Surah 27. An-Naml

Asad: till, when they came upon a valley [full] of ants, an ant exclaimed: "O you ants! Get into your dwellings, lest Solomon and his hosts crush you without [even] being aware [of you]!"

Malik: Once in an expedition he was marching with his army when they came across a valley of ants, one of the ants said: "O ants, get into your habitations lest Sulaiman and his army crush you under their feet without even noticing it."

Pickthall: Till, when they reached the Valley of the Ants, an ant exclaimed: O ants! Enter your dwellings lest Solomon and his armies crush you, unperceiving.

Yusuf Ali: At length when they came to a (lowly) valley of ants one of the ants said: "O ye ants get into your habitations lest Solomon and his hosts crush you (under foot) without knowing it." 3258

Transliteration: Ḥatta ihthā ataw AAalā wādi alNNamlī qalat namlatun ya ayyuha alNNamlū odkhuloo masākinakum la yaḥtimannakum sulaymānu wajunooduhu wahum la yashAAuroona

Khattab:

And when they came across a valley of ants, an ant warned, “O ants! Go quickly into your homes so Solomon and his armies do not crush you, unknowingly.”

Author Comments

3258 - This verse and the next, read together, suggest the symbolical meaning as predominant. The ant, to outward appearance, is a very small and humble creature. In the great pomp and circumstances of the world, she (generic feminine in Arabic) may be neglected or even trampled on by a people who mean her no harm. Yet, by her wisdom, she carries on her own life within her own sphere (“habitations”) un molested, and makes a useful contribution to the economy of the world. So there is room for the humblest people in the spiritual world.