

LESSONS FROM THE BEE

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

Listen to Sura al-Nahl (ch. 16): verse 68 – 69:-

“And your Rabb taught the bee to build its cells in hills, on trees and in (human) habitations; then to eat of all the produce (of the earth), and find with skill the spacious paths of its Rabb: there issues from within their bodies a drink of varying colours, wherein is healing for mankind: verily in this is a sign for those who reflect.”

a) Verse 68 informs us that bees are guided by Allah (S.W.T.) by way of **wahy**, i.e., of a lower instinctive level. Bees follow this inherent instinct in a committed and meticulous manner to produce a healing balm for our physical ailments. Hence, believers should follow the revelation of al-Quraan which can serve as a healing balm for our moral and spiritual ailments. Our commitment and efforts ought to develop a community of believers fit to be a beacon-light for others, capable of healing their moral and spiritual diseases.

b) Bees serve as a symbol of industry and co-operation. An average hive consists of about sixty – five thousand bees, one of which is the queen, several others are drones and the rest are workers. All of them work together towards the general good.

In Sura al-Baqara (ch. 2): verse 148 Allah (S.W.T.) directs us towards general goodness which would please him.

“To each is a goal to which Allah turns him; then strive together (as in a race) towards all that is good. ...”

c) There is also a great lesson in the way bees collect, store, and distribute food. The worker bees strive hard to collect food but consume only that much which is sufficient for their needs. The rest of the food is deposited in a common pool for the welfare of the others. We also need little for our survival. However, we prefer to over-consume and tend to become miserly. Remember, human ailments such as poverty and malnutrition are due to mishandling of the means of sustenance.

Listen to Sura Luqman (ch. 31): verse 31:-

“Do you not see that the ships sail through the ocean by the grace of Allah? --- That he may show you his signs? Verily in this are signs for all who constantly persevere and give thanks.”

d) One of the lessons which can be drawn from this verse is that the sea contains trillions upon trillions of litres of water, yet a ship does not use all of these litres of water to get from its place of departure to its place of destination. It needs only that mass of water upon which it sails. Other ships can also use the water of the sea. Hence, as humans we should learn to distribute wealth in a wise manner so that human ailments may be checked and alleviated.

e) Bees possess a remarkable power of navigation. They are able to relate the position of their hives with the direction of polarised light coming from the sun. Hence, they can steer themselves to their hives from anywhere. In this is a lesson for us to develop our navigational skills.

g) In winter they gather together in compact masses to protect themselves from the effects of cold. From this we are taught to work together to produce and wear the appropriate clothes for the season.

h) When exposed to smoke they rush to the food-stores and gorge themselves with honey which serves as a defence system. Here we are taught to develop a defence system against the physical onslaught and violence of tyrannical forces. As bees gorge themselves with honey to protect themselves, so too should we imbue ourselves with the spiritual honey (al-Quraan).

Listen to Sura Anfal (ch. 8): verse 60:-

“Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies of Allah and your enemies ...”

Worksheet

- 1) The Holy Quraan says that honey is a healing balm for our physical diseases. Now quote a Quraanic verse that says al-Quraan is a healing for the diseases in our hearts.

- 2) Is it necessary for us to develop a defence system? Offer reasons for your answer.

- 3) Which book did our beloved Nabie (S.A.W.) follow with utmost commitment and dedication?

- 4) What is meant by the statement, "our Nabie (S.A.W.) Was the Quraan in motion?"
