The Ant Kingdom

Of all the myriad of animal systems that God has set up on earth, certainly ants are among the most amazing. There are about 10,000 species of ants, and they live essentially everywhere on earth. They have been around for 100 million years or so, with fossil ants nearly identical to ants of today. Most species live in highly organized colonies with a queen, a few workers, and a large number of soldiers. There are about 10,000 species of ants, and they live from the tundra to the desert. All the creatures on earth are communities like you and me. Like you, they make their homes. They provide for themselves until new workers are born.

In creating a new colony, an amazing string of instinctive behaviors occurs. The queen flies out, mates (like the honeybee, the male falls dead), and finds a new place. She makes a shallow nest and dismantles her wings. She gathers dirt and debris to make a nest, and stores away in the nest, digging new chambers underground, making repairs where needed. They also keep the colony clean, removing dirt and debris and the dead. Soldiers are equipped with larger heads, armorlike covering and larger and stronger jaws. They will attack insects, other ant colonies and raise them as slaves. There are army ants which are constantly moving and hunting down insects. There are ants which keep herds of aphids. There are ants which steal eggs from other ant colonies and raise them as slaves. There are ants which produce from the aphids a substance the aphids produce from the plants. And in the Quran, sura 27, entitled "The Ant," there is the charming story of Solomon's troops, verses 18 and 19: When they approached the valley of the ants, one ant said, "O you ants, go into your homes, lest you get crushed by Solomon and his soldiers, without perceiving." He (Solomon) smiled and laughed at her statement... Both references are pointedly feminine, again something that would not have been known at the time.

God has provided some amazing ways of life among the many species of ants. There are ants which steal eggs from other ant colonies and raise them as slaves. There are army ants which are constantly moving and hunting down insects. There are ants which keep herds of aphids and actually milk them, enjoying the substance the aphids produce from the flowers. There are ants which work in teams to saw leaves together to use in building their nests. And there are "parasol" ants which carry large leaf segments over their heads like umbrellas back to the nest, where they partially chew them, then use them as mulch to grow mushrooms. In the future, we should be thankful of what we have now. We should try our best, then whatever God provides us, we should be content and thankful for it. If we want happiness in this life and in the Hereafter, we should start counting what we have, not what we lack. Whatever God provides for you, no matter how small, is better for you if you are appreciative... [638]

THE ANT KINGDOM

Chapter 6, verses 6 through 8: Go to the ants, 0 sluggard, study their ways and learn wisdom; for though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, she procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest. And in the Quran, sura 27, entitled "The Ant," there is the charming story of Solomon's troops, verses 18 and 19: When they approached the valley of the ants, one ant said, "O you ants, go into your homes, lest you get crushed by Solomon and his soldiers, without perceiving." He (Solomon) smiled and laughed at her statement... Both references are pointedly feminine, again something that would not have been known at the time.

God has provided some amazing ways of life among the many species of ants. There are ants which steal eggs from other ant colonies and raise them as slaves. There are army ants which are constantly moving and hunting down insects. There are ants which keep herds of aphids and actually milk them, enjoying the substance the aphids produce from the flowers. There are ants which work in teams to saw leaves together to use in building their nests. And there are "parasol" ants which carry large leaf segments over their heads like umbrellas back to the nest, where they partially chew them, then use them as mulch to grow mushrooms. - Their food of choice.

"He created the earth for all creatures... Which of your Lord's marvels can you deny?" [55:10,13] 

Lydia Kelley / Tucson

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Think and Thank

And He gives you all kinds of things that you appreciate for. If you count GOD'S blessings, you can never enumerate them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative. [14:34]

God has given us many things in life that we should be thankful for. Houses, cars, children, our health, and many more. But who is counting? Many of us seldom think of what we have but always of what we lack. This tendency leads us to be greedy, and is probably one of the reasons for most of the misery on earth. We cannot have enough of anything, and always want more. We never get tired of asking for more.

Let me deal with one created as an individual. I provided him with lots of money. And children to behold. I made everything easy for him. Yet, he is greedy for more. [74:12-15] If we had everything we could possibly think of and we saw someone who had something we did not have, we would probably want to have that too, and right away. The greed nurtures our disbelief in God. We turn unappreciative.

How much are our eyes worth?

Often we realize and appreciate what we have after we lose it temporarily or after seeing someone who does not have it. For example, we rarely thank God for our health until we get sick. Then we loudly implore God to heal us. As soon as we feel better, we forget God and turn unappreciative again. [16:52-54] It never occurs to us that our eyes, hands, feet, and everything we have, are blessings from God until we see blind or handicapped people. The following words of a wise man express this attitude:

I had the brain because I had no shoes. Until upon the street, I met a man with no feet. Would any of us take a million dollars for our eyes, or our hands? God gave us all these priceless blessings unconditionally. In return, we should worship Him alone, and be appreciative of what He has given us.

The more appreciative we are of God's blessings, the better believers we can become, and the more blessings God promises to give us. In many verses of the Quran, believing in God and in the Hereafter is linked to being appreciative, and the word "kaafir" means both disbeliever and unappreciative.

Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then your retribution is severe. [14:7] You shall remember Me, that I may remunerate you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative. [2:152]

Do we have or do we lack?

When we are given half a glass of water, do we think that the glass is half full, or half empty? It sounds like a silly question, but it may tell us about how we feel in what God blessed us with. For example, we feel thank God that we are driving a nice late model car, or complain that we are not driving a luxury car instead?

We can set a goal for ourselves to drive the car of our dreams by God's will in the future, but we should be thankful of what we have now. We should try our best, then whatever God provides us, we should be content and thankful for it, not oblivious or objecting. If we want happiness in this life and in the Hereafter, we should start counting what we have, not what we lack.

What God provides for you, no matter how small, is better for you if you are appreciative... [11:86]

Abdullah, Ask

QURAN

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God has completely and fully detailed all things, including the description of the human being in the Quran. In the Quran, we live in temporary human being in the Quran. God explains all things, including the description of the being brought out knowing nothing, as our only goal, and finally, God describes the opposite of the things we can do. (164, 225, 2312-15). We can invite God to guide us, (3528). We know that every step along the way is integral to the path of the righteous. This man, Lenin, who advocated the view that religion is "the epitome of the masses," was himself transformed into a saint-like idol by his followers. This demonstrates that the human being is a political and social idol. Why is this happening just because he was bad. We were so much better than that. We, the Russians, going to be his advocate? In fact, the Russians were his current admirers. The human being is also capable of truthfulness, kindness, charity, equity, and love. We can love one another, and be kind to all beings. The human being is wise, (4523). We are instructed to look at the world around us. We have all seen videos and TV programs that describe the world around us in perfect, if puzzling ways—what we call "profiles in prostration". We are instructed to read as follows: "We only live this life; we live and die and only time causes our death!" Happiness is a quality of the soul, not the body. Love is a quality of the soul, not the body. Happiness is a quality of the soul, not the body. We know that every step along the way is integral to the path of the righteous.