

Surah Al-fil

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Quran is such a powerful miracle... a brilliant proof of Allah's greatness and power and a clear guidance for whoever wants to walk on the way of success. Still there are people who don't accept it as being the true guide... they are the ones who really don't want to accept the fact that they are not as great as they think. And so instead of accepting Allah's religion and humbling themselves before His greatness and Power; they start attacking the image of Islam and Quran. Often they are in the guise of being "Muslims"... but they will spare no effort to prove that the limits set by the Quran and Hadith are just the fanciful imagination of some misguided people... When I listen to such people I get so disturbed because it feels like they are going to destroy the very foundation of our faith... and I feel so small and helpless that I cannot defend my religion against their hateful and aggressive attacks. But today when I understood the meaning of Surah Al-fil, I felt so comforted and secure that Allah is enough as the defender of Islam... my job is to put in the best effort that I can, but the only one who can protect my Quran from these arrogant people is Allah.

I just listened to His words and felt how clear is His assurance as He reminds me of an incident which happened in the same year in which our Prophet (s.a.w) was born:

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ {1}

Have you not considered how your Rabb dealt with the Army of the Elephant?

It is a famous story in the history of Makkah that in the year 571 A.D. the Governor of Yemen, by the name of Abraha, advanced to destroy the Ka'ba with his 60,000 troops and some 13 elephants... The protectors of Ka'ba could do nothing against this mighty advance, except to take refuge in the nearby mountains... and prayed to Allah to save His house. What followed was an amazing miracle...

أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضَلُّيلٍ {2}

Did He not make their treacherous plan a flop?

Allah could have destroyed them with anything that He wanted but He chose a flock of small birds to do this job... to show the arrogant people that whatever power they have is from

Allah and if they go against Him then He can make them weaker and smaller than the birds...

وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ {3}

And He sent against them flocks of birds

No missiles were needed to finish these people... just tiny little stones made of clay, held in the small little beaks of the birds, were enough for their destruction:

تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِنْ سِجِّيلٍ {4}

Striking them with stones of hard clay

And look at what became of their pomp and splendour... they thought of themselves as unbeatable but they were beaten beyond recognition:

فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَأْكُولٍ {5}

Thus he made them like chewed-up straw

Like other stories of the Quran, this is not just a recording of history nor is it a tale of amusement... rather it has a lesson for all of us. For me it is a great reminder that human beings are nothing more than Allah's creation. So we should not fear them no matter how powerful they seem. Allah gave them power and strength and He can take it back whenever He wants...

The Quran is Allah's book and Islam is the religion chosen by Him... therefore no one can defeat it... Arrogance is nothing but a deception and leads towards utter destruction... so may Allah save us from it always... Ameen