

The story of the spider's web and the dove

Translated by Saad ibn Aboo Talhah Daawood Burbank

Article taken and slightly adapted from: saadburbank.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹ was asked the following question:

Question: Is the (story of) the spider-web and the two doves on the day the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² hid in the cave of 'Hira' (authentically) reported?

Answer: No, the historians mention: That the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) when he hid in the cave of 'Thawr' – that the spider spun a web to cover him, and the dove landed on the branch of a tree – this is a lie which has no authenticity.

And it (the like of this story) with regards to the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) has not been mentioned in a single verse of the Qur'aan.

(Furthermore) any person, if a spider were to spin a web (to cover him) and if there was a dove nearby – anybody who saw that would say: "There is nobody here."

However, with regards to the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), then Allaah blinded them (the polytheists) from seeing him. Due to this Aboo Bakr (رضي الله عنه)³ said: "O Messenger of Allaah! If one of them were to look at his feet they would have seen us." This indicates that there was nothing to prevent (the polytheists) from seeing them.

So there is nothing authentic regarding the spider and the dove when the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) hid in the cave of 'Thawr'.

Because of this (story) many people respect the spider, saying: "Do not kill it; because it spun a web covering the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)."

However (they say) the gecko lizard should be killed as it was blowing into the fire that Ibraaheem was in (i.e. it was stoking the fire). So for this reason (the spider) is honoured (as they claim).

We say: "No, the spider is to be killed if it harms, just like other than it."

And it does cause harm occasionally, making webs on books and on the wall – so it is killed (in this case). There is even a narration in this regard, but it is weak – with an order to kill the spider; however it is weak.⁴

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

⁴ Source: Shaykh Ibn Uthaymeen rahimahullaah official website:

<http://www.binothaymeen.com/sound/snd/a0016/A0016-229A.rm> voice clip from 15:00 mins – 16:39 mins

For more works of Shaykh Uthaymeen please go to Uthaymeen.com