

Ants

ALLAH says:

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا تَوَّأَ عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ قَالَتْ نَمْلَةٌ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّمْلُ ادْخُلُوا

مَسَاكِنِكُمْ لَأَيِّطِبَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ، وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

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Until, when they came upon the valley of the ants, an ant said, "O ants, enter your dwellings that you not be crushed by Solomon and his soldiers while they perceive not."

[Surah An-Naml Ayah 18]

The scholars have mentioned 13 observations about this ant that warned the other ants when Sulaymaan عليه السلام and His soldiers were approaching. The qualities this ant displayed in this ayah is that she had a sense of **intuition and insight** to see the dangers of what was ahead, **hastiness and rushing**, **calling out**, **warning**, **commanding**, **forbidding**, **emphasizing**, **advising**, **clarifying**, **drawing**

attention, insisting, giving her utmost effort in
informing the others, and negating.

This ant also called out to the other ants in a way that would draw their attention so none of them would miss or not hear this call. This is why the ant said:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّمْلُ. This هَاءُ التَّنْبِيهِ here is called هَاءُ which is the هَاءُ that is used to grab the attention of someone.

Just like the هَاءُ in the demonstrative pronouns such as هَذَا, هَذِهِ etc.

The ant also commanded the ants to enter their homes with a command that is used for intelligent things.

We would expect the ant to have said to the other ants

"أَدْخُلِي" but rather this ant used the form of the verb that addresses intelligent beings "أَدْخُلُوا" to show us that ants are very intelligent to say the least.

The fact that the ant told the others to enter their homes is an indication that they all live in individual homes. They all don't just live in one hole.

So, this is clear when ALLAH uses the word **مَسَاكِينُ** [homes] which is the plural of the word **مَسْكَنٌ** [home]. Then attached to this word **مَسَاكِينُ** is the pronoun **كُمُ** [you] which is used for second person plural male which shows again that this ant is addressing her species with the address of someone who is intelligent.

Not that we are in need of science to prove things for us to believe them, but it is an interesting fact that scientists have confirmed that ants actually speak in their own special language. Also, science has confirmed that it is in fact the female ants that are the ones that warn the other ants of any approaching danger. This is not a duty that the males from the ants do. This is why ALLAH informs us that when the army of Sulaymaan **عليه السلام** was approaching the vicinity of the ants that a female ant **نَمَلَةٌ** was the one that warned the other ants.

Something else that is very interesting is that there are over 11 thousand different types of ants and in each type of species of ants there are three main categories. The first is the queen, the ants that are the workers, and male ants.

What is amazing is that ants are mentioned in the Quran 3 times only which are the number of categories that ant's fall into [3]. All three types are included in one ayah.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَوْا عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ (النَّمْلِ) قَالَتْ (نَمْلَةٌ) يَا أَيُّهَا (النَّمْلُ) ادْخُلُوا
مَسَاكِنَكُمْ لَا يَحْطِمَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

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Until, when they came upon the valley of the ants, an ant said, "O ants, enter your dwellings that you not be crushed by Solomon and his soldiers while they perceive not."

[Surah An-Naml Ayah 18]

يَخْطَمَنَّكُمْ

Some years back some non-Muslim scientists got together in order to do a research in trying to find a mistake in the Quran in order to use this a proof to disprove that the Quran is the word of ALLAH and that Islam is not the truth and not correct. They began to study the ayaat of the Quran until they came to the ayah:

قال تعالى.. حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَوْا عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ قَالَتْ مَمْلَةٌ يَا أَيُّهَا
النَّمْلُ ادْخُلُوا مَسَاكِنَكُمْ لَا يَخْطَمَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ وَهُمْ
لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

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Until, when they came upon the valley of the ants, an ant said, "O ants, enter your dwellings that you not be **crushed** by Solomon and his soldiers while they perceive not."

[Surah An-Naml Ayah 18]

They criticized the placement and usage of the verb

خَطَمَ in this ayah.

يَخْطَمَنَّكُمْ comes from the verb **حَطَمَ** which means to shatter [like glass].

They were quiet happy with themselves when discovering this because they thought this was a mistake and that when an ant gets stepped on that their skeletal structure doesn't shatter and that the usage of this verb **حَطَمَ** is not used in the proper place and is not a correct description.

They said this verb by definition means to shatter which is true and they questioned how an ant could shatter as it isn't created from a substance that would make it shatter.

They began to spread this so called discovery of theirs which they deemed to be quite a tremendous find.

To top this, no one from amongst the Muslims stepped up to challenge this claim of theirs.

Things remained like this for a number of years until an Australian scientist embarked on an extensive research regarding the make-up of an ant and uncovered what no one could have expected.

The ant has a strong external skeleton [exoskeleton] which protects and supports the fragile body of the ant. It is inflexible, so the ant's skeleton gets crushed when pressed just as glass does. So, an ant's body can get 'shattered'.

How precise and accurate each word of the Quran is! After discovering this, the Australian scientist became a Muslim.

Taken from the series

لَمَسَاتُ بَيَانِيَّةٌ لِلدُّكْتُورِ فَاضِلِ السَّامِرَائِيِّ

Lamasaat Bayaaniyyah By. Dr. Faadhil As-Saamaraa'i

[May ALLAH preserve him.]

And other sources

Abu Ezra

أَبُو عَزِيرٍ

