



**STORIES
FOR
THINKING
CHILDREN
.!**



HARUN YAHYA

Children! In this book of stories that has been specially written just for you are a lot of important facts. You will find many examples of the marvels in the living things created by Allah, and will once again see the unique nature of our Lord's power. You will also remember to respond to every event created by Allah with patience and submission and to give thanks to our Lord at every moment.

You will learn why it is very important to behave well to people around you, that cleanliness is a feature of a believer, and that pleasant words are a virtue that is pleasing to Allah.

These are the names of some of the stories in this book:

Anwar and the Tortoise, What Rasheed's Brother Taught Him, Omar and the Penguin, Jamal and the Parrot, There's Good in Everything, It's Important to Follow the Good Word, The Cleanliness of Believers, Naeem and the Pretty Peacock, Anwar and the Little Bird, Maqsud and the Kitten, Sayid and the Squid, Kareem and Grandpa Hassan.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values He prescribed for them.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اللّٰهُ
رَسُولُ
مُحَمَّدٍ

About the Author


Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His pen-name is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into



their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

Dear Kids!

- A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.
- All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.
- This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.
- In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.
- We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.
- In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

www.harunyahya.com

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STORIES

FOR THINKING

CHILDREN

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Say Your Prayers Before
Prayers Are Said For You

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Clarksville, Maryland 21029 USA

Phone: (410) 531-9653

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e-mail: info@khatoons.com

<http://www.khatoons.com>

Printed by: SECIL OFSET - December 2003

100 Yil Mahallesi MAS-SIT Matbaacilar Sitesi

4. Cadde No: 77 Bagcilar-Istanbul

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AMAR and the TORTOISE

One day, Amar was reading one of his favorite stories, "The Hare and the Tortoise." He laughed at what happened to the hare and learned from the tortoise how important it is to use one's head and that cleverness is more than a match for physical superiority. While he was thinking about these things, he suddenly realized that the tortoise in the book had come alive on the page and had started talking to him:

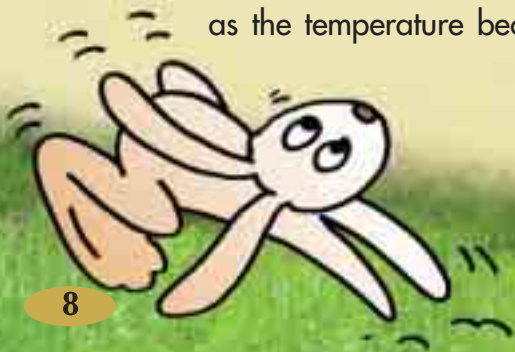
The tortoise began by saying: "Hi Amar! It's great that you are so young and clever enough to learn a lesson from the story about the hare and me."

Amar asked "How old are you?"

The tortoise replied: "I'm not as young as I look; I am actually 45 years old. Tortoises live for about 60 years; and there's even one kind of tortoise called the 'Testudo' that can live as long as 189 years."

"What's your favorite season?" asked Amar.

The tortoise replied: "Warm weather is very important for our survival. Our body temperature changes with the temperature of the air around us and is usually between 32.2 and 32.4 Fahrenheit (0.1 and 0.2 degrees Celcius) lower than that of the air. Our digestive system speeds up as the temperature becomes hotter. When Allah created us, He



*Everything in the heavens
and everything in the
Earth belongs to Him.
Allah is the Rich Beyond
Need, the Praiseworthy.
(Surat al-Hajj: 64)*



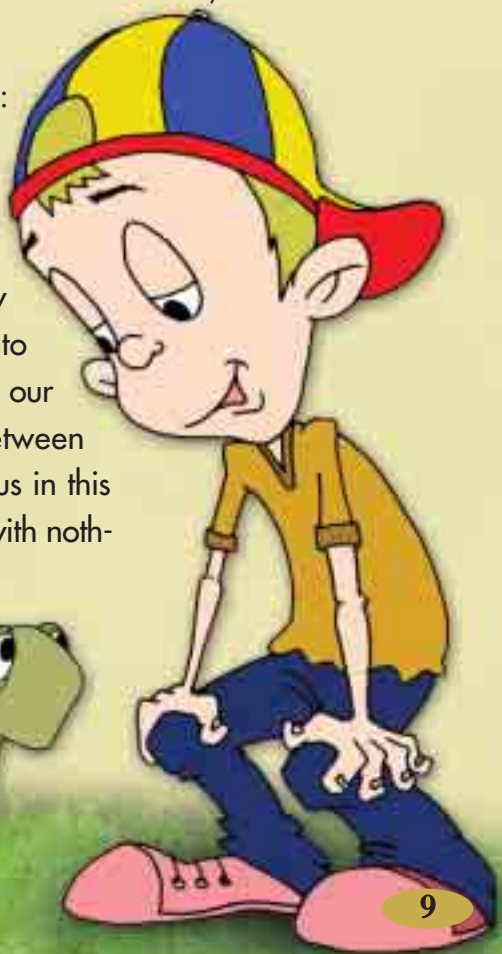
gave us this characteristic to make it easier for us to survive when it is very hot. We need all the gifts that Allah gives us, but He is Rich Beyond Need."


Amar then wondered: "What's your favorite food?"

"We love yellow squash. Our eyes are very sharp, and they see yellows best. That means we can easily find our favorite food," responded the tortoise.

Amar had another question for the tortoise: "Do you hibernate in winter?"

The tortoise explained: "Yes. When the weather gets colder, from October on, and food becomes harder to find, our bodies slow down and we protect ourselves by going to sleep for several months. Our heartbeat and our breathing slow down. We hibernate between October and March. Because Allah created us in this way, we don't have to stay awake in winter with nothing to eat, which would be fatal to us. Allah has protected





us for generations by sending us to sleep at just the right time."

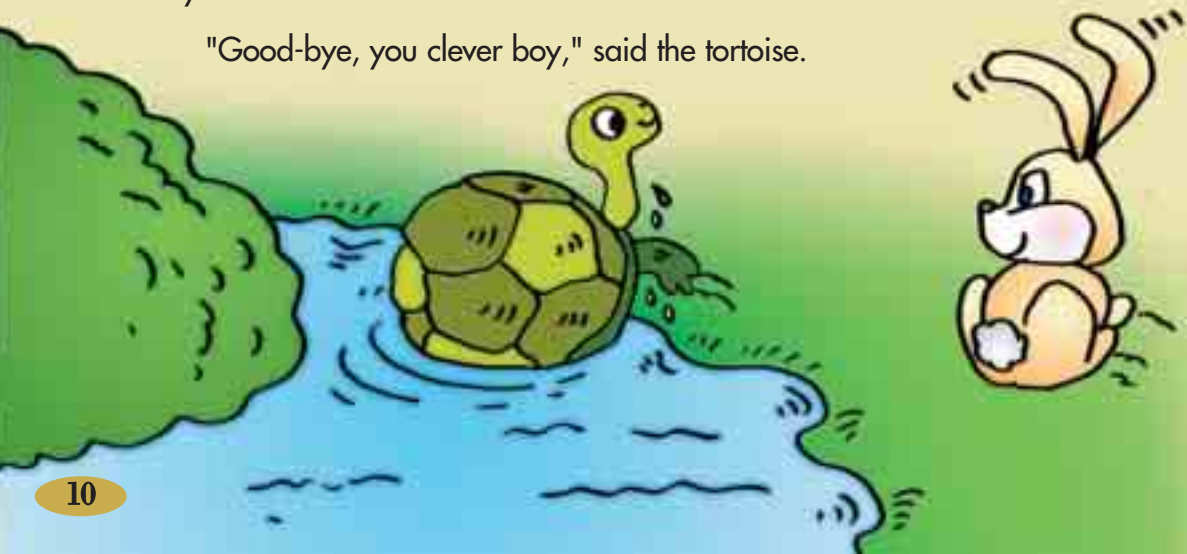
Amar had more to ask: "I know you live on dry land, but I also think some of you live in the water. Can you tell me about them?"


The tortoise smiled: "You're right, Amar. There are tortoises, fresh water turtles and sea turtles among us. I live on dry land, for example. I prefer fields, soft soil and grapevines. Fresh water turtles, the kind you keep in aquariums, like lakes and river banks. Sea turtles live in the warm seas and come onto land to lay their eggs. Let me tell you something interesting about the Caretta sea turtle:

Caretta caretta go to warm beaches to lay their eggs. Allah inspires the young turtles that hatch from the eggs to head toward the light reflected off the sea, in other words, to go straight toward where they will live. How do these baby turtles know that the sea is the best place for them to live in? It must be because our Lord inspires that knowledge in them."

Amar said: "You're right. Everyone with a mind to think with must know that the world is full of Allah's wonders. We must always remember that you and I, all animals and trees and everything else are a sign of Him. It was nice to talk to you. Thanks for telling me so much. Bye-bye."

"Good-bye, you clever boy," said the tortoise.





Long-Legged Storks

Storks are large migratory birds between 3-5 feet (1-1.5 meters) tall with big, white wings.

Their red beaks and legs make them look cute. Every year, storks migrate in large numbers because they can't live in cold regions. Storks thus tell us that the hot days of summer are coming, and it is a miracle they know when the weather is about to warm up. The following year, when spring has come round again, storks return on their miles-long journey and find their old nests. Of course it is Allah Who inspires such a good memory and sense of direction in them.



HUSSEIN AND THE ELEPHANT

Hussein's mother took him to the zoo one week-end. It was the first time he had seen so many different animals in one place. They went to the elephant house. A young elephant was tripping over his trunk and falling down, and the baby's mother came to his help every time he did so.

The mother elephant saw Hussein looking at them and explained: "You see, my baby is so young, he doesn't know how to use his trunk yet. He will not leave my side for 12 full years, and for the first six months I will teach him to use his trunk properly."

Hussein answered: "I have always wondered what do elephants use their trunks for? Do you breathe through them?"

The mother elephant told him: "It is our trunks that make us different from all other animals. Our nostrils are at the end of our trunks, and we use them to carry food and water to our mouths, pick things up and to smell things with; we can hold up to 1 gallon (four liters) of water in them. And did you know, we can pick even up a tiny pea with them? We didn't acquire our trunks by chance. They are a gift from the mercy of Almighty Allah, Who created everything."

Hussein then enquired, "How do you manage to find enough to eat?"

The mother elephant explained: "We are the biggest animals on Earth. An elephant eats about 730 pounds (330 kilos) of plants every day. We have to spend 16 hours a day eating."

Hussein thought of another question, "What about your teeth?"



The mother elephant answered: "As you can see, on either side of my mouth I have two long, sharp teeth. We defend ourselves with these teeth and also use them to dig holes to find water. Of course, our teeth wear down a lot doing all this work, and for that reason, Almighty Allah has given us a special ability. A new tooth grows from behind to replace the old, worn out one. Because Allah created us in this way, we are able to grow a new tooth and use it properly."

Hussein thought for a moment, "You must be hungry, your stomach is rumbling."

The mother elephant smiled: "We make these sounds to communicate with one another. We can talk to one another from as far away as 2.5 miles (4 km)."

Hussein was puzzled, "So, how do you talk to one another?"

The mother elephant said: "Allah created a special organ in our foreheads that makes sounds that human beings can't hear. So we speak in a code that other animals can't understand and we can hear one another across very long distances. As you can see, Allah's magnificent creation can be seen very well in us elephants. Don't forget that we have to think about these things and thank Allah all the time!"

Hussein nodded: "Thanks for telling me all those things. Now I have to go back to my mother."

"Good-bye Hussein," said the mother elephant.

On his way back to his mother, Hussein wondered, "Who knows how great Allah's miracles are in other animals?"



What Rasheed's Brother Taught Him



Rasheed was walking to the bus stop one day to go home after school. While he was waiting at there, he began listening to a conversation a group of other children were having. One of them was speaking with a loud voice, pointing to his shirt and an electric car he was holding in his hand. Rasheed began to pay more attention, and was able to make out what they were saying.

The name of the boy speaking so loudly was Asim. He was telling his friends about his expensive clothes and latest toys. When he arrived home, Rasheed could not get what the boy said out of his mind. When his brother, Zubair, saw that Rasheed was deep in thought, he sat down beside him.

"What's going on, Rasheed? What are you thinking about?" he asked.

Rasheed answered: "I saw a boy on my way home. He was talking to his friends about his fine clothes and nice toys. He was being



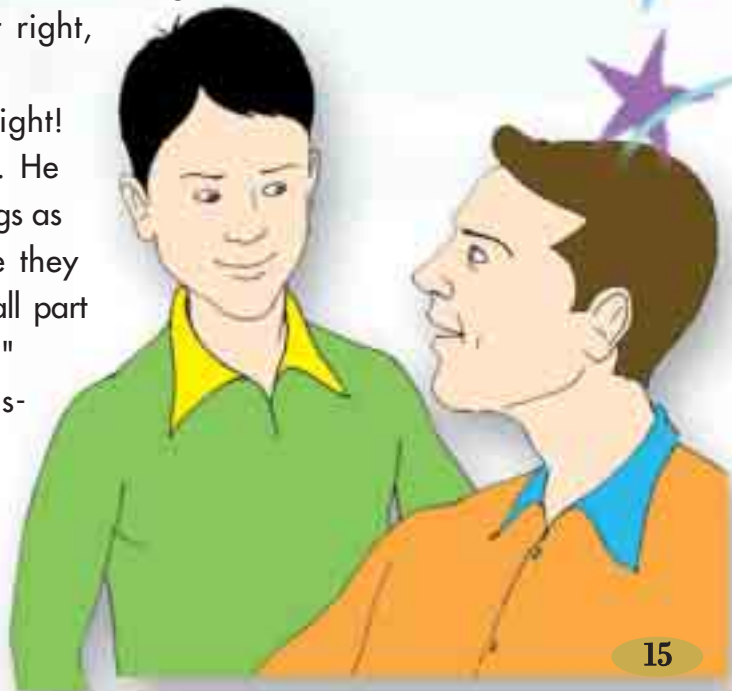
really thoughtless; he didn't care that some of his friends could not afford to buy such things. I thought his behavior was very wrong." Zubair agreed: "You're right, Rasheed, what he did was not right at all. Allah has given us all different blessings. The fact that a person has more fine things, is more good-looking or successful, is not due to his own ability at all. Allah has given us these things to test us and to see how we will act if He gives us such blessings.

The behavior most pleasing to Allah is when a person doesn't forget that Allah has given him everything he has. We must not boast about or be spoiled by the blessings Allah has given us; we must always behave modestly. Anyway, it's Satan who gets puffed up with pride. If you remember, the verse we read yesterday was about this matter. Allah tells us that: **'That is so that you will not be grieved about the things that pass you by or exult about the things that come to you. Allah does not love any vain or boastful man.'** (Surat al-Hadid: 23)"

Rasheed nodded: "So, we shouldn't become spoiled by what Allah has given us, and we shouldn't get sad or frustrated when we lose something. Is that right, Zubair?"

Zubair smiled: "Right! Allah owns everything. He gives us as many blessings as He wills to give us. Be they many or few, they are all part of the trials of this world."

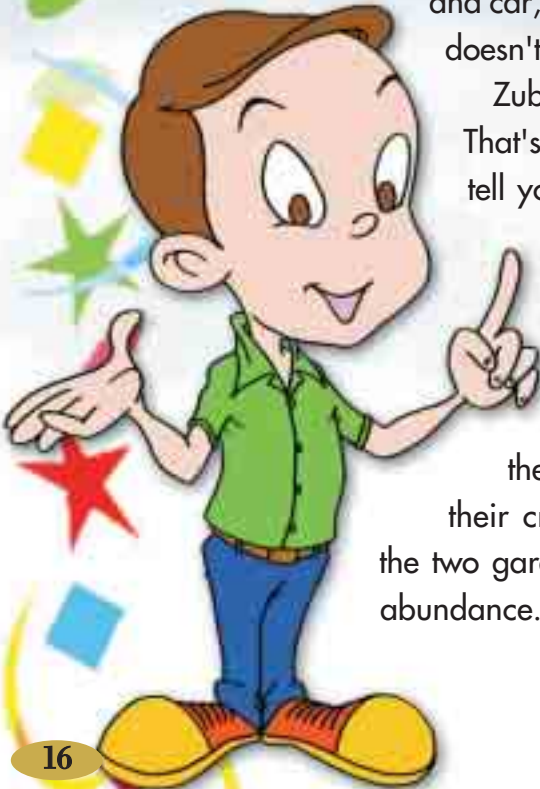
Rasheed had a question for his brother: "In



Allah brought you out of your mothers' wombs knowing nothing at all, and gave you hearing, sight and hearts so that perhaps you would show thanks. (Surat an-Nahl: 78)

one verse, Allah says: 'Do not direct your eyes longingly to what We have given certain of them to enjoy, the flower of the life of this world, so that We can test them by it. Your Lord's provision is better and longer lasting.' (Surah Ta Ha: 131) What Asim did was wrong, but wasn't it also wrong for his friends to be impressed and act in a way that wouldn't be pleasing to Allah? Although it is Allah Who has given us our clothes, food, home and car, being spoiled really humiliates us, doesn't it?"

Zubair thought for a moment: "Sure. That's a good way to explain it. Let me tell you a story from the Qur'an as an example. In the Qur'an, Allah gives an example of two men. One of them had two gardens. Allah filled each garden with dates and various crops. When the time came, both gardens yielded their crops. There was a river between the two gardens and so the man had fruit in abundance. When the owner of the garden



spoke to his friend, he would humiliate him by saying: 'I have more wealth than you and more people under me.' (Surat al-Kahf: 34) Flaunting all the property he owned, he would go to his garden, and showing it to his friend he would say:

... I do not think that this will ever end. I do not think the Hour will ever come. But if I should be sent back to my Lord, I will definitely get something better in return. (Surat al-Kahf: 35-36)

His friend warned him:

Why, when you entered your garden, did you not say, 'It is as Allah wills, there is no strength but in Allah?' Though you see me with less wealth and children than you possess, it may well be that my Lord will give me something better than your garden... (Surat al-Kahf: 39-40)

The owner of the garden did not take these warnings seriously, and finally Allah punished him. One night He sent a storm to destroy all his crops.

When the owner of the garden got up in the morning and saw that he had lost his prized crops, he understood that Allah has infinite power and that everything is under His control. We must never forget this story, Rasheed, and must always behave in the way it tells us to."



OMAR AND THE PENGUIN



Before he went to bed one night, Omar watched a documentary film with his father. It was all about animals, and he was surprised to see how some animals survived under the most difficult conditions. As he got into bed, he thought about what he had seen. He imagined that he lived where those animals did, and suddenly he found himself in a place all covered with snow. He began to wander around.

All of a sudden, he heard a voice say, "Welcome, Omar!"

"Who are you?" Omar asked.

"I am a penguin," came the answer.

The creature that was speaking looked just like it was wearing a tuxedo. Omar remembered what it was right away. There had been a segment about penguins in the documentary he had watched with his father that evening.

"Oh yes," said Omar: "I just saw something about your life on television. It's really freezing here. Don't you ever get cold?"

The penguin answered: "This is the South Pole, and the temperatures here can go as low as a freezing -130 degrees Fahrenheit (-88 degrees Celsius). This environment would kill many animals, but we have no difficulty living here, although this is only because of some special qualities that Allah has given us.

Because of a thick layer of fat under our skin, we are not affected by the cold as much as other animals. And when winter comes, we go farther south along the coast."

Omar remembered: "That means you migrate! What other qualities do you have that I don't know about? For example, the documentary said that you take great care of your eggs until the babies hatch from them. Can you tell me about that, please?"

The penguin smiled: "Of course. Unlike many animals, it is the male penguins who incubate the eggs rather than the females. And they do this in -22 degree temperatures Fahrenheit (-30 degrees Celcius) for 65 days without ever moving. Meanwhile, the mother penguin goes away to look for food for the babies that will be born. After they are born, the chicks spend their first month on the feet of their mother and father. If they leave there for even two minutes they will freeze to death."

Omar nodded: "That means you really have to be careful, then?"

The penguin replied: "Allah has taught every animal how to act. We just do what Allah has inspired in us."

Omar agreed: "Our Lord has taught every creature where and when it should settle and how to find food. The life of you penguins is a good example of this."

The penguin turned around: "You can find lots of different examples in other creatures. My family is waiting for me, so I must go now, I'm afraid."

Suddenly Omar heard the sound of a bell ringing. It was morning and his alarm clock had gone off. He then realized that his little journey had just been a pleasant dream.





JAMAL AND THE PARROT

Jamal had always wanted to keep a pet bird at home. He couldn't believe his eyes that day when his father came home carrying a large cage. He took off the cover and saw a bright yellow and purple parrot inside. Jamal was so happy. That first evening, Jamal and the parrot had a deep conversation.

Jamal said: "Hi pretty parrot. I want to feed you really well, so I need to learn everything about you. First of all, can you tell me what your favorite food is?"

"My favorite food is seeds," said the parrot.

"How do you eat them?" Jamal asked.

The parrot explained: "I can hold my food with my two feet and eat it just like a sandwich. I am an expert at opening the two halves of the seed shell with my tongue. The fact that I can satisfy my hunger in this way is a grace and blessing from Allah."

Jamal then asked: "I'm very curious. How did you get those incredibly beautiful colors in your feathers?"

"Like all birds," said the parrot, "my rich colors come from a substance stored inside my feathers when they first begin to form, and is related to the way light bounces off them. Did you know that when my feathers fall out they are replaced with new ones? And every time they grow back they have the same color. This is another proof of the perfection of Allah's creation."

Jamal nodded: "That's really wonderful. Can you also imitate the

**He is Allah—the Creator,
the Maker, the Giver of Form...
(Surat al-Hashr: 24)**

sounds you hear? How do you do that?"

"I can imitate the sounds I hear, but I can't understand them. This also happens by Allah's will. Otherwise, how could a creature like me without any intelligence or will develop the ability to imitate sounds? Only our Almighty Lord has the power to design such a colorful talking bird as me. It is He Who makes things so perfectly," explained the parrot.

Jamal smiled: "My admiration for the Almighty Allah is growing more and more as I look at you. I also will do everything I can to make sure you are comfortable here. Once again, then, 'welcome home,' pretty parrot."

"Remember," said the parrot: "The best thing we can do when we see all the perfection of our Almighty Lord's creation of the universe is to remember His greatness, thank Him and always keep Him in our minds."



THERE'S GOOD IN EVERYTHING

Ali is a good student in primary school. His teacher and his friends like him very much. He's always organized, and He respects his mother, father and those older than himself. But Ali over-reacts to things that happen to him and worries about things that have not happened. For example, when there are going to be exams at school, he's always afraid of getting a bad mark, and even though he studies hard for them, he worries himself sick. This often makes it hard for him to concentrate, and sometimes he has even given wrong answers to the questions he actually knows perfectly well. When there is something that Ali cannot do, or when things don't turn out the way he wants, he quickly becomes filled with a sense of hopeless sadness. He gets angry with himself when he wonders why he couldn't do something, or why something did not turn out right.

One day, while returning home from school, Ali was very happy and, as always, excited. When he reached his home, his mother was preparing dinner in the kitchen. He immediately started to tell his mother what had happened at school.

"Mom," he said excitedly: "We're going on a school picnic at the week-end. We're going to have good food, play ball, go hiking, sing songs and play games. Isn't that great?"

"Yes, Ali, that's very good news," smiled his mother. "Come now, wash your hands and start your homework."





Ali did what his mother told him. He washed his hands and face, and started his homework. But he was still excited. He was thinking about how much fun they were going to have on the picnic. Suddenly, a thought occurred to him. He thought: "What if I'm sick at the week-end? Then I won't be able go on the picnic. I will have to stay home in bed while my friends are all playing ball." All at once he became depressed. All his joy vanished. While he was doing his homework he began to think.

Towards dinner time, Ali's father came home. Ali's mother called them to dinner. They all sat down at the table together. Ali was silent and gloomy because of the bad thoughts in his mind. His mother was very surprised at this change in him. Ali's father also noticed how gloomy he was. As always, they began to have a conversation.

"What you did in school today?" asked his father.

"We learned some new things, Dad," answered Ali: "In math class I went up to the blackboard and solved the problems the





teacher gave us."

"Aren't you going to tell your father the good news you got today, Ali?" his mother asked.

"We're going on a picnic on the week-end, Dad."

"That's good news, Ali," his father smiled, "But you don't seem too happy about it."

His mother added: "You were really happy when you came from school, but now you look sad."

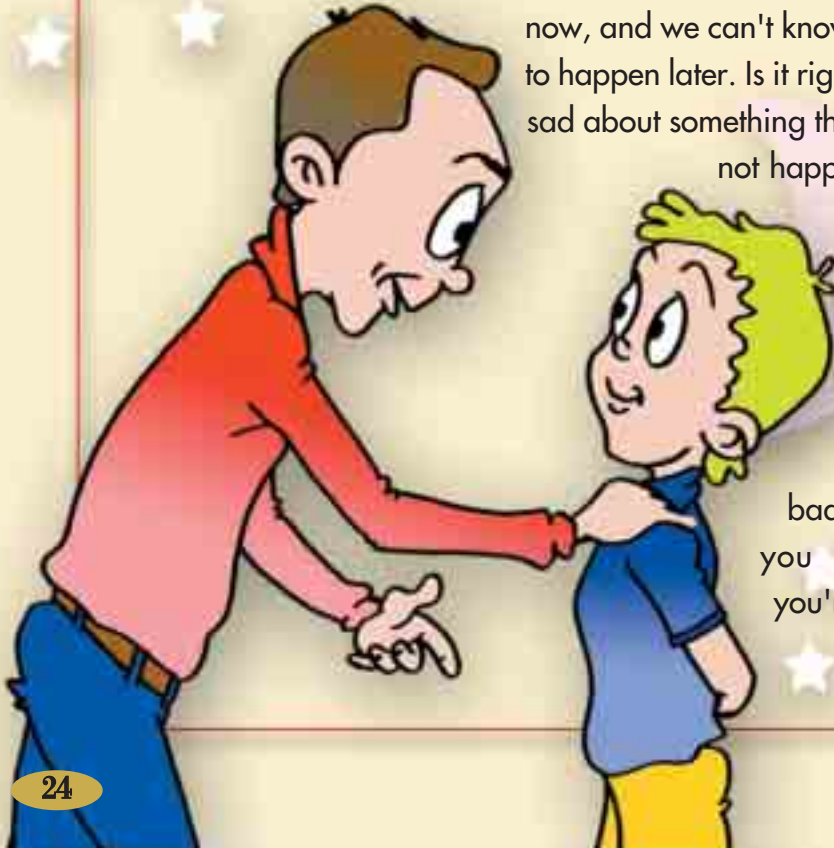
Ali answered, "Yes, I was happy, but then I had a thought that depressed me."

"Why are you depressed, Ali?" asked his father.

Ali told him, "If I get sick at the week-end, and can't go to the picnic, I'll be so unhappy."

His mother tried to reassure him: "Ali, you are not sick right now, and we can't know what's going to happen later. Is it right for you to be sad about something that may or may not happen?"

His father added: "Look Ali, it's because Satan has put these bad thoughts into you head that you're upset about





things that haven't happened yet. This is called being apprehensive. All bad thoughts that come into our mind, or all the anxieties we sense in our hearts, are worries sent by Satan. Allah tells us in the Qur'an what we should do when this happens: **'If an evil impulse from Satan provokes you, seek refuge in Allah. He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.'** (Surat al-A'raf: 200)"

"Ali," said his mother, "When these bad thoughts come into your mind, turn to Allah right away and pray."

His father went on: "Allah has determined beforehand everything that happens to us in our lives. And He wills the best for us at all times. If you can't go to the picnic, be sure that this is the best thing for you. Some people forget that there is good in everything, and get depressed because of some events that happen to them. But it may be that Allah has actually protected them from something worse. But they don't think this way, so they are always anxious and depressed."

Ali nodded: "Yes, I understand very well, now. From now on, when bad thoughts come to my mind, I will turn to Allah right away and thank Him for giving me the best of everything."





Ahmad and the *HAPPY DUCK*



Ahmad had gone with his family to visit his grandfather at the week-end. Before dinner, as usual, Ahmad's grandfather took him to the park. When they arrived at the park, Ahmad was very happy to see the ducks swimming in the pond. His grandfather knew that Ahmad really liked ducks, so he had brought something along to feed them with. He gave it to Ahmad, and they sat there together on a bench. Ahmad ran toward the ducks.

"Hi," he said: "My name is Ahmad. I brought you some food."

One of the ducks there said, "Hi, Ahmad, thank you very much."





"I was thinking," said Ahmad: "If they didn't feed you here, or if you lived somewhere where there were no human beings, how would you find food?"

The duck answered: "We ducks don't often leave the water when we live in the wild. We get our food from the water."

"But I don't see any food in the water where you are swimming," said Ahmad, puzzled.

The duck explained: "We get our food from the water in several ways. Some ducks stay on the surface of the water and eat plants and insects. Others dip their heads and the front part of their bodies under the water and look for food with their tails in the air. And still others dive right under the water and search for all their food in that way."

Ahmad had another question: "Why do you stay in the water all the time? Why don't you walk around on the land?"

"Our webbed feet let us swim around in the water, and we can swim very quickly, but it is hard for us to walk on land," the duck told him.

Ahmad then asked the duck: "When I go into the water, I always have to keep moving to stay afloat. So, I have to use water wings to stop myself from sinking. How do you manage to stay afloat for so long?"

"Just as you don't have to move to stay afloat when you use your water wings, so the air in our bodies lets us stay on top of the water," the duck answered.

Ahmad was still puzzled: "But when I wear water wings, I can't dive under the water. How do you





manage to do it?"

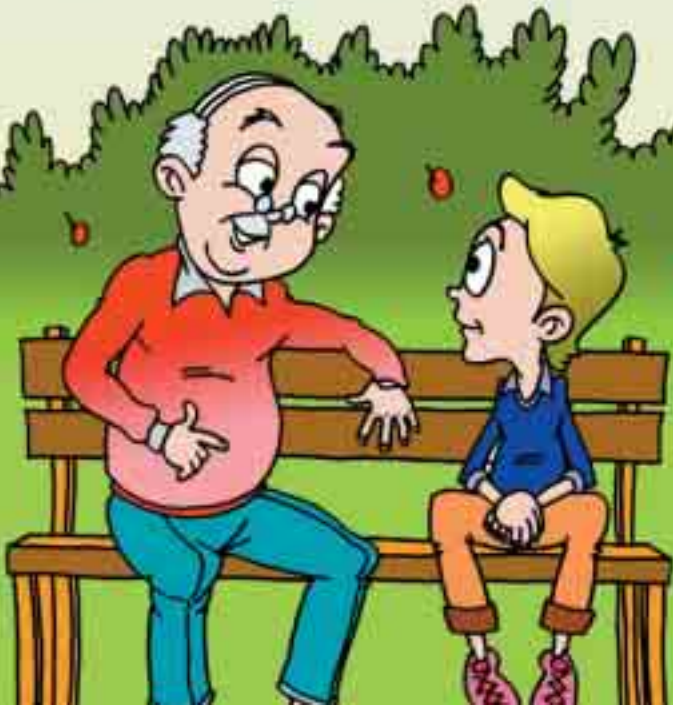
"We have air sacs in our bodies that look like little balloons," said the duck. "When these sacs are filled with air, we stay afloat; and when we want to dive under the water, we pump the air out of those air sacs. So we can dive easily because there is less air left in our bodies."

"So, you can stay on top of the water, and you can dive under it, and you can swim beautifully," said Ahmad.

The duck went on: "It is because of our webbed feet that we can swim so easily. When we move our feet forward or backward in the water, these webs spread out and allow us to push ourselves against the water with more force."

"Just like the flippers that grown-ups put on their feet when they go swimming in the summer so they can swim faster and easier!" exclaimed Ahmad.

"That's it, Ahmad," the duck agreed. "If your human feet were like that you would not be able to walk comfortably. Because we are water birds, however, the shape of our feet lets us swim





and feed ourselves very easily."

"All ducks look alike, so what kind of differences are there between them?" wondered Ahmad.

"We do all look alike," agreed the duck: "But there certainly are a number of differences between the various kinds of ducks. Male ducks have shinier feathers than females. This is an important protection for the female as she sits on her nest to hatch her young. Because of her dull colors, her enemies can't see her, and she is much safer as she sits there. The female duck's dull colors that blend in with the background make her difficult to spot even from a close distance."

"So, what happens when an enemy comes near the nest?" asked Ahmad.

The duck explained: "The male ducks draw attention to themselves by using their colorful shiny feathers in order to draw the enemy's attention away from the female in her nest. When an enemy approaches the nest, the male immediately flies into the air, making a lot of noise and doing everything he can to drive the intruder away."

At that moment Ahmad saw some baby ducks swimming in the water. He was amazed that they were so small and could swim so well. He asked: "How do these baby ducks learn to swim





so quickly?"

"Baby ducks manage to make their way to the water to swim and feed themselves just a few hours after they hatch," the duck informed him.

Ahmad wondered what would happen to him if they left him in the water a few hours after he was born. He would certainly not be able to swim; he would swallow a lot of water and die. He considered how perfectly Allah had created ducks so that they can live, swim and feed themselves in the water. Then Ahmad's grandfather got up from the bench and came up beside him.

"Grandpa," said Ahmad: "Ducks can swim really well, can't they? And they're so cute!"

His grandfather agreed: "Yes, Ahmad. Just one of their special qualities shows us how perfectly Allah has created every living thing. Did you know that ducks can also fly? When they fly, they keep changing direction so that they will not fall prey to wild birds."

"How do the ducks know that they have to change direction all the time to escape predators, Grandpa?" he asked.

His grandfather told him: "Just as Allah has given special qualities to other animals, he gave this one to cute ducks so that they can protect themselves. Allah creates what He wills. There is a verse about this in the Qur'an: 'Allah





created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. Allah creates whatever He wills. Allah has power over all things.' (Surat an-Nur: 45)"

"Come on Ahmad," he said: "Dinner is almost ready. We'd better make our way back home."

"OK Grandpa. I'll tell you what I learned about ducks on the way!"

"Really?" asked his grandfather. "Now where did you learn all this from?" Ahmad winked at the ducks in the water and said good-bye.

Ahmad took his grandfather's hand and left the ducks behind. They walked home together talking about Allah's perfect creation and giving thanks for it.



DUCKS

When they fly, ducks, like cheetahs, can go as fast as a car. And when they fly, they continually change direction so as not to become prey for predators. When they have to dive under the water, they do it so quickly that hunters have difficulty shooting them.





Cute Long-Tailed Squirrels

Bilal and Dawud were two friends who got along very well together. They had just read a book about the lives of animals and had enjoyed it very much. How exciting it would be to get to know these animals better! That evening they talked to their families and persuaded them to take a trip to the country at the week-end. On the way, they asked each other questions about the animals they were going to see there. As soon as they got out of the car, they started to run around among the trees. Their families sat on benches and started talking. Bilal and Dawud asked for permission to wander around as they were anxious to see some animals.

After walking a little distance they sensed a movement in the leaves.

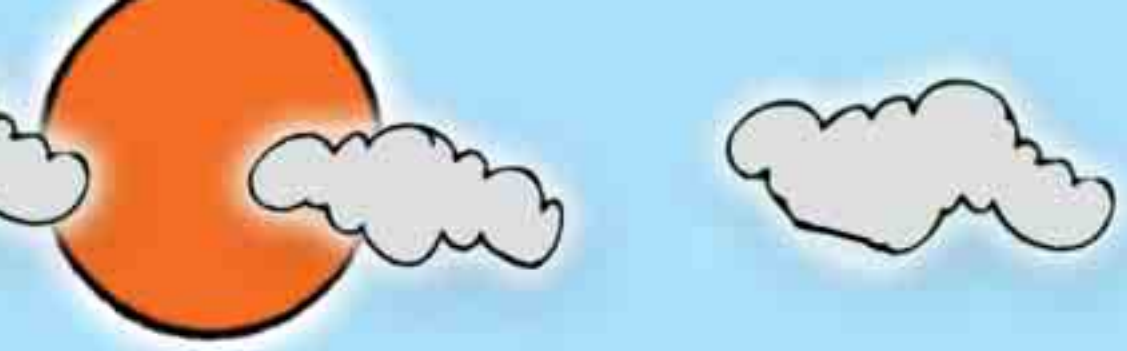
"Dawud, look there!" said

Bilal. "I think it's a squirrel!"

"Come on!" said Dawud, "Let's have a closer look."

It was indeed a squirrel, who said: "You seem like two very curious boys. I can tell you what you want to know."





"Yes, please. Tell us," said Dawud.

"I was wondering why you have such a long tail," said Bilal.

"First of all," the squirrel began: "I can go in many directions up in the trees. For example, with my sharp claws I can climb trees very easily. I can run along branches, swing upside-down and even walk that way. My relatives and I are called 'grey squirrels' and we can easily jump from the top of one tree to another 15 feet (4 meters) away. We jump into the air as if we were flying; we then open our arms and legs and glide in the air. We flatten our tails for balance and use them as a rudder for direction."

Dawud said: "I read in a book that some squirrels can fly. Do flying squirrels only need long tails to fly?"

"Yes," answered the squirrel. "In Australia there are some kinds of squirrels that can fly. They are between 20 and 35 inches (45 and 90 cm) long. They move from one tree to another with long jumps. Instead of wings, they have a





gliding membrane and they move among the trees like gliders. For example, the flying membrane of sugar gliders stretches from their front legs right up to their back legs. A flying squirrel can jump from the trunk of one tree and, with his skin tightened and looking like a glider, he can travel about 100 feet (30 meters) in a single leap. At times, they have even been observed traveling a distance of 1740 feet (530 meters) in six glides, one after another."

"How do they figure out the distances when they jump between trees so far apart?" Bilal wondered. "In order to land on the right spot they must have to make calculations. Just a little mistake and they would fall to the ground."

The squirrel agreed: "Very true. When we jump, we aim for thin branches and we have to jump carefully in order to land in just the right place. To do this we use our back legs, our sharp eyes, which are very good at guessing distances, our strong claws and our tails, which help us keep our balance. And the One Who has given us these abilities and taught us how to use them is our Almighty Lord. Otherwise, it would certainly not be possible for us to get hold of a ruler and measure the height of the trees and the distances between the branches."

Dawud asked, "Do you have other uses for your tails?"





Bilal added: "I saw a documentary once. Small animals lose heat from their bodies when they don't move. In cold weather they are in danger of freezing, especially when they are asleep. But, as with all kinds of animals, Allah has created a way for squirrels to protect themselves in difficult outside conditions. Squirrels have thick fur tails which they wrap around themselves, and they sleep curled up like a ball. This thick tail is like a winter coat which protects them from freezing when they sleep in cold weather."

"Yes, it's true," agreed the squirrel. "In cold weather our tails keep us warm. But there is also another use for our tails. As with other animals, we squirrels also have various ways of communicating among ourselves. Take red squirrels for example. When they see an enemy, they shake their tails and make excited sounds."

Dawud pointed: "Look at how many nuts you have gathered. You must be very hungry."

The squirrel went on: "It's difficult for us to find food in winter, so, we prepare for winter by collecting food in the summer. We have to be very careful when we store our food. We can't store fruit because it soon goes bad."



In order not to go hungry in winter, we must only collect nuts, pine cones and other such foods that will last. See? I will store these nuts away to eat in the winter."

Dawud added: "It is Allah Who teaches all creatures how to find and store their food; it is He Who gives its daily food to every creature He has created. One of the attributes of Allah is 'the Provider' because He gives food to every living thing He has created. The Qur'an tells us how merciful and compassionate Allah is: **'How many creatures do not carry their provision with them! Allah provides for them and He will for you. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.'** (Surat al-'Ankabut: 60)"

The squirrel then said: "Allah has given every creature He has created qualities to help it adapt to the environment it lives in. It is not enough for us to find food and store it; when winter comes, we also have to find the place where we have stored it. We can do this because of the wonderful sense of smell our Lord has given us. We can even smell nuts covered with 12 inches (30 cm) of snow.

We store the food we collect in more than one place. But later we forget where we have put it. Yet Allah makes us forget for a definite purpose. In time, the food we have stored under the ground in the forest will sprout and new trees will grow."

Bilal had been thinking: "Nuts and chestnuts have very



hard shells. We use nutcrackers to open them. How can you squirrels break them open without a nutcracker?"

"We have teeth that are sharper and stronger than the teeth of any human being," explained the squirrel. "Our front teeth, called incisors, allow us to break hard materials; in the space behind these are our molar teeth. Thanks to these sharp teeth of ours, we can break the shell of any nut, no matter how hard it is."

"Does that damage your teeth?" wondered Dawud.

The squirrel explained: "Here, too, you can see the perfect harmony that exists between everything in the supreme creative artistry of our Lord. If our teeth break off or wear out, new ones grow back. Allah has given this ability to all creatures like us that have to gnaw their food."

Bilal added: "The Qur'an tells us about the beauty and perfection of the living things Allah has created: **'And in your creation and all the creatures He has spread about there are Signs for people with certainty.'** (Surat al-Jathiyah: 4)"

Dawud agreed: "We must remember that Allah is in control of everything at every moment. We should thank Him for every blessing He has given us, pray that we may be His beloved servants and ask for His forgiveness."

"Yes, you're right," said Bilal. "It's getting late, Dawud. Let's go back now. Thanks for what you told us, little squirrel."

"Bye, bye, my little friends," said the squirrel.



IT'S IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE GOOD WORD



Anas was a nice, well-behaved and hard-working boy. For some reason, his father had to move to another city, and Anas had to leave all his friends behind.

Shortly after Anas and his parents moved to their new apartment, the neighbors in the building came to visit. Anas was very happy because there were several children of his age. Anas liked his new friends a lot, and in time they became very close. But there was a younger boy in the group named Irfan who would always interrupt the games they were playing because he always wanted them to play what he wanted; and if he didn't get his own way,

he would be cross with them.

One day, when all the boys were playing in the garden, Irfan joined them. They were playing with a new toy of Anas's. Irfan's arrival made everyone uneasy because they knew that whenever he joined in a game there would always be an argument. So, this time, the boys didn't let him play with them. Irfan became very angry; he took Anas's new toy, threw it on the ground and broke it. Anas was very upset, and he and his friends started to argue with Irfan. Uncle Afsar heard the noise of the boys' voices and looked out the window. Grandpa Afsar loved the boys very much, always took an interest in them and often talked to them about the existence of Allah, the blessings He gives and the acts of worship that He commands. When he saw the boys arguing, he immediately came down to join them. Irfan was crying. The boys told Uncle Afsar what was going on and then they all sat down in the garden to talk.

Anas explained what had happened: "Uncle Afsar, my friends and I always get along well together and play without fighting. But Irfan always ruins our fun, and we don't want to be friends with him anymore."

"But they don't do what I want," Irfan complained.

Uncle Hanif then said: "Come on boys! We all want to feel good and lead a secure life and to find friendship and happiness where we can. But it's not enough to desire these things. And we can't wait for someone else to give them to us. Feeling good in a safe environment and making good friendships require special effort and self-sacrifice. If everyone insisted on having only what they wanted and thought of themselves rather than giving in to others, there would only be unhappiness and arguments among us. But believers who fear Allah behave differently; they are patient, forgiving and don't insist on having their own way. Even when someone wrongs them, they don't take offense; they put the

well-being of others before their own wishes and do the best they can not to upset those around them. This is a characteristic of the superior moral behavior that Allah has commanded His servants to practice."

Anas asked: "OK, Uncle Hanif. If a bully comes up to us and uses bad words, what should we do then?"

Uncle Hanif answered: "Of course, we must act as Allah has commanded. Allah tells us how in the Qur'an:

A good action and a bad action are not the same. Repel the bad with something better and, if there is enmity between you and someone else, he will be like a bosom friend. (Surah Fussilat: 34)

Our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, also advises Muslims to treat good to others in a hadith as follows: '*... Whoever wishes to be delivered from the fire and enter the garden should die with faith in Allah and the Last Day and should treat the people as he wishes to be treated by them...*' (Muslim)"

The boys then said thank you to Uncle Hanif and promised to do their best to get along with one another in the future.



WHERE DOES THE HUMILITY OF BELIEVERS COME FROM?

In the Qur'an, Allah commands believers to be humble. Our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, also states in one of his hadiths as follows:

"Allah has revealed to me that you should humble yourselves to one another. One should neither hold himself above another nor transgress against another." (Muslim)

Believers are those who know that Allah created everything, that all things belong to Him and that it is He Who gives to human beings their every blessing. For this reason, no matter how good-looking, rich, intelligent or respected they may be, they never become arrogant. The Qur'an tells us that believers are humble:

The servants of the All-Merciful are those who walk on the earth in humility and, who, when the ignorant speak to them, say, "Peace." (Surat al-Furqan: 63)

Allah announces the good news to the believers of the reward for this good morality:

... Your God is One God so submit to Him. Give good news to the humble-hearted. (Surat al-Hajj: 34)

HOW CAN WE REMEMBER ALLAH?

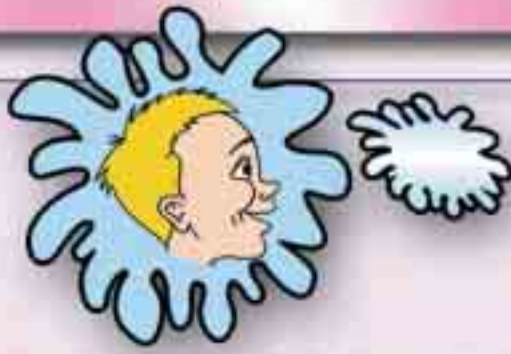
Believers know that Allah sees and hears them at every moment and that He creates everything that happens to them. Every moment of their lives they remember to think about Him. They do this by trying their best to keep Allah in their minds, to know that He has created everything and every event that comes their way, to consider what meaning He intends for them in these events, to try to understand the hidden meaning of creation, and they tell other people about all these things. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that believers remember Him at all times:

[People with intelligence are] those who remember Allah, standing, sitting and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the Earth [saying]: "Our Lord, You have not created this for nothing. Glory be to You! So safeguard us from the punishment of the Fire." (Surah Al 'Imran: 191)

In a hadith, the Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, describes the remembrance of Allah as below:

Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, stated: "As my servant thinks about Me so will I be for him. I am with him if he will remember Me. If he calls on Me in himself I will call him in Myself, and if he calls on Me in a group of people, I mention him in a better group in My presence. If he approaches Me one handspan, I will approach him one arm's length; if he approaches Me one arm's length, I will approach him by a cubit; if he comes to Me walking, I will come to him running." (Bukhari and Muslim)





THE CLEANLINESS OF BELIEVERS

One day, Zafar was very excited. The teacher had given them homework about what it means to be pure. The teacher wanted them to gather information on this topic from whatever source they could find and to read what they had written to the class. Zafar brought to mind everything he knew about purity, but he could still not decide how to tell the class about it. Of course, there was a lot more he didn't know about the subject. Zafar then had a good idea. Since the teacher had said that they could gather information from whatever source they wanted, he would ask Uncle Hamid, who lived in his apartment building. Immediately he picked up his pen and notebook, got permission from his mother and went to Uncle Hamid's apartment. Uncle Hamid was very pleased that Zafar had come to see him about this subject and they began to talk:

"Uncle Hamid," asked Zafar, "everyone should be clean, but some friends of mine come to school in the morning without even washing

their faces."

Uncle Hamid replied: "Zafar, in the Qur'an, Allah commands believers to be clean and to keep away from dirt. Those who do not practice the morality of the Qur'an, as in everything else, do not follow its teaching on cleanliness either, and they fall into this sorry state. Believers are physically very clean. Their bodies as well as their food, clothing and the place where they live are always amazingly spotless and well-ordered. They try to make every place where they are resemble the bright cleanness of Paradise as described in the Qur'an. In the Qur'an, Allah tells believers how they should regard cleanliness:

... Do not associate anything with Me and purify My House for those who circle it, and those who stand and bow and prostrate. (Surat al-Hajj: 26)

You who believe! Eat of the good things We have provided for you... (Surat al-Baqara: 172)

Purify your clothes. Shun all filth. (Surat al-Muddaththir: 4-5)"

Zafar then enquired: "So, what do believers have to do in order to practice the cleanliness that Allah reveals in the Qur'an?"

"Allah created water for



people to clean themselves with," said Uncle Hamid: "Water is a great blessing and is a reason for us to be thankful to Allah. Among the most important things we do are washing our hands and face when we get up in the morning and taking a shower to begin the day totally clean. The Qur'an tells us that Allah sent water down from heaven for human beings to clean themselves with: '**[He] sent you down water from heaven to purify you and remove the taint of Satan from you, and to fortify your hearts and make your feet firm.**' (Surat al-Anfal: 11)"

"In this verse," Uncle Hamid went on: "Allah warns human beings that Satan makes dirtiness look pleasant and tries to prevent them from cleaning themselves. Satan tries to take people away from the way of Allah and continually whispers suggestions into their minds about cleanliness. For example, he tries to make us put off brushing our teeth after a meal or taking regular showers by making it seem like too much trouble, so that later on we completely forget about it. Even if such occasional slips do not bring serious consequences, over time they may be damaging to a person's health and appearance. And this is exactly what Satan wants. He resents human beings and tries to drag them to Hell, and he really wants to see them living in filth, their appearance ruined by damaged skin and rotten teeth. But a person who practices the morality of the Qur'an is alert to these suggestions and careful not to be taken in by them. He does not show the slightest carelessness when it comes to cleanliness. He is

aware of the importance of cleanliness under all conditions."

Zafar then asked: "Some people, even if they are clean and presentable, don't look the same all the time. For example, they may be clean and presentable on holidays and certain other days, but the rest of the time they look scruffy. How do they regard cleanliness?"

Uncle Hamid responded by saying: "Some people, although they don't practice the morality of the Qur'an, are very careful about cleanliness. But they are very different in their aims and intentions from those who believe in Allah. The aim of those people is not to be criticized by others and to look smart. Because they do not think of pleasing Allah when they clean themselves, they do not pay attention to their cleanliness or their appearance when they are by themselves or with people they care nothing about. But a believer attaches importance to cleanliness not to please other people but to please Allah and to obey His command. Even if he doesn't see anyone for days, he is always clean and well-groomed."

"Thanks for that information, Uncle Hamid," said Zafar: "I will think about what you have said and write my homework right away, and I will be more careful about my own cleanliness from now on."

Zafar went right home and began to write. He was really eager to read what he had written to his friends at school. The joy and eagerness he felt about telling his friends about the morality of the Qur'an is one of the signs of a believer that should be seen in every person of faith.



NAEEM AND THE PRETTY PEACOCK

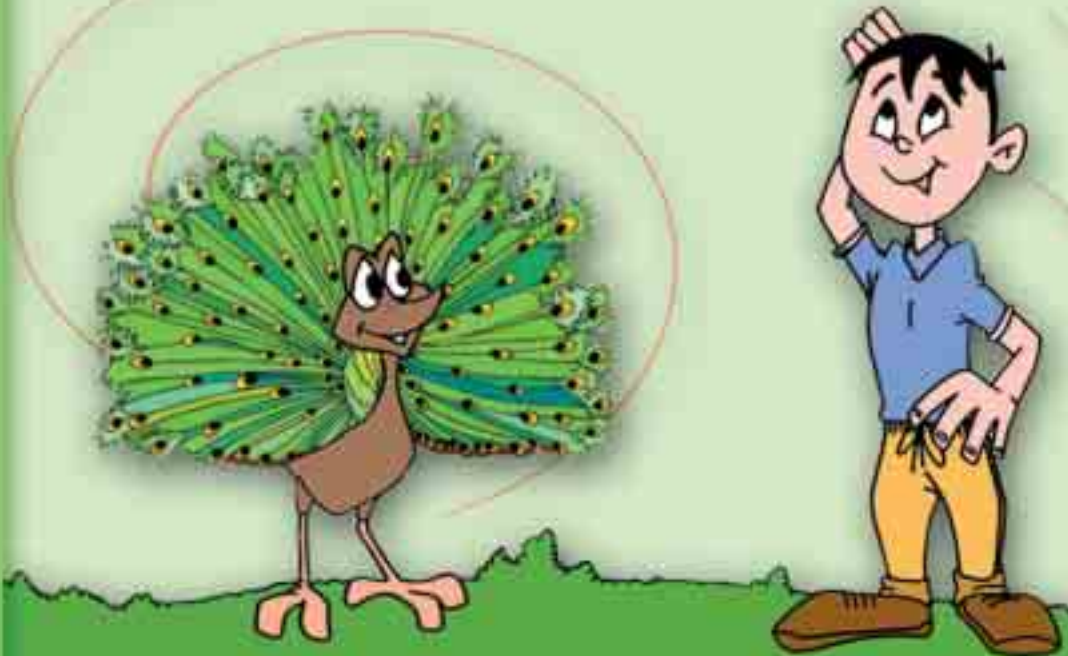
At the week-end, Naeem went to the zoo with his mother and sister. He was amazed to see how cute and beautiful all the animals were. He fed some of them and watched others from a distance. A naughty baby elephant sprayed water on his sister's dress. Naeem and his mother laughed and continued on their way.

"Look at that pretty peacock!" said Naeem's mother.

Naeem and his sister were really impressed by how beautiful the peacock was. Naeem drew a bit nearer to see the peacock from right up close.

"Hello, Naeem," said the peacock. "I am known as the most splendid looking creature in the animal kingdom."

Naeem answered: "Your tail is really beautiful. Are all peacocks'



tails like that?"

The peacock replied: "No, my little friend. Only we male peacocks have tails like this. We use it to attract the female we want to be our mate."

Naeem wondered: "When a peacock opens its tail, it can't see it, so how can it be sure that its tail is beautiful and attractive? Someone must tell you, right? Even human beings can be sure of what they look like when they look in a mirror."

"You're right," the peacock agreed. "We don't look in a mirror to see how beautiful we are. Allah teaches that we will become attractive when we open our tails this way."

Naeem looked more closely at the peacock and was amazed to see the magnificent colors and designs in its tail.

"It's like I'm looking at a wonderful picture; the colors are so beautiful..." he sighed.

"Do you think I could paint these beautiful designs in my tail?" asked the peacock "Of course not, my little friend. The extraordinary beauty of our tails did not come into being by itself. Everyone marvels at our beautiful colors and, as with all other creatures, it is Allah Who created this beauty in us."

Naeem told the bird: "Now I understand better that it is Allah Who created you peacocks so beautifully. Good bye, my good friend."

Naeem felt a sense of wonder at the great power of Allah and went back to join his mother and sister. He reminded them that it is Allah Who created the beauty of the peacock.





Anwar and the little bird



While Anwar was walking home from school, it started to rain very hard. After dinner, before starting his homework, he asked his mother if he could watch the rain for a while. She said he could watch it for a short while. Anwar went to the window and started to watch the rain pouring down outside. There were people walking in the street with umbrellas, and others without umbrellas pressing





themselves against the buildings. After a short time, puddles of rain began to form all around. Passing cars splashed water on the sidewalks and people fled from the curb to avoid getting wet. Anwar thought how nice it was to be in the house and that he should thank Allah more for giving him food and a warm house to live in. Right at that moment, a sparrow landed on the window sill. Anwar thought that the poor bird must be looking for shelter from the rain and he immediately opened the window.

"Hi, my name is Anwar," he said. "You can come in if you want."

"Thank you, Anwar," said the little bird. "I would like to wait inside until the rain stops."

"You must be very cold outside," Anwar sympathized. "I've never seen a bird up this close before. Look how thin your legs are! How can they hold your body up?"

"You are right, Anwar," the sparrow agreed. "We birds have thin legs compared to our bodies. But, in spite of that, they can hold our bodies up quite easily. There are many muscles, veins and nerves inside them. If our legs were any thinner or thicker it would be harder for us to fly."

"Flying must be a wonderful feeling," mused Anwar. "Your wings are thin, too, but you can still fly with them. So, how is it that you can fly such long distances without getting tired?"

"When we first take flight we use a lot of energy because we have to support the weight of our whole body on our thin wings," began the sparrow. "But once we are in the air, we relax by letting ourselves be carried along by the wind. So, because we expend less energy this way, we don't get tired. When the wind dies down, we start to flap our wings again. Because of this advantage that Allah has created for us, we can fly very long distances."

Anwar then asked, "How can you see around you when you are flying?"





The sparrow explained: "Our best sense organs are our eyes. Besides giving us the ability to fly, Allah has also given us a superior sense of sight. If we didn't have this superior sense of sight along with our miraculous ability to fly, it would be very dangerous for us. We can see far away objects more clearly than human beings can, and we have a wide field of vision. So, when we see a danger ahead, we can adjust the direction and speed of our flight. We can't move our eyes around like humans can because our eyes are set in their sockets. But we can move our heads and necks around quickly to increase our field of vision."

Anwar understood: "So, that's why birds are always moving their heads: to see around them. Are all birds' eyes like that?"

"Owls and other night birds have very large eyes," the sparrow continued. "Thanks to some special cells in their eyes, they can see in dim light. Because of this, owls can see

very well to hunt at night. There are also kinds of birds called water birds; Allah has created them so that they can see very well in the water. They dip their heads under the water and catch bugs and fish. Allah created the ability in these birds so that they could see clearly under water and catch their prey."

"Not all birds' beaks are the same, though. Why is that?"

Anwar asked.

"Allah created different kinds of beaks for different kinds of





birds to do very different jobs," came the reply. "Our beaks are perfectly suited to the environment in which we live. Caterpillars and worms are very delicious for us bug-eating birds. With our thin, sharp beaks we can easily pick up caterpillars and worms from under tree leaves. Fish-eating birds usually have long bills with a scoop-like shape on the end to catch fish easily. And birds that feed on plants have beaks that let them easily eat the kind of plants they like. Our Lord has provided perfectly for every creature on the Earth by giving it the abilities it needs."

Anwar had another question for the sparrow: "You don't have ears like I have, but you can still hear me very well. How is that?"

"The sense of hearing is very important for us birds. We use it to hunt and warn one another about any potential danger so that we can protect ourselves. Some birds have hearing membranes that allow them to hear the slightest sounds. An owl's ears are very sensitive to sounds. It can hear levels of sound that human beings can't," the sparrow told him.

Anwar then enquired: "You birds sing very nicely. I like listening to you.

Have they not looked at the birds above them, with wings outspread and folded back? Nothing holds them up but the All-Merciful. He sees all things. (Surat al-Mulk: 19)





Do they not see the birds suspended in mid-air up in the sky? Nothing holds them there except Allah. There are certainly Signs in that for people who believe. (Surat an-Nahl: 79)

What do you use your voices for?"

The bird nodded: "Some of us have different songs to put our enemies off the track. Sometimes we make our nests in holes in tree trunks, and when an enemy tries to get in, we hiss like snakes. The invader thinks there is a snake in the nest, which allows us to protect our nests."

"What else do you do to protect your nests from enemies?" wondered Anwar.

"We build many decoy nests to mislead our enemies," said the bird. "In this way we put invaders off the track and protect our nests and eggs that we have hidden in the area. To protect our nests from poisonous snakes, we hide the entrances and make them very complicated. Another precaution is building our nests in trees that have thorns on their branches."

"How is it that some birds can swim in water? And why can't all birds swim?" Anwar asked his friend.

The sparrow replied: "Allah has created some of us with the ability to swim. He has given them webbed feet to enable them to swim when they go into the water. Others of us have thin toes with no webs. So, apart from water-birds, birds can't swim."

"Just like flippers!" Anwar exclaimed. "When I swim with flippers on, I can go much faster."

"There are some kinds of birds that have these flippers from birth," said the bird.

While Anwar and the bird were having this conversation, his





mother told him to go to his room and do his homework. At the same time, the rain stopped, too.

Anwar told his friend: "Now I have to go to my room and do my homework. Tomorrow I will tell my friends about your special abilities, and how Allah has created you and all other creatures with such perfect creative artistry."

"The rain has stopped, so I can go back to my nest," the sparrow answered. "Thank you for taking me in, Anwar. When you tell your friends about us, will you also tell them to care about us and not throw stones at us or at any other creature?"

"Yes, I will tell them for sure," agreed Anwar. "May Allah protect you."

Anwar opened the window and the bird flew away immediately, flitting through the air. Anwar thought about the perfection in Allah's creation and sat down to do his homework.



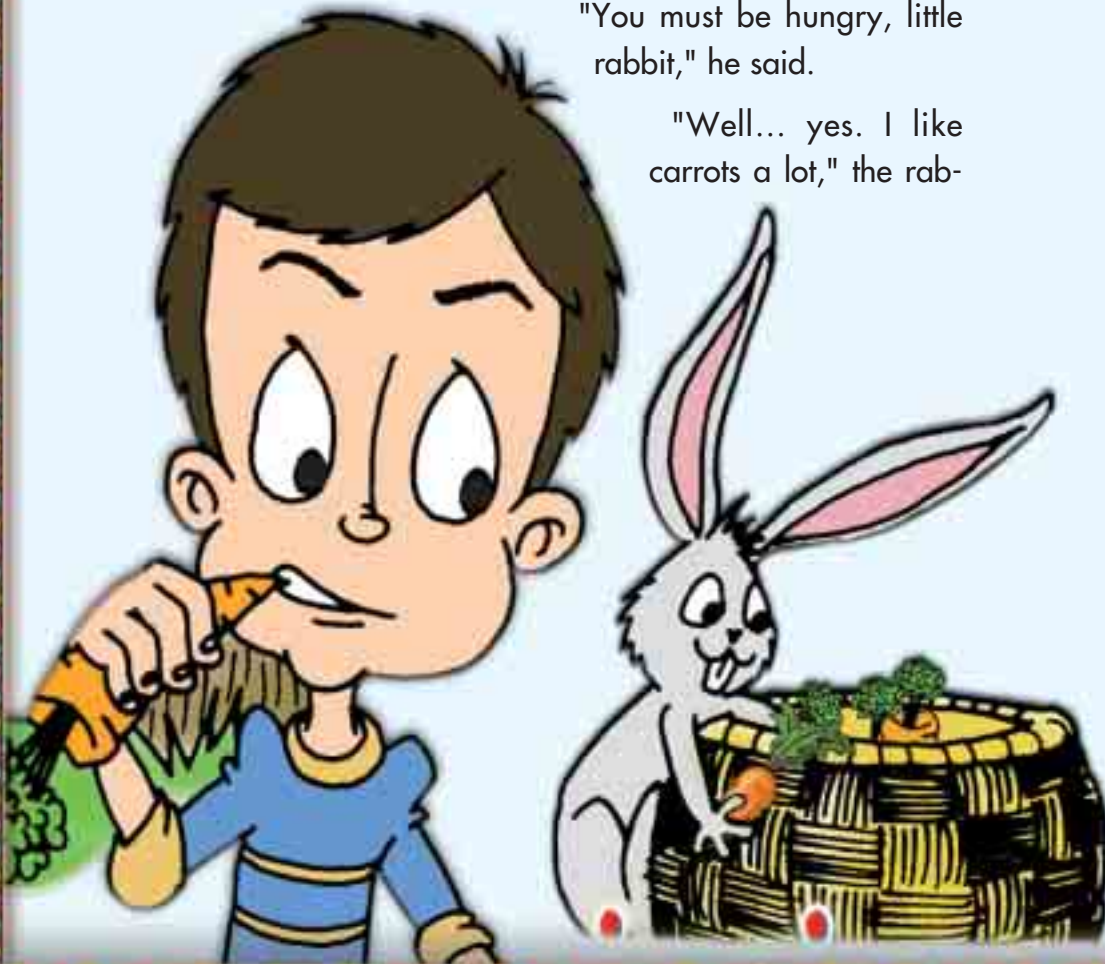
Ali's Little Friend

Ali and his family went to the country early one Sunday for a picnic. His mother arranged the picnic materials on the ground.

His mother had filled the basket with carrots, Ali's favorite. Right away, Ali sat under a tree. He was reading a book and eating carrots. He saw a rabbit approaching the basket. Ali sat up slowly, trying not to scare the little rabbit.

"You must be hungry, little rabbit," he said.

"Well... yes. I like carrots a lot," the rab-



bit agreed.

"Come on," said Ali: "Let's eat them together and talk. There are many things I'd like to ask you...."

The rabbit began speaking: "We rabbits live in nests called burrows, which we dig under the ground. And carrots suit our underground life very well because they grow down into the ground. So, we can find them easily. Carrots are our favorite food, and Allah has created them so that we have no difficulty in finding them. Because Allah wills it to be this way, we have no problem finding food. This is one of the miracles of His creation."

Ali thought how Allah has created everything just in right way for animals to use. He remembered the orange he had eaten in the winter. He was amazed at how it came out of its skin in slices so that he could eat it easily. Had it come in a different form, he thought, it might have been difficult to eat. Oranges contain a lot of Vitamin C, which is very good for our health, and Ali thanked Allah for creating oranges ready sliced and packaged so that people can eat them easily. And, of course, it is another blessing that we have teeth to eat them with. Allah also gave rabbits their front teeth to gnaw carrots with.

"OK," said Ali, "What other special abilities has Almighty Allah given to you?"

The rabbit replied: "Allah has given every creature abilities to make its life easier. There are many kinds of rabbits with different abilities in the world. For example, rabbits that live in cold regions are usually white, so that they are hard to see in the snow and can hide easily. Wild rabbits like me have



***In the heavens and Earth there are certainly Signs for the believers. And in your creation and all the creatures He has spread about there are Signs for people with certainty.
(Surat al-Jathiyah: 3-4)***

longer legs and ears. Rabbits that live in the American desert have huge ears. They help the rabbits to cool off in the heat of the desert."

Ali nodded: "Everyone knows the story of you and the tortoise. You're a fast runner, aren't you?"

"Yes," nodded the rabbit. "My back legs are longer and more powerful than my front ones. So I can run between 40 and 45 miles an hour (60 km/h and 70 km/h) and sometimes leap 20 feet (6 meters) in a single jump."

"So, how do you find your underground home, and when you're not there, does another rabbit move in?" Ali wondered.

"Some animals mark their houses with a scent," his new friend explained. "For example, gazelles leave behind a substance secreted from a gland under their eyes. The scent from this substance marks the territory in which they live. We have glands in our jaws and we mark our homes with the scent from them. So another rabbit doesn't move in and we can

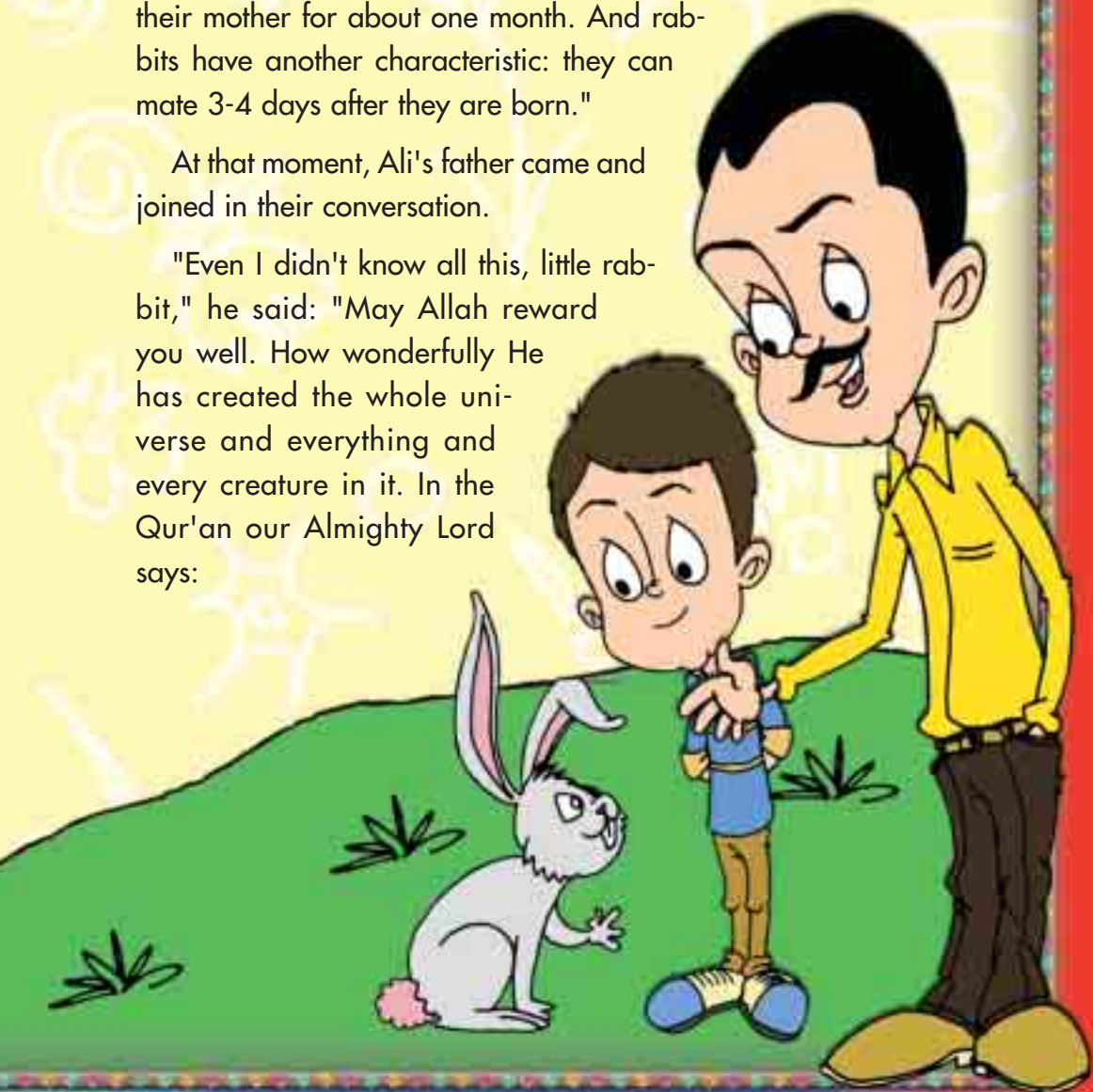
find our houses easily. Of course, this is not something we do by ourselves, but by Allah's inspiration."

"Do you have any brothers and sisters?" asked Ali.

"We rabbits reproduce very quickly," answered his friend. "Our mothers are only pregnant for a short time, about 28-33 days. They give birth to many babies at one time. For example, I have 15 brothers and sisters... The young stay with their mother for about one month. And rabbits have another characteristic: they can mate 3-4 days after they are born."

At that moment, Ali's father came and joined in their conversation.

"Even I didn't know all this, little rabbit," he said: "May Allah reward you well. How wonderfully He has created the whole universe and everything and every creature in it. In the Qur'an our Almighty Lord says:



That is Allah, your Lord. There is no god but Him, the Creator of everything. So worship Him. He is responsible for everything. (Surat al-An'am: 102)

He has given us all our blessings so that we may give thanks to Him and win His favor in this earthly life where we undergo the trials that prepare us for eternal life. You know that Allah tells us in the Qur'an that He has created us solely to worship Him. The best thing we can do is give thanks for all our blessings, organize our lives according to the Qur'an and live for Allah. Allah says in the Qur'an: 'Restrain yourself patiently with those who call on their Lord morning and evening, desiring His face. Do not turn your eyes from them, desiring the attractions of this world. And do not obey someone whose heart We have made neglectful of Our remembrance and who follows his own whims and desires and whose life has transgressed all bounds.' (Surat al-Kahf: 28)"

"Dad," asked Ali: "If you just look around and consider, there's so much to be thankful for, isn't there? A tree we see every day, a bird flying, a little rabbit..."

When you look carefully at all these things, you see a perfect design in each one of them. And it is only the perfect creative power of Almighty Allah that can do this, isn't that right? Otherwise, how could a rabbit be smart enough to acquire all these abilities by itself?"

"You're right, Ali," replied the





rabbit: "If Allah didn't give us all our abilities when He created us, none of us have the power to acquire them on our own."

Ali's father added: "Ali, it was good that we came on this picnic. At first you didn't want to come with us, but then you got to know this little rabbit and your conversation has made you think about a few things."

"You're right, Dad," Ali agreed. "Our conversation has helped me to see Allah in everything. Thank you, little rabbit. I have to go with my father now. I'll ask my mother if we have any more carrots, and if we do, I'll bring them to you. See you later; bye for now."

"Thank you, Ali," said the little rabbit. "May Allah bless you."





MAQSUD AND THE KITTEN

There was a big surprise waiting for Maqsud when he came home from school. His father had bought him a little kitten. Maqsud would spend the time left over after doing his homework playing with his cute little kitten. One night, when he was in bed, he was surprised to see the kitten leave the bedroom and find the milk dish in the pitch-dark living room.

"How did you find your milk dish so easily in this darkness?" Maqsud asked, astonished.

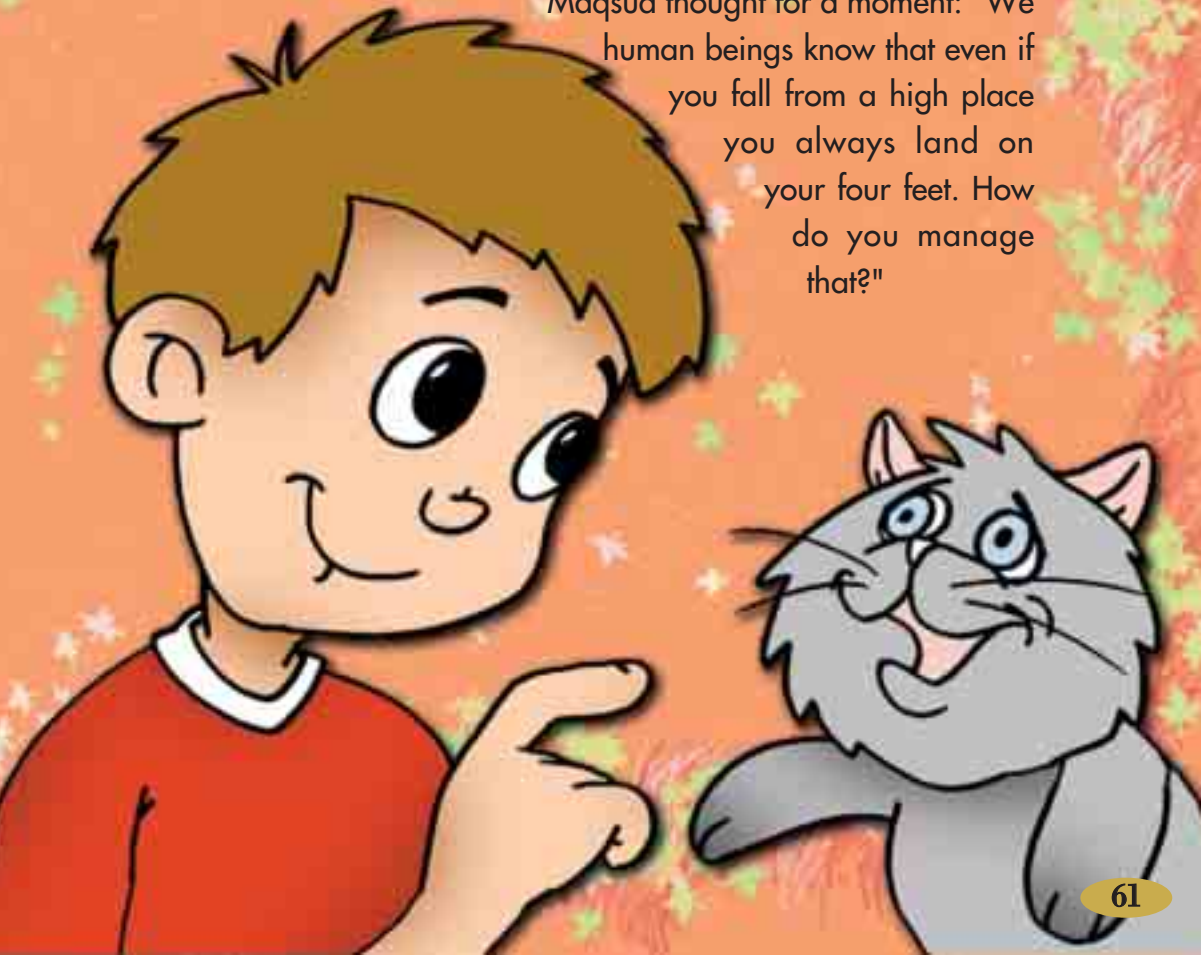
"We don't need a lot of light to see, Maqsud," the kitten purred. "Our eyes have been made different from those of humans. The pupils of our eyes grow very big so that they can take in as much light in the dark as possible. And we cats have a layer in our eyes that humans don't have; it is right behind the retina and reflects light back. So, light passes through our retinas twice. That is



**[Moses] said, "[He of Whom I speak is] the Lord of the East and the West and everything between them [as you would know] if you used your intellect."
(Surat ash-Shu'ara': 28)**

why we can see so well in the dark and also why our eyes are so shiny. Allah has created us with all the abilities we need to survive in all kinds of conditions. It is certainly impossible, as the theory of evolution claims, that we could have evolved these abilities by chance over the course of time. Allah has created cats and all other living things perfectly all at once."

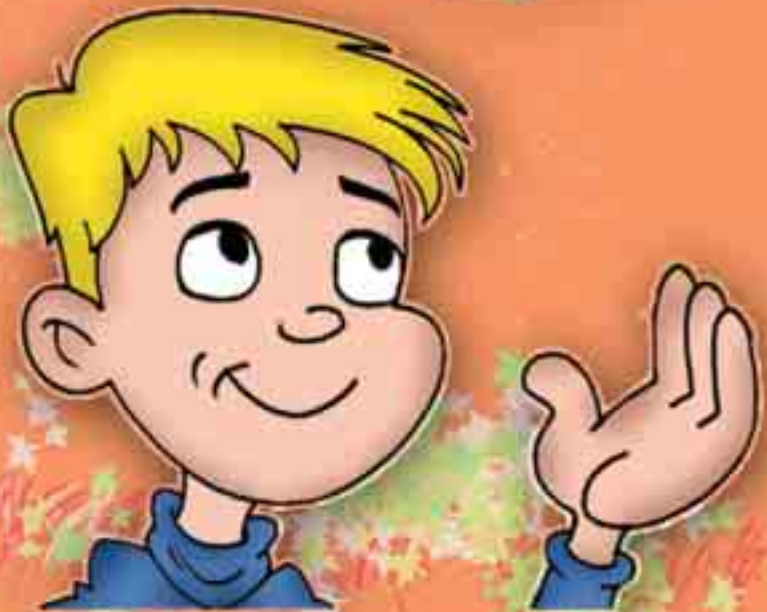
Maqsud thought for a moment: "We human beings know that even if you fall from a high place you always land on your four feet. How do you manage that?"



"You're right," said the kitten. "We cats love to climb around in high trees. Allah has given us this special ability to protect us from getting hurt in a fall. When we fall, we use our tail for balance, change the center of gravity of our body and land on our feet. This protective ability shows the endless compassion and mercy of Allah."

Maqsud gently picked the little kitten up and put it on his lap. Every day, when he saw one of these cute little creatures, he thought what wonderful proofs they were of Allah's superior creative power. And so, the love and tenderness he felt towards cats grew even more. And the kitten showed that it loved Maqsud by purring whenever he stroked its fur.

Do you not see that Allah has made everything on the Earth subservient to you and the ships running upon the sea by His command? He holds back the heaven, preventing it from falling to the Earth—except by His permission. Allah is All-Compassionate to mankind, Most Merciful. (Surat al-Hajj: 65)



Our Cats



SAYID AND THE SQUID

Sayid took advantage of the summer vacation by swimming as much as he could. His father gave him a pair of goggles so he could see underwater. Sayid was really entranced by the beautiful wonders he saw when he was in the water. Once when he was looking under the water with his goggles, he saw something that did not look like a fish.

"Hey, who are you?" Sayid called.

"No wonder you're surprised, Sayid!" the creature called back. "I'm a squid. People often think of us as fish; although we are very different. For example, we don't have a single bone in our bodies."

Sayid was puzzled, "If you don't have any bones in your body, how do you move?" he asked.

"If you want to know the truth," replied the squid, "We can move in ways that would surprise you. Our bodies are very soft and our skin is very thick. We have muscles under our skin that we use to take water into our bodies and then blow it out hard. That is how we can swim."




"Can you tell me exactly how you do it?" asked Sayid.

The squid explained: "We have two pocket-like openings on each side of our heads. Through these, we draw water into a cavity in our bodies, and then we expel this water with great pressure through a narrow pipe just under our heads. With the force created, we can move quickly in the opposite direction to the water we expel. And we can also escape very quickly from any enemy chasing us."

"OK," said Sayid, "Let's say that you are not quick enough to escape; what do you do then?"



An illustration of an underwater scene. On the left, there are tall green seaweed stalks. Two blue and yellow striped fish are swimming near the top. A large sea turtle with a brown and black patterned shell is in the lower left. In the center, a squid is shown releasing a cloud of white ink. To the right, there is a black and white spotted fish, a red starfish, and a pink sea anemone. The bottom of the scene is green with several blue bubbles.

"If we are not quick enough to get away," continued the squid, "We squirt a cloud of dark colored ink at our enemy, which confuses them. Just a few seconds is all we need. Our enemy can't see us behind the dark cloud and we can get away."

Sayid was impressed: "Allah has especially equipped you for every difficulty you may face. I don't think that we humans or any other creature could ever have acquired these abilities by ourselves."

The squid agreed: "You're right, Sayid. This comes from the supreme creative knowledge of Almighty Allah. He has created all the creatures you see with their marvelous qualities. No creature can acquire these abilities by itself. Allah's power and knowledge is everywhere, and there is no power apart from Him."

"I'm very happy to have met you, Mr. Squid. Thank you for the information," said Sayid as he swam off.

Allah,
there is no god
but Him, the Living, the
Self-Sustaining. He is not
subject to drowsiness or sleep.
Everything in the heavens and the
Earth belongs to Him. Who can in-
tercede with Him except by His per-
mission? He knows what is before
them and what is behind them but
they cannot grasp any of His knowl-
edge save what He wills. His
Footstool encompasses the heav-
ens and the Earth and their
preservation does not tire Him.
He is the Most High, the
Magnificent. (Surat al-
Baqara: 255)



KAMAL AND THE SEAHORSE

Kamal went with his family to a beach in a holiday resort. There was an aquarium in front of a small store with some interesting sea-creatures in it. Kamal went up to the aquarium and saw a seahorse swimming around slowly inside.


"You're so small," said Kamal. "I thought seahorses were bigger."

"Yes," answered the seahorse. "Those who see us in books and on television think we are much bigger than we are, which is actually between 2 and 12 inches (4 and 30 cm) long."

Kamal looked closer: "Your eyes can move in every direction, can't they? And so you can know what's going on all around you."

"You're right," the seahorse agreed. "Allah created our heads at right angles to our bodies. No other sea creatures have this characteristic. For that reason, we swim with our bodies in a vertical position and we can only move our heads up or down. Actually, if other creatures had this charac-





teristic, they would have a problem moving their heads to the left and right and would not be able to protect themselves from all sorts of dangers. But we do not have this problem because of the special design of our bodies.

Almighty Allah has created our eyes independent of each other and able to move freely in every direction, and as they turn they can see easily all around. So, even if we don't turn our heads from side to side, we can see all around us.

With all the huge variety of designs and amazing qualities He has created in living things, Allah shows us His endless artistry and infinite knowledge."

Kamal thought of another question he would like to ask: "There's something I'm curious about: you don't have wings or a tail, so how do you go up and down in the water?"

The seahorse replied: "We have a special system for swimming. We have swimming sacs with a kind of gas inside them. By making the necessary changes in the amount of that gas, we can go up and down in the water. If this air sac were damaged, we would sink to the bottom of the sea, though.

To put it another way, if there were any change in the amount of gas in our swimming sac, we would die. Our Lord has created this amount very carefully."

"What a wonderful design!" breathed Kamal.

"As you see, my little friend," the seahorse went on, "Allah has created seahorses and every other creature in the universe with all their perfect qualities. We seahorses are just one of the many kinds of creatures under the sea, and our design is an example of Allah's unlimited power and endless knowledge."

When his conversation with the seahorse came to an end, Kamal went back to his mother. The marvelous design in this tiny animal had made Kamal wonder even more about Allah's creative artistry.



KAREEM and Grandpa HASSAN

Kareem was looking out of the window, impatiently waiting for his grandfather. It was good fun spending time with Grandpa Hassan. Finally, his grandfather arrived. Kareem ran excitedly to the door and gave him a hug. Just as he had expected, his grandfather had brought him a gift—his favorite toy and some picture books. Grandpa Hassan liked seeing his grandson so happy. He said: "Today, I have something to do out of town, would you like to come with me? We can enjoy an outing together."

Kareem gladly accepted and off they went. They eventually left the city, and Kareem was really enjoying this surprise trip.

"The air is so wonderful," he breathed deeply. "Today we will fill our lungs with this fresh air. I wish the air was always like this



in the city."

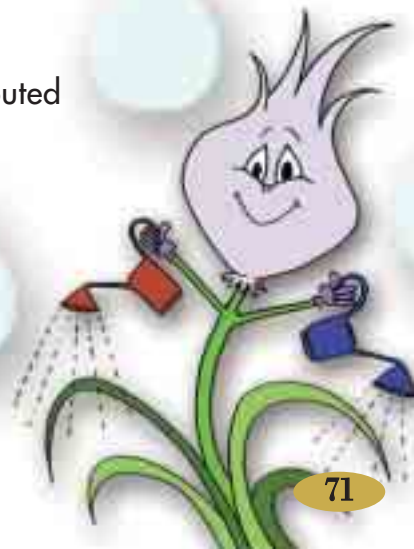
"That would be a little difficult, Kareem," replied his grandfather, "because car exhaust, the smoke from chimneys, especially in winter, and the scarcity of trees and plants prevent the air in the city from being clean."

Kareem pondered a little: "I understand the smoke, but I don't quite understand what plants have to do with it. Trees are meant to bear fruit and make the city beautiful, aren't they?"

"Yes," answered Grandpa Hassan, "trees do all that; but probably more importantly, they also clean the air. Plants breathe in just the opposite way to other living things. Human beings and animals take oxygen from the air, and after using it in their bodies, they breathe out the used air as carbon dioxide. But plants do the opposite: they take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, which is how they clean the air. There are other wondrous qualities that plants have, Kareem, and it is Allah, the All-Wise, Who has created all of them. If you would like, I will tell you what I know about plants."

"Yes, please, Grandpa; I'm all ears!" shouted Kareem excitedly.

Grandpa Hassan took a deep breath and began, "Plants breathe in a process called photosynthesis."



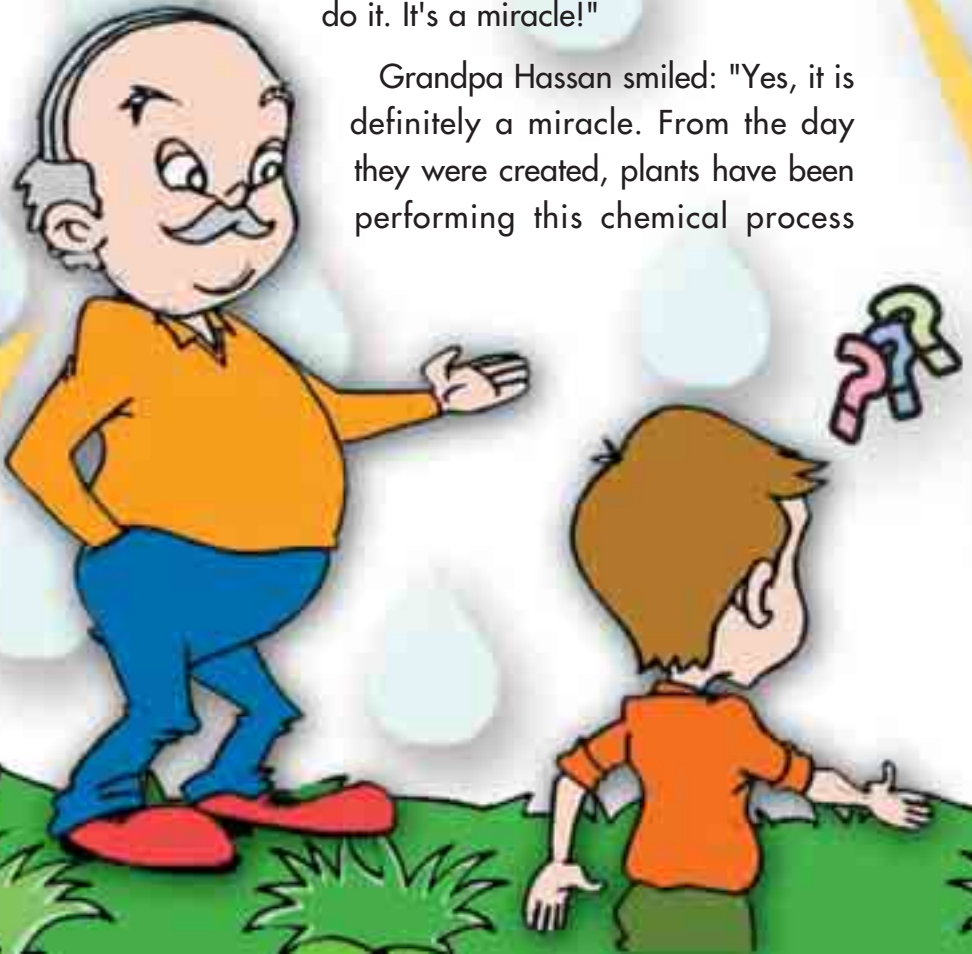
PHOTOSYNTHESIS

"What is photosynthesis?" Kareem interrupted.

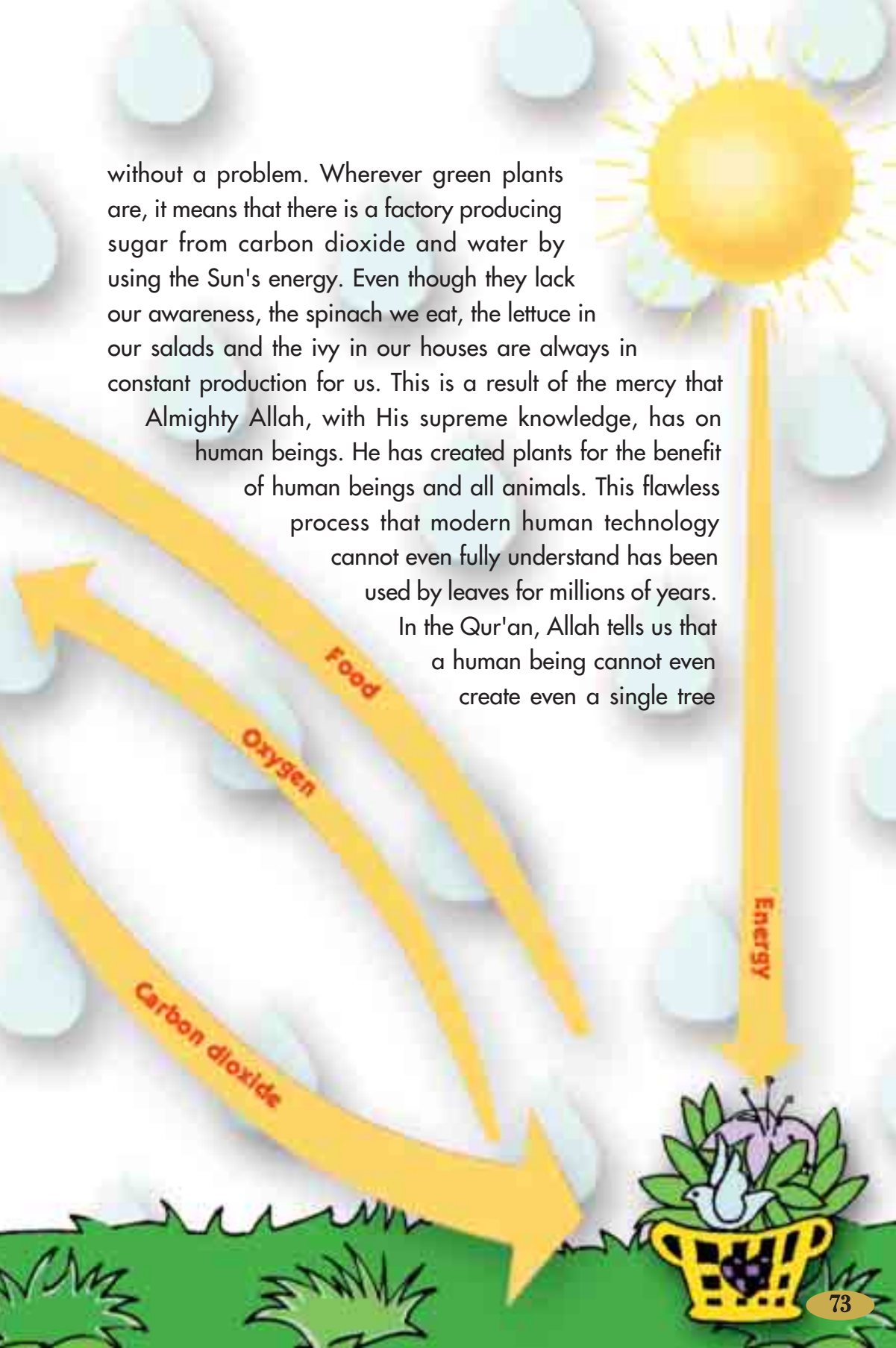
"I'll try to explain it to you," said his grandfather, "but it won't be easy because it's very difficult and complicated. Even scientists are still trying to completely understand the process."

Kareem thought for a moment: "So, plants survive by a process that scientists are still trying to understand. When you say the word 'process' I think of mathematical operations and formulas. Even we find math hard to learn sometimes, but plants, that have no mind or body like we have, can do it. It's a miracle!"

Grandpa Hassan smiled: "Yes, it is definitely a miracle. From the day they were created, plants have been performing this chemical process



without a problem. Wherever green plants are, it means that there is a factory producing sugar from carbon dioxide and water by using the Sun's energy. Even though they lack our awareness, the spinach we eat, the lettuce in our salads and the ivy in our houses are always in constant production for us. This is a result of the mercy that Almighty Allah, with His supreme knowledge, has on human beings. He has created plants for the benefit of human beings and all animals. This flawless process that modern human technology cannot even fully understand has been used by leaves for millions of years. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us that a human being cannot even create even a single tree



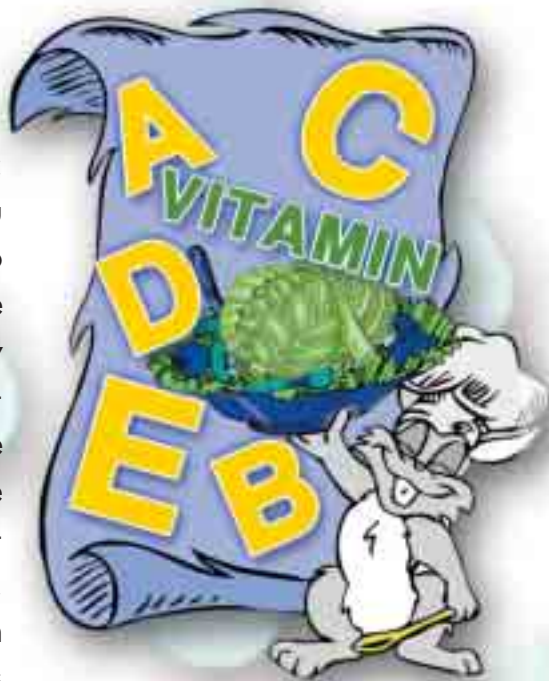
from nothing: 'He Who created the heavens and the Earth and sends down water for you from the sky by which We make luxuriant gardens grow—you could never make their trees grow...'
(Surat an-Naml: 60)"

Kareem was amazed that plants could breathe by this special chemical process called photosynthesis. "So, how did this process take place?" he wondered. While he was thinking about this, his grandfather continued his story: "Using the soil, water, air and the Sun, unconscious plant cells take a certain amount of minerals and water from the soil and produce food for human beings. With the energy they take from the Sun, they break down these materials and later bring them back together to produce food. This is just an outline of the process, but at every stage you can see that there is a conscious and intelligent plan. It is clear that the purpose of this amazing system operating in plants is to provide a source of life designed for the benefit of human beings."

"So, what do leaves do?" enquired Kareem.



Grandpa Hassan went on: "You know the microscopes you have in the school laboratory to examine things? ... well, if we were to examine a leaf closely under a very advanced microscope, we would once again see the splendor of Allah's creative artistry. There is a perfect production system in each and every leaf. In order to understand this system better, we can compare what goes on in a leaf to appliances we use in our everyday life. When we magnify the elements in a leaf, we see a constantly operating automatic food factory with pipes that work continually, rooms built for special processes, valves that work like giant pressure cookers and countless buttons controlling thousands of processes. And if we look more carefully, we see timers, thermostats, humidifiers, heat control mechanisms and feedback systems located at particular points."



Kareem thought for a moment: "It is wonderful that all these things come together in a single little leaf and work with no problem."

"It is our Lord Allah, Kareem, Who has conceived and designed this marvelous system," Grandpa Hassan reminded his grandson. "With Allah's permission, every leaf in the world has come into being having this marvelous system. Be sure not to forget that."

While he was listening to Grandpa Hassan, Kareem saw a very large tree, and a problem occurred to him. He began to wonder how a tree could survive without solving that problem. He immediately asked his grandfather: "Grandpa, trees are very tall. How do they draw up water and food from the soil? Look at that tree! It is so tall, but the leaves at the top are still very green."

Grandpa Hassan nodded: "Do you remember? A little while ago I compared leaves to a factory; let's make the same comparison again.

Think of a pipeline with a web-like covering all over it; it makes sure that the raw material reaches the production units and that the product obtained from these units is distributed in the syrupy liquid produced in the leaves to other areas so that the whole tree can be nourished. These channels serve not only to transport this vital fluid; they also make up the skeletal system of the trees and their

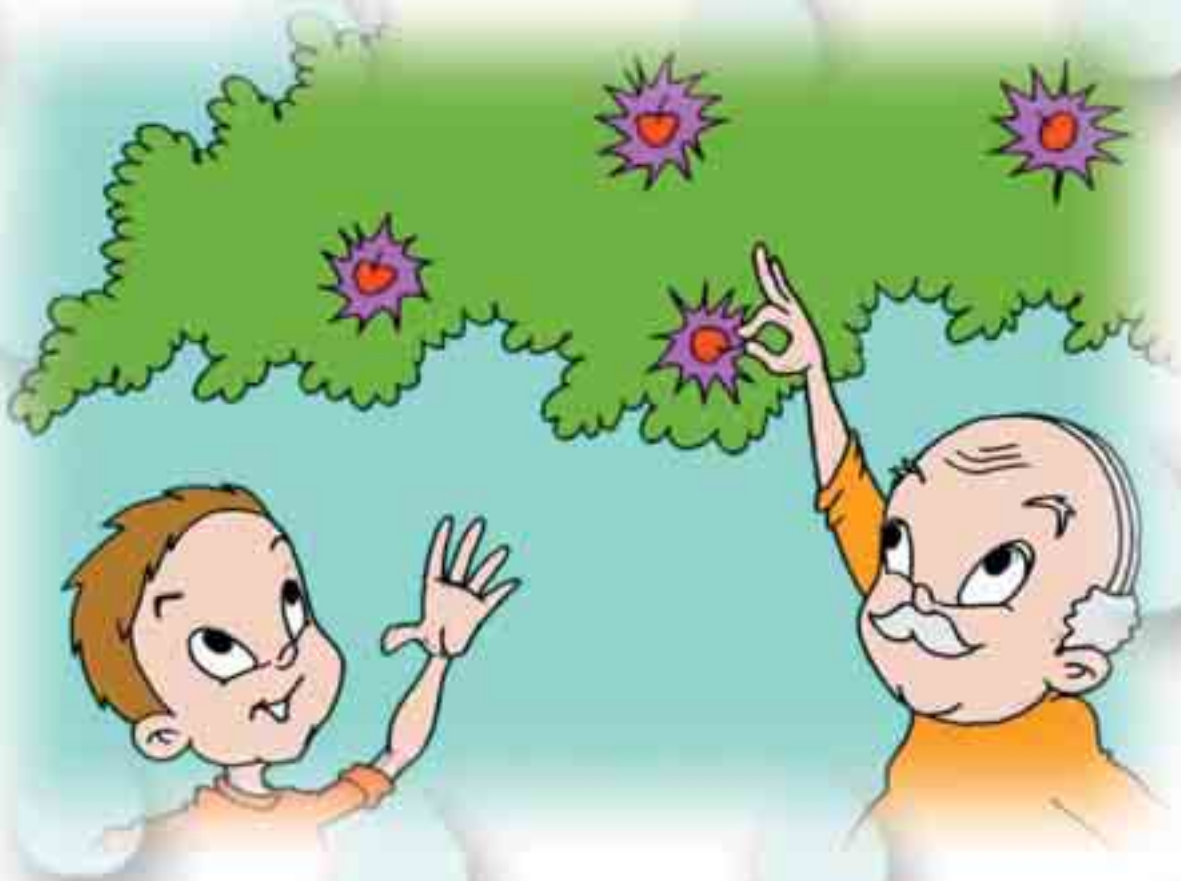


leaves. In a building constructed by human beings, the elements that hold the building up (studs and beams) and the water system are built separately. It is a case of marvelous design that, in the case of plants, these two things happen at one and the same time."

Kareem was thinking: "This is really a wonderful system. I wonder ... it's as if there was a calendar or a clock hidden inside a plant that lets it do the same things all the time without getting confused. For example, every spring the flowers bloom and every fall the leaves drop off the trees. How does that happen, Grandpa?"

HOW DO PLANTS DRAW UP WATER?



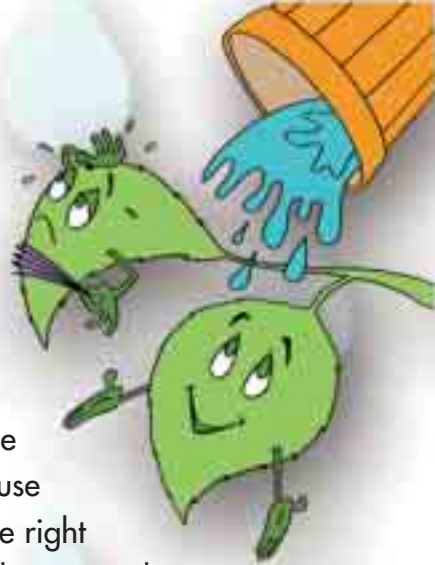


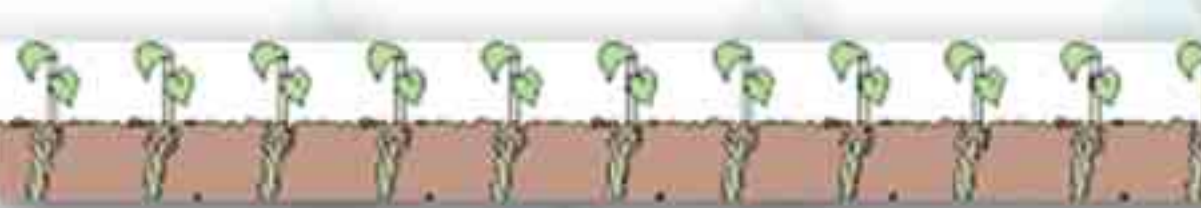
"Scientists call this a biological clock," his grandfather explained. "The clocks that make time adjustments for plants calculate how long sunlight falls on the leaves for. These biological clocks calculate this length of time differently for every plant. For example, as a result of experiments done on soy beans, we know that these plants bloom every year at the same time, no matter when they are planted. It is certainly Almighty Allah Who makes these time adjustments in plants."

Grandpa Hassan and his grandson stopped by an orchard next to the road. After receiving permission from the owner, they picked some plums, washed them carefully and began to eat them. They were really delicious. Grandpa Hassan said, "Did you know, Kareem, that the energy plants give us actually comes from the Sun?"

Kareem was surprised: "How do you mean?" he asked, "When we eat these plums, are we really eating the Sun?"

Grandpa Hassan smiled: "Actually we are eating the Sun, but indirectly. We all know that the main source of energy on Earth is the Sun. But human beings and animals do not use this energy directly, because we don't have the right systems. Do you know how we use it? Human beings and animals can only get usable energy from the nutrients produced in plants. The energy we use is really the Sun's energy given to us by plants. For example, when we sip tea we are actually sipping energy from the Sun; when we chew a piece of bread, there is actually a piece of the Sun's energy between our teeth. The strength in our muscles is really an altered state of the Sun's energy. Because of this energy, you can run and play. So, how do plants manage this? Plants perform some complicated operations in order to store the Sun's energy for us. What allows plants to produce their own food and separates them from other living things is that their cells are different from the cells of human beings and animals; they have structures in their cells that allow them to use the Sun's energy directly. With the help of these structures, they transform the Sun's energy into a form that human beings and animals can use for food, and they store this energy in food using a special hidden formula."





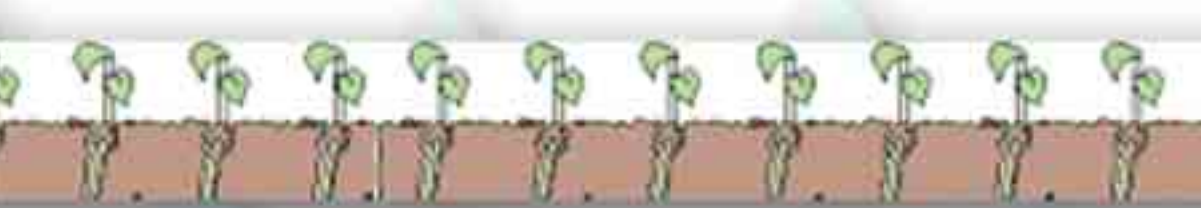
"That's wonderful!" exclaimed Kareem, delighted. "Allah has created everything for the good of human beings!"

Grandpa Hassan agreed: "So, we have to think about all this and thank our Lord that He has given us so many blessings. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that we should give Him thanks: '**So they may eat its fruits—they did not do it themselves. So will they not be thankful?**' (Surah Ya Sin: 35)"

Kareem's favorite subject was science. Suddenly, an experiment they did in school came to his mind. He turned to his grandfather and said: "Grandpa, we did an experiment in school one day. Our teacher gave us some homework to do. We put a bean inside a piece of cotton, put it in a sunny place and watered it for a few days. Guess what happened!"

Grandpa Hassan smiled again: "The beans sprouted, didn't they? Let's think about that. It shows you a very basic natural occurrence; which is actually a miracle. You've seen a rabbit being pulled out of an empty hat in magic shows haven't you?; well, that is rather similar to a plant sprouting in a piece of cotton or under the ground. In a magic show, however, our eyes are deceived, but a plant coming out of a tiny seed





doesn't deceive anyone. With miracles such as this, our Lord, the All-Knowing, makes plants from tiny seeds and shows us clearly that no living thing exists by chance. Those who say that living things have come into existence by chance are just deceiving themselves, aren't they, Kareem?"

"Yes, Grandpa," Kareem agreed happily.

Grandpa Hassan went on: "Part of the plant that sprouts from a tiny seed goes under the ground and part of it grows upward. The ground is quite hard and tightly packed and it is very difficult to grow in both directions. These little sprouts don't have intelligence and consciousness like we have, so it is a real miracle how they manage it."

"Just think of what would happen if we put a seed in the ground and it didn't sprout," cried Kareem. "Then we would all have huge problems finding food to eat. And if human beings and animals couldn't find anything to eat, they would slowly die."

Grandpa Hassan nodded his head: "Allah warns us in the Qur'an, Kareem: **'Have you thought about what you cultivate? Is it you who make it germinate or are We the Germinator? If We wished We could have made it broken stubble. You would then be left devoid of crops, distraught.'** (Surat al-Waqia'a: 63-65)"

As they walked, Kareem began to consider what his grandfather had told him. He told his grandfather what he was thinking: "Plants are so important for our survival, Grandpa. They clean the





air we breathe, they feed us and give us energy, they provide delicious fruits and vegetables for us and make everywhere look beautiful. Just look. See how many different trees, flowers, fruits and grain there are!"

"There is another blessing that you have forgotten about," said his grandfather. "It comes from plants, and Allah tells us about it in the Qur'an: **'He Who produces fire for you from green trees so that you use them to light your fires.'** (Surah Ya Sin: 80)"

"Yes, how could I forget that?" asked Kareem. "We burn wood from trees to keep warm. The raw material for books, notebooks, newspaper and all kinds of paper comes from trees; as well as matches to light fires with, armchairs we sit on, our desks, doors, windows..."

Grandpa Hassan entirely agreed: "Apart from the usefulness of plants, they also have another characteristic. A vine that grows in Central and South America attracts and provides ideal food for black and green caterpillars and red butterflies. These insects lay



their eggs on this vine so that, when they hatch, they will have this delicious food to eat. But the important point is this: before laying their eggs on the vine, the butterflies check the leaves. If another insect has laid its eggs there, they realize that it would be difficult for two families to feed themselves from the leaves of the same plant, so they decide to leave that plant and look for another whose leaves are available.

This vine forms green bumps on the top surface of its leaves. And some varieties produce spots that resemble butterfly eggs under their leaves at the point where they join the branch. When the caterpillars and butterflies see these, they think that another insect has laid its eggs on these leaves first. They then don't lay their eggs on that plant, but go away in search of another."

"What a great defense system!" said Kareem, impressed.

"Yes, Kareem," concluded Grandpa Hassan: "It is Allah with His supreme knowledge Who has taught this plant how to protect itself. Never forget that, OK?"



Grandpa Uthman and his Grandson

As soon as Idrees got home from school, he ran to his grandfather to ask him about something that was on his mind.

"Grandpa," he said, "I want to ask you something."

"What is it, Idrees?" asked Grandpa Uthman.

"Grandpa, on the bus, a lady was telling her friend how important patience is, and how true patience should be as it is described in the Qur'an. Can you tell me what that means, Grandpa?"

Grandpa Uthman nodded: "Most people don't know what real patience is, or how a patient person should behave. Some people think that patience just means confronting the difficulties and frustrations of life and putting up with them. But Allah teaches us in the Qur'an that real patience is very different from just putting up with something."

Idrees asked another question: "So, Grandpa, what's the source of this patience in the Qur'an?"

"You know, Idrees," answered his grandfather, "that the way to gain Allah's favor, love and pleasure is to fully obey His laws and commands in the Qur'an. Allah wants His servants to practice the morality of the Qur'an fully until the end of their lives. And the secret that enables them to obey this command, come what may, lies in the perfect patience that comes from faith. A person who learns the real meaning of patience can

behave in the way that Allah desires from him and be regular in performing his prayers. A person of faith knows that Allah's knowledge and wisdom is in everything, nothing happens without His permission and that, behind every event, lie the purpose and all the countless good things that He has created."

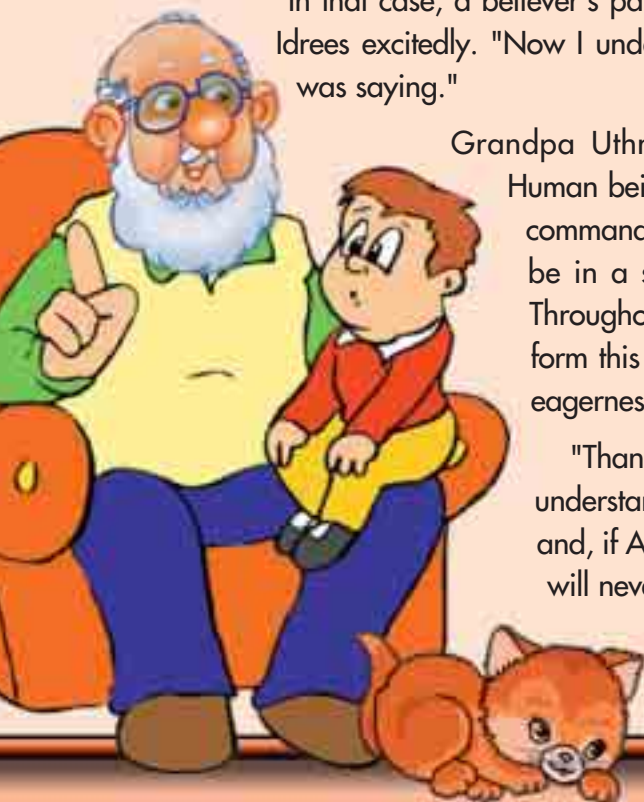
"In that case, a person shouldn't be upset at the things that happen to him, but should always have patience," said Idrees.

Grandpa Uthman smiled: "Very true, Idrees. Allah is the friend, protector and helper of a believer. So, even if some don't appear so at first sight, all the things that happen to us are for our own good. For this reason, for a believer, being patient does not mean being forced to follow a moral command; on the contrary, it is an act of worship that he performs with joy and sincere pleasure. Believers know that whatever happens to them has been created by Allah and that something good will certainly come out of it. Because they know that Allah has determined the best fate for them, they face every event with enormous pleasure and inner content. In the Qur'an, Allah says: **'[Believers are] those who are steadfast and put their trust in their Lord.'** (Surat al-'Ankabut: 59)"

"In that case, a believer's patience can't wear out!" exclaimed Idrees excitedly. "Now I understand what the lady on the bus was saying."

Grandpa Uthman answered: "Yes, my boy. Human beings show patience because it is a command from Allah, and so they will never be in a situation where they will lose it. Throughout their whole lives they will perform this act of worship with pleasure and eagerness."

"Thanks Grandpa," said Idrees. "Now I understand that patience is very important, and, if Allah so wills it, a person's patience will never come to an end."





OUR CLASS



"Good morning, class," said the teacher on Monday morning.

"Good morning, Sir," replied the students.

"How was your vacation?" he asked.

"It was very good, Sir. We threw lots of snowballs and made a snowman!"

"So, you enjoyed the snow over the week-end, then" he smiled at the class.

"Yes, teacher, we had lots of fun," they answered.

The teacher looked around the classroom and frowned. "I see

that some a couple of students haven't come to school today."

"Yes, Saleem and Aisha are not here today."

"Do you know why?"

"They stayed home, Sir," the class said. "They must be sick."

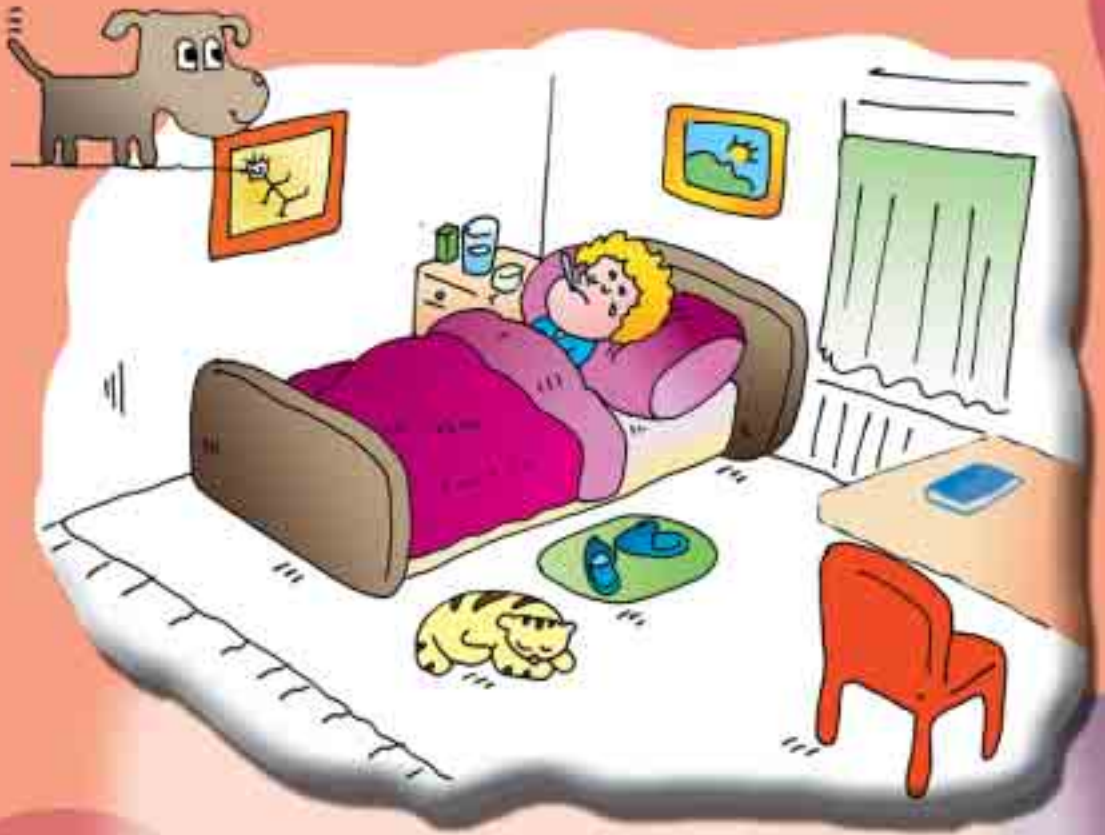
"That means they must have played in the snow too long," frowned the teacher.

"We played in the snow too; will we get sick, teacher?" asked the class, alarmed.

"If you aren't careful and stay out in the snow too long, you may do."

"Why does snow make people sick? We love it when it snows."





And we like playing in it."

The teacher explained: "The reason people get sick is that germs have entered their body. As you know, germs are invisible organisms. They enter our bodies and try to do us harm. If we're not careful about hygiene, and eat without washing our hands, they can get into our body and stay there."

"Will we get sick right away after germs enter our body, Sir?" the students wanted to know.

"No," he replied. "We don't always get sick. When Allah created us He gave our bodies a wonderful immune system to fight germs. We don't realize it, but the elements of this immune system protect our bodies just like an army. Every element of this highly



complex immune system does its duty perfectly."

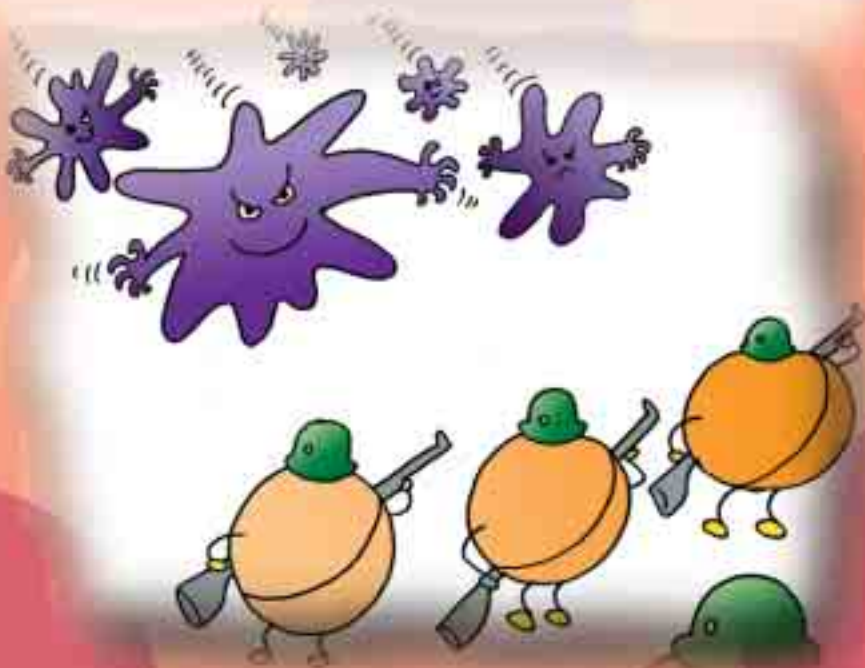
"So, Sir, why do we get sick? Is it because our immune system has not done its duty?"

"No, in a normal person, the immune system is always working. Without

our knowing it, our immune system is engaged in a big war against germs. First of all, it tries to prevent germs from entering and remaining in our bodies. If germs do manage to enter our bodies it destroys them immediately."

"Why do we get sick, then?" they still wanted to know.

"If we stay out in the cold too long," he explained, "And if we are careless about eating our meals, our bodies lose strength.





When this happens, our immune system gets weaker too. The germs that haven't been destroyed multiply and spread quickly throughout our bodies."

"So, when this happens, do the germs take over our whole bodies?" they asked.

"No," he continued. "In that case, our immune system starts an even bigger war against the germs. Because of this big war that is going in on our bodies, we get a fever, we feel out of sorts and our joints begin to ache."

The students nodded. "Yes. When that happens we have to stay in bed."

"Of course, when that happens the best thing we can do is rest.

If we get plenty of rest and take medicine at the same time, and if we eat all our food, our immune system will get stronger and help us. So, in a short time it will defeat the germs and throw them out of our bodies. In this way, we become healthy again."

"Now we understand how we get sick," the students told him. "From now on, we will be very careful."

"Yes," the teacher said: "Allah gave us a great blessing when He created our bodies and such a defense system in it. We should thank Him very much for it, and look after ourselves so that we don't lose the health that He gave us."



APPENDIX: THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

In this section of the book, we will examine some ideas held by evolutionists, who do not believe in Allah's existence and who try to deceive others by claiming that everything came into being by itself, by chance.

But when someone attempts to deceive someone else, the truth will always come out in the end. If the person involved is intelligent, he will always be aware he is being lied to. And because evolutionists tell lies they are inconsistent. In the following pages we will see how irrational their claims are, and how their deceit has been revealed.

WHAT IS THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION?

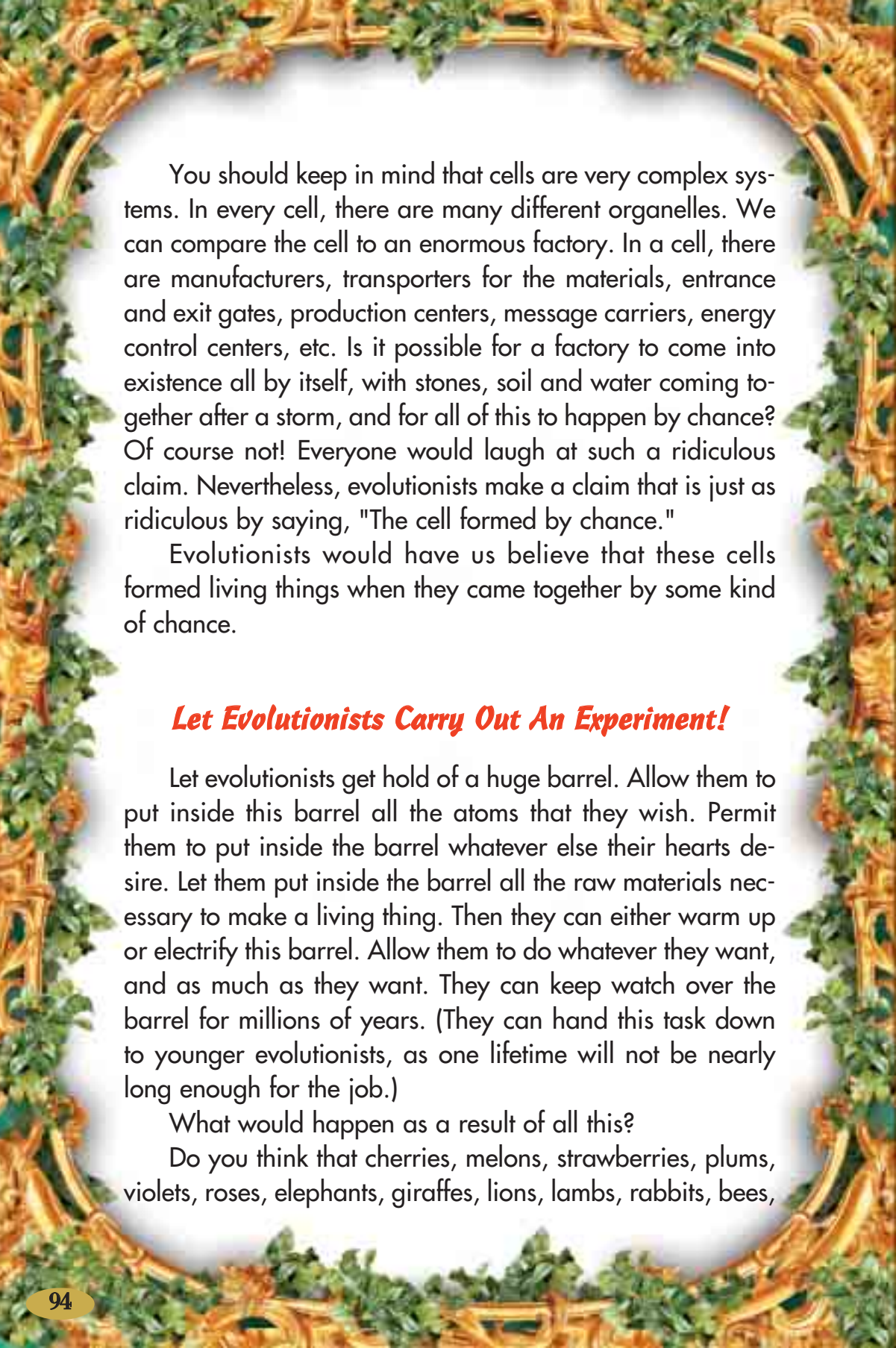
The theory of evolution is one of those mistaken ideas put forward by people who do not believe in the existence of Allah. It was Charles Darwin who originally proposed this theory, some 150 years ago. According to this illogical theory, everything came into existence by spontaneous, chance occurrences. For example, according to Darwin, one day,

fish turned into reptiles by chance. Another day, another chance event occurred and a reptile turned into a bird and started to fly. As for human beings, they are descended from apes. There is absolutely no truth to this claim. The only truth is that Allah created us, all other living things, the world and the universe. Darwin and others who have made his claim have told a great lie.

Atoms are the smallest particles of which all matter, animate and inanimate, is made up. This means that everything around you, including yourself, has been formed by the coming together of millions of atoms. Evolutionists (those who believe that Darwin was right) say that atoms decided by chance to come together, and that living things thus came into being. According to this illogical claim, one day, a violent wind or a hurricane arose and these atoms all joined together.

According to Darwin's scenario, these atoms joined up to make cells. As you know, every living thing is made up of cells. These then combine to make our eyes, ears, blood, heart, and in short, all of our bodies.





You should keep in mind that cells are very complex systems. In every cell, there are many different organelles. We can compare the cell to an enormous factory. In a cell, there are manufacturers, transporters for the materials, entrance and exit gates, production centers, message carriers, energy control centers, etc. Is it possible for a factory to come into existence all by itself, with stones, soil and water coming together after a storm, and for all of this to happen by chance? Of course not! Everyone would laugh at such a ridiculous claim. Nevertheless, evolutionists make a claim that is just as ridiculous by saying, "The cell formed by chance."

Evolutionists would have us believe that these cells formed living things when they came together by some kind of chance.

Let Evolutionists Carry Out An Experiment!

Let evolutionists get hold of a huge barrel. Allow them to put inside this barrel all the atoms that they wish. Permit them to put inside the barrel whatever else their hearts desire. Let them put inside the barrel all the raw materials necessary to make a living thing. Then they can either warm up or electrify this barrel. Allow them to do whatever they want, and as much as they want. They can keep watch over the barrel for millions of years. (They can hand this task down to younger evolutionists, as one lifetime will not be nearly long enough for the job.)

What would happen as a result of all this?

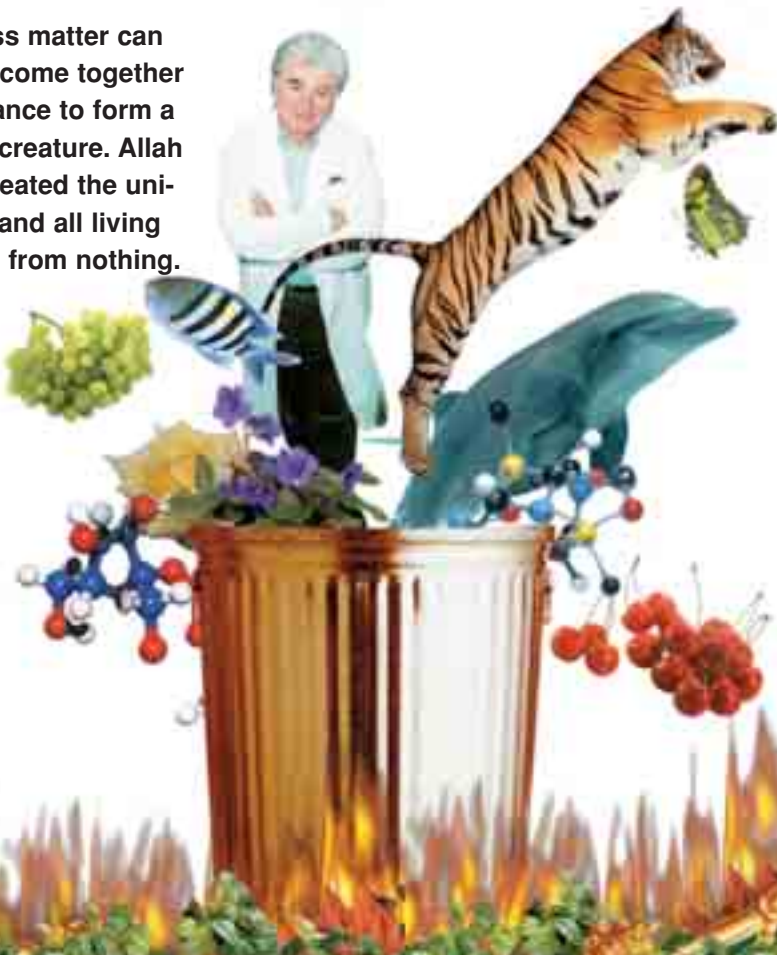
Do you think that cherries, melons, strawberries, plums, violets, roses, elephants, giraffes, lions, lambs, rabbits, bees,

cats, dogs, squirrels, and fish could possibly emerge from this barrel? Could a person who thinks, who becomes happy or excited, who enjoys listening to music and reading books possibly step out of it? Of course not! Neither could anyone like the professors keeping watch over the barrel emerge. Not only could not one single professor not emerge, but not even one of the trillions of cells in such a professor's body.

Atoms are lifeless. Can lifeless matter come together to produce a living, laughing, thinking being?

Of course not; no living thing could ever emerge from that barrel. Because living things aren't made up of pieces

Lifeless matter can never come together by chance to form a living creature. Allah has created the universe and all living things from nothing.



of lifeless matter coming together by chance. Allah created all living things. Allah created humans, mountains, lakes, lambs, lions and flowers when there was nothing at all in existence, and He has created everything from nothingness just by giving the command "Be!"

HOW, ACCORDING TO EVOLUTIONISTS, DO LIVING THINGS EVOLVE?

Allah created all species, and not one of these species can evolve from another. This is because each species has its own unique characteristics.

However, the theory of evolution is wrong in its claim that that living things evolved over time, developed different features and changed into other creatures. You've all seen turtles, lizards, snakes; evolutionists make the nonsensical claim that these reptiles changed by chance and turned into birds.

So, what are these events that they claim caused the reptile to change into another creature? Evolutionists believe that evolution takes place as a result of two separate events that occur simultaneously, called "mutation" and "natural selection." This, actually, is an illogical belief and one which has no scientific basis.

What Is Natural Selection?

The simplest explanation of natural selection is that the fittest creatures survive, while the weak disappear. Let's explain this with an example: Think of a herd of deer, which



There are countless species of living things in the world. Evolutionists will never be able to explain how these various species came to be. This is one of the best examples of Allah's creative artistry.

are often attacked by wild animals. When that happens, the deer will start to run fast, and only the fastest running and most agile deer will survive. Gradually, weak and slow deer will completely disappear, as the predators hunt them down. There will only be healthy and strong deer left. Therefore, after some time, the herd will only consist of fit deer.

What we have said so far is quite correct, but these things have nothing to do with evolution. In spite of this, evolutionists believe that such a herd of deer could gradually develop into another kind of animal, giraffes for example. You can see how wrong they are! No matter how fast a deer runs, or how far it extends its neck upwards, it cannot turn into another creature, a lion or a giraffe, for example. This can only happen in fairy tales. You probably all know the story about the frog that turns into a prince. The only time a



frog can turn into a prince is in a fairy tale. However, in real life it is impossible for a deer to change into a lion or another living thing. And yet evolutionists still keep insisting that they can!

What Does Mutation Mean?

Mutations are the adverse changes that take place in a living body. Radiation or chemical substances cause mutations. The effects of radiation and chemical substances on living things are always harmful. Nearly 60 years ago, during the Second World War, an atom bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The atom bomb spread radiation around the area, and this caused terrible harm to people. The radiation caused most of the people exposed to it either to become seriously ill or else to die. Moreover, it destroyed some of their bodily systems, and this in turn caused their children to be born either sick or crippled.

So, with such disastrous events in mind, this is what evolutionists would have us believe: One day a fish undergoes a mutation; for example, it is affected, as the people of Hiroshima were, by being exposed to radiation or something

similar. As a result of this mutation, some changes take place in the fish's body and, one day, it turns into a crocodile. This is a totally ridiculous claim. Furthermore, as we mentioned above, mutations are always harmful to living creatures. They either cripple them or make them very sick.

We can compare evolutionists' claims with the following example: If you took hold of an axe and hit a black and white television with it, could you change that television into a colour one? Of course not! If you randomly hit a television with an axe, you will merely end up with a smashed set. In the same way that hitting something haphazardly with an axe will inevitably damage it, so mutations harm living beings.



... He has no partner
in the Kingdom. He
created everything
and determined it
most exactly.
(Surat al-Furqan: 2)

FOSSILS THAT EVOLUTIONISTS JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FIND

A fossil is a part of an animal or a plant that has been dead for a very long time—usually thousands or even millions of years. It is preserved in rock formations in the earth's crust. In order for a plant or an animal to become a fossil, it must be buried almost immediately after it dies. For example, if there were a bird on the ground and a heap of sand suddenly fell on it and killed it, the remains of this bird could be preserved for millions of years.

Similarly, there is a resin of some trees that becomes fossilized by geological processes, in which case it is



Under the layers of the earth's crust we can find the remains of creatures that lived in the past. These remains are called fossils and they disprove all the claims made by evolutionists.

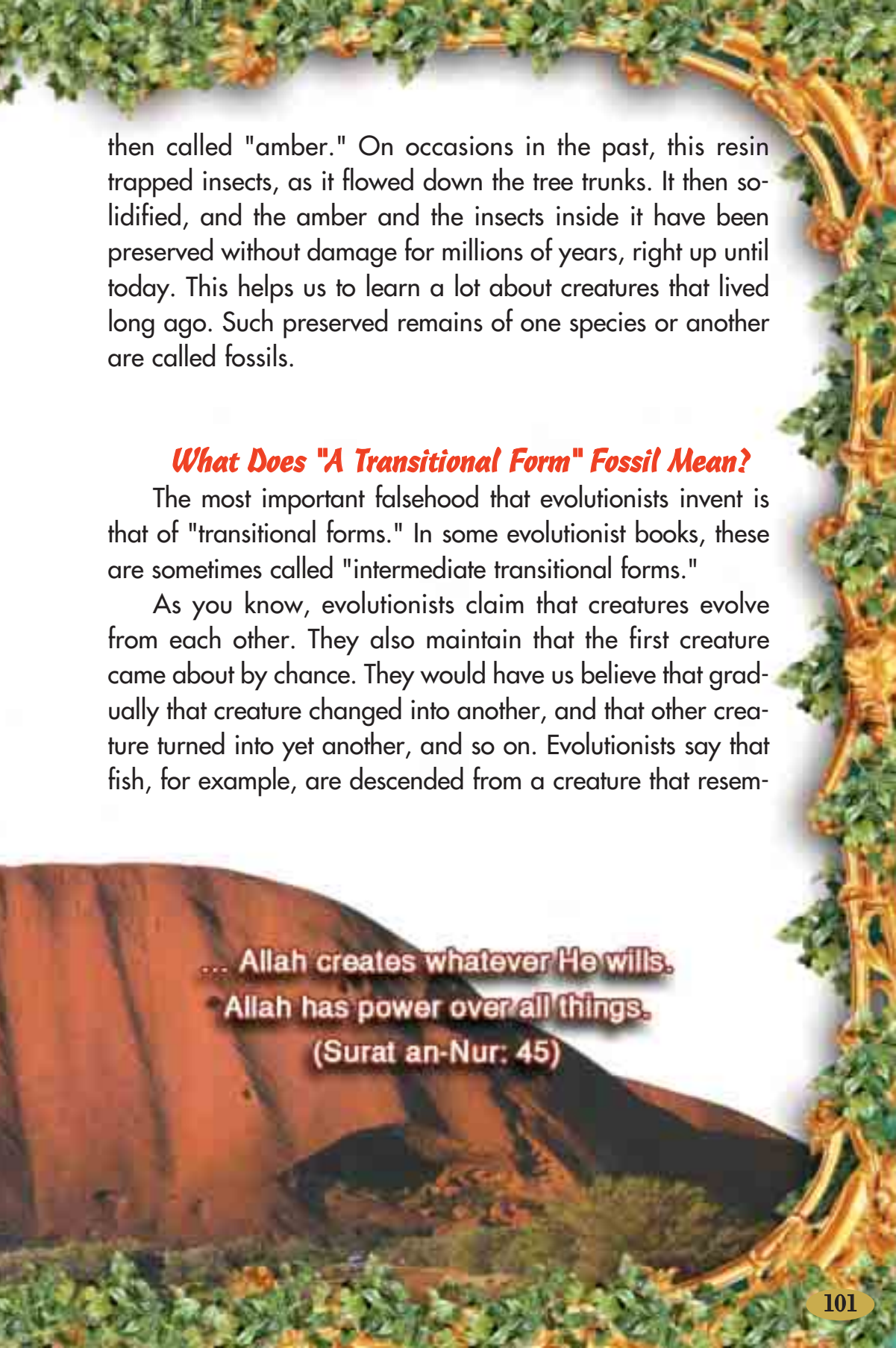


A fossil snail



A fossil spider

Allah created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four...




then called "amber." On occasions in the past, this resin trapped insects, as it flowed down the tree trunks. It then solidified, and the amber and the insects inside it have been preserved without damage for millions of years, right up until today. This helps us to learn a lot about creatures that lived long ago. Such preserved remains of one species or another are called fossils.

What Does "A Transitional Form" Fossil Mean?

The most important falsehood that evolutionists invent is that of "transitional forms." In some evolutionist books, these are sometimes called "intermediate transitional forms."

As you know, evolutionists claim that creatures evolve from each other. They also maintain that the first creature came about by chance. They would have us believe that gradually that creature changed into another, and that other creature turned into yet another, and so on. Evolutionists say that fish, for example, are descended from a creature that resem-



**... Allah creates whatever He wills.
Allah has power over all things.
(Surat an-Nur: 45)**



Evolutionists claim, for example, that starfish developed over millions of years and turned into fish. According to this claim, there should be many "transitional forms" to be found between starfish and fish. But no fossil of such a transitional form has yet been found. There are starfish and there are fish in the fossil record, but there is no transitional form made up of strange-looking combinations of both.

bled a starfish. This means that one day, due to mutation, a starfish lost one of its arms. Over the next millions of years it lost more of its arms, except for some that started developing into fins of their own accord. Meanwhile, and simultaneously, all the other changes that are necessary for a starfish to turn into a fish took place. (Nothing like this could ever have happened, of course, but we are just reminding ourselves of what evolutionists would have us believe!) According to evolutionists, the starfish had to go through many phases to turn into a fish.

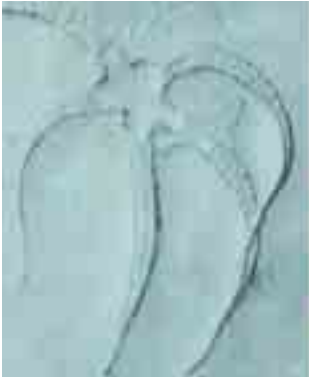
So, these imaginary creatures in their transformational stages are called intermediate species in the process of evolution. Again, according to the illogical claims of evolutionists, all of them must have some vestigial or not yet fully formed body parts. For example, the intermediate species which allegedly formed while fish were turning into reptiles must have "half-grown" feet, fins, lungs and gills. We must remember that if such strange creatures had actually lived in the past, we would certainly have found fossil remains of them. It is interesting that so far not one fossil has been found



A 50 million-year-old fish fossil



Countless fossils of fish and starfish have been found. But, contrary to the fabrications of evolutionists, no fossil of a transitional stage has been found showing a starfish in the process of changing into a fish.



A 400 million-year-old starfish fossil

Starfish have never changed. They are exactly the same today as they were millions of years ago. This proves that evolutionists have been lying. Above you see a starfish and a 400 million-year-old fossil of a starfish.



A fossil of a crab that lived 150 million years ago



A picture of a crab living today. There is no difference between the two crabs, is there?

of the intermediate species that evolutionists claim to have existed.

Creatures did not evolve from each other. The truth is that they were all brought into being at some instant, with all their features in tact and with no imperfections. They are no different to members of their species which are alive today. Allah created them all.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE CAMBRIAN PERIOD?

The oldest fossils of living things date from the time known as the Cambrian period, some 500 million years ago. The creatures that lived during the Cambrian period also prove that the theory of evolution is completely wrong. How is that?

These creatures appeared all of a sudden during the Cambrian period. Before them, no other living things existed on the planet. The fact that these creatures appeared out of nowhere and all of a sudden is proof that Allah created them in a single instant. If the theory proposed by evolutionists were right, then these creatures must have evolved gradually from simpler ancestors. However, these creatures have neither ancestors nor any transitional forms that lived before them. There is absolutely no trace of any such organisms anywhere in the fossil record. Fossils show us that these creatures—just like all other living things—suddenly appeared during the Cambrian period, with all their features in tact, but with no alleged evolutionary ancestors from whom



This creature called a "trilobite" lived in the Cambrian era.

they evolved behind them. This is clearest proof that Allah created them.

For example, there used to be a creature called the trilobite that lived during the Cambrian period, although we can no longer see them now because they are extinct. The trilobite had very complex, but perfect eyes. These were made up of hundreds of honeycomb-shaped cells, and these cells allowed it to see very clearly. It is clear that living things with such wonderful features could not possibly come into existence spontaneously with the help of chance.

THE FALSEHOOD THAT FISH CHANGED INTO REPTILES

Evolutionists say that reptiles evolved from fish. According to them, one day, when food in the sea was scarce, fish decided to look for some on land, and when they were there, they changed into reptiles to be able to survive on land. As you



Figment of the Imagination

can see, this is an absurd idea, because everybody knows what would happen to fish if they emerged onto the land: They would die!

Have you ever been fishing? Just think! What would happen if a fish took the bait and was hooked on your line and you saved its life and brought it home to have a rest in your backyard? As we have just said, it would die. If you were to go fishing again, and this time caught many fish and brought them all back to your backyard, then what would happen? The same thing: they would all die!

Yet evolutionists refuse to agree. They say that one of the fish in your backyard suddenly started changing while it was waiting to die, and that it turned into a reptile and continued living! That is totally and completely impossible!

It can never be possible because there are a lot of differences between fish and land creatures, and all of these changes cannot just happen suddenly, by chance. Let us list just a few of the things that fish would need to survive on land:

1. Fish use gills to breathe in water. However, on land they cannot breathe with their gills and so they would die if they left the water. They would need to have lungs. Let us just suppose

that a fish made up its mind to leave the water and live on dry land: where would it get lungs from? Furthermore, it has no idea of what a lung even is!

2. Fish do not have a kidney system like ours, but they would need one to live on land. If it decided to move onto dry land, it is very clear that a fish would not be able to find kidneys for itself anywhere.

3. Fish do not have feet, which is why they could not walk when they reached the shore. Just how did the first fish that decided to emerge onto dry land find feet for itself? As this is impossible, it is obvious that evolutionists are wrong about this as well.

These are just three of the hundreds of things that fish must have had in order to survive on land.

About the Fish Called the Coelacanth

For years, evolutionists used to describe a fish called "the coelacanth" as a transitional form that almost made it ashore. In all their books and magazines they portrayed this fish as proof of their theory. They thought that the coelacanth



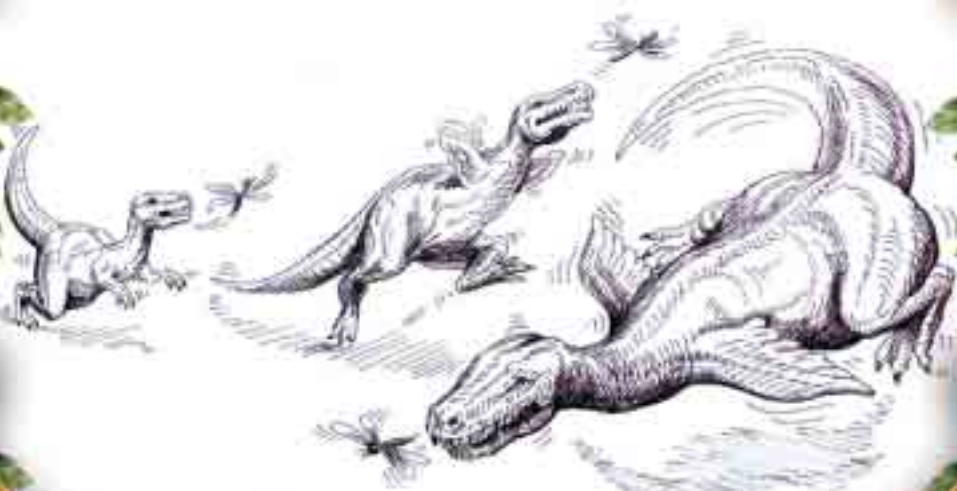
Evolutionists claim that the coelacanth is a fish that started to change into a reptile. Later, a living coelacanth was discovered and the evolutionists' ruse was uncovered. The coelacanth is a real fish.

had long since become extinct. That is why they made up a series of false stories when they examined the fossils of this fish.

Then, just a few years ago, a fisherman caught a coelacanth in his net. Since then, many others have been caught. It became obvious that the coelacanth is a normal fish. Furthermore, it wasn't preparing to come ashore, as evolutionists claim. Evolutionists were saying, "This fish lived in very shallow water, and so it was getting ready to go ashore." In reality, the coelacanth lived in very deep water. It wasn't a transitional form as evolutionists wanted us to believe. It was a real fish. Many more evolutionists' false ideas have since been exposed!

THE CLAIM THAT BIRDS EVOLVED FROM REPTILES IS UNTRUE

Another false statement that evolutionists make is about how birds came into existence.



Their tall tale is that reptiles living in trees started to jump from tree to tree, and while they were jumping, they developed wings. Yet another tall tale is that some reptiles trying to catch flies used to run and flap their fore-arms, and that these fore-arms turned into wings.

Isn't it ludicrous to imagine a dinosaur developing wings while running? Things like this only happen in stories or in cartoons.

There is an even more important subject. These evolutionists say that this big dinosaur developed its wings when it was trying to catch flies. Well, then how did the fly itself take to the air? Where did its wings come from? When they were trying to explain how a gigantic dinosaur could fly, shouldn't they first have explained how a tiny insect was able to? Of course they should.

But this is the point that evolutionists will never be able to explain. The fly is one of the



best flying creatures on earth. It can flap its wings 500 to 1000 times per second. As you know, it can manoeuvre in the air with great ease. No matter how many stories evolutionists tell, they still cannot explain how birds' wings came into being. The truth is this: Allah has created the wings of birds and flies, together with their ability to fly.

Archaeopteryx, Which Evolutionists Call A Transitional Form, Was in Fact A Fully Fledged Bird!

Let us just give you a few of the many differences between reptiles and birds.

1. Birds have wings, but reptiles don't.
2. Birds have feathers, but reptiles have scales.
3. Birds have a unique skeletal system and their bones are hollow. This makes them lighter and makes it easier for them to fly.

These are just a few differences that immediately come to mind. There are many other differences between these creatures.

If a species of reptile had turned into birds, there ought to have been many creatures that had lived in between the reptiles and the birds representing the phases of this change.

Fossil hunters should have been able to come across at least one of these fossils. That is, there must have been creatures with half wings, half-feathered and half-scaled bodies, and half-beaks and half-mouths, and their fossils should have been found, but no such creature has ever been located among the many fossils on Earth. Those fossils that are

The fossil of a bird called *Archaeopteryx*, that evolutionists tried to portray as an intermediate species, shows that evolution is a theory founded on deceit. This fossil is that of a real bird and shows that birds have not changed for millions of years.



found belong either to a complete reptile, or else to a complete bird. This means that birds did not evolve from reptiles. Allah created birds, just as He has created all other living things.

However, since evolutionists don't want to accept this, they try to convince people that what they say is true by inventing stories. They found the fossil of a bird called *Archaeopteryx*, which lived approximately 150 million years ago, and claimed that this bird was a transitional form between dinosaurs and birds. Yet saying that *Archaeopteryx* was the ancestor of birds is completely illogical.

Archaeopteryx was a fully fledged bird!

Because:

1. *Archaeopteryx* had feathers, just like the birds of our own time.

2. *Archaeopteryx* had the same chest-bone, to which its wings were attached, as other flying birds.

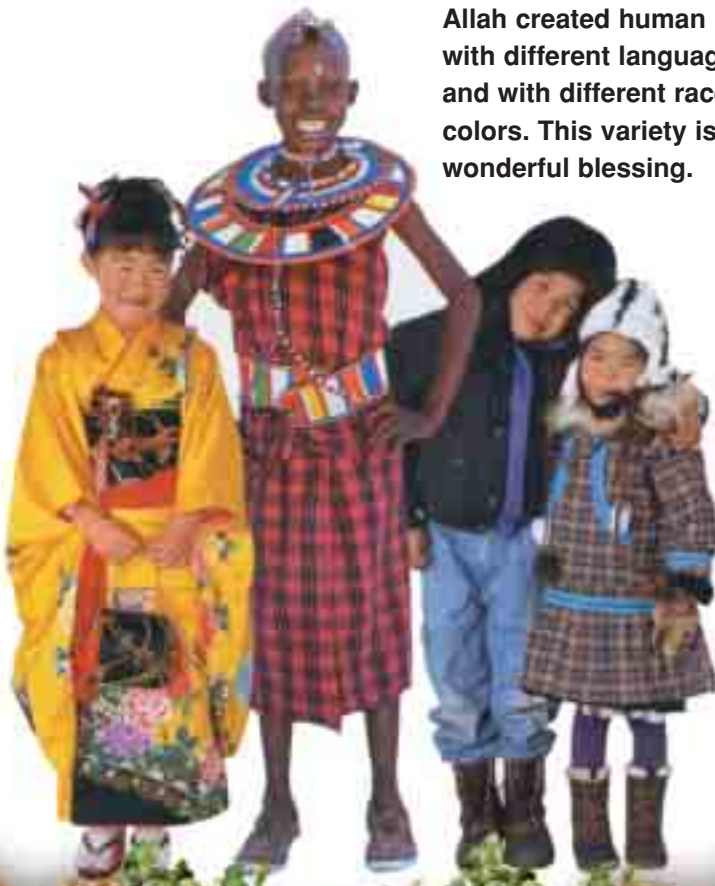
3. *Archaeopteryx* cannot be the ancestor of all birds, because fossils of birds that are older than it have been found.

THE TALL TALE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

Evolutionists maintain that humans evolved from apes, and that apes are therefore our ancestors. Neither Darwin nor any other evolutionists have ever had any proof to back up that claim, which is a complete fabrication.

In fact, one of the reasons that the theory of evolution was thought up in the first place was to try to make people forget that Allah created them. If people believe that they came into existence by chance and that their ancestors were animals, then they will feel no responsibility towards Allah. In turn, this causes them to forget all their religious values

Allah created human beings with different languages and with different races and colors. This variety is a wonderful blessing.

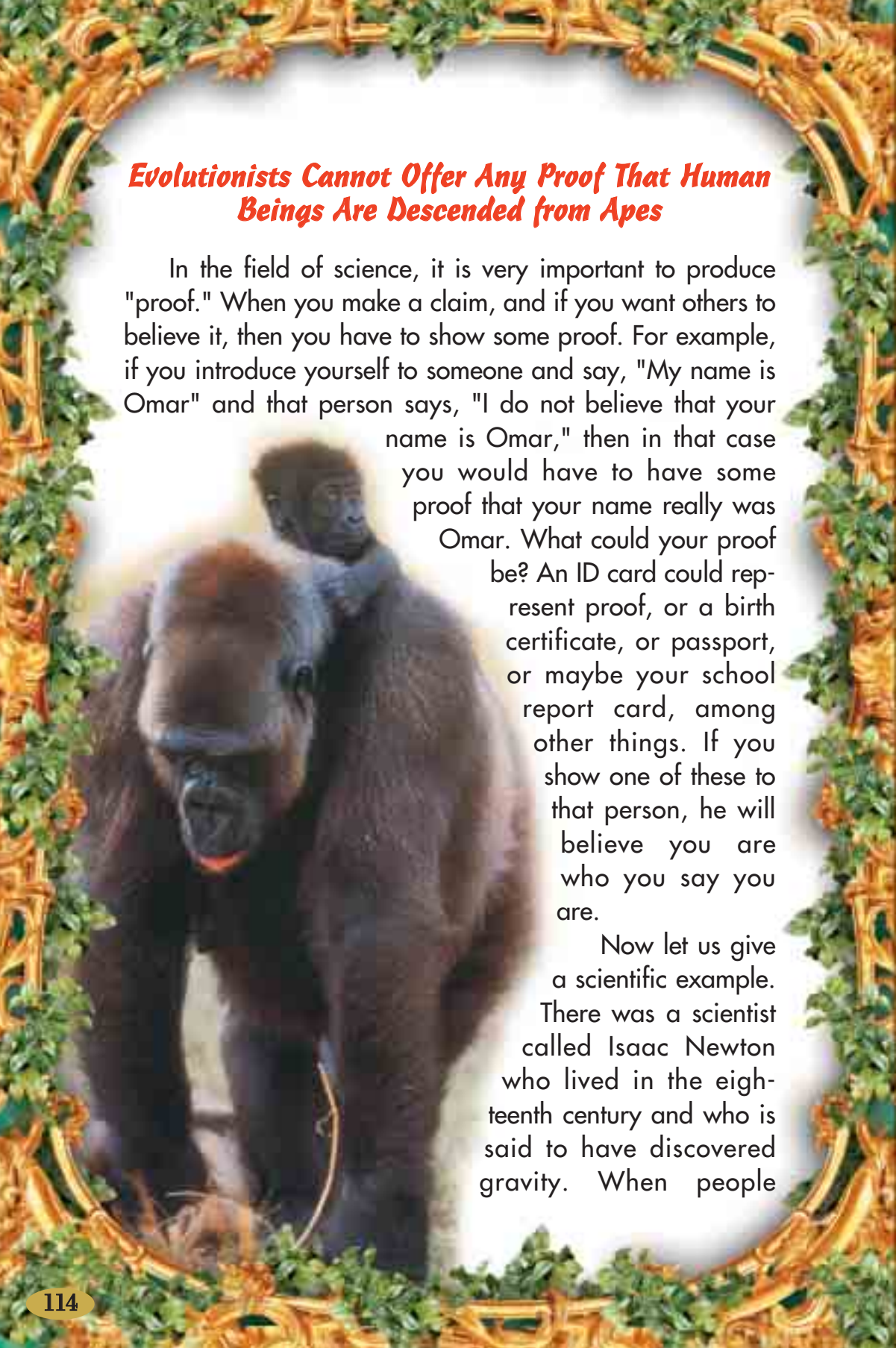


and become selfish. Selfish people lose such good feelings as love for their people and their families. You see, evolutionists try to turn people away from such feelings, and that is why they try to spread the theory of evolution. Their aim is to make people forget Allah, so they tell everyone, "Allah did not create you. You are descended from apes, in other words, you are an advanced animal."

In truth, Allah created human beings. Compared to other living things, the human being is the only creature that can speak, think, rejoice and take decisions, is intelligent, can establish civilizations and can communicate at an advanced level. Allah is the One Who has given all these features to human beings.



Evolutionists Cannot Offer Any Proof That Human Beings Are Descended from Apes



In the field of science, it is very important to produce "proof." When you make a claim, and if you want others to believe it, then you have to show some proof. For example, if you introduce yourself to someone and say, "My name is Omar" and that person says, "I do not believe that your name is Omar," then in that case you would have to have some proof that your name really was Omar. What could your proof be? An ID card could represent proof, or a birth certificate, or passport, or maybe your school report card, among other things. If you show one of these to that person, he will believe you are who you say you are.

Now let us give a scientific example. There was a scientist called Isaac Newton who lived in the eighteenth century and who is said to have discovered gravity. When people

asked him what made him so sure he replied: "When an apple falls off a tree, it falls to the ground. It doesn't stay in the air." That meant that there is a force pulling the apple to the ground, a force which he called "gravity."

Therefore, evolutionists have to show some proof to make their theories believable. For example, the theory of evolution maintains that man is descended from apes.

We therefore need to ask them: Where did you get this idea from, and where is your proof?

If man's ancestors were indeed apes, we should expect to find the fossils of creatures that were half-human and half-ape as confirmation. However, no such fossil has ever been discovered. We have only found the fossils of humans or of apes. This means that evolutionists have absolutely no proof that apes were man's ancestors.

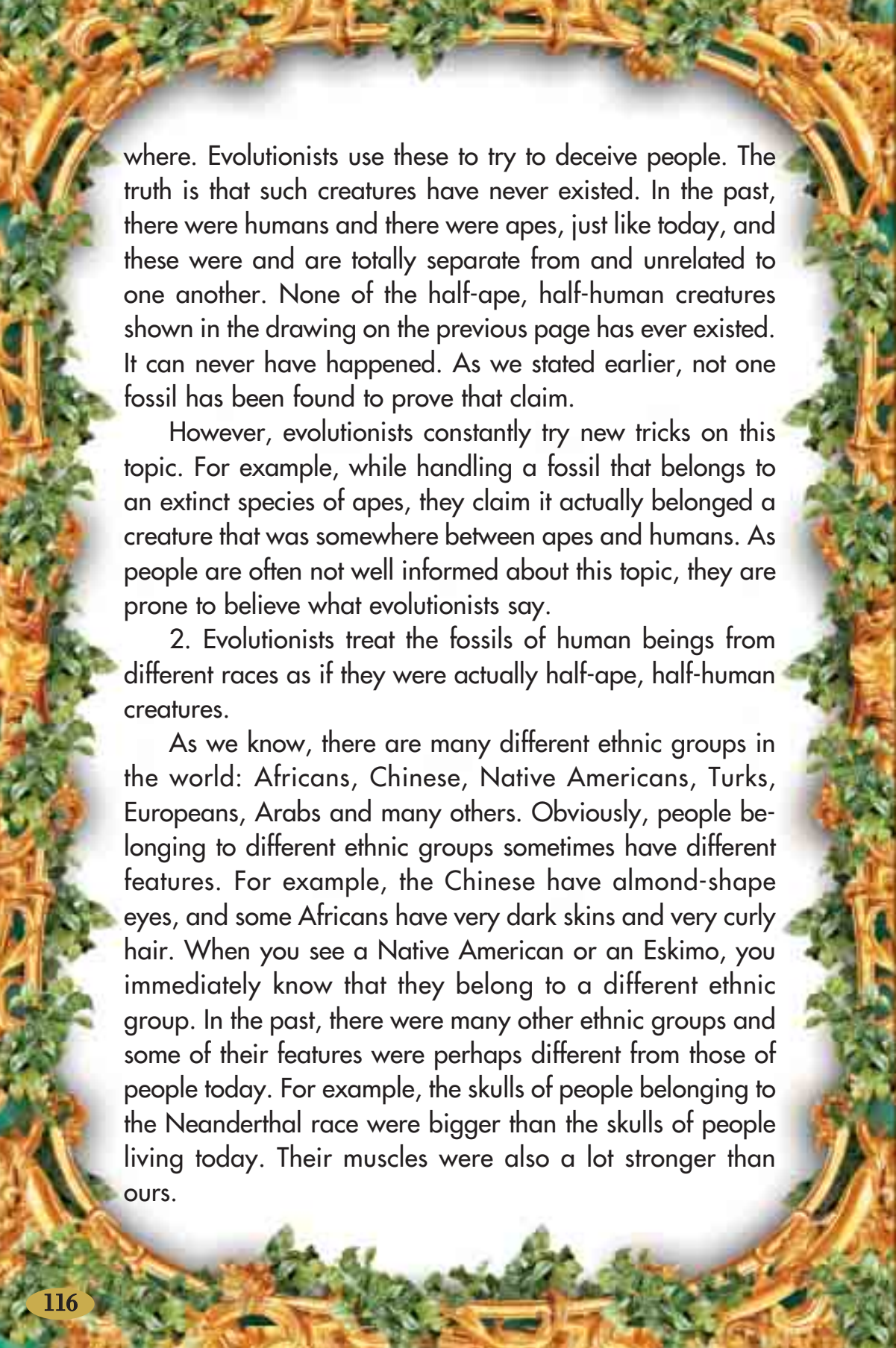
However, evolutionists still try to mislead people with their theories.

Some Tricks of Evolutionists:

1. Evolutionists talk about the fossils of extinct ape species as if they belonged to creatures that were half-human and half-ape.

You have surely seen pictures like the one above some-





where. Evolutionists use these to try to deceive people. The truth is that such creatures have never existed. In the past, there were humans and there were apes, just like today, and these were and are totally separate from and unrelated to one another. None of the half-ape, half-human creatures shown in the drawing on the previous page has ever existed. It can never have happened. As we stated earlier, not one fossil has been found to prove that claim.

However, evolutionists constantly try new tricks on this topic. For example, while handling a fossil that belongs to an extinct species of apes, they claim it actually belonged a creature that was somewhere between apes and humans. As people are often not well informed about this topic, they are prone to believe what evolutionists say.

2. Evolutionists treat the fossils of human beings from different races as if they were actually half-ape, half-human creatures.

As we know, there are many different ethnic groups in the world: Africans, Chinese, Native Americans, Turks, Europeans, Arabs and many others. Obviously, people belonging to different ethnic groups sometimes have different features. For example, the Chinese have almond-shape eyes, and some Africans have very dark skins and very curly hair. When you see a Native American or an Eskimo, you immediately know that they belong to a different ethnic group. In the past, there were many other ethnic groups and some of their features were perhaps different from those of people today. For example, the skulls of people belonging to the Neanderthal race were bigger than the skulls of people living today. Their muscles were also a lot stronger than ours.

Evolutionists, however, use the differences between this race and ours as a way to deceive people. They say, for instance, when they find a Neanderthal skull, "This is the skull of man's ancestors who lived tens of thousands of years ago." Sometimes the fossil skulls found are smaller than the average skull size of human beings today. Pointing to such a skull fossil, evolutionists will say, "The owner of this skull was just at the point of changing from an ape into a human."

In reality, even today there are people belonging to different ethnic groups who have smaller than average skulls. For example, the skull volume of Native Australians (Aborigines) is quite small, but this does not mean that they are half-ape, half-human. They are normal human beings, just like you and everyone else.

Consequently, we can see that the fossils evolutionists portray as proof of human beings having evolved from apes either belong to earlier species of apes or human races that are now extinct. This means that half-human, half-ape creatures have never existed.

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE

The biggest difference between apes and human beings is that humans have souls and apes don't. Humans have consciousness: they think, speak and convey their thoughts to others in rational sentences, make decisions, feel, develop tastes, know about art, paint, compose songs, sing and are full of love and moral values. All of these faculties are unique to the human soul. Only human beings have these unique

features. Evolutionists are unable to answer this question. In order to resemble a human being, an ape would have to go through many physical changes and would have to have the other faculties unique to human beings. Is there any force in nature that can give such abilities as painting, thinking or composing to any ape? Of course not! Allah created only humans with such abilities, and He has not given animals any of these faculties. As we have seen, it is totally impossible for an ape to turn into a human being. Human beings have been human from the day they were created. Fish have always been fish, and birds have always been birds. No creature is the ancestor of another. Allah is the Creator of all human beings and all other living things. The reason that evolutionists claim that the human beings are descended from apes is the physical resemblance between the two. However, other creatures on Earth resemble humans even more closely. For example, the parrot seen in the picture can talk. Octopuses have eyes just like those of human beings. Cats and dogs listen to and follow orders, just like a person. What would you think if someone said that human beings were descended from dogs, parrots, or the octopus? You see, there is no difference between this idea and the stories that evolutionists fabricate.

ALLAH IS THE CREATOR OF ALL

Our Lord is the One Who has put billions of pieces of information into a place so small that we cannot even see it with-



out special equipment.

Allah is the One Who has created us, our eyes, our hair and our feet.

He is also the Creator of our families, parents, brothers and sisters, friends and teachers.

Allah is the One Who has created the food that we love, jams, cereals and pasta, and also the fruits and vegetables that make us healthy and strong. If Allah had not created it, we would never know what strawberry tasted like.

Allah has also given us the senses of taste and smell. If He had not given us these faculties, we would not have been able to taste the things that we eat. It would have been the same whether we ate a potato or a cake. Allah hasn't just created delicious and beautifully scented foods, He has also given us the faculties that allow us to enjoy them.



You like some things, and you enjoy them and think of them as fun. It could be a dessert that you enjoy eating, a game that you enjoy playing, or an outing with people you love. Whatever it is, you must never forget that Allah is the One Who makes it possible for you to enjoy such things.

Since Allah is full of compassion for you, He always gives you pleasant and beautiful things.

To begin with, there was a time when you did not exist. Just think, you were nowhere before you were conceived. You were nothing. Allah created you. He made you out of nothing.

We must therefore be grateful to Allah for each moment of our lives. In everything that we enjoy and love, we must remember Allah, and say, "O Allah I am forever grateful to you for all your blessings." If we find ourselves in a situation that we do not like, we should again pray to Allah, because He is the only One Who can put things right.

Allah always hears our prayers and responds to them. Allah knows what we are thinking in the depths of our hearts; He hears and answers every prayer.

What we have to do is to offer our joyful thanks to our Lord Who created us, the world and all the blessings it contains. And knowing that Allah is always with us, and that He sees us and listens to us at every moment, we must always be on our best behavior.

***Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the All-Knowing.
(Surat al-Baqara: 32)***