

Surah 22. Al-Hajj

Asad: O MEN! A parable is set forth [herewith]; hearken, then, to it! Behold, those beings whom you invoke instead of God cannot create [as much as] a fly, even were they to join all their forces to that end! And if a fly robs them of anything, they cannot [even] rescue it from him! Weak indeed is the seeker, and [weak] the sought!

Malik: O mankind! Here is an example for your understanding, so listen to it carefully. Those deities whom you call besides Allah, cannot create a single fly, even if they all combined their forces, rather, if a fly snatches away anything from them they cannot even get it back; how feeble-minded are the suppliants and how powerless are those whom they supplicate!

Pickthall: O mankind! A similitude is coined, so pay ye heed to it: Lo! those on whom ye call beside Allah will never create a fly though they combine together for the purpose. And if the fly took something from them, they could not rescue it from him. So weak are (both) the seeker and the sought!

Yusuf Ali: O men! Here is a parable set forth! Listen to it! Those on whom besides Allah ye call cannot create (even) a fly if they all met together for the purpose! And if the fly should snatch away anything from them they would have no power to release it from the fly: feeble are those who petition and those whom they petition! ²⁸⁵⁵

Transliteration: Ya ayyuha alInnasu duriba mathalun faistamiAAoo lahu inna allatheena tadAAoona min dooni Allahi lan yakhluqoo thubaban walawi ijtamaAAoo lahu wain yaslubuhumu alththubabu shayan la yastanqithoohu minhu daAAufa alttalibu waalmatloobu

Khatab:

O humanity! A lesson is set forth, so listen to it ?carefully?: those ?idols? you invoke besides Allah can never create ?so much as? a fly, even if they ?all? were to come together for that. And if a fly were to snatch anything away from them, they cannot ?even? retrieve it from the fly. How powerless are those who invoke and those invoked!1

Author Comments

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Another possible translation: "How weak are the seekers (i.e., the idols) and the sought (i.e., the fly)!"

2855 - Both idols and their worshippers are poor, foolish, feeble creatures!

[View Page](#)

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