benefit you with something, they would not benefit you except with what Allah had already written for you. And if they were to gather together to harm you with something, they would not harm you except with what Allah had already written against you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried."

Abu 'Isa (al-Tirmidhi) said: This Hadith is hasan sahih.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi: from Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Musa, from 'Abdullah bin al-Mubarak, from Laith bin Sa'd and Ibn Lahi'ah, from Qais bin al-Hajjaj, from Hanash al-San'ani, from Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi in Jami' al-Tirmidhi, Abwab Sifat al-Qiyamah wa al-Raqa'iq wa al-Wara', Hadith No. 2516. (Al-Tirmidhi also narrates it through a second route: 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from Abu al-Walid, from Laith bin Sa'd.)

GRADE: SAHIH — graded hasan sahih by Imam al-Tirmidhi; graded hasan (Darussalam) on sunnah.com.

Source: https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi:2516

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: This Hadith is ***the positive answer*** to the example of the spider. If all creation gathered together could neither benefit nor harm without Allah's permission, then ***depending on creation*** is depending on a spider's web.

Second: The phrase ***"the whole nation were to gather together"*** is in harmony with verse 22:73: ***"even if they gathered together for that purpose."*** The collective strength of creation remains weak before the power of Allah.

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FOURTH HADITH — THE SEVENTY THOUSAND WHO RELY ON ALLAH

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6472

حَدَّثَنِي إِسْحَاقُ، حَدَّثَنَا رَوْحُ بْنُ عُبَادَةَ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ حُصَيْنَ بْنَ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، قَالَ كُنْتُ قَاعِدًا عِنْدَ سَعِيدِ بْنِ جُبَيْرٍ فَقَالَ عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي سَبْعُونَ أَلْفًا بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ، هُمُ الَّذِينَ لاَ يَسْتَرْقُونَ، وَلاَ يَتَطَيَّرُونَ، وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ».

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"Seventy thousand of my community will enter Paradise without reckoning. They are those who do not ask for ruqyah, do not believe in evil omens (//tatayyur//), and upon their Lord they rely."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ishaq, from Rawh bin 'Ubadah, from Shu'bah, from Husain bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from Sa'id bin Jubair, from Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Riqaq, Chapter "Whoever Relies upon Allah, He Is Sufficient for Him", Hadith No. 6472.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6472

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The main quality of this group is ***pure reliance***: their hearts do not depend on incantations, amulets or bad omens — all of which are "spider's webs" in the form of beliefs.

Second: The scholars explain that this does not mean abandoning treatment. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself sought treatment and commanded it; what is abandoned is ***the heart's dependence*** on other than Allah.

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FIFTH HADITH — THE WORLD IS NOT WORTH A MOSQUITO'S WING

HADITH — JAMI' AL-TIRMIDHI, NO. 2320

حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْحَمِيدِ بْنُ سُلَيْمَانَ، عَنْ أَبِي حَازِمٍ، عَنْ سَهْلِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «لَوْ كَانَتِ الدُّنْيَا تَعْدِلُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بَعُوضَةٍ مَا سَقَى كَافِرًا مِنْهَا شَرْبَةَ مَاءٍ» . وَفِي الْبَابِ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ . قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى هَذَا حَدِيثٌ صَحِيحٌ غَرِيبٌ مِنْ هَذَا الْوَجْهِ .

TRANSLATION:

Sahl bin Sa'd رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"If this world were worth, with Allah, as much as a mosquito's wing, He would not give a disbeliever even a sip of water from it."***

On this topic there is also a narration from Abu Hurairah. Abu 'Isa (al-Tirmidhi) said: This Hadith is sahih gharib through this route.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi: from Qutaibah, from 'Abd al-Hamid bin Sulaiman, from Abu Hazim, from Sahl bin Sa'd رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi in Jami' al-Tirmidhi, Abwab al-Zuhd, Chapter on the Insignificance of the World to Allah, Hadith No. 2320.

GRADE: SAHIH — graded sahih gharib by Imam al-Tirmidhi.

Source: https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi:2320

SIXTH HADITH — NOT WEIGHING A MOSQUITO'S WING ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4729

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ أَبِي مَرْيَمَ، أَخْبَرَنَا الْمُغِيرَةُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو الزِّنَادِ، عَنِ الأَعْرَجِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّهُ لَيَأْتِي الرَّجُلُ الْعَظِيمُ السَّمِينُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لاَ يَزِنُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بَعُوضَةٍ وَقَالَ اقْرَءُوا {فَلاَ نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْنًا}» . وَعَنْ يَحْيَى بْنِ بُكَيْرٍ عَنِ الْمُغِيرَةِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ عَنْ أَبِي الزِّنَادِ مِثْلَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه narrated from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ that he said: ***"On the Day of Resurrection a huge, fat man will come who will not weigh, in Allah's sight, the wing of a mosquito."*** And he said: ***"Recite: '...and We will not assign to them on the Day of Resurrection any weight' (18:105)."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad bin 'Abdullah, from Sa'id bin Abi Maryam, from al-Mughirah bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from Abu al-Zinad, from al-A'raj, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Tafsir, Surah al-Kahf, Hadith No. 4729.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4729

LESSONS FROM THE FIFTH AND SIXTH HADITH

First: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used ***the mosquito's wing*** — the same creature as in the example of 2:26 — as the measure of the worth of this world and of a person without faith. A small creature becomes ***a great scale of instruction***.

Second: Body size, wealth and status do not make a person "heavy" with Allah. Like a spider's web that is large yet fragile, ***what is great in people's eyes may be light on Allah's scale***.

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SEVENTH HADITH — MORE INSIGNIFICANT THAN A DEAD YOUNG GOAT

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2957

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَسْلَمَةَ بْنِ قَعْنَبٍ، حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ بِلاَلٍ - عَنْ جَعْفَرٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم مَرَّ بِالسُّوقِ دَاخِلاً مِنْ بَعْضِ الْعَالِيَةِ وَالنَّاسُ كَنَفَتَهُ فَمَرَّ بِجَدْيٍ أَسَكَّ مَيِّتٍ فَتَنَاوَلَهُ فَأَخَذَ بِأُذُنِهِ ثُمَّ قَالَ «أَيُّكُمْ يُحِبُّ أَنَّ هَذَا لَهُ بِدِرْهَمٍ» . فَقَالُوا مَا نُحِبُّ أَنَّهُ لَنَا بِشَىْءٍ وَمَا نَصْنَعُ بِهِ قَالَ «أَتُحِبُّونَ أَنَّهُ لَكُمْ» . قَالُوا وَاللَّهِ لَوْ كَانَ حَيًّا كَانَ عَيْبًا فِيهِ لأَنَّهُ أَسَكُّ فَكَيْفَ وَهُوَ مَيِّتٌ فَقَالَ «فَوَاللَّهِ لَلدُّنْيَا أَهْوَنُ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذَا عَلَيْكُمْ» .

TRANSLATION:

Jabir bin 'Abdullah رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ passed through the market, entering from the direction of al-'Aliyah, with people on both sides of him. He passed by ***the carcass of a young goat with tiny ears***. He picked it up, held it by its ear and said: ***"Which of you would like to have this for a dirham?"*** They said: "We would not like to have it for anything; what would we do with it?"

He said: ***"Would you like it to be yours (for free)?"*** They said: "By Allah, even if it were alive it would be defective because its ears are tiny — so how about now that it is dead?" So he said: ***"By Allah, this world is more insignificant to Allah than this is to you."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam Muslim: from 'Abdullah bin Maslamah bin Qa'nab, from Sulaiman bin Bilal, from Ja'far (bin Muhammad), from his father (Muhammad bin 'Ali), from Jabir bin 'Abdullah رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Zuhd wa al-Raqa'iq, Hadith No. 2957 (the first narration in this chapter on sunnah.com).

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2957a

EIGHTH HADITH — LIKE A STRANGER

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6416

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ أَبُو الْمُنْذِرِ الطُّفَاوِيُّ، عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ الأَعْمَشِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي مُجَاهِدٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَ أَخَذَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم بِمَنْكِبِي فَقَالَ «كُنْ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَأَنَّكَ غَرِيبٌ، أَوْ عَابِرُ سَبِيلٍ» .

وَكَانَ ابْنُ عُمَرَ يَقُولُ إِذَا أَمْسَيْتَ فَلاَ تَنْتَظِرِ الصَّبَاحَ، وَإِذَا أَصْبَحْتَ فَلاَ تَنْتَظِرِ الْمَسَاءَ، وَخُذْ مِنْ صِحَّتِكَ لِمَرَضِكَ، وَمِنْ حَيَاتِكَ لِمَوْتِكَ.

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah bin 'Umar رضى الله عنهما said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ took hold of my shoulder and said: ***"Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveller passing through."***

Ibn 'Umar used to say: ***"When you reach the evening, do not wait for the morning; and when you reach the morning, do not wait for the evening. Take from your health for your sickness, and from your life for your death."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Ali bin 'Abdullah, from Muhammad bin 'Abd al-Rahman Abu al-Mundhir al-Tufawi, from Sulaiman al-A'mash, from Mujahid, from 'Abdullah bin 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Riqaq, Chapter on the Prophet's ﷺ Saying "Be in This World as if You Were a Stranger", Hadith No. 6416.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6416

LESSONS FROM THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH HADITH

First: This world is not a place for ***building a permanent home***. A stranger and a traveller do not build palaces at a stopover; they take only enough provision.

Second: The spider builds its web carefully, but that web lasts only a few days. So is everything we build in this world — if it is not connected to the Hereafter, it will ***tear and vanish***.

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NINTH HADITH — THE FLY THAT FALLS INTO A DRINK

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3320

حَدَّثَنَا خَالِدُ بْنُ مَخْلَدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ بْنُ بِلاَلٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي عُتْبَةُ بْنُ مُسْلِمٍ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي عُبَيْدُ بْنُ حُنَيْنٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ يَقُولُ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم «إِذَا وَقَعَ الذُّبَابُ فِي شَرَابِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلْيَغْمِسْهُ، ثُمَّ لِيَنْزِعْهُ، فَإِنَّ فِي إِحْدَى جَنَاحَيْهِ دَاءً وَالأُخْرَى شِفَاءً».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه said: The Prophet ﷺ said: ***"If a fly falls into the drink of one of you, let him dip it in, then take it out; for in one of its wings there is disease and in the other there is cure."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Khalid bin Makhlad, from Sulaiman bin Bilal, from 'Utbah bin Muslim, from 'Ubaid bin Hunain, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab Bad' al-Khalq, Chapter "If a Fly Falls Into a Drink", Hadith No. 3320.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3320

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The fly — the creature in the example of 22:73 — was created by Allah with ***its own wisdom***, including in its wings. Creatures that people regard as trivial hold secrets fully known only to their Creator.

Second: This Hadith is authentic and believed in. However, we are ***cautious*** about claiming that science has "proven" every detail of it; research on this matter is still limited (see Chapter 7). Belief in the Hadith does not depend on laboratory confirmation.

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WHAT MODERN SCIENCE SAYS

This chapter presents scientific findings about spiders — their astonishing thread, their webs, and life inside the spider's "house". Each fact is supported by a source that can be checked, with links.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION — HOW DOES A SPIDER SPIN ITS THREAD?

A spider has ***silk glands*** at the back of its abdomen. These glands produce a ***liquid protein***. When that protein is drawn out through the ***spinnerets*** (tiny spinning organs at the tip of the abdomen), its molecules line up and ***harden into thread*** — all at body temperature, without fire or factory.

A single spider can produce ***several types of silk*** for different uses: strong ***dragline*** thread for the web frame and safety line, ***sticky spiral*** thread for catching prey, and silk for ***wrapping eggs***. The dragline is the most studied because of its strength.

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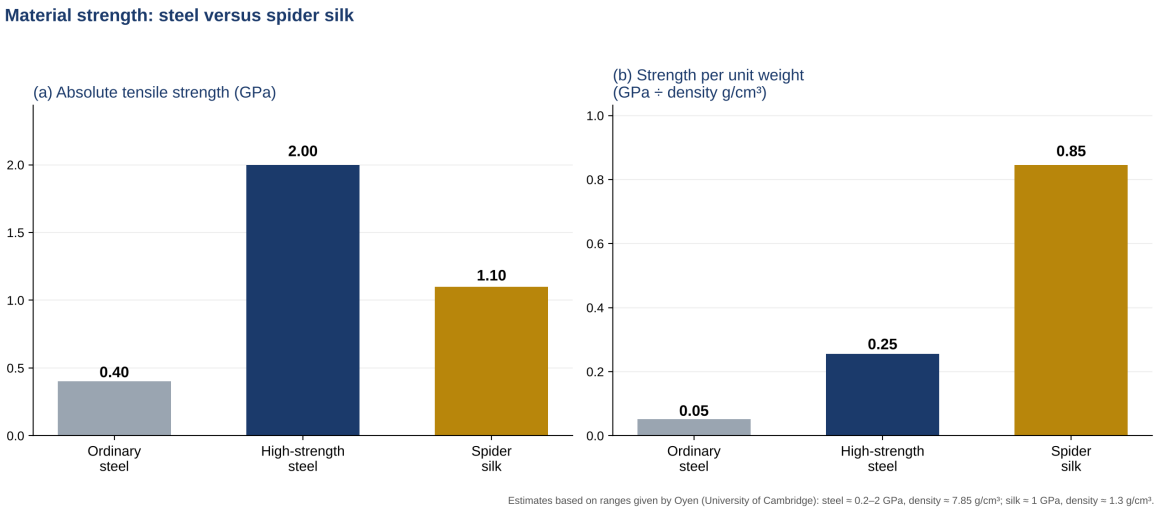


Figure 1: (a) In absolute strength, spider silk lies in the middle of the range of steel. (b) But because it is almost six times lighter, its strength per unit weight far exceeds that of steel. The value for "ordinary" steel is a representative value within the range given by the source.

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: STRONGER THAN STEEL? — AN HONEST ANSWER

Dr Michelle Oyen of the ***Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge*** explains that one type of spider silk has a tensile strength of ***just above 1 GPa***. Steel lies in a range of ***about 0.2 to nearly 2 GPa***. So, in absolute strength, spider silk is ***not stronger than every kind of steel*** — it lies in the middle of that range.

However, spider silk is ***almost six times less dense*** than steel. Therefore, ***per unit of weight***, it is far stronger than steel (Figure 1). Even more remarkably, it is produced ***inside cells, at body temperature***, from common elements — without furnaces or polluting chemicals.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Oyen, M. Spider silk is a wonder of nature, but it's not stronger than steel. Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge. https://www.eng.cam.ac.uk/node/151

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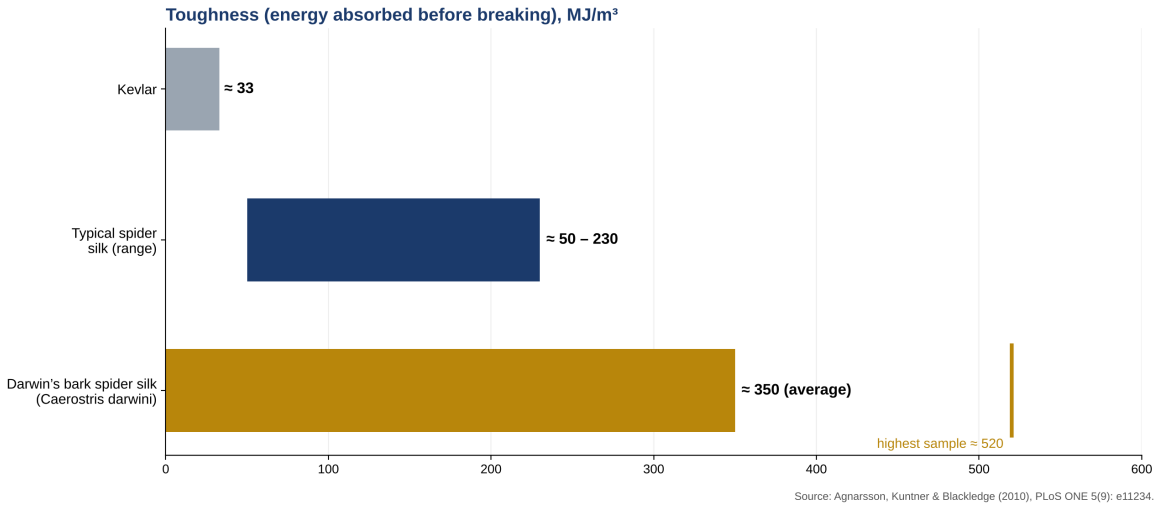


Figure 2: Toughness — the amount of energy a material can absorb before it breaks. The silk of Darwin's bark spider is the toughest biological material tested in that study.

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE TOUGHEST THREAD FROM MADAGASCAR

In 2010, Agnarsson, Kuntner and Blackledge studied ***Darwin's bark spider*** (*Caerostris darwini*) in Madagascar. This spider builds orb webs over rivers, with ***bridge threads 10–14 metres long*** across rivers, and even up to ***25 metres*** across a lake. Its webs can reach ***2.8 square metres***.

Laboratory tests showed that its dragline silk has an average toughness of about ***350 MJ/m³***, with the highest sample at about ***520 MJ/m³*** — about ***twice*** as tough as other spider silks and about ***ten times*** tougher than Kevlar (the material of bulletproof vests). The researchers described it as ***the toughest biological material*** tested to date.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Agnarsson, I., Kuntner, M. & Blackledge, T.A. (2010). Bioprospecting finds the toughest biological material: extraordinary silk from a giant riverine orb spider. PLoS ONE, 5(9), e11234. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0011234

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SCIENTIFIC FINDING: A WEB THAT WISELY SACRIFICES ITS THREADS

Cranford and colleagues (2012) from MIT and the Politecnico di Torino combined field tests and computer simulations to understand how a spider's web responds to loads. They found that spider silk has ***nonlinear properties***: it first softens, then stiffens when stretched further.

As a result, when a web is stressed locally — such as by a falling twig — ***only the threads in that area break***, while the rest of the web keeps working. This makes the web ***easy to repair*** and saves the spider energy. The finding shows that a spider's web is ***a very clever piece of engineering*** — for the purpose of ***catching prey***.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Cranford, S.W., Tarakanova, A., Pugno, N.M. & Buehler, M.J. (2012). Nonlinear material behaviour of spider silk yields robust webs. Nature, 482, 72–76. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature10739

SO WHY "THE WEAKEST OF HOMES"?

This is the most important point of reflection in this eBook. The spider's thread is ***strong***, and its web is ***cleverly designed*** — but as a ***home***, it is very weak:

• ***No roof and no walls:*** the web does not protect its owner from the heat of the sun, rain, wind or cold.

• ***No protection from enemies:*** birds, lizards and wasps can snatch the spider from the centre of its web.

• ***Easily destroyed:*** a sweep of a hand or a broom destroys it in a second.

• ***Not permanent:*** many orb-weaving spiders rebuild their webs frequently, and even ***eat the old web*** to recycle its silk protein (Townley & Tillinghast, 1988).

So verse 29:41 does not conflict with science. ***The strength of the material*** and ***its strength as a shelter*** are two different things. So too with what is relied upon besides Allah: it may look solid and sophisticated, but it ***cannot protect*** when the real test comes.

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REFLECTION — MODERN WEBS

Today people build webs that are far more sophisticated than any spider's: financial networks, social media followings, insurance policies, political connections and advanced technology. None of these is forbidden in itself, and many are useful means. The danger arises when ***the heart rests on them*** as though they were the true protector. A sudden crisis — an illness, a market crash, a betrayal — can tear such a web in a moment. The believer uses the means, but ***hangs his heart only on the rope of Allah***.

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A HOUSE FRAGILE FROM WITHIN

Some contemporary writers have also reflected on ***life inside the spider's "house"*** as another aspect of its fragility. Science records some surprising facts:

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE FEMALE BUILDS, THE MALE IS A DWARF

For golden silk spiders (*Nephila*), Encyclopaedia Britannica records that ***females*** have a body length of ***25–50 mm***, while ***males*** are mere ***"dwarfs" of 4–6 mm***. ***The females build the webs; the males build none.*** Adult males live in the female's web, and are ***sometimes captured and eaten*** while attempting to mate.

This fact is interesting when compared with the feminine form *ittakhaḏhat* ("she takes") in verse 29:41. But we must be cautious: that feminine form follows the ***grammar*** of the word *al-ʿankabūt* (see Chapter 7).

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Encyclopaedia Britannica. Silk spider (Nephila). https://www.britannica.com/animal/silk-spider

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: SEXUAL CANNIBALISM

Schneider (2014), in her review, explains that ***sexual cannibalism*** — the female eating the male before, during or after mating — is one of the most striking forms of conflict between males and females. In the species *Argiope bruennichi*, ***up to 80% of males do not survive*** their first copulation.

Schneider also stresses that data on its actual frequency in nature are still ***limited***, and that its frequency ***varies*** between species. So we cannot generalise that all female spiders eat their mates.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Schneider, J.M. (2014). Sexual cannibalism as a manifestation of sexual conflict. Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Biology, 6(11), a017731. https://doi.org/10.1101/cshperspect.a017731

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SCIENTIFIC FINDING: A MOTHER EATEN BY HER OFFSPRING

In the spider *Stegodyphus lineatus*, the mother cares for her young by ***regurgitating food*** for them. Salomon and colleagues (2015) found that the mother's gut tissue ***begins to break down*** from the egg-incubation period, and it is this degraded tissue that becomes the young's food. In the end, ***the young pierce the mother's abdomen and drink its contents*** until she dies — a phenomenon called ***matriphagy***.

The researchers describe it as ***suicidal maternal care***. Biologically, it helps the young survive; as a reflection, it depicts a "house" that ***ends with the death of its own occupant***.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Salomon, M., Aflalo, E.D., Coll, M. & Lubin, Y. (2015). Dramatic histological changes preceding suicidal maternal care in the subsocial spider Stegodyphus lineatus. Journal of Arachnology, 43(1), 77–85. https://doi.org/10.1636/B14-15.1

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: A WEB EATEN AND REBUILT

Townley and Tillinghast (1988) studied the spider *Araneus cavaticus* and ***the recycling of its web***. Orb-weaving spiders commonly ***eat their old web*** before building a new one, and reuse part of that silk material.

This fact adds another meaning to "the weakest of homes": the spider's house is ***a temporary house*** that is built, eaten and rebuilt — never becoming a permanent dwelling.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Townley, M.A. & Tillinghast, E.K. (1988). Orb web recycling in Araneus cavaticus (Araneae, Araneidae) with an emphasis on the adhesive spiral component, GABamide. Journal of Arachnology, 16, 303–319. https://scholars.unh.edu/mcbs_facpub/41

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THE STORY OF THE WEB IN THE CORNER OF THE VERANDA

Imagine a grandfather in a village in Kelantan, sitting on the veranda of his wooden house after the Fajr prayer. In the corner of a pillar, his grandchild spots ***a spider's web sparkling with dew***. "Grandpa, how beautiful! Is this thread strong?" asks the child.

The grandfather smiles. "The thread is strong, my dear. Scientists say that, for its weight, it is stronger than steel. But try blowing hard on that web." The child blows, and part of the web tears. "This web has no roof and no walls. When it rains, the spider gets wet. When a bird comes, it cannot hide."

"That is how it is, my dear, with people who depend on other than Allah. Perhaps they depend on money, on powerful people, on their own cleverness. It looks strong, it looks beautiful — like this web. But when trials come, it all tears apart." The grandfather then recites softly: ***"And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider, if they only knew"*** (29:41).

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BETWEEN HARMONY AND CAUTION

The table below summarises an evaluation of claims commonly heard about spiders, the Qur'an and science.

POPULAR CLAIMS AND THEIR EVALUATION

COMMONLY HEARD CLAIM	EVALUATION
"The feminine verb *ittakhaḏhat* proves the Qur'an knew that females build the web."	***Caution needed.*** The word *al-'ankabūt* is usually treated as feminine in ***grammar***, so its verb follows that form. The fact that females build the web (in many species, such as Nephila) is ***an interesting harmony for reflection***, not conclusive proof.
"Science proves the spider's web is weak, so this verse is a miracle."	***Not quite accurate.*** Science shows that spider thread is ***very strong*** and its web is ***cleverly designed*** (Cranford, 2012). The weakness meant by the verse is as ***a home and a shelter*** — and this is what the commentators emphasise.
"This verse refers to cannibalism and the breakdown of the spider family."	***Reflection, not exegesis.*** The classical commentators explained the weakness of that house in terms of protection. The facts of cannibalism and matriphagy can be used as ***additional reflection***, but cannot be said to be the intended meaning of the verse.
"A spider spun a web at the Cave of Thawr to protect the Messenger of Allah ﷺ."	***Its narration is disputed.*** This story is narrated by Imam Ahmad; some scholars judged its chain hasan, while many other Hadith scholars judged it weak. The event at the Cave of Thawr itself is authentic (9:40), but the detail of the spider cannot be confirmed.
"Leaving spider webs in the house brings poverty."	***No authentic basis.*** This saying is not established from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Cleaning the house is a matter of cleanliness, not of belief in bad omens.
"Science has fully proven the Hadith of the fly (Bukhari 3320)."	***Caution needed.*** This Hadith is authentic and believed in. But laboratory research on it is still limited; we do not rest our faith on scientific claims that are not yet firm.

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THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIDERS

Question 1: Do all spiders build webs? No. Many spiders hunt without webs, such as jumping spiders and wolf spiders. Verse 29:41 mentions the spider that ***"takes a home"*** — the spider known to the Arabs and to all of us, whose webs are found in houses and among the trees.

Question 2: If its thread is strong, does this verse conflict with science? No. The verse does not mention the ***thread***, but the ***home*** (*bait*). A strong thread does not necessarily make a strong home. This is one of the beauties of word choice in the Qur'an.

Question 3: What is the main lesson for believers? That the value of something we rely on lies not in ***its appearance and sophistication***, but in ***its ability to protect***. Only Allah can protect perfectly — so upon Him alone we rely.

REFLECTION — WHY THIS CAUTION MATTERS

The example of the spider is beautiful enough without being forced into "scientific proof". When we honestly distinguish between ***the meaning of the verse***, ***harmony with science*** and ***personal reflection***, we protect the honour of the Qur'an from claims that are easily refuted — and we invite readers to a faith ***grounded in knowledge***, as He says: ***"but none will understand them except those of knowledge"*** (29:43).

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THE THREAD OF RELIANCE IN DAILY LIFE: PRACTICES AND GUIDANCE

The example of the spider invites us to examine ***what we rely on*** in our lives, and then to strengthen ***the rope of reliance*** upon Allah.

PRACTICE	EVIDENCE AND GUIDANCE
Strive, then rely on Allah	"Tie it and rely (upon Allah)" (Tirmidhi 2517); the bird goes out to seek provision (Tirmidhi 2344).
Ask and seek help from Allah alone	"When you ask, ask Allah" (Tirmidhi 2516).
Abandon belief in bad omens and amulets	A quality of the seventy thousand who enter Paradise without reckoning (Bukhari 6472).
Say "Hasbunallāh wa ni'mal wakīl"	The words of the believers when threatened (3:173).
Hold fast to the Qur'an and the community	"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together" (3:103).
Keep your promises	Do not be like the woman who untwisted her spun thread (16:92).
Live like a traveller in this world	"Be in this world as if you were a stranger" (Bukhari 6416).

SURAH ALI 'IMRAN 3:173

ٱلَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ ٱلنَّاسُ إِنَّ ٱلنَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُواْ لَكُمْ فَٱخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَٰنًا وَقَالُواْ حَسْبُنَا ٱللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ ٱلْوَكِيلُ ﴿١٧٣﴾

Those to whom hypocrites said, "Indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them." But it [merely] increased them in faith, and they said, "Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs."

Translation: Sahih International — 3:173

THE REMEMBRANCE OF RELIANCE

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said that ***"Hasbunallāh wa ni'mal wakīl"*** (Sufficient for us is Allah, and He is the best Disposer of affairs) was said by ***the Prophet Ibrahim*** عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ when he was thrown into the fire, and was said by ***the Prophet Muhammad*** ﷺ when he was told that the enemy had gathered to fight them (Sahih al-Bukhari 4563). Make this remembrance ***a rope*** that connects the heart to Allah whenever we feel weak or afraid. Sahih al-Bukhari 4563

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SELF-EXAMINATION: A CHECKLIST OF "SPIDER'S WEBS" IN THE HEART

Ask yourself honestly:

• When facing a problem, is the first thing that comes to my heart ***Allah***, or people and money?

• Do I feel ***safe*** only because of my position, savings or influential connections?

• Do I ***pray*** before I strive, and ***give thanks*** after I succeed?

• Do I still believe in ***amulets, bad omens or unlucky dates***?

• Do I ***keep the promises*** I have firmly made?

FAMILY ACTIVITY: OBSERVING A SPIDER'S WEB

Step 1: In the morning after rain or when there is dew, look for a spider's web around the house or garden. Notice the arrangement of its ***spokes*** and ***spirals***.

Step 2: Take a photo of the web every morning for a week. Is the web the same, or has it been rebuilt?

Step 3: Discuss with your children: ***Can this web protect the spider from rain and birds?*** Then read verse 29:41 and the Hadith of Tirmidhi 2516.

Step 4: Do not destroy the web without need. Teach children that every creature is ***a sign of Allah's greatness***.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Examine what you rely on. Everything relied upon besides Allah is a spider's web — neat in appearance, but fragile (29:41).

Second: Strong material does not mean a strong structure. The spider's thread is strong, but its home is the weakest. So too is worldly sophistication without faith.

Third: Small creatures, great lessons. The mosquito, the fly and the spider are made examples by Allah (2:26; 22:73).

Fourth: Hold on to the rope that will never break. Faith and tawhid are *al-'urwah al-wuthqā* (2:256).

Fifth: Reliance goes with effort. Tie the camel, and rely on Allah (Tirmidhi 2517); go out like the bird (Tirmidhi 2344).

Sixth: This world is only a stopover. It is more insignificant to Allah than a dead young goat (Muslim 2957).

Seventh: Knowledge brings understanding. Only people of knowledge understand Allah's examples (29:43).

SUMMARY: VERSES, MESSAGES AND SCIENTIFIC REFLECTIONS

VERSE AND ITS MESSAGE	REFLECTION FROM SCIENCE
29:41 — The spider's home is the weakest of homes.	Its thread is strong (Oyen; Agnarsson 2010), but its web does not protect from weather and enemies.
29:41 — *ittakhaḏhat* (feminine form).	In many species such as Nephila, the female builds the web (Britannica) — a harmony for reflection.
29:43 — Only people of knowledge understand.	The web is cleverly designed to trap prey (Cranford et al., 2012) — knowledge adds to wonder.
2:26; 22:73 — Examples of the mosquito and the fly.	Small creatures hold wonders that science continues to study.
2:256 — The rope with no break in it.	Even the toughest thread can break; the rope of faith cannot.
Additional reflection — a house fragile from within.	Sexual cannibalism (Schneider, 2014) and matriphagy (Salomon et al., 2015).

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

- ***Today:*** Read 29:41–43 with its translation, and reflect on one "spider's web" in your life.
- ***This week:*** Practise the remembrance ***"Hasbunallāh wa ni'mal wakīl"*** whenever you feel anxious.
- ***This month:*** Memorise the Hadith ***"Ihfazillāha yahfazk"*** (Tirmidhi 2516) with your family.

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• ***Every day:*** Begin your efforts with supplication, and end them with gratitude.

• ***Throughout life:*** Hold fast to *al-'urwah al-wuthqā* — the faith that will never break.

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CONCLUSION

Allah chose a spider — a small creature we often sweep from the corners of our houses — to teach humanity a very great lesson: ***everything relied upon besides Allah is fragile***. The commentators explain that the spider's house does not protect from heat, cold or enemies; so too the gods besides Allah cannot help when they are needed. Modern science, for its part, reveals that spider thread is very strong and its web cleverly designed — yet it remains ***the weakest of homes***. The choice of the word ***"home"***, not ***"thread"***, in this verse invites the wonder of people of knowledge.

So whenever we see a spider's web glistening in the morning, let us remember that ***beauty and strength of material do not guarantee protection***. There is only one rope that will never break: the rope of faith in Allah. ***"So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it"*** (2:256).

In sha' Allah, the series Exploring Al-Qur'an & Science will continue with the title ***"From a Drop of Water, All Things Live"*** — on water as the origin of life (21:30) — using the same method: the Qur'an, the Hadith and science, with honesty and caution.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	BRIEF MEANING
Al-'Ankabut	The spider; the name of the 29th surah of the Qur'an.
Mathal	An example or parable.
Auliya'	Protectors or things relied upon; plural of walī.
Auhan	The weakest or most fragile.
Al-'Urwah al-Wuthqa	The most trustworthy handhold or rope — faith and tawhid (2:256; 31:22).
Tawakkul	Entrusting the outcome of one's affairs to Allah after making an effort.
Taghut	Anything worshipped or obeyed excessively besides Allah.
Spinneret	The spinning organ at the tip of a spider's abdomen that releases silk thread.
Dragline silk	The spider's strong main thread, used for the web frame and safety line.
Tensile strength	The maximum pulling force a material can bear before breaking (unit: GPa).
Toughness	The amount of energy a material can absorb before breaking (unit: MJ/m^3).
Sexual cannibalism	A female eating a male before, during or after mating.
Matriphagy	Offspring eating their own mother.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

• Why did Allah choose the spider, the mosquito and the fly as examples? What is the wisdom of using small creatures?

• The spider's thread is strong, but its home is the weakest. What examples in modern life are "strong in material, but weak as something to rely on"?

• How do we balance effort and reliance on Allah, based on the Hadith "Tie it, and rely (upon Allah)"?

• How do we distinguish between harmony of a verse with science and forced interpretation? Give one example from this eBook.

• What "spider's web" have you built in your life, and how will you replace it with the rope that will never break?

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who said: "Charity does not decrease wealth. Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

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CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: a continuing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

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JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA

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