

The Message

"Miracles in Islam"

*"And in your creation
and what he scattered
(through the Earth) of
moving (living) creatures
are signs for people who
have faith with certainty"
(Al Jathiyah - 45:4)*





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The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Editorial:

Have you ever looked in sheer astonishment as a caterpillar transforms itself into a butterfly? Have you really ever examined or consciously thought about your own body or any other thing in nature, to see an impressive order of harmony, plan and wisdom at work within its design. Did you know that if you did not have any nose hairs you would compromise your living, as those hairs which we see as being so insignificant filters and heats the air we breathe to a precise temperature for our bodies to accept? Or that our bodies are made up of approximately 100 trillion cells, each having the size and shape that exactly meets the requirement of that particular part of our body? Have you ever stopped and wondered why so many verses are in the Quran about the origin of life in general and man in particular, while it is not even a book of Science?

One of the purposes as to why the Qur'an was revealed was to summon people to think about the creation and its works. When a person examines his own body or any other living thing in nature, the world or the whole universe; in it he sees great design, art, plan and intelligence. As Allah (Swt) says in the Qur'an, "In the heavens and the earth there are certainly signs for the believers. And in your creation and all the creatures He has scattered about there are signs for people with certainty" (45: 3-4).

Today, you will find that time and time again many of us are often hanging the Qur'an on the walls of our houses within a decorative cover being read by our families every so often. They assume that the Qur'an protects those who read it from "misfortune and trouble". According to this superstition, they consider the Qur'an a sort of good luck charm against misfortunes.

The Qur'anic verses, however, inform us that the purpose of the Qur'an's revelation is entirely different from what is mentioned above. For instance, Allah (Swt) states: "This is a communication to be transmitted to mankind so that they can be



warned by it and so that they will know that He is One God and so that people of intelligence will pay heed" (14:52).

Likewise, in many other verses of the Quran, Allah (Swt) emphasises that one of the most crucial purposes of the Qur'an's revelation is to invite people to ponder. We are often invited to think about how we came into being, what is the purpose of this life, why we will die and what awaits us after death. As stated in the Quran, a believer recognises that he was created for a purpose and is one of: "Those who remembers Allah while standing, sitting and lying on their sides and thinks deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth (saying): "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, Glory to you!..." (3: 191).

All of this inevitably asks us to question how we and the whole universe came into existence and how the heavens and the earth will continue to exist in faultless agreement with each another.

Welcome to yet another issue of The Message Magazine: an issue that will stop and make us ponder in amazement of the many miracles and signs Allah (Swt) has created in order for us to remember and then to remind others as He states that: "We will show them our signs in the universe and within themselves until it is clear to them that it (the Quran) is the truth" (41:53).

So I leave you to delve into our latest issue. Alternatively, you can now visit our new and exciting website at www.messagemagazine.com.au where you will find much more information on this current issue, download previous issues, and use the forums to share your thoughts on some of the issues raised in this edition.

Wa Salamu Alaikum

Mohammed Adra



Waiter...There's a fly in my soup!

Question: Why did the Prophet (S) recommend to us that if a fly was to fall into our food or drink that we should then dip it back into our dish and continue eating or drinking?

This answer contains extracts and references from Belal Assad's research on this topic.

Jazak Allahu Kheir for your question brother. You see, flies generally are recognised as dangerous carriers of disease, which mankind may overcome by this tiny insect. The fly contaminates all that it touches and its nourishment of choice is usually that which is unclean or rotten. Even clean food is contaminated by contact with the fly, and man is ever laid low by this small creature's venture into areas which are bacterially dangerous. Therefore we are warned from childhood to keep the flies off our food, our mouths, and our eyes, in particular. In modern times it has been recognised that flies carry parasitic pathogens for diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, sleeping sickness, malaria, gastrointestinal infections, and blight.

Only in modern times was it discovered that the common fly carried parasitic pathogens for these diseases. It was also discovered that the fly carried parasitic bacteriophagic fungi or "bacteria eaters" capable of fighting the germs of all these diseases.

The belief that the fly was a carrier of diseases was recognized back in the time of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (S) and among the traditions of that time we find of extreme interest ahadith (narrations) relating to the fly. Not only 1400 years ago was the disease-carrying propensity alluded to, but also to that of the bacteriophagic fungi capability of fighting disease which is also carried by the fly. The Prophet (S) said, 'If a fly falls into one of your containers (of food or drink) immerse it completely before removing it, for under one of its wings there is venom and under another there is its antidote.'

In fact in some of these ahadith, it is mentioned to immerse the fly three times completely in the food or drink before removing it altogether. This is worthy of note as we know that the poison or source of disease, the bacteria, drops from the fly onto all that it touches. These hadiths show God-given knowledge of the many diseases a fly potentially carries as well as illustrating the wisdom in giving every venomous species some immunity or antidotal protection, thus ensuring its preservation.

Australian scientists have said the following regarding this topic:

"The surface of flies is the last place you would expect to find antibiotics, yet that is exactly where a team of Australian researchers are concentrating their efforts."

"Working on the theory that flies must have remarkable antimicrobial defences to survive rotting dung, meat and fruit, the team at the Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, set out to identify those antibacterial properties manifesting at different stages of a fly's development. "

In addition to this, it has also recently been established that house flies are carriers of dangerous pathogens of animals and humans. Even the critics of this hadith are forced to admit that no one at the time of the Prophet (S) knew that flies carry such harmful organisms. Even today, fly larvae, or maggots, are used medicinally to clean up festering wounds. They only eat dead tissue and leave healthy tissue alone.

Therefore, the question must be asked, from what source did the Prophet (S) draw this observation that flies carry the antidote to kill infectious diseases?

Despite the abundance of supporting evidence for the authenticity of these medicinal narrations on the one hand and for their scientific viability on the other, the blind continue to arrogantly reject them on both counts. The medical facts documented in the Hadiths are confirmed by modern science, or whose scientific worth is just now coming into view, which is a clear reflection of the divine manifestation of the truthfulness of Muhammad's message.

References:

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The Miracle of the Quran

In today's society many hold the belief that science has proven ALL religions to be false and incorrect. However, Islam has shown that religion and science in actual fact go hand in hand. The Quran mentions in detail various aspects of science ranging from the fields of Astronomy to Zoology. Furthermore, the Quran mentions explicitly proven scientific facts that no individual could have known at the time the Quran was revealed 1400 years ago. As Allah mentions in the Quran: **"In the heavens and the earth there are signs for the believers. And in your creation and all the creatures He has scattered about there are signs for people with certainty"** (45:3-4). Mentioned below are some of these astronomical signs.

THE MIRACLE OF HONEY

Allah states in the Quran; **"Your Lord inspired the bees... From their bellies comes a drink of varying colours, containing healing for mankind.** There is certainly a sign in that for people who reflect." (16:68-69).

In the above verse, Allah clearly states that in honey there is **"healing for mankind"**. Have you ever stopped and wondered how important the food source of honey is?

Honey contains vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6 and C. Furthermore, honey is composed of minerals such as magnesium, potassium, calcium, sodium, chlorine, sulphur, iron and phosphate. During the recent World Apiculture Conference, scientists from around the world reached a general consensus that honey, royal jelly, pollen and bee resin aid in the cure of many diseases such as cataracts, hemorrhoids, skin infections, gynaecological diseases and many other disorders.

Moreover, honey also has many other benefits for the human body such as allowing the kidneys and intestines to function better by permitting foods to be more easily digested. Another quality of honey is that, when it is compared with the same amount of sugar, it gives 40% less calories to the body; thus, giving great energy to the body without excess storage. In addition to this, honey helps support blood formation and aids in the cleansing of the blood.

It has only been in the past couple of decades that man has begun to understand some of the many benefits that honey possess and yet the Quran (which was revealed 1400 years ago) mentions that in honey there is **"healing for mankind"** which could be used to treat all of the above disorders. Who then could have informed us of this fact? As Allah concludes the verse by stating: **"There is certainly a sign in that for people who reflect"**.

THE EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE.

The discovery by scientists in the 21st century that the universe was continually expanding with new galaxies forming was a great astronomical

finding. However, Allah has informed us of this scientific fact 1400 years prior where He states in the Quran **"It is We who have built the universe with (Our creative) power, and verily, it is We who are steadily expanding it"** (51:47).

It has only been through the use of 'high tech' equipment such as the hubble telescope that scientists have been able to prove that the universe is constantly expanding. One then should ask, how could the above verse be stated 14 centuries ago without divine intervention? **"There are certainly signs in that for people who reflect"** (45:13).

THE SEVEN LAYERS OF HEAVEN

Throughout the Quran, Allah makes reference to the earth's atmosphere and the seven different heavens or skies that He created by stating; **"It is Allah who has created the seven heavens and of the earth the same number"** (65:12).

When we examine the composition of the earth's atmosphere, we find that it is made up of seven layers that include;

1 st layer: Troposphere	2 nd layer: Stratosphere
3 rd layer: Mesosphere	4 th layer: Thermosphere
5 th layer: Ionosphere	6 th layer: Exosphere
7 th layer: Magnetosphere	

If this scientific fact was only discovered late last century, then who could have informed us that the earth's atmosphere comprised of seven different layers 1400 years ago? **"How many signs there are in the heavens and earth! Yet they (mankind) pass them by; turning away from them"** (12:105).

Furthermore, Allah explains in the Quran another fact concerning the earth's atmosphere by stating; **"We have made the sky a preserved and protected roof yet they (mankind) still turn away from our signs"** (21:32).

Could this 'preserved and protected roof' which is stated in the above verse be referring to the ozone layer? Allah has created this "protective roof" to absorb most of the X-ray and ultraviolet rays emitted by the sun. Without this absorption, life on earth would not be possible.

WATER IS THE KEY TO LIFE

Today, the general consensus reached amongst scientists is that all life came from the sea; ie; aquatic. It was only in the past 50 years that scientists discovered that every living organism was created from water. The human body itself is made up of over 90% water. However, this scientific fact was mentioned in the Quran 14 centuries ago where Allah states; **"And We have made from water every living thing. Will they (mankind) not then believe?"** (21:30).



Signs for those who Reflect



The above statement that water is an essential element for life is further elaborated on in another verse. **“And Allah has created every animal from water; of them there are some that creep on their bellies; some that walk on two legs; and some that walk on four. Allah creates what He wills; For verily Allah has power over all things.”** (24:45).

Who could have informed us of this scientific fact; that EVERY living organism was created from water if not from a divine source?

“There are signs for people who use their intellect” (45:5).

THE MIRACLE OF THE OCEANS AND SEAS

Modern Science has discovered that in the places where two different seas meet, there is a barrier between them that separates the two seas from ever meeting. This barrier divides the two seas so that each sea has its own temperature, salinity and density. For example; Mediterranean seawater is warm, saline and less dense, compared to Atlantic Ocean water. When Mediterranean seawater enters the Atlantic Ocean over the Gibraltar sill, it moves several hundred kilometers into the Atlantic at a depth of 1000 meters with its own warm, saline and less dense characteristics. The Mediterranean water stabilises at this depth.

Although there are large waves, strong currents, and tides in the sea, they do not mix or transgress this barrier. The Holy Quran mentions this scientific phenomenon of seas that possess different characteristics not contravening on one another's boundaries by stating:

“He has set free the two seas meeting together. There is a barrier between them that they do not transgress” (55:19-20)

This has only been a recent scientific discovery. The human eye cannot see the difference between two seas that meet, rather the two seas appear to us as being one homogenous sea.

One must then ask, how could a man 14 centuries prior accurately state this scientific fact without the use of advanced scientific equipment to measure water temperature, salinity, density and oxygen dissolubility without it coming from a divine source? As Allah mentions in the Holy Quran, **“Verily in the heavens and earth are signs for the believers”** (45:3).

THE MIRACLE OF POLLINATION

The Quran states **“Glory be to Him (Allah) who created in pairs all things, that which the earth produces (the vegetable kingdom), as well as their own (human) kind, and of that which they know not”** (36:36).

The mystery of sex runs through all creation; in man, in animal life and in the vegetable kingdom. The above verse is especially significant as it refers to Allah creating 'pairs' in all things including the vegetable kingdom and thus mentioning the process of pollination. Pollination or plant reproduction occurs when the male germ cell of a plant reaches the stigma, the female reproductive part of the same species of plant.

The process of pollination and the belief that plants are created in pairs of a male and female is further re-iterated in another verse in the Quran that states **“(Allah is the One who) sent water down from the sky and thereby We brought forth pairs of plants each separate from the other”** (20:53).

Who could have informed us 14 centuries ago that different 'pairs' of male and female existed within plants allowing pollination and plant reproduction to occur if not through divine intervention?

“In these are signs for people of learning” (30:22).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

These are just some of the many miracles that are contained in the Quran. We should thus ask ourselves, if the human race is the most intelligent form of life on this earth and we could not have been able to understand any of these verses that were stated in the Quran 1400 years ago because of the fact that we did not have the knowledge nor the technology we possess today to prove such statements true. Then one can come to the conclusion that something more intelligent, more knowledgeable and more superior to that of a human being must have sent these verses down to us, as the Quran could not have been written without divine intervention. As Allah states **“We will show them our signs in the universe and within themselves until it is clear to them that it (the Quran) is the truth”** (41:53).

Islam, through its clear proofs and signs makes it one of the world's fastest growing religions. As Allah says **“And you see that the people enter Allah's religion (Islam) in crowds”** (100:2). These verses mentioned amongst others are the primary reason why many today are choosing to embrace the religion of Islam and testifying that there is no other God worthy of worship except Allah: an invitation that is extended to all of mankind.

Your brother in Islam,

Mohammed Adra

A Co-Existing Creation

What the Jinn actually request can be anything; we know that there are believing Jinn and Kafir Jinn, so only God knows what kind of price the Jinn would ask in payment for assisting humans, namely leaving the worship of Allah.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of the Islamic faith is the belief in the existence of the entities known as the Jinn, with the most notorious member being the accursed Iblees.

The Jinn are among the "unseen", alluded to in Surat Al Baqarah verse 1: "...those who believe in the Unseen and establish Salaat and spend of what We have provided for them."

However the Quran makes numerous direct references to the Jinn;

"O company of Jinn and men, did not messengers come to you from among yourselves relating My signs to you and warning you of the encounter of this Day of yours?" Surat Al Anaam verse 130

"Say it has been revealed to me that a group of Jinn listened and said, 'We have heard a most amazing Recitation,'" Surat Al Jinn verse 1. As we can see, there is also an entire sura titled "Al Jinn".

The Jinn are NOT fallen Angels, they are a separate entity created, just as mankind – to worship Allah. They were created from a smokeless fire. The first disobedient Jinn was Iblees. Disbelieving or disobedient Jinn are known as Shayateen (satans).

The prophet Sulayman (Solomon) was granted the gift of commanding the Jinn, amongst other creations of Allah. Rumours about the Jinn knowing the unseen or future are rampant. However the story of Solomon refutes this, where it states:

"Then when We decreed death for him (Solomon), nothing informed them (Jinn) of his death except a little worm of the earth, which kept slowly gnawing away at his stick, so when he fell down, the Jinn saw clearly that if they had known the unseen, they would not have stayed in their humiliating torment."

These days we hear many myths about people who delve in the black arts. There are people who claim to have the Jinn working for them. This may be true – however at a hefty price. Only the prophet Solomon (AS) was given permission by God to truly command the Jinn. Thus this means that anyone who is instructing the Jinn must be doing it a price.

There are many people who can perform certain feats that are unexplainable by science, such as clairvoyants (psychics) who have successfully helped the police in finding missing people. It could be that these people employ the Jinn's assistance as "spirit guides". But this is a dangerous practice, as the clairvoyants begins to believe in the Jinn's powers and raises it's status to god-like. This is obviously a dangerous practice, and must be avoided at all times. Unfortunately there are those amongst the muslim community who claim to control the Jinn for "good" purposes and encourage Muslims to employ their services for "love potions" and seeking knowledge of the future – again this is strictly forbidden in Islam and is to be avoided at all costs.

Interestingly, the Jinn do have the ability to interfere and interact within our existence though not being visible to us. Scientifically it has recently become accepted amongst astrophysicists (scientists specialising in the universe and its initial formation) that there exists a parallel universe to our own. This universe has forces which act upon our own universe. However in this universe the structure of the atom is unlike our own, thus life – if it existed in this universe, would be very different to our own; to the extent that it may exist as a type of energy based being, capable of traversing vast distances in an instant, and able to pass through solid matter. These qualities are eerily close to what we know of the Jinn – make up your own mind, and Allah (Swt) knows best.

Although the Jinn are intriguing creations, we must remember that Allah has bestowed upon us the Quran, which contains numerous verses that offer us protection from the evil Jinn. A selection of these verses are as follows:

Al Fatiha, Al Baqara (verses 1-5, 163-164, 255-256, 285-286) Ali Imran (18-19), Al A'raf (54-56) Al-Mu'minun (115-118), As saffat (1-10) Al Jinn (1-9) and numerous others, especially the glorious final three Surats – Al Ikhlas, Al Falaq and An Nas.

Let us remember that although the Jinn can be a fascinating area of study, we are best to utilise our time in worshipping their Creator, and performing our prescribed prayers and pious acts with humility and sincerity. For this is what humanity and the Jinn have been created for.

May Allah never allow us to forget this. Ameen.

Your brother in Islam,

Nafez Naouchy.



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Islam & Evolution

Did God use Evolution to Create the Universe?

In our day, some circles hold the view that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution does not contradict with religion, and that those who renounce the theory of evolution unnecessarily promote it. This view, however, includes many misconceptions. It is the result of a failure to grasp the main tenet of Darwinism and the extremely dangerous outlook it mandates. That is why, for those who have faith in the existence of God, the mere Creator of all living-beings, yet carry the conviction that "God created living beings through evolution", it would be quite useful to primarily review the fundamental tenets of the theory. In this essay, in an endeavor to warn believers who have this misconception, some essential scientific and logical explanations regarding why the theory of evolution is not compatible with Islam and the fact of Creation it introduces to mankind, are provided.

The basic tenet of Darwinism holds that living beings came into being spontaneously, as a result of coincidences. This view is completely contrary to the faith of Creation.

The most important misconception of those who think that the theory of evolution does not contradict with creation is their assumption that the basic assertion of the theory of evolution is that living beings came into existence through evolving from one another. Accordingly, they comment: "There is no reason why God did not create all living beings by making them evolve from one another; so what is the rationale to raise objection to it?" However, there is a very important point here which is ignored: the essential difference between the advocates of evolution and creation is not based on the question of whether "living beings appeared individually or through evolving from

each other." The main question is "whether living beings came into existence by chance and as a result of natural events, or were they consciously created?"

The theory of evolution, as known, claims that inorganic chemical compounds came together by chance and as a result of randomly occurring natural phenomena, they formed first the building blocks of life and ultimately life. Consequently, in its core, this claim accepts time, inorganic matter and chance to be creative powers. Even the layman, who is somewhat acquainted with the literature of evolution, is aware that this is the basis of the claims of evolutionists. Not surprisingly, despite being an evolutionist scientist, Pierre Paul Grassé, acknowledges the implausibility of the theory and summarizes what the concept of "coincidence" means for evolutionists: "...Chance becomes a sort of providence, which, under the cover of atheism, is not named but which is secretly worshipped." (Pierre Paul Grassé, *Evolution of Living Organisms*, New York, Academic Press, 1977, p.107)

That life is an arbitrary by-product of the compound formed by time, matter and coincidence, on the other hand, is a nonsense unacceptable by those who have faith in the existence of God as the sole Creator of all living beings. Believers should assume the responsibility to save societies from such perverted and unreal beliefs and warn them.

The claim of "coincidence" put forward by the theory of evolution is denied by science.

Another significant fact that deserves a special consideration about this subject is that scientific discoveries also definitely refute the evolutionist claims that "life emerged as a result of pure coincidences and natural phenomena." This is because there are extraordinarily complex examples of design in life.

Natural Selection



Even the cell of a living being is a great wonder of design that totally annuls the concept of "coincidence".

This superior design and plan in life are certainly indications of God's unique and matchless creation, of His eternal knowledge and might.

The efforts of evolutionists to explain the origins of life with chance are rejected by science in the 20th century and today, in the 21st century, they met a total defeat. (See Harun Yahya, *Blunders of Evolutionists*, Vural Publishing) Indeed, the reason why they deny Creation although they see this fact is their blind adherence to irreligiosity. God did not create living beings through an evolutionary process.

Since the existence of creation, in other words, a conscious design, is obvious, the only question that remains is "through what kind of a process the living beings were created." The misconception of some faithful people emerges right at this point: The wrong reasoning that "Living being could have been created by evolving from one another" is actually related to how the process of creation occurred.

Indeed, had God willed, He could have created living beings through an evolutionary process from nothingness, as the abovementioned individuals propose. And had science proved that living beings evolved from each other, we could say, "God created life through evolution." For instance, if there were any evidence available that reptiles evolved to form birds, then we would say, "God transformed reptiles into birds with His command 'Be!'". Ultimately, both these living beings individually possess bodies overflowing with examples of perfect design, which cannot be explained away by chance. Transformation of these designs into one another -had such a thing really happened- would surely be another evidence for creation.

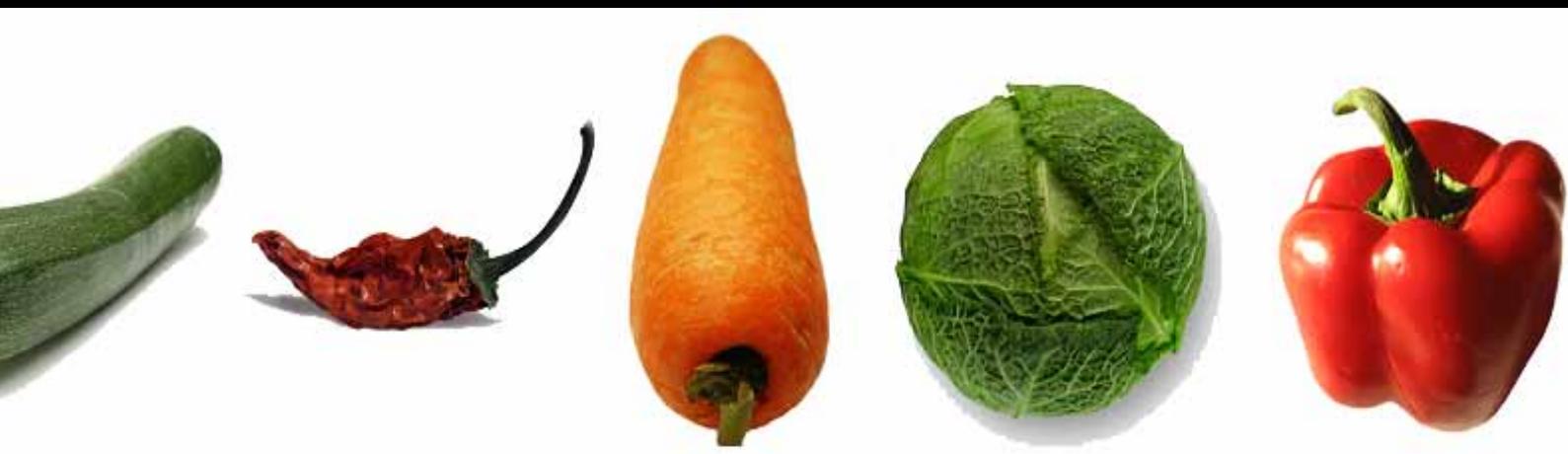
However, the situation is not so. Scientific evidence (especially the fossil record and comparative anatomy) point to the contrary; there is not a single evidence on earth that an evolutionary process took place on it. The fossil record clearly indicate that different living species did not appear on earth through evolving from one another by fine gradations, but that on the contrary, distinct living species appeared on earth suddenly fully formed and without any preceding ancestors similar to them. Neither birds sprung from reptiles, nor fish transformed into land-dwelling animals. Each living phylum is created individually with its traits particular to its kind. Even the most renowned evolutionists had to accept this fact and confess that this provides an evidence for Creation. For instance, evolutionist palaeontologist Mark Czarnecki confesses as follows:

"A major problem in proving the theory (evolution theory) has been the fossil record; the imprints of vanished species preserved in the Earth's geological formations. This record has never revealed traces of Darwin's hypothetical intermediate variants - instead species appear and disappear abruptly, and this anomaly has fueled the creationist argument that each species was created by God. (Mark Czarnecki, "The Revival of the Creationist Crusade", *MacLean's*, 19 January 1981, p. 56)

Especially during the last fifty years, developments in various scientific fields such as palaeontology, microbiology, genetics and comparative anatomy, and new discoveries show that the theory of evolution is untrue and living beings appeared on earth all of a sudden in their distinct and perfect forms. Therefore, there is no reason to suggest that God employed the process of evolution in Creation. God created every species individually and at one moment, with His command of "Be!" This is a certain and explicit fact.

Adapted from:

http://www.harunyahya.com/articles/70darwin_sci05.html



Ascension to the Creator

The Miraculous Story of Idris (Enoch) and the Wonders of Paradise

I am sure you know of the first Prophet-Aadam (Adam). There is no information regarding the second Prophet (Sheeth) in the Qur'an but we know of him from the Sunnah. But what do you know of the third Prophet? Do you know his name? Do you know his story? Inshallah we will concern ourselves with understanding the story of Prophet Idris (AS) in this short article. I hope that by the end of these pages, you too will get goose bumps, just as I did when I was initially told of the miracle of his life and death.

Prophet Idris (AS) was a notable figure who was mentioned only in Surat Maryam. It states: **"And mention in the Book (the Qur'an) Idris (Enoch). Verily he was a man of truth, (and) a Prophet. And We raised him to a high station," (19:56, 57).**

"...And We raised him to a high station." What exactly does that mean? Let's delve further into his life and see if we can gain a stronger grasp in understanding the above verse.

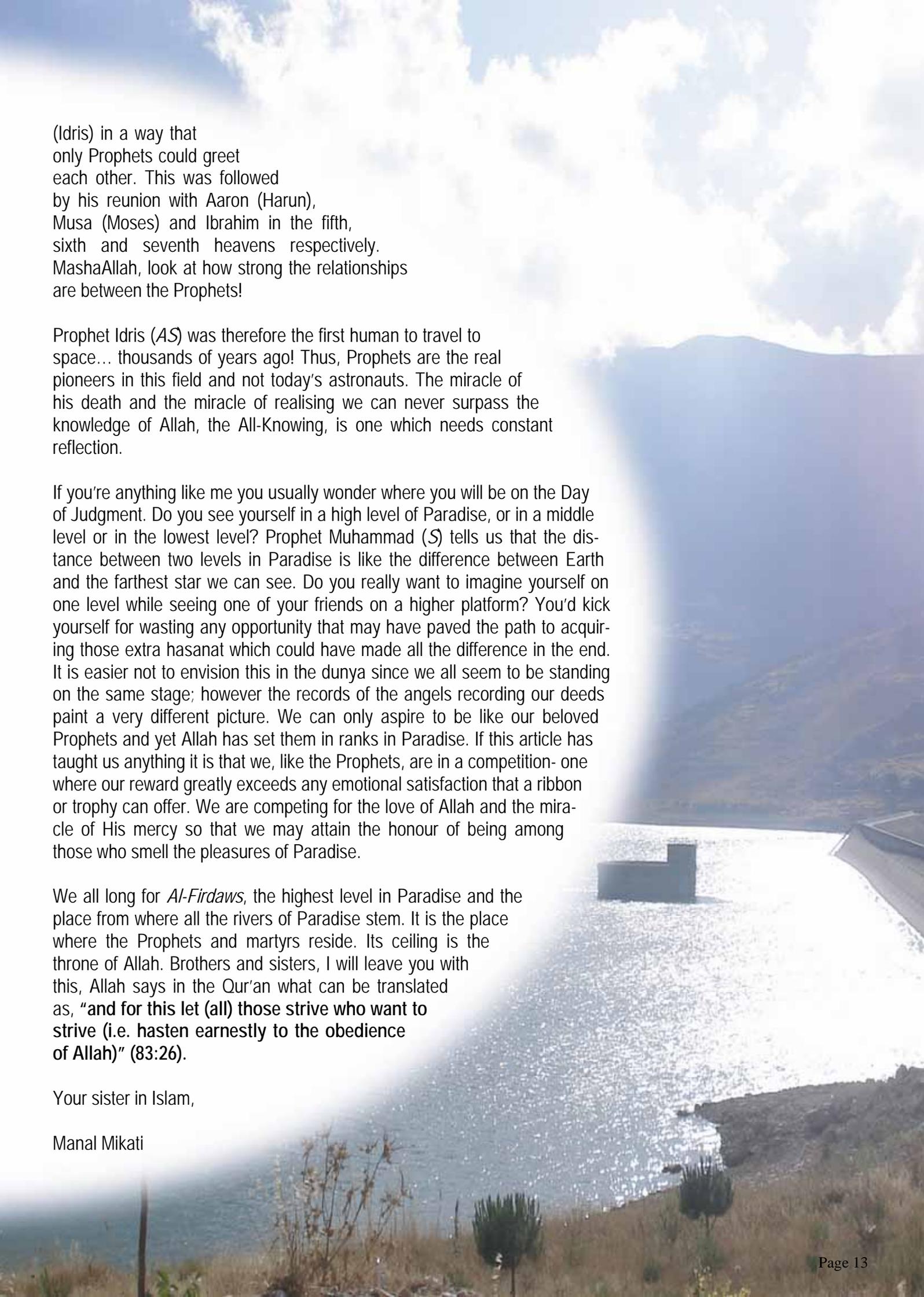
Although Prophet Idris (AS) is not thoroughly mentioned throughout the Quran, we have evidence of him from other sources such as the *Isra'iliyat* (Jewish traditions) all of which mention that he was born and lived in Egypt. In these stories we are told that once, Allah (Swt) informed Prophet Idris (AS) that his (Idris's) deeds are equivalent to the good deeds of everyone else on the face of the earth. After a quick thought, Prophet Idris (AS) said "if that is the case, then if I ask Allah (Swt) to give me a longer life, I would be able to accumulate more good deeds" (presumably to attain a higher rank in

Paradise). The story continues to tell us that Idris (AS) asked one of the angels to join him as he went to speak to the angel of death so that he may convince him to speak to Allah (Swt) in hope of Allah granting him an extended life.

Willingly, Idris (AS) rode on the wings of this angel as he carried them up through the heavens. They passed the first heaven, then the second heaven, the third heaven, the fourth heaven and as they were about to ascend further, they saw the angel of death of descending. The angel of death said, SubhanAllah! I just received orders to take the soul of Idris in the fourth heaven and I did not know how I was going to do this when he is on earth! As he was speaking, the angels turned to look at Idris and found that he had passed away. SubhanAllah, **"... When He wills a thing to be, He but says unto it "Be" -and it is!" (19:35)** Just look at the might of Allah, Al- Muhyi (The Giver of Life) and Al- Mumit (The Taker of Life).

In light of this information, let us now consider the meaning of the verse that states **"...And We raised him to a high station."** Allah (Swt) indeed elevated him to a high level since we are told that no one else had passed away in that level of the heavens except Prophet Idris (AS). To verify this account further, we understand he was also mentioned by Prophet Muhammad (S) when he was talking about *al-Isra' wa al-Ma'raj* (the ascension of Prophet Muhammad (S) to the heavens and his travel to the *Aqsaa* mosque in Palestine).

In his series on the 'Lives of the Prophets,' Imam Anwar Al Awlaki beautifully retells of how Muhammad (S) met Aadam (AS) in the first heaven, followed by Jesus (Isa, AS) and John (Yahya, AS) in the second heaven, in the third heaven he was welcomed by Joseph (Youssef, AS) and then indeed in the fourth heaven he was greeted by Enoch



(Idris) in a way that only Prophets could greet each other. This was followed by his reunion with Aaron (Harun), Musa (Moses) and Ibrahim in the fifth, sixth and seventh heavens respectively. MashaAllah, look at how strong the relationships are between the Prophets!

Prophet Idris (AS) was therefore the first human to travel to space... thousands of years ago! Thus, Prophets are the real pioneers in this field and not today's astronauts. The miracle of his death and the miracle of realising we can never surpass the knowledge of Allah, the All-Knowing, is one which needs constant reflection.

If you're anything like me you usually wonder where you will be on the Day of Judgment. Do you see yourself in a high level of Paradise, or in a middle level or in the lowest level? Prophet Muhammad (S) tells us that the distance between two levels in Paradise is like the difference between Earth and the farthest star we can see. Do you really want to imagine yourself on one level while seeing one of your friends on a higher platform? You'd kick yourself for wasting any opportunity that may have paved the path to acquiring those extra hasanat which could have made all the difference in the end. It is easier not to envision this in the dunya since we all seem to be standing on the same stage; however the records of the angels recording our deeds paint a very different picture. We can only aspire to be like our beloved Prophets and yet Allah has set them in ranks in Paradise. If this article has taught us anything it is that we, like the Prophets, are in a competition- one where our reward greatly exceeds any emotional satisfaction that a ribbon or trophy can offer. We are competing for the love of Allah and the miracle of His mercy so that we may attain the honour of being among those who smell the pleasures of Paradise.

We all long for *Al-Firdaws*, the highest level in Paradise and the place from where all the rivers of Paradise stem. It is the place where the Prophets and martyrs reside. Its ceiling is the throne of Allah. Brothers and sisters, I will leave you with this, Allah says in the Qur'an what can be translated as, "**and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive (i.e. hasten earnestly to the obedience of Allah)" (83:26).**

Your sister in Islam,

Manal Mikati

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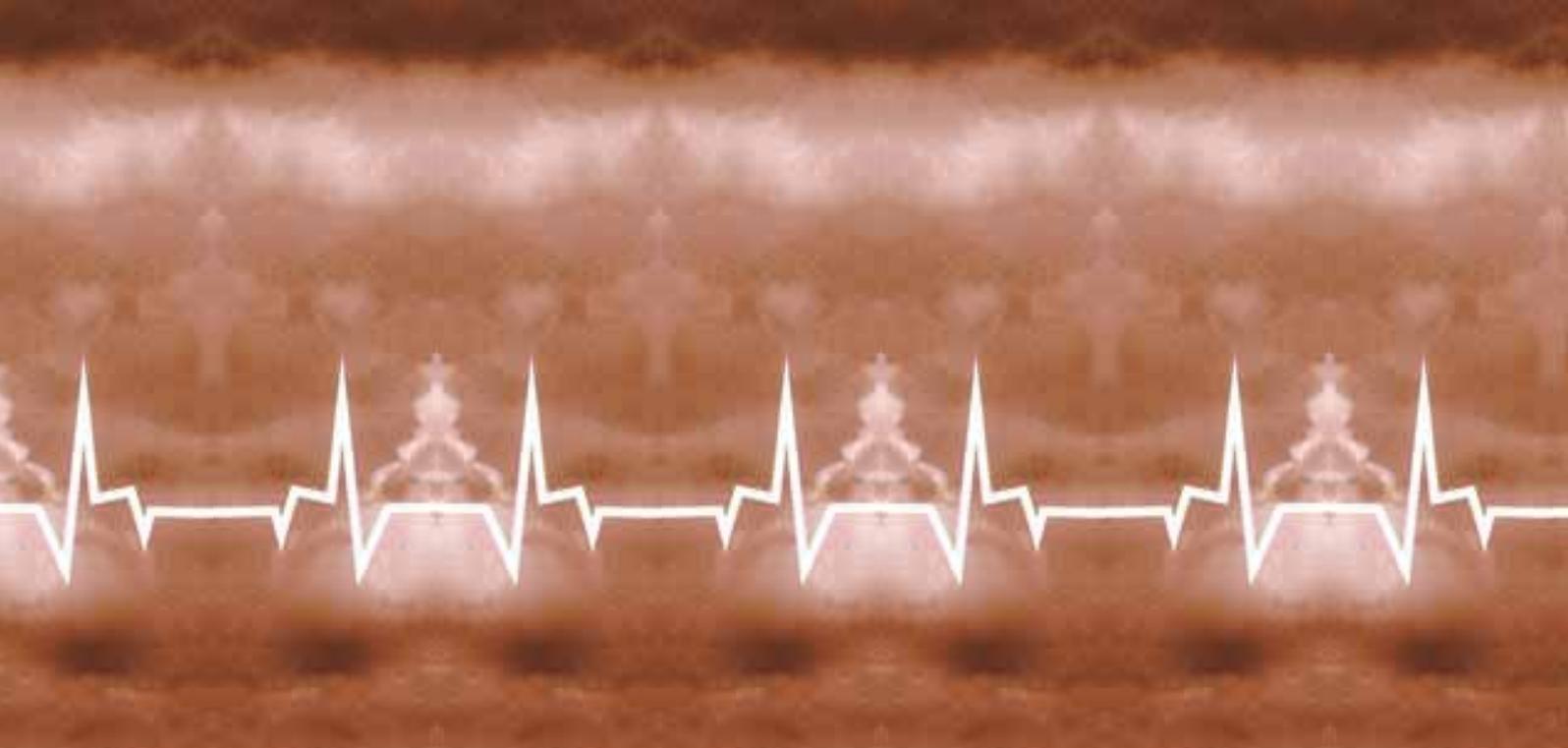
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Looking into your heart

Put your hand on your heart.

Did you place your hand on the left side of your chest?

Many people do, but the heart is actually located almost in the centre of the chest, between the lungs. It's tipped slightly so that a part of it sticks out and taps against the left side of the chest, which is what makes it seem as though it is located there.

It seems we take many things for granted when it comes to our hearts. Did you know that your heart beats about 100,000 times in one day and about 35 million times in a year?

That means that during an average lifetime, the human heart will beat more than 2.5 billion times! If only we had a dollar for every beat.

Give a tennis ball a good, hard squeeze so that it starts to lose its shape. By doing this, you are using about the same amount of force your heart uses to pump blood out to the body. Even when you are asleep, the extremely strong muscles of the heart work harder than the leg muscles of an Olympic sprinter.

You would think with such a strong machine (which is what the heart basically is); all the parts would be large and robust. In some cases this is relatively true. For example, the aorta (which is the largest artery in your body) is about the same size and strength as a garden hose.

However, the heart itself is only about the size of your fist and some smaller tubes that carry blood around the body are so small it takes over ten of them to equal the thickness of a single hair.

The heart pumps about 1 million barrels of blood during an av-

erage lifetime and at such a fast speed that blood completely circulates all the tubes in the body (which are over 100,000 km long if all added together) in about 20 seconds.

Let us not forget, that as impressive as all this sounds, one day, without warning, it will stop. The Prophet (S) said, "There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) Health and free time for doing good."

But where did this device come from? Before we answer that question, we need to ask, is it just an impressive 'machine' or something more?

For thousands of years the majority of scientists have concluded that the brain is the only part of human consciousness (or thinking), yet Allah (SwT) states:

They have hearts, but they understand not with them; they have eyes, but they see not with them; they have ears but they hear not with them. They are like cattle; nay they are further astray. It is they who are the heedless (Al-A`raf 7:179)

According to the Quran, the centre of human thought is the heart and not the brain itself, and it is only recently that human beings have learned there are over 40,000 nerves in the heart that communicate directly with the brain. It is now understood that there is two-way communication between the brain and the heart: the brain sends messages to the heart, but the heart also sends messages to the brain.

Another interesting idea about the heart, which has been gain-



ing prominence in the study of medicine for some time, is the results of stress on the heart and the rest of the body. In fact, Paul Rosch M.D., the President of the American Institute of Stress said that "75 to 90% of all visits to general practitioners result from stress related disorders".

In addition, psychologists have also been studying for some time the root causes of stress.

In simple terms, it is common sense that goodness will not generally result in a stressful condition. People most often get stressed because they have done something wrong and don't want to be caught, or because something bad has happened in their lives and they fail to put the adequate amount of faith in Allah (Swf), such that their distress may be relieved.

What is most important about all of this is to understand that wrong actions can actually have an impact on one's physical health, through the damaging effect they have on the heart.

Allah (Swf) said, "*In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease: and grievous is the penalty they (incur), because they are false (to themselves)*" (Al-Baqarah 2:10)

In addition, the Prophet (S) said that: "**Wrong action is what irritates the heart**".

For a long time this was believed to be basically metaphorical, that is, wrong actions made one emotionally upset, but not physically, however, we are now discovering that this may not

be the case.

So, is the heart of the human being more than just a 'machine' within the body that pumps blood around? Clearly, it is a lot more.

What does all this tell us about its origin? Simply, it tells us that it cannot be the product of natural selection, chance, or any other type of evolutionary theory. While some may argue that the basic physical framework of the heart could have been produced by micro natural selection (and I highly recommend Richard Dawkins' arguments – even though they are wrong), the emotional/spiritual/ethical factors are transcendent of such notions.

Ultimately, we must remember that all of this is part of our heart – and will have an impact on its physical nature. One cannot have a perfect physical heart, without being ethically and spiritually sound. This is demonstrated by the large amount of stress and depression diagnosed daily and which will ultimately affect the physical functions of the heart.

May we all remember, especially myself, to thank Allah (Swf) for the religion that encourages us to have physically and spiritually sound hearts and that also taught us 1400 years ago what medical science is only beginning to teach us today. The religion He (Swf) gave us, which teaches us that while something may have a clearly identifiable physical function, it also has a spiritual function and that both of these are essential.

Your brother in Islam,

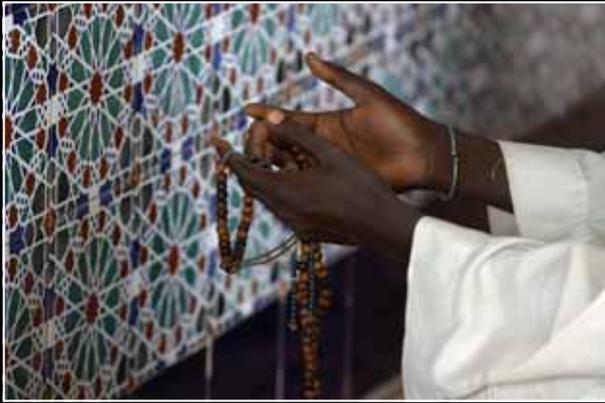
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Dolomedes

The

Fishing

Spider



those of its legs which will go into the water with a water-proof coating by passing them through its fangs. It then approaches the edge of the water. Pushing its body down with great care, it moves on to the surface of the water. It places its fangs and feelers under the water in such a way as not to disturb the surface. It waits for a living creature to approach, with its eyes looking around it and its legs feeling for vibrations in the water. To feed itself, the spider needs to find prey at least the size of the "Golyan" fish.

When the spider is hunting, it stays motionless until the fish comes within 1.5 centimeters of its jaws. Then it suddenly enters the water, catches the fish in its legs, and bites it with its venomous fangs. Then, in order to stop the fish, which is much bigger than it, from dragging it under the water, it immediately turns upside down. The venom quickly takes effect. It not only kills the prey, but also dissolves the prey's internal organs, turning them into a kind of soup and making them easy to digest. When the prey is dead, the spider drags it on to the shore and feeds. (Science

and Technology *Gorsel Science and Technology Encyclopedia*, p. 494, 495)

At this point various questions spring to mind. How did the spider come by that wax which stops it sinking? How did it learn to coat its legs with it against the risk of sinking? How did the spider come by the wax's formula and how did it make it? The spider certainly did not bring about all of these things-each one of which bears the mark of intelligence-of its own volition. **Like all other living creatures, this species of spider acts in such an intelligent way, is capable of making such a plan and putting it into practice by inspiration from God.** In one of His verses, God states that He gives every creature its own provision:

There is no creature on the earth which is not dependent upon God for its provision. He knows where it lives and where it dies. They are all in a Clear Book. (Surah Hud: 6)

Adapted from:

http://www.harunyahya.com/articles/70spiders_fishing_sci15.php

Some spiders hunt in even the most unexpected environments. For example, the hunting field of the water-spider *Dolomedes* is the surface of water. This spider is mostly to be found in shallow places such as marshes and ditches.

The water-spider, which lacks good eyesight, spends most of its time by the side of the water spinning threads and spreading them over its surroundings. These serve two functions at the same time: they are a kind of warning to other spiders, setting the limits of its own territory, and they also form an escape route in the event of unexpected danger.

The spider's most frequently used hunting method is to put four of its legs on the water while the other four hold on to dry land. While doing this, it employs a most clever technique to avoid sinking. The spider covers

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TAFSEER SURAT

The Most Gracious

Surat Arrahmaan is a Medinan chapter that is listed 54 chapters after Surat AlFatihah in the Holy Quran. It consists of 78 verses that talk about the many favours that Allah has endowed the Jinn and Mankind with.

It is a known verse elsewhere in the Quran that if you attempted to count the favours of Allah upon you, you wouldn't be able to enumerate them. Well, if ever you wanted to try anyway, Surat Arrahmaan would be a good place to start.

Not only is Surat Arrahmaan a reminder to us all about the things we ought to be grateful for, but it also mentions things that prompted me to think – really? I didn't even know that! Geez, I better thank Allah for that one too!

Just when you thought you had enough to thank Allah for, Surat Arrahmaan reveals so much more. So much so that the reader is so overwhelmed with the list, that Allah presents the most prominent verse in that chapter by asking: so which of the blessings of Your Lord do you deny?

If you think that after reading the chapter and coming across this verse some 29 times, that 'you get the point', you should think again. At face value, what the reader fails to see is that each one of these 29 verses is strategically placed after a heavy load of virtues. A rhetorical question that inspires us to really think, each one of these repeated verses deserves its own moment of reflection.

Eventually as you ponder over the content of the verses of Surat Arrahmaan and synchronise your thoughts with our contemporary lifestyles, the obvious truth hits you in the face without a doubt. You soon realise that you and I live in so much arrogance towards the things Allah has given us, where we treat life like a big vending machine. We expect it to sit there on stand-by just waiting to serve us and dispense what we need at a press of a button and if God forbid, it doesn't, we can smack it and have a right to complain. How wrong we are in this ignorant, subconscious thought if we were unfortunate enough to think that way.

A believer is thankful to Allah for everything and no favour of His is too small to be taken for granted. Prophet Ayoub was rained down upon with pebbles of gold and as he frantically began to collect them Allah asked: Ayoub, you run after these pebbles after everything I have given you? Ayoub's deep response was: "Ya Allah, how could I ever ignore or overlook any of your blessings?" Spoken like a true slave with gratitude towards His sustainer in anything and everything he endows.

Once you have this mentality, Surat Arrahmaan presents itself in its clearest image. It is such thinking that enables Surat Arrahmaan to appear in its most beautiful picture. Let us share some of its beauty in brief.

It's nice for the haughty human being to be reminded of his origins and come back down to Earth every once in a while. Just as a father would remind his young son of his favours upon him so as not to go overboard with his self praise and thinking too highly of himself, to Allah belongs the best of examples. It is Allah who created us and it is He who taught us our ABC's. From our nothingness and primitive existence to our perfect and beautiful creation – to whom do we owe this favour? All this technological advancement, modern civilisation, the evolution of sciences and the extraordinary development of the human existence, to whom belongs all this credit? To Allah, so don't forget human.

He programmed the world to operate by night and day. Just because it does so, it doesn't mean it always will... Ever wondered how and why the night creeps into the day and turns out the lights in the sky? What if the sun was ordered to remain in the horizon for a week, what can we do about that? What will all the ink-printed newspapers, the documentaries filmed and the photos taken of the image do about it? Like a big bunch of losers the human race can do nothing but wait. How is it then when we read about the day and the night, we take it for granted: yeah, what? Night and day? Yeah what about it? It's a blessing but sometimes all it is to us is bed time and an alarm clock.

Justice was created as part of this world just as the heavens and the earths were. Imagine justice being a hidden force in this world just like gravity? How can then people think they can outsmart it and redefine it according to their whims? Can there be anything

AL RAHMAN

AL RAHMAN

more naive? Do they think that their 'justice' really means anything according to this divine earthly program?

Allah created the human as previously mentioned. He taught man the eloquent speech and the art of expression. He honoured man with his superiority to the rest of creation. He sent to man guidance on a silver platter through Prophets and Messengers at different times across the Earth. He programmed the human to love certain things and created these things for him. He made the seas subject to his livelihood, his travels, his exploration and his trade. Which human would be so obnoxious as to deny any of these vital endowments of the human?

Had the human remained primitive all his life, had he been at the bottom of the food chain, had he been expected to find his own guidance and fend for himself for salvation, had he been created with desires that never existed and had the creation of this Earth been impractical and infeasible for him to live in – what picture would we see today? Assuming there was a picture. What then does the human have to say about the bounties of Allah upon him?

Which of the favours of Allah do we then deny? The human then has the audacity to turn against his lord in denial and rejection?

The complete power belongs to Allah, and everything on this Earth will eventually perish and becoming nothing, except the Face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour who will remain forever. What power lies in something that will eventually rot, decay and perish? Whereas the true power remains in the hands of the one who controls life, owns the Day of Judgment and makes the impossible possible with a single order of one word – be.

When all the facilities, mechanisms and calculations fail – as they do – who will continue to remedy, repair and sustain the earth in all its major aspects and detailed specifics without fail? Does not everyone in the heavens and earth beg Allah every day in need of him in all and any affair?

How can we then deny this truth?

We should soak in our own tears thinking of the day when there will be no distraction from the meeting of our Lord, when He shall attend to every single one of us in a personal appointment with Him.

What about the real life that Allah promises? When the sky comprised of thin air will be split. How can thin air in the sky be sliced and split open? When the criminals need not express themselves or be questioned for their deeds, it will be told in their faces and they will be dragged away accordingly. The Hellfire at that time will make its presence felt without any denial and the rate of reversion to the religion of Fitrah will sky rocket. This is the hell which the criminal had denied...

What about the one who did the right thing? Is there any reward for good other than good? Is there? The gardens of paradise, with spreading rich dark green branches one above the other? Gushing springs of wine and honey? Every kind of fruit in pairs with the perfect and unimaginable taste? Reclining on silk of comfort and pleasure from their Lord and all the while everything is a fingertip away? Chaste women the similitude of rubies and coral?

Which of these rewards can we then deny? Would all the trouble in the world to please Allah not be worth it in the end? Would it be the same had not this bliss existed? Is it not then a fair and profitable trade with Allah? Can you find a better reward and a better Lord? No, by Allah.

It is no wonder the name of the Chapter is The Most Gracious.

Blessed is the Name of Your Lord the Owner of Majesty and Honour!

Your brother in Islam,

Muhammad Khodr

TAFSEER SURAT

I AM A DREAMER

Dreaming... a subject which has puzzled many for centuries. In my search for authentic information on this area I could not find much. Perhaps one of the few reliable books available (in English) is that which was written by Dr Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips entitled *Dream interpretation according to the Quran and Sunnah*. Much of what is written in this short paper is a summary of Philips' book, focusing on types of dreams and the guidelines for its interpretation.

Most educated Muslims prefer to shun the idea of dream interpretation because it has become so mixed up with superstition, myths and fortune telling. However the reality is that dream interpretation was regularly practised by the Prophet Muhammad (S).¹ Of interest is the fact that most books about dreams and its interpretation are attributed to Ibn Seerin or refer much of its material and methodology to him, although he did not write any book on dream interpretation.² He was, however, a major fiqh and hadith scholar among the students of the companions. Ibn Seerin transmitted many of the ahadith about dreams that were narrated by Abu Hurayrah (R) and other companions and as a result he became noted for his dream interpreting abilities. Consequently some stories about his abilities were fictitious (classic case of Chinese Whispers).³ His contemporaries have made no mention of books on this subject written by him.⁴

The Islamic concept of dreams based on the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (S) is that it comes from three primary sources: Divine, Satanic and Human.⁵ The blessed Messenger (S) also described the characteristics of each dream so that we may be able to distinguish one from the other. The hadith narrated by Abu Hurayrah states: "There are three types of dreams: a righteous dream which is glad tidings from Allah; the dream which causes sadness is from satan; and a dream from the ramblings of the mind". (Sahih Muslim, vol.4, p.1224, no.5261)

Philips explains that Divine dreams are either true or good.⁶ The dreams of the prophets were a form of revelation (inspiration, i.e. true dreams). This is how prophet Ibrahim (as) received instruction to sacrifice his son Ismaa-eel.⁷ Aal-shah (ra) is also reported to have said that: "Divine revelation began to come to Allah's Messenger (S) in the form of righteous dreams during his sleep. Whenever he had a dream, it would come true like day break". (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol.9, p.91, no.111) Some of the principles, as outlined by Philips, regarding true dreams are that they are:

A gift from Allah to whom He chooses, Muslim or not. An example of this is the dreams interpreted by prophet Yusuf (as) of the two prison inmates and the pagan ruler of Egypt.

Only the Prophet (S) could say with certainty that his dreams were true: All humans cannot know this until their dreams actually come true.

They may or may not require interpretation due to its clarity or obscurity.

They are related to human character: That is, though everyone may experience true dreams, the more righteous a person is the truer his or her dreams will be. This is affirmed by the Prophet's (S) statement narrated by Abu Hurayrah: "Those of you with the truest dreams will be those who are most truthful in speech" (Sahih Muslim, vol.4, p.1224, no.5621).⁸

They may be shared by a number of

people: The example related by Ibn Umar (ra) was that some people were shown in their dreams that the Night of Power (Laylatul Qadr) would be in the last seven days of Ramadan.⁹

The Prophet (S) also referred to good or pleasant dreams as coming from Allah.¹⁰ As reported by Abu Saeed al-Khudree (ra) the Prophet (S) said: "if anyone of you has a dream that he likes, then it is from Allah. He should thank Allah for it and narrate it to others". (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol.9, p.100, no.120). Our beloved (S) also stated that good dreams are an aspect of prophethood which will remain among mankind until the Last Day. (Sahih Sunan At-Tirmitheh, vol.2, p.258, no.1853) Abu Hurayrah also reported that the Prophet (S) said: "Nothing is left of Prophethood except glad tidings". They asked: "what are glad tidings?" and the messenger (S) replied: "Good dreams". (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol.9, p.98, no.119). It is understood that since good dreams are from Allah, to lie about them is forbidden.¹¹ The Prophet (S) is reported to have said: "Indeed, the worst lie is that of a person who falsely claims to have a dream". (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol.9, p.135, no.167) Principles to bear in mind regarding good dreams:

It is from Allah;

It is glad tidings;

It may be shared with others in the same way that good news is shared, however the prophet cautioned not to share it with everyone but the ones you love (Sahih Muslim, vol.4, pp1223-4. no.5619).¹²

Satanic dreams are bad dreams from the interference of evil jinn in our dream state.¹³ This happens in the same way that the jinn are able to introduce evil thoughts in the human mind in the waking state. The Prophet (S) said:

"...when one of you sees a dream which he does not like, he should spit on his left side three times and seek refuge with

Allah from its evil; then it will not harm him". (Sahih Muslim, vol.4, p.1223, no.5613) Principles to bear in mind regarding Satanic dreams:

All dreams with evil content are from

satanic sources: No attempt

should be made to interpret it

positively as it is in-

tended to mis-

guide hu-

mans.



When experiencing a bad dream, spit: (*nafath* - this is a blowing with a spitting action of the tongue without gathering any saliva and without any spittle actually leaving the mouth)¹⁴ on the left side three times and seek refuge in Allah three times. Also change your sleeping position but do not sleep on your stomach as this was forbidden by the Prophet (S).

Say the following dua: "I seek refuge in the perfect words of Allah from His anger, the evil of His servants and from the evil suggestions of the devils and their presence".

Get up and pray two units or more of voluntary prayer: This enables you to take advantage of a bad situation and the night prayer is the best prayer after the compulsory ones.

Do not disclose a bad dream to anyone: This is important since the Prophet (S) also said: "... he should not mention it (a bad dream) to anybody, then it will not harm him" (Sahih Al Bukhari, vol.9, pp.95-6, no.114), He (S) also said: "None of you should ever relate the games Satan plays with you in your dreams" (Sahih Muslim, vol.4, p1226, no. 5641).¹⁵

The human mind's workings make up the third category of dreams. It is usually disjointed images from human beings' waking experiences, past or present, imaginary or real. Such dreams are meaningless and are neither glad tidings nor evil suggestions from Satan. Nonetheless, it should still be considered a blessing from Allah because a dream sleep is better than dreamless sleep.¹⁶

As mentioned earlier dream interpretation was a common practice of the Prophet (S). It must be emphasised though, that knowledge of the future belongs only to Allah. We are reminded of this in surah An Nahl, verse 65:
"Say:

(Muhammad) None in the heavens or earth know the unseen except Allah". We must not confuse the prophet's ability to interpret dreams to mean that he (S) had the ability to know the future. What the Prophet (S) told of future events was revealed to him (S) by Jibreel. He (S) stated about fortune tellers who sometimes get things "right" that: "That is only a bit of truth which the jinn steals and cackles in the ear of his friend; but he mixes along with it one hundred lies" (Sahih Al Bukhari, vol.7, p.439, no.657). Briefly, as stated by Phillips, the principles of dream interpretation are as follows¹⁷:

-It is permissible for others besides the Prophet (S) to interpret dreams.

-Only good dreams may be interpreted.

-Good dreams should only be interpreted positively and should only be related to close friends and scholars. The Prophet (S) warned that dreams may manifest itself according to the interpretation given as is reported in the following hadith: "Indeed, dreams occur according to how they are interpreted..." (Collected by Al-Haakim)¹⁸.

-Only the prophets were able to accurately interpret dreams. The interpretations of ordinary humans (including scholars) are only educated guesses based on the knowledge of symbols*.

-One may implement what is seen in a good dream; i.e. if you see yourself doing something commendable you may carry out the act.

From exhaustive studies of the Prophet's methodology in symbolic dream interpretation, scholars have concluded that there are three main branches of symbolic dream interpretation: Quranic interpretation, Sunnah interpretation and Word interpretation.¹⁹

In order to correctly interpret the symbolism found in the Quran one must rely on authentic commentaries.²⁰ This obviously requires detailed knowledge and correct understanding of Quranic teachings; something of a rarity amongst the majority of ordinary Muslims today. Metaphors found in the traditions of the Prophet (S) may also be used to interpret the symbolism found in dreams because they are from the same source.²¹ Whilst within word interpretation, optimistic meanings may be derived from the names of people and things according to the Prophet's (S) methodology.²²

From these findings it may be deduced that dreams are from a variety of sources which may either be good or bad. Good dreams are a blessing from Allah and dreamless sleep is not good. In the same way that the jinn affect humans in their wakened state, they may also interfere negatively in our lives while we are asleep. Dream interpretation requires comprehensive knowledge of the Quran and Sunnah by the interpreter and even then it is only an educated guess. I pray that Allah (SwT) guides us all to the truth, keeps us firm on that path and keeps us busy with matters of importance for this ummah, Ameen.

Your sister in Islam, Faiza Abdullatif

Prostrate and Supplicate

At a glance you might label the acts of praying and supplicating as "core practices" of being a Muslim, and you would be correct. However these acts that we perform on a daily basis are also miracles sent by Almighty Allah to the followers of his religion..... Islam.

Think of the person who is nearest and dearest to you, someone you are totally comfortable with, a person you can trust and care for deeply. Now think about how often you communicate with this person in a meaningful manner. Once a month? Once a week? Perhaps once a day? Is the person you are thinking about a family member or a close friend?

Think of the most important and powerful person that you know: the person that can affect the level of success you will have in your life, the level of joy that you will experience. The person that if you disappoint them, there will be grave consequences for you and the people you care about. Are you now thinking about your Boss at work? Your parents? The prime minister?

Finally let us think about the most powerful and influential people in the world today. How often are we able to communicate with these people? Sadly most of us will never have the so-called "privilege" of talking or meeting these people.

This is where the miracle of prayer becomes apparent. As you see, due to the mercy of the creator, I as a Muslim am able to communicate with Allah five times a day minimum: Allah, the one who has created all of the people we thought about in the previous questions, the All Mighty who created all that exists in the heavens and earth allows Muslims around the world to communicate with him at any time.

The open-ended nature of worshippers with their lord is a great miracle indeed.

Followers of Christianity and various other religions are required to attend their respective houses of worship once a week to pray, which equates to 52 times a year.

A Muslim is required to pray a minimum of five compulsory prayers per day, which equates to 1825 communications with Allah a year and that is excluding Sunnah acts of worship and Ramadan. This is a sign of our devotion to Allah and projects the quality of our relationship with the creator through this miracle medium of prayer.

Allah has declared prayer and its obligatory status under majestic circumstances.

When Allah spoke directly to Moses, He said, *"And I have chosen you, so listen to that which is inspired to you. Verily, I am Allah! There is none worthy of worship but I, so worship Me and offer prayer perfectly for My remembrance."* [Taha 13-14]

Another miracle of prayer is the condition it renders the worshipper once it has been completed.

Prophet Muhammad (S) said, "If a person had a stream outside his door and he bathed in it five times a day, do you think he would have any filth left on him?" The people said, "No filth would remain on him whatsoever." The Prophet (S) then said, "That is like the five daily prayers: Allah wipes away the sins by them." (Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim.)

Imagine every time you perform your wudu, when you wash your hands, Allah wipes away the sins you committed with your hands, or when you wash your feet, Allah wipes away the sins you committed if you walked somewhere committing a haram act. That is the mercy of Allah, the most Gracious, most Merciful!

Our Ummah is blessed with the example of the final

" And when My slaves ask you concerning Me, then invocations of the supplicant

messenger Muhammad (S).

Throughout his prophethood, not only did he show us the right way to follow Allah's religion but he also executed various supplications for various situations.

Islam is the only religion that has specific supplications for entering and leaving a household, a supplication before using a vehicle, a supplication for entering the bathroom, before and after consuming food, and the list goes on and on.

An example of this is when we enter the bathroom, where we say: "In the name of Allah. O Allah I seek protection in you from the male and female unclean spirits." By saying this, Allah protects us from the harm of evil Jinn, both male and female, since they desire to reside in the bathroom. After leaving, we say: "I seek your forgiveness. This rich and expansive nature of supplication is a miracle within itself, as it illustrates the complete nature of our religion and how it encompasses all facets of our lives and actions, even entering the bathroom.

Supplication is a living expression of a human being's unrelenting need to worship his Lord, to seek his forgiveness and ultimately attain his approval. It is the acceptance of a worshipper's reliance on Allah in all of his/her affairs.

Here we find the meaning of our existence, to submit to the will of Allah our Lord and to worship him alone: Allah The Most High says, "O Mankind! Worship your Lord

(Allah), Who created you and those before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqoon (i.e. those who have taqwa)." *Al-Baqarah (2):21* And He said, "And I created not the Jinns and men except that they may worship Me (Alone)." *Adh-Dhaariyaat (51):56*

One of the miracles of supplication is the fact that it supports Islam's answer to "Why are we here? What is our purpose in life?" Alhamdulillah, we know that we are created solely to worship Allah in our daily lives, and prayer and supplication are a type of medium to achieve that. However, a point must be raised where worshipping Allah is not only limited to prayer and/or supplication; Allah can be worshipped in all aspects of life, even when we work, play, raise our families, or do some form of community work. As long as we have the intention in our actions that we are doing things for the sake of Allah, and to seek His pleasure, then we have fulfilled that deed as an act of worship.

In order to conclude this article I will leave you with one more thought to ponder upon. Have you ever missed a prayer and felt guilty for doing so? And doesn't the emotion of guilt only emerge once we have done something wrong? Subhanallah! Doesn't this prove that praying is a sign of us being on the right path, the path of Islam, the path that leads to paradise?

May Allah bestow upon us his mercy and guidance Insha Allah.

Your brother in Islam,

Ronnie Mikati



(answer them), I am indeed near. I respond to the when he calls on Me" (2:186).

Amusements

Find some of the many miracles of Allah.

A B Y I G H Y Q O S T Q J K E
 T R A E H N G E E B U B J K R
 C L O U D S I V N R P N E X E
 F F R A U F A R A O B P S S T
 F B A G J W O N A T H N P I A
 S N I A T N U O M E A A I G W
 N Y N R M O O N D E H A L H A
 F F P R D M Z V C O D C C T H
 X E A S H S J O R J S G E Q P

Birds
 Clouds
 Eclipse
 Food
 Hearing
 Heart
 Honey
 Moon
 Mountain
 Oceans
 Quran
 Rain
 Sight
 Water
 Waves

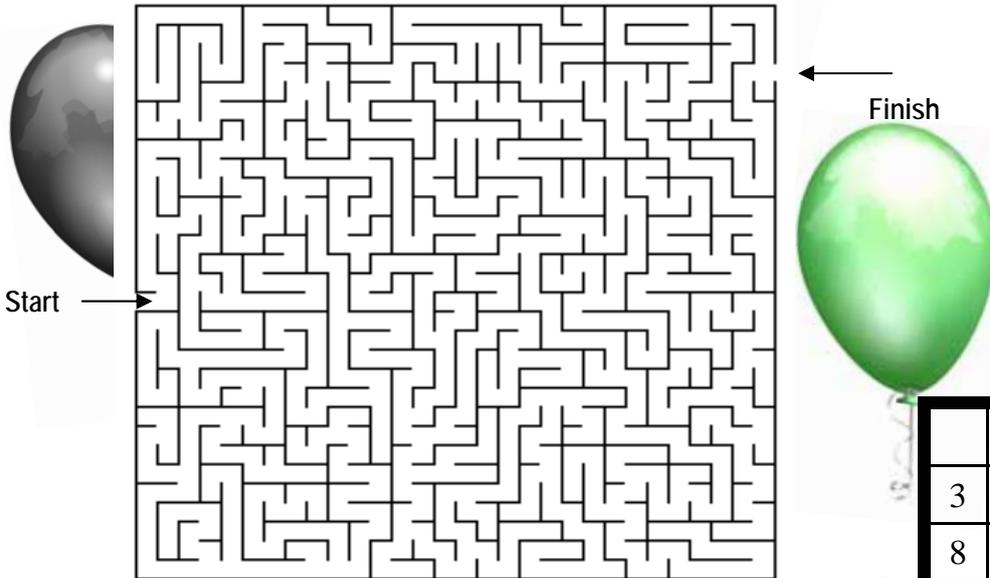
Spot The Difference

Spot the five differences

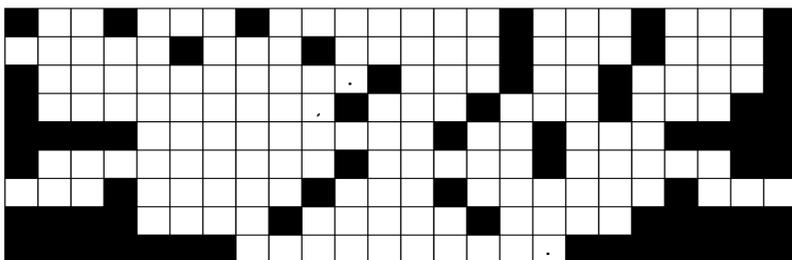


1: Face added to sun. 2: Only two birds in the sky. 3: Star on distant island. 4: Left arm on man is bent. 5: Extra tree on fish has moved.

Take the ultimate maze challenge



Fallen Phrase: Ayah from the Quran.



A
 H V O E I N P
 T R I R E A G N S O
 B C T A A E E E R A E N U Y L T D W
 A R H T E A H F A I T N H W I T H T T U
 C E E A H E C N D T E S D P T O L A Y O E H
 S R A I E V E R R F A I H T A A N H E T H E
 A I E L S T E R S S A O R O D E I N R S H E R
 E R N T C I G N T U S V B N S E F H L E R H E O

	9			2		
3					8	
8		6		4	9	3
		5		2	1	
7		2		6		4
			4	7		1
1	6		2		7	5
	8					9
			7			6

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares of the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 section contains all the numbers 1-9 inclusive.

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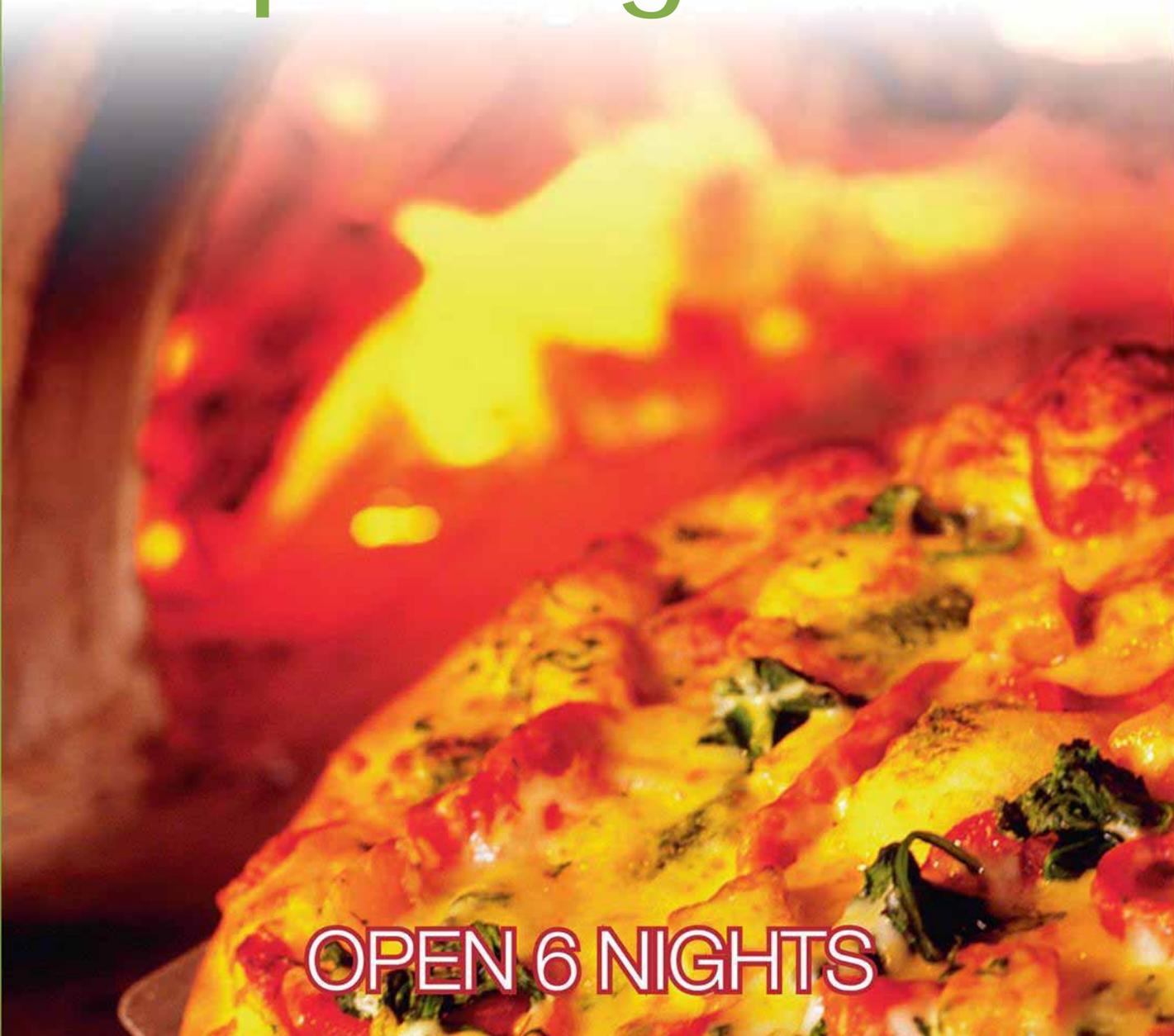
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