



سُورَةُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ

Surat al-'Ankabūt (29)

The Spider

COMMENTARY OF THE QUR'AN

RAMADĀN 2020

Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

Nightly Sessions

Facilitated by Shaykh Saleem Bhimji

Streamed live on YouTube under “**Islamic
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Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

- Revealed in Mecca
- 29th chapter of the Qur’an
- Contains 69 verses
- Just as a handful of other chapters of the Quran, this is named after one of the creations of Allah – the Spider (others include Cow, Bee, Ant, Elephant).
- The name of the chapter is adopted from the analogy in verse 41 which speaks about the fragility of a “faith” built upon polytheism (shirk) which is compared to the web of the spider.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

God's precedence in testing humans' faith

Testing people's faith at all times. (Verses 1-4)

Different groups going through Divine Trials. (Verses 5-13)

Consequences of disbelieving in Prophets sent by God. (Verses 14-44)

The trials which those who opposed the Prophets went through. (Verses 45-68)

Achievements of those who struggle in the way of God – Divine Mercy and Guidance. (Verse 69)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

الم

1. Alif Lam Mim

- Disjointed letters start 29 chapters of the Quran – and in a majority of the cases (24), the verse which follows is about the Quran.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

Possible Meaning of the
Disjointed Letters

The Quran is made
up of these “basic”
letters



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

كَذَّبَتْ قُرَيْشٌ وَ الْيَهُودُ بِالْقُرْآنِ وَ قَالُوا: سِحْرٌ مَّيِّينٌ، تَقَوَّلَهُ، فَقَالَ اللَّهُ: «أَلَمْ ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ...» أَيْ يَا مُحَمَّدُ هَذَا الْكِتَابُ الَّذِي أَنْزَلْتُهُ عَلَيْكَ هُوَ الْحُرُوفُ الْمَقْطَعَةُ الَّتِي مِنْهَا أَلِفٌ، لَامٌ، مِيمٌ وَ هُوَ بَلُغَتِكُمْ وَ حُرُوفٍ هِجَائِكُمْ، فَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ...

Imam al-Sajjad, peace be upon him, has said: The Quraysh and the Jews lied about the Quran and they say, “[This Quran] is nothing but plain magic which he (Muhammad) has fabricated!” To this, Allah replies: *“Alif, Laam, Meem, That is The Book...”* meaning, O Muhammad! This is The Book which I have sent down upon you [and it made up of] these disjointed letters of which are the Alif, Laam and Meem and these are in your language and the letters of your alphabet, so then tell these people that they should bring something like the Quran if they are truthful!” (Tafseer al-Burhan, v. 1, pg. 54)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

...ثُمَّ قَالَ (عليه السلام) إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَ تَعَالَى أَنْزَلَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ بِهَذِهِ الْحُرُوفِ الَّتِي يَتَدَاوَلُهَا جَمِيعُ الْعَرَبِ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: قُلْ لَئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَى أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ...

Imam al-Ridha, peace be upon him, has said: “Indeed Allah, Blessed and Exalted is He, sent down this Quran composed of these same letters which are common amongst all of the Arabs and which they use. And then Allah said, *‘Say: Even if all of humanity and the Jinn were to gather together to produce the likes of this Quran...’*” (Al-Tawheed of Shaykh Saduq, pg. 162)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢﴾ وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ
فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

2. Do the people think that they will be left alone and not tried with hardships for the mere fact that they profess belief. 3. Whereas We did already try those who were before them with hardships. Allah will surely bring to light those who are true in their faith as He will bring to light also the liars (by putting them into troubles).



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

- One of the most important lessons to learn in this life.
- “Tests” in life are a part of the *sunnatullah*.
- Muslims believe that Allah knows EVERYTHING, so why does He say:

فَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

Allah will surely bring to light those who are true in their faith as He will bring to light also the liars (by putting them into troubles).



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

The meaning of “knowledge” here is the objective realization of the human being - in other words, the emergence of the confirmation of the person’s faith or lack thereof.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

THEREFORE:

Divine tests and trials are not for the individual to know their status, but rather, it is for the cultivation and flourishing of our hidden, inner talents and abilities.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

Therefore, when we test others, it is for us to **discover the unknown**; however when Allah tests us, it is **not** to discover the unknown – as His knowledge encompasses everything – rather, it is to **cultivate our talents** and for us to **actualize our abilities**.



Sūrat Al-ʿAnkabūt: Verses 1 to 4



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ يَسْبِقُونَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ ﴿٤﴾

4. Or do those who do evil deeds think that they will escape
Our punishment? How ill they judge!

- The *sunnatullah* will also reach the evil doers.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

Points for Reflection

1. True faith is not just a slogan, rather it must be accompanied by being tested.
2. The tests which humanity faces are one of the *sunnatullah* – the Divine Habits – which everyone must go through.
3. One of the best ways we can prepare ourselves for the future is to study the past.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 1 to 4

Questions or Comments?

Leave your questions about these verses or ANY comments in the comment section in YouTube. We will do our best to reply to your questions in our next session on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

