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COMMENTARY OF THE QUR'AN RAMADĀN 2020

Sūrat Al-'Ankabūt: Introduction

Nightly Sessions

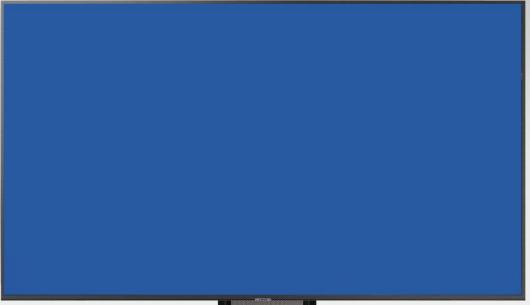
Facilitated by Shaykh Saleem Bhimji

Streamed live on YouTube under "Islamic Publishing House"

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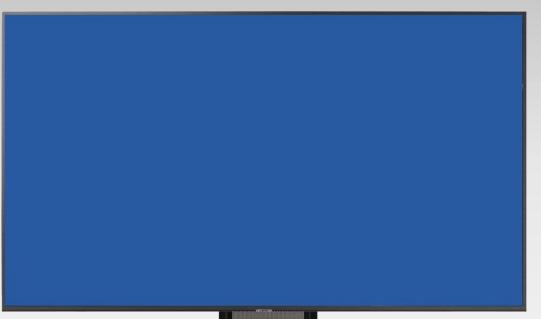
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Sūrat Al-'Ankabūt: Introduction

- 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 speakers 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

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

Different Consequences of disbelieving groups going through Divine in Prophets Trials. (Verses 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)



5-13)

المن 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.





Possible Meaning of the Disjointed Letters

The Quran is made up of these "basic" letters





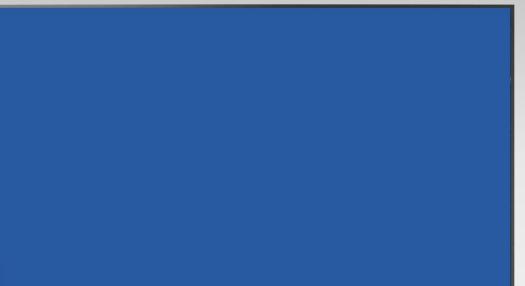
كَذَبَتْ قُرَيْشٌ وَ الْيَهُودُ بِالْقُرْآنِ وَ قالُوا: سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ، تَقَوَّلَهُ، فَقالَ اللهُ: «الم ذلِکَ الْكِتابُ...» أَىْ يا مُحَمَّدُ هذَا الْكِتابُ الَّذِى أَنْزَلَتُهُ عَلَيْکَ هُوَ الْحُرُوفُ الْمُقَطَّعَةُ الَّتِى مِنْها ألفٌ، لامٌ، مِيمٌ وَ هُوَ بِلُغَتِكُمْ وَ حُرُوفِ هِجائِكُمْ، فَأَتُوا مِثْلِهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صادِقِين...

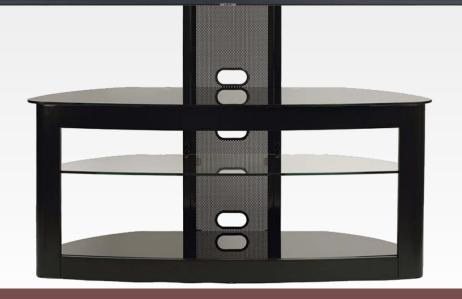
Imam al-Sajjad, peace be upon him, has said: The Quraysh and the Jews lied about the Quran and they say, "[This Quran] is nothing but plain magic which he (Muhammad) has fabricated!" To this, Allah replies: "Alif, Laam, Meem, That is The Book..." meaning, O Muhammad! This is The Book which I have sent 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.



...ثُمَّ قالَ(عليه السلام) إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبارَكَ وَ تَعالى أَنْزَلَ هذَا الْقُرَآنَ بِهذِهِ الْحُرُوفِ الَّتِي يَتَداوَلُها جَمِيعُ الْعَرَبِ، ثُمَّ قالَ: قُلْ لَئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الإِنْسُ وَ الْجِنَّ عَلى أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هذَا الْقُرْآن...

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)





أَحَسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ أوَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ؟

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).



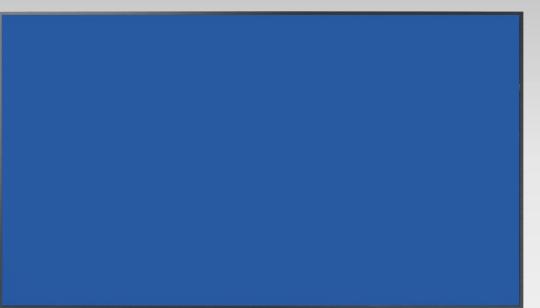
- One of the most important lessons to learn in this life.
- "Tests" in life are a part of the *sunnatullah.*
- Muslims believe that Allah knows EVERYTHING, so why does He say:

فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ ٢

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).



- 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.





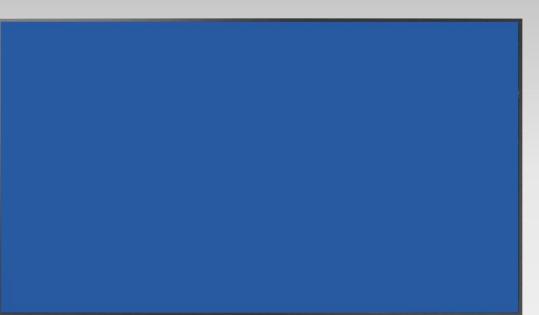
THEREFORE:

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.





- 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.







أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيَّعَاتِ أَنْ يَسْبِقُونَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ؟

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.

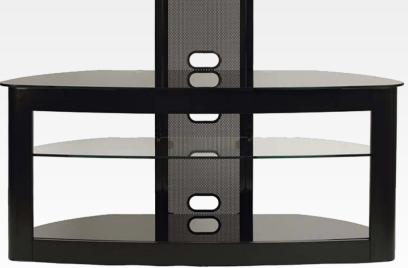




Points for Reflection

- 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.





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.

