


سُورَةُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ
Surat al-‘Ankabūt (29)

The Spider

COMMENTARY OF THE QUR'AN
RAMADAN 2020

Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Review for Today



Session 17
Review for Today
Āyah 41



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

God’s precedence in testing humans’ faith

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

4 Verses



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

9 Verses



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

31 Verses

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

24 Verses

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

1 Verse



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ كَمَثَلِ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ
اتَّخَذَتْ بِئْتًا وَإِنَّ أَوْهَنَ الْبُيُوتِ لَبَيْتُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ لَوْ كَانُوا
يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

The example of those who take helping friends (awliya) apart from Allah is like the case of the spider that takes *to itself* a house – *its web* - yet of *all* houses, the house of the spider is the frailest. If they - *humanity* - but knew *the flimsiness and fragility of their idols they would not have sought their protection.* (41)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

PARABLES IN THE QURAN



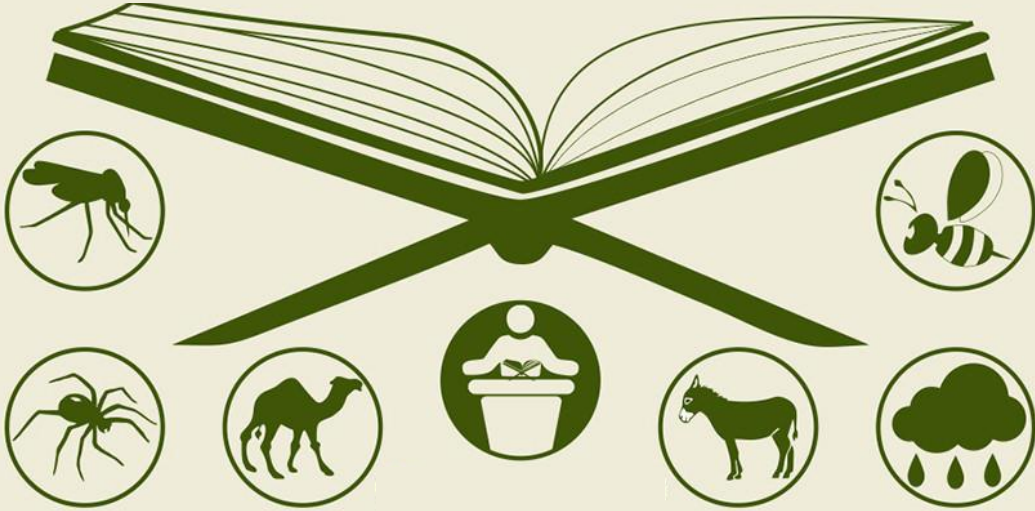
Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَلُ

AND THESE ARE THE EXAMPLES

نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ وَمَا يَعْقِلُهَا إِلَّا الْعَالِمُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

**WHICH WE SET FORTH FOR HUMANITY, BUT NONE WILL GRASP
THEIR MEANING EXCEPT THE KNOWLEDGEABLE**



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41



Spider

- Those who take other than God as their *Awliya'* - protectors, helpers, supporters – people or things.



Web

- Things which they rely on OTHER THAN Allah - money, power, status, fame, anything else.



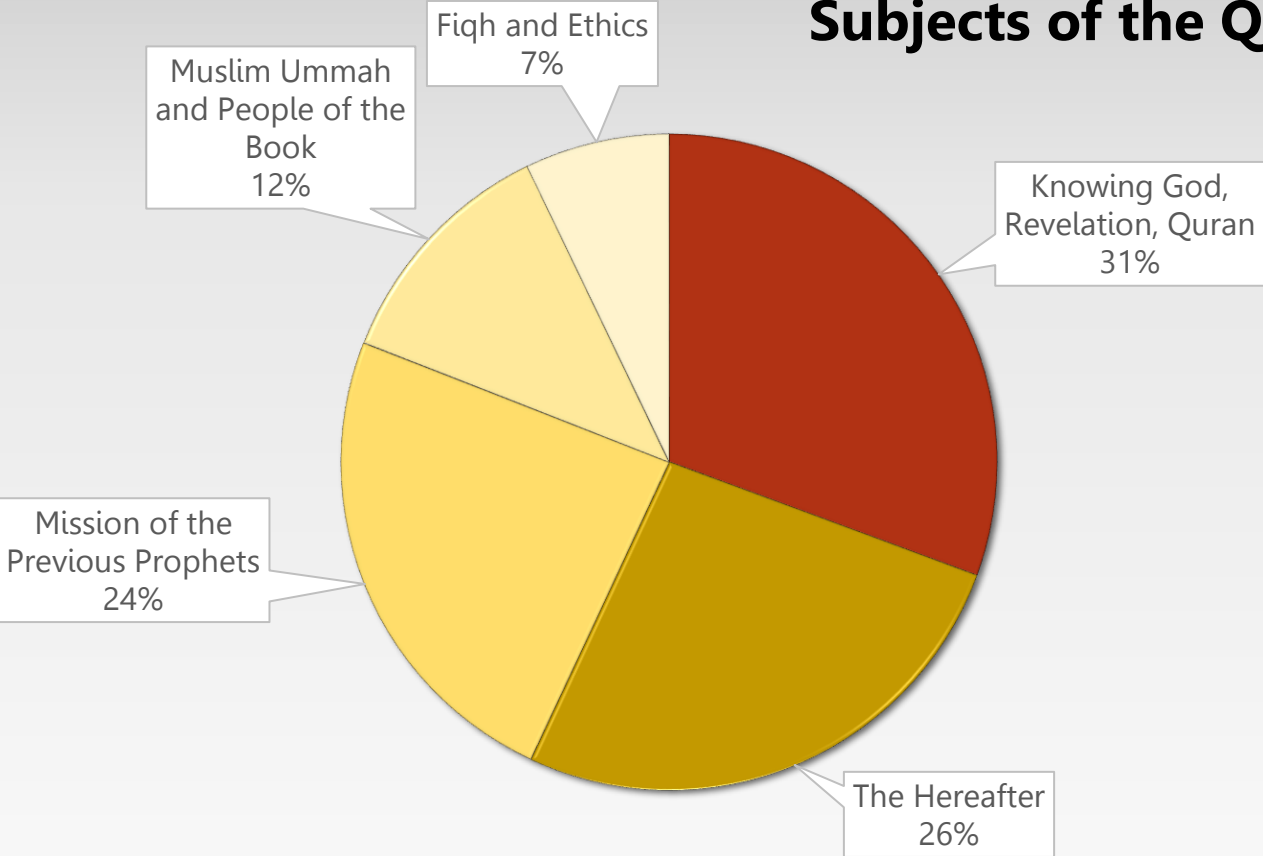
Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAWHID



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

Subjects of the Quran



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

THE WEB OF A SPIDER

THE WEB OF OUR LIVES



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

“The work of the spider in creating its web is a sign of the amazement which exists in the creations of Allah – it should point us back to the greatness of the Creator **AND ALSO** should be a lesson which we learn from.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

The web structure exemplifies both exquisite material and undeniable apparent strength. The woven silk of the spider shows beauty and elegance while the strength of the web, in the face of creations of a similar size speak to its durability.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

However in reality, when we study the web more closely, we see that it is a weak house, floating in the air, with nothing to support it. The web can easily be destroyed – by even blowing on it!



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

This is the parable of those whose beliefs are founded on other than God. A person who relies purely on material resources, cutting himself off from God, in actuality, has nothing to show for their lives – just like the spider’s web.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

Their lives are built on false hopes which can easily be shattered by the slightest turbulence in their lives. Their self-perceived strength is actually a major spiritual weakness which will eventually lead to their destruction.”



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

THE APPARENT: Looks beautiful and is perhaps the most elegant and intricate of all creations on earth.

THE REALITY: However, it has NONE of the benefits of a real house like protection from the elements and can easily break apart.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

THE QURAN TEACHES:

1. Taking **ANYONE** or **ANYTHING** other than Allah as a friend, protector, trust, dependence, etc. has its own “beauty” to it;
2. Such support and reliance is **NOT** permanent and has no stability and will be broken by the smallest incident in life.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

Points for Reflection

1. Just as spiders build their web **WHEN** and **WHERE** they need to, so too rejection and disregard for God and **attachment** to other than Him resides in the hearts of individuals **WHEN** and **WHERE** they need to.
2. The spider “thinks” that his web can provide him all that he needs to survive – and it may help him for a while, just like those who rely on other than God think that their wealth, power, status, looks, etc. can fulfill their requirements needed in life – and it may help them temporarily.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verse 41

Points for Reflection

3. The mastership of Allah makes the believers “like a firm, solid wall” (Surah al-Saff, Verse 4) while the mastership of **ANYTHING** other than Allah makes the believers “the frailest of homes” (Surah al-Ankabut, Verse 41)

