

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

The Encyclopaedia of Proofs and Miracles

The evidence for the prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ and the truth of the Qur'an

Scientific miracles · Historical and archaeological witnesses · Prophecies fulfilled

The foretellings of the Torah and the Gospel · The world of jinn, sorcery and the unseen

Explained so that a child can follow · 151 colour illustrations

151 proofs, ordered by their strength



Part One

The Great Proofs



The heart of the book: the signs in the heavens, the earth, the human body and the record of history, gathered into one part and **ordered from the strongest proof to the weakest**. What you read first is the one there is no escaping; as you move through the part, the weight of the evidence eases a little.

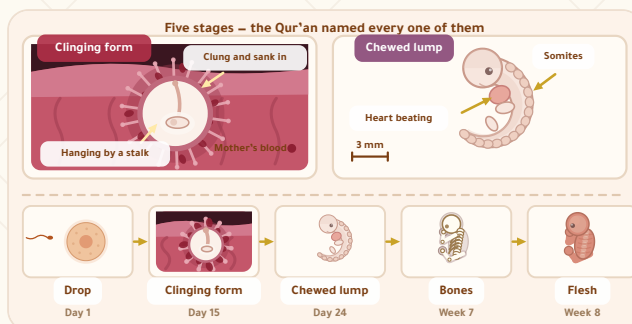
75 entries



Seven Stages — In the Right Order

Then We made the drop into a clinging form, and We made the clinging form into a lump, and We made the lump into bones, and We clothed the bones with flesh.

Surah al-Mu'minun — verse 14



Drawn to the Carnegie stages and to real embryo photographs — same proportions, same scale. The stages by name and in order, exactly as medical textbooks give them today

In plain words

Five stages, named by name in the Qur'an fourteen centuries ago: a drop of fluid, then an **alaqah** — something that fastens into the wall of the womb and then hangs suspended in it like fruit from a branch — then a **mudghah**, a small piece scored with grooves **as though teeth had chewed it**, then bones that are laid down, then flesh that clothes the bones. The drawing above is **traced from the photographs of the embryos themselves** — look with your own eyes, then go back and read the verse again.

What did people believe then?

Nothing was known of what happens inside the womb. The prevailing view — Aristotle's, and that of everyone after him — was that the embryo formed from **congealed menstrual blood**. Another view, Galen's, held that bone and flesh formed **together, at the same time**.

What does science say today?

The alaqah — roughly the first two weeks: three documented facts occurring together: the embryonic vesicle **fastens into the wall of the womb and burrows into it** until it is embedded in the tissue; it then **hangs within its sac, suspended by a connecting stalk** — which is what you see in the drawing above; and **spaces open around it that fill with the mother's blood**, so that it comes to be surrounded by it.

The mudghah — roughly the fourth week: blocks called **somites** appear along the embryo's back, added one after another until they approach forty pairs, with deep grooves between them, so that its surface is scored — and it is three millimetres long, invisible without magnification.

Then bones, then flesh: the skeleton is laid down first as cartilage models, and the muscles then wrap around them and take their shape from them — a garment upon something already there to clothe, exactly as He said.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

Stop at these two words. Do not pass over them lightly. **Two words** — “alaqah” and “mudghah” — described what no human eye fell upon for another fourteen centuries, and then only through a microscope and a camera.

The first: “alaqah”. Do not take it from me — take it from the dictionaries. Al-Jawhari, who died **a thousand years ago**, writes in al-Sihah: “**and the ‘alaqah is a worm in water that sucks blood.**” The same words stand in Lisan al-‘Arab. And the root itself turns on **fastening and clinging**, and on **hanging and being suspended**.

Now lift your eyes to the drawing at the top of this page. What do you see? You see a creature that has **fastened** into the wall of the womb and burrowed in until it is buried in its flesh; then **hangs** suspended by a stalk inside its sac, as fruit hangs from a branch; and **the blood of its mother surrounds it** on every side. One name that struck all three. **Who told him?**

The second: “mudghah”. It comes from **chewing**. Khalid ibn Janbah, quoted in Lisan al-‘Arab: “**a mudghah of flesh is the amount a person puts into his mouth**” — a morsel to be chewed. Then the microscope arrives fourteen centuries later and photographs the embryo in its fourth week, and the standard university textbook The Developing Human says these blocks **appear externally as beadlike elevations** along its back, with deep grooves between them. Look at the drawing: as though it had been pressed between two jaws! And remember it is **three millimetres** long — no eye can see it, and its shape cannot be known without a magnification that did not exist.

And the third: bones, then flesh. What human being looks at a soft mass and says: the bone comes first?! Reason says the opposite. But science says: the skeleton is laid down first, and the muscles then wrap around it and take their shape from it. Which is exactly His word: “**and We clothed the bones with flesh**” — and clothing is only ever put upon something already standing there!

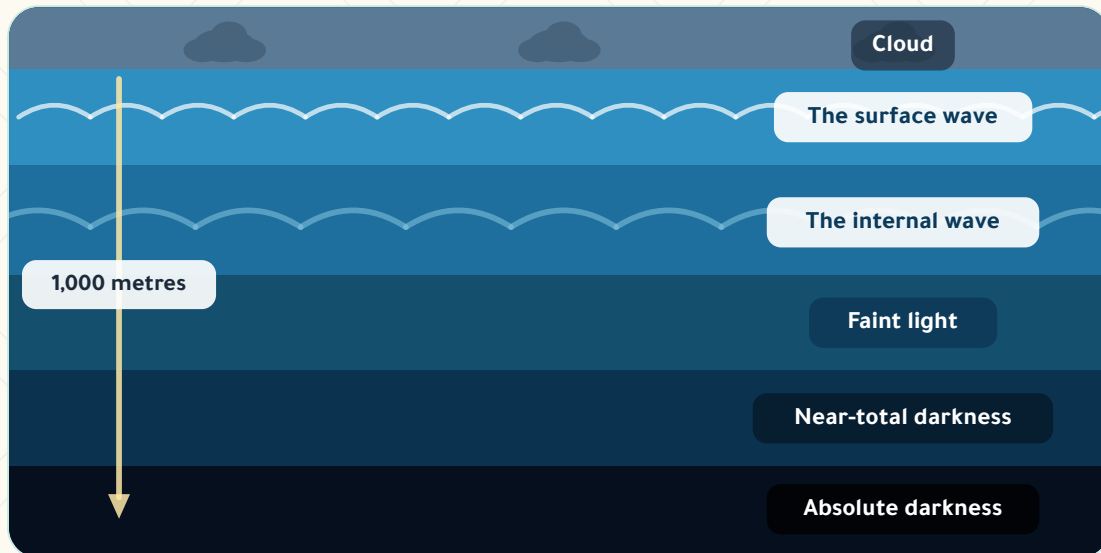
Four successive words in a single verse. **Four blows, one after another.** Any one of them would have been enough on its own to bring the text down had it been wrong — and not one of them was wrong. An unlettered man in a desert, who could neither read nor write, naming stages no eye can see... and striking each one by its name. **So who taught him?**



Darknesses, One Above the Other

Or like darknesses in a deep sea, covered by a wave, above it a wave, above it a cloud — darknesses, one above the other.

Surah an-Nur — verse 40



Light is swallowed layer after layer until it vanishes entirely below one thousand metres

In plain words

In the depths of the sea there is darkness upon darkness: the cloud blocks, then the wave blocks, then the water swallows the colours one by one, until no light at all remains.

What did people believe then?

No human being descended deeper than a few metres on a held breath. The depths of the sea were an absolute unknown. No one knew that the darkness down there came in **graded layers**, nor that beneath the visible wave lay another wave that cannot be seen.

What does science say today?

Light is absorbed in water in stages: red disappears at about fifteen metres, then orange, then yellow, then green, and only the faint blue remains until it too fades at around two hundred metres. Below one thousand metres there is **absolute darkness, not a single photon**. Science also discovered **internal waves**, which travel along the boundaries between water layers of differing density — waves beneath the waves.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

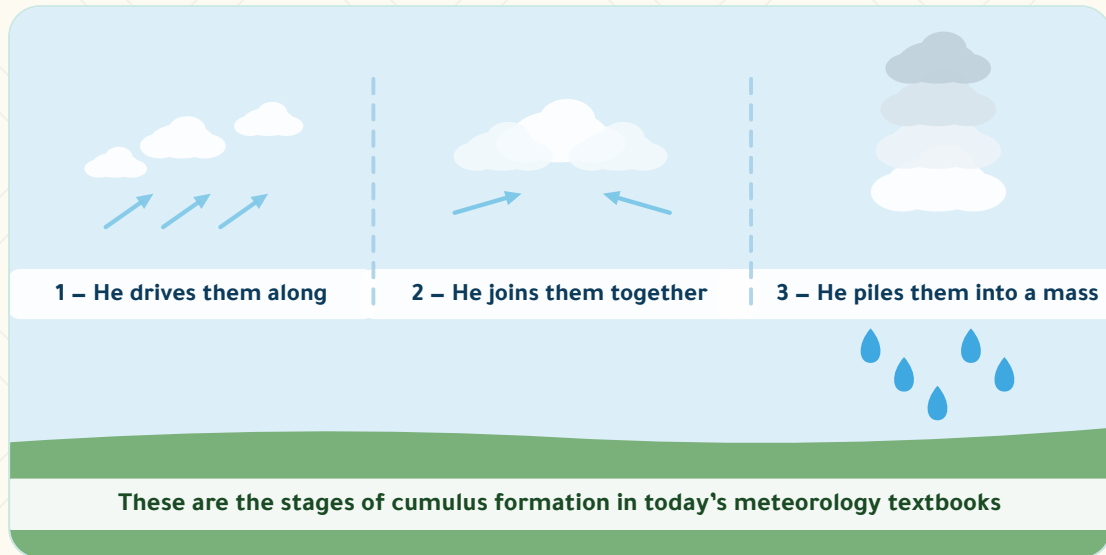
The verse arranges three veils in the correct order from top to bottom: a cloud, then a wave, then **another wave beneath it**. The existence of a second wave below the surface of the sea is a fact that was not known until the twentieth century. It then closes with the comprehensive description: “darknesses, one above the other” — that is, **layered, stacked darkness**, not a single darkness. That is the precise physical description of how light is absorbed in water.



Three Stages in the Making of Rain

Have you not seen that God drives the clouds, then joins them together, then makes them a heaped mass, and you see the rain emerging from within it? ❖

Surah an-Nur — verse 43



Driving, then joining, then vertical stacking — and then the rain falls



In plain words

Rain does not simply fall. It has three steps, in order: the wind **drives** the small pieces of cloud, then **joins** them to one another, then **heaps** them on top of each other like a mountain — and only then does it rain.



What did people believe then?

Rain was a single event: cloud, then water. No one knew that clouds had **ordered stages of construction**, nor that a raining cloud differs in structure from one that does not rain.



What does science say today?

This is precisely what meteorology teaches about the formation of **cumulonimbus**: air currents drive small cloud cells together, the cells then merge, and the mass then grows vertically in stacked layers that can reach fifteen kilometres. **Only at this stage** do the droplets grow large enough to fall.



Why is this a decisive miracle?

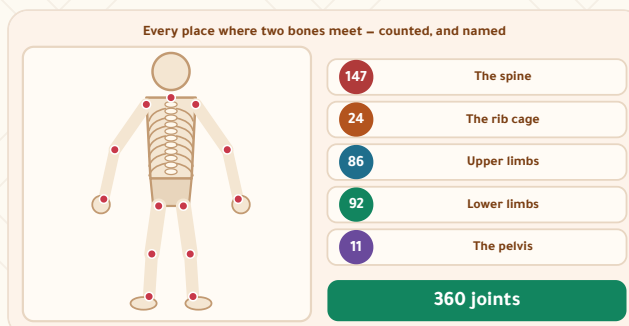
Three successive verbs joined by a particle that indicates order with an interval: “drives” (moves them gently) → “joins them together” (merges the pieces) → “makes them a heaped mass” (stacks them vertically). This is an order that **cannot be reversed or abbreviated**, and it is exactly the scientific order. Then comes the final precision: the rain emerges **“from within it”** — from openings and folds inside the mass, not from underneath it. That is what radar imagery shows.



Three Hundred and Sixty Joints — Counted Before Dissection

Every human being among the children of Adam was created upon three hundred and sixty joints.

Narrated by Muslim — authentic



A plain number that admits no interpretation — said nine centuries before the first systematic dissection

In plain words

Your body has **three hundred and sixty joints** — no more and no fewer. The Prophet ﷺ said so fourteen centuries ago, and tied to each one of them **a charity to be given every day**. Modern anatomy counts them and finds them exactly as he said.

What did people believe then?

There was no dissection in Arabia, no school of medicine, no scalpel with which to open a body. Dissecting a human being was forbidden in most ancient civilisations — so much so that **Galen**, who ruled medicine for fifteen hundred years, built his anatomy on apes and pigs, and fell into errors that went on being taught for centuries.

What does science say today?

The joints of the body have been counted one by one — every place where two bones meet, whether it moves or not — and they come to: **the spine, 147; the rib cage, 24; the upper limbs, 86; the lower limbs, 92; and the pelvis, 11**. Total: **three hundred and sixty**. And the wording of the hadith itself settles which count is meant, for in full it calls them **sulama** — a word that in Arabic covers every joint in the body, small and large, the moving ones and the fixed. So the number is not a modern convention imposed on the text — **it is the text that defined what to count**. And the first accurate anatomical atlas in human history did not appear until 1543, at the hand of **Vesalius**.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

Notice what kind of statement this is. It is not a description open to interpretation, nor an image brought in to make a meaning plainer — it is a **number**. And a number either lands or it falls; there is no third case.

Had its speaker wanted safety he would have said “many joints”, or “hundreds of joints”, and nothing could be held against him. But he said: **three hundred and sixty**. One definite, counted figure, about a body that had never been opened, in an age with neither scalpel nor microscope.

And the strangest part is that the number was not given for its own sake. It came in the course of a command: upon every one of those joints there is **a charity, every single day** — a word of remembrance, or clearing something harmful from a path, or a good word. So the figure is **load-bearing in the ruling, not ornament in the sentence**; had it been wrong, the ruling built on it would have fallen with it. And a man inventing a religion does not hang a daily act of worship on an anatomical number that centuries could later refute.

It may be said: perhaps it reached him from Chinese medicine, where there is a similar number. That is the first thing that ought to be examined rather than brushed aside — and examining it makes the argument stronger on three counts:

The number is not fixed: in the Huangdi Neijing it is 365, not 360, and across its chapters 365, 360 and 354 all appear. **And what is counted is not the same thing**: the Chinese *jie* are points of needling along the channels of energy, not joints between two bones, and the text itself says they were set **to match the number of days in the year** — a cosmological correspondence, not a census of a body; so much so that scholars of Chinese medicine themselves say the number is meant to convey “completeness”, not a real count. **And the road was closed**: the earliest documented transmission of Chinese medicine into the Islamic world is the *Tansuqnama* of Rashid al-Din al-Hamadani, completed in 1313 CE — **seven centuries after the hadith**.

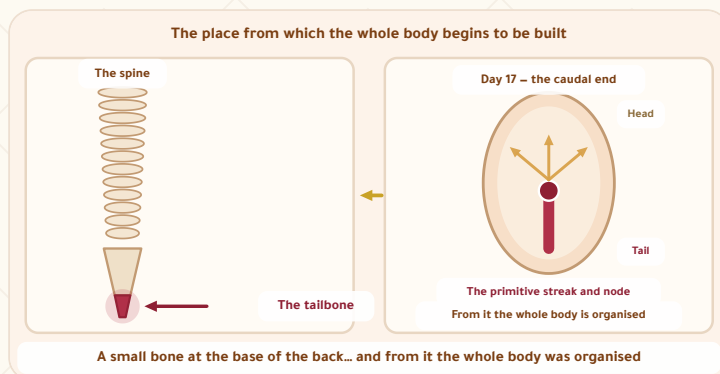
And the decisive point remains: the hadith named what is counted “**sulama**”, an Arabic word that itself defines what to count — had it been borrowed, the term would have come with it.

An unlettered man who never opened a body, who never saw a bare bone except in a slaughtered animal, hands his nation an anatomical figure and builds a daily worship on it... and then the scalpel arrives nine centuries later, counts, and finds it exactly as he said. **So who counted them for him?**

The Tailbone — From It the Human Was Made

Every part of the son of Adam is eaten by the earth except the tailbone; from it he was created and from it he will be reassembled.

Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim — agreed upon



The primitive streak appears at the caudal end of the embryo, and from it the axes and the germ layers are all built

In plain words

The tailbone is **the small bone at the very bottom of the spine**. The Prophet ﷺ said that the human being was **created from it**. And embryology today says: the building of the whole body begins from **a streak that appears at the caudal end of the embryo**, with a node at its head called **the organizer** — from which the three germ layers and all the axes of the body are laid out.

What did people believe then?

Nothing was known of the embryo in its earliest stage; it is under two millimetres and no eye can catch it. As for the coccyx, it was regarded as **a leftover with no function** — a shrunken tail; so much so that nineteenth-century scientists listed it among the “vestigial organs” of no use. To make this place in particular **the origin of the forming** runs against intuition itself: reason begins with the head or the heart, not with the base of the back.

What does science say today?

On **day seventeen** a line appears in the embryonic disc called **the primitive streak**, and its position is **the caudal end** of the embryo. At its head is **the primitive node**, which embryology calls **the organizer**: it establishes the symmetry between the two sides, determines where gastrulation occurs, starts the three germ layers, and lays down the body's axes — head from tail, and right from left.

Spemann and Mangold proved in 1924 that transplanting this node alone into another embryo produces in it **a complete second embryo** — and Spemann received the Nobel Prize for it in 1935.

The streak then regresses and what remains of it becomes **the tail bud** on day twenty. And a known clinical link remains: **the sacrococcygeal teratoma** is attributed to remnants of the primitive streak, and its surgery is not content with removing the tumour — **the coccyx is removed with it**, because leaving it is what brings the tumour back.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

Look at the preposition alone. It did not say “in it he was created”, nor “it was created before the rest”, but “**from it he was created**” — making the place a **source** out of which the building comes. And that is exactly the description of the organizer: not the first organ to form, but the place **from which the rest are organised**.

Then look at the place chosen: the base of the back. Nothing in seventh-century observation pushes anyone to name it the origin of creation; everything turns the mind away from it. And no one could have seen it: the embryo on day seventeen is far too small for the naked eye.

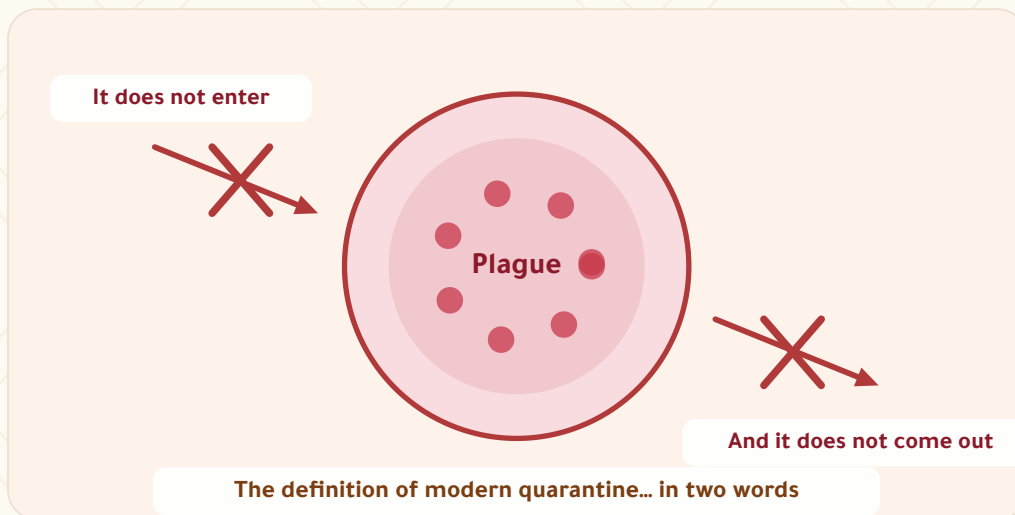
And here we stop at a limit that ought to be stated. The second half of the hadith — “**and from it he will be reassembled**” — is a report about the Resurrection, a matter of the unseen that no experiment reaches, and we build nothing on it here. As for the common claim that science “proved the coccyx cannot be destroyed”, we know of no published peer-reviewed study supporting it — **and leaving out what has no evidence serves the argument better than padding it**. The whole weight is in the first half: a short sentence about a place in the body, open to checking, spoken a thousand years before the microscope... and it held. **So who pointed him to it?**



Quarantine — A Thousand Years Before Medicine

If you hear of a plague in a land, do not enter it; and if it breaks out in a land where you are, do not leave it fleeing from it.

Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim — agreed upon



A global public-health principle formulated in the seventh century

In plain words

If an epidemic appears in a country: **do not enter it** if you are outside, and **do not leave it** if you are inside. This is exactly the definition of **quarantine** that the entire world applied during the coronavirus pandemic.

What did people believe then?

Epidemics were understood as wrath, or evil spirits, or corrupted air. The natural response when one struck was **mass flight** — which is the worst possible thing to do, because it carries the infection everywhere. Germs were unknown, and it was not known that disease spreads by contact.

What does science say today?

Germ theory was not established until the nineteenth century, with Pasteur and Koch. The first organised quarantine in Europe was at Venice in 1377 — seven centuries after this saying. And the principle stated here is a **two-way quarantine**: no entry and no exit — exactly what the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization specify, and what the whole world applied in 2020.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

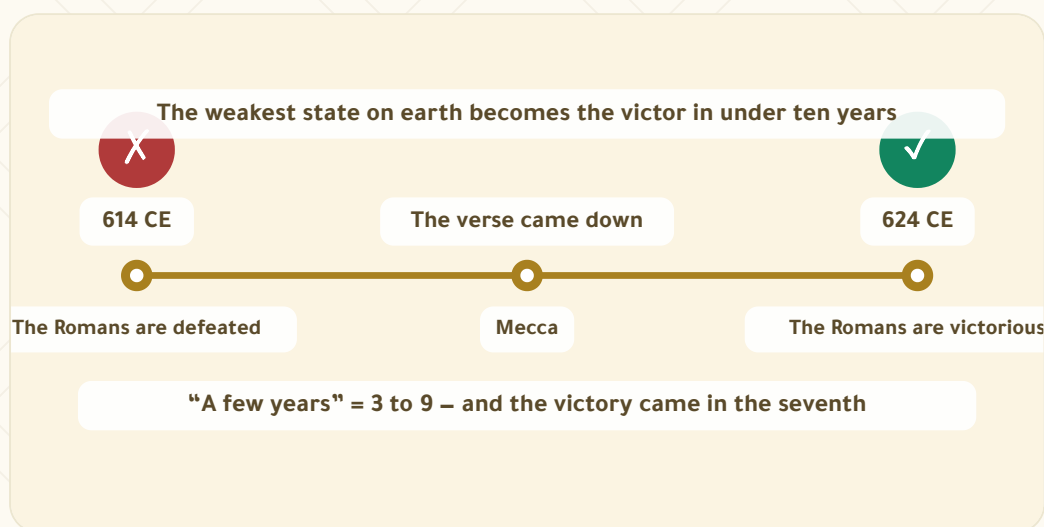
The second half of the saying is the harder and the cleverer. Forbidding entry into a plague-stricken land is something caution alone might suggest. But **forbidding exit from it** runs against the instinct for survival itself, and makes sense only if one knows that a person leaving may carry the disease **without feeling it** — that is, the idea of the **silent carrier of infection**. That idea was not understood until the twentieth century. Umar ibn al-Khattab applied it in practice during the plague of Amwas, turning the army back from Syria; when he was challenged he said: "We flee from the decree of God to the decree of God."



The Romans Have Been Defeated — And They Will Win

Alif Lam Mim. The Romans have been defeated in the lowest land, and they, after their defeat, will be victorious within a few years.

Surah ar-Rum — verses 1-4



A report revealed in Mecca about a war being fought thousands of miles away

In plain words

The Romans lost a war so crushingly that people assumed they were finished. Then a verse came down saying: **the Romans will win within a few years**. It happened seven years later.

What did people believe then?

In 614 CE the Persians crushed the Romans: they took Syria, Egypt and Jerusalem, and carried off the Holy Cross. The Roman state was on the edge of total collapse — an empty treasury, a shattered army, internal revolt. No one on earth was betting on its return. The pagans of Mecca wagered with Abu Bakr that the verse was false — and wagering was still permitted at the time.

What does science say today?

In 622 Heraclius launched a counter-campaign, and in **December 627** he crushed the Persian army at the Battle of Nineveh near Mosul, then brought down Khosrow and restored the Cross. This is documented in Byzantine, Persian and Syriac sources independently of any Islamic source. It coincided with the Muslim victory at Badr, as the following verse said: "And on that day the believers will rejoice."

Why is this a decisive miracle?

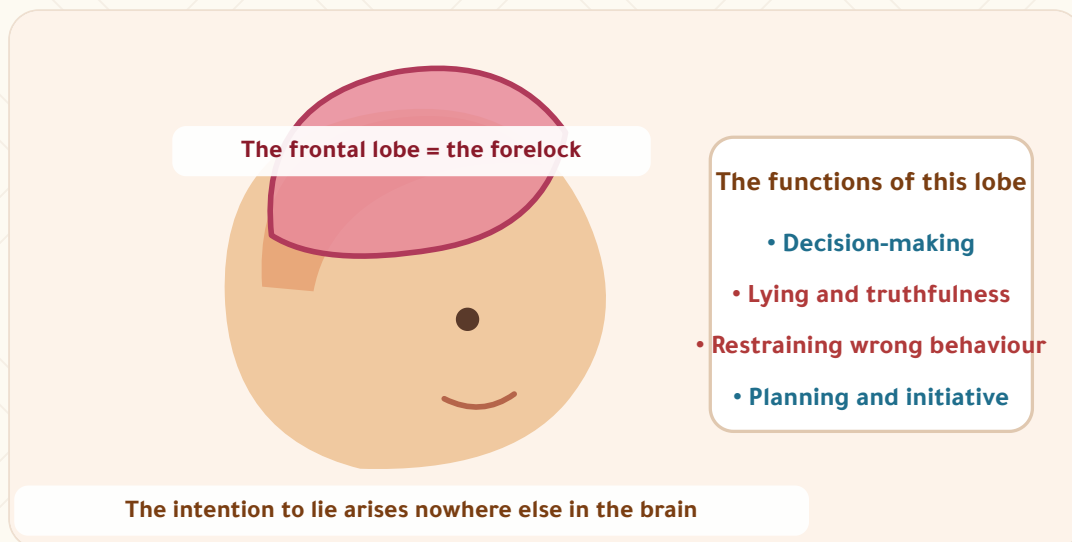
This is not wisdom or description — it is a **prophecy with a defined subject and a defined time limit**, issued at the worst possible moment for the party it favoured. The Arabic word used for the period is bounded between three and nine years — a closed window that could be falsified. Had ten years passed without a victory, the entire message would have collapsed in front of its opponents. And more precisely still: **"in the lowest land"** — the battle took place in the region of the Dead Sea, which is **the lowest point of dry land on the planet** at 430 metres below sea level — a geographical fact not measured until the nineteenth century.



A Lying, Sinful Forelock

No indeed! If he does not desist, We will surely drag him by the forelock — a lying, sinful forelock.

Surah al-Alaq — verses 15-16



Functional imaging shows the prefrontal cortex activating at the moment of a lie



In plain words

The “forelock” is the front of the head. The Qur'an describes it as “lying and sinful” — that is, **lying and wrongdoing issue from this very place**. That is what neuroscience has established.



What did people believe then?

No link existed between a specific part of the head and a moral function such as lying. The philosophers disagreed even about the basics: Aristotle placed the centre of thought in the **heart**, not the brain. The mapping of brain regions to functions did not begin until the nineteenth century.



What does science say today?

The **prefrontal cortex** — which lies directly behind the forehead — is the centre of decision-making, planning and behavioural inhibition. Functional MRI studies show that **deliberate lying activates this region specifically**, because it requires suppressing the truth and constructing an alternative to it. Damage to this region destroys a person's ability to govern his own conduct — as in the famous case of Phineas Gage in 1848.



Why is this a decisive miracle?

Note the precision of the attribution. The verse does not say “the forelock of a liar and a sinner” — that is, of its owner. It describes **the forelock itself** as lying and sinful, making the act issue from the organ rather than the person. That is an anatomical localisation of function. And more striking still: the man addressed here was being threatened in what he held most noble — and it was neither his heart nor his tongue that was singled out, but the front of his head: the seat of decision and of lying in the brain.

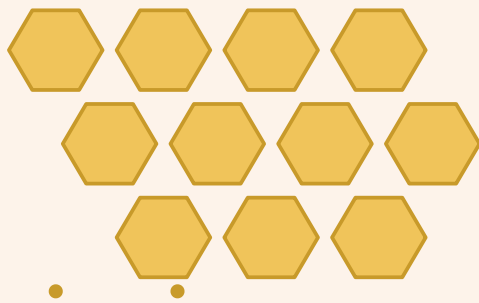


The Worker Bees Are All Female

And your Lord inspired the bee: take for yourself dwellings in the mountains ...

❖ *then eat from all the fruits and follow the ways of your Lord, made smooth.* ❖

Surah an-Nahl — verses 68-69



Take · eat · follow

All of them in the feminine

The worker bees are female without exception

Every bee you see gathering nectar and building wax is female

🔍 In plain words

Every command God gives the bee in these verses is in the **feminine form**: "take", "eat", "follow". And science says: the bees that build, gather and make honey are **entirely female**, without a single male among them.

⌘ What did people believe then?

It was the common belief throughout the ancient world that the head of the hive was a **male king**. Aristotle stated this explicitly and called it the King, and Europeans followed him for centuries, calling it the King Bee. It was not proved that the head of the hive is female until 1668, by the Dutch scientist Jan Swammerdam.

🐝 What does science say today?

A bee colony has three castes: one **female queen**, thousands of **female workers** — and it is they who build the wax, gather the nectar, make the honey, guard and clean — and a few hundred **males** whose only function is to mate with the queen, after which they die or are driven out. The male never goes out to forage, never builds, and takes no part whatsoever in making honey.

★ Why is this a decisive miracle?

The complete adherence to the feminine form across three consecutive verbs, in a language that defaults to the masculine when both sexes are present, is not a grammatical accident. And the specification grows more precise still: the three verbs are exactly the functions of the **female worker** — building dwellings, foraging on fruits, and travelling the paths out and back. Had the whole species been meant, the masculine plural would have been used. And this contradicts what the most learned people on earth believed at the time.



Hearing Before Sight — Every Single Time

And He gave you hearing and sight and hearts, that perhaps you would be grateful.

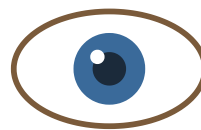
Surah an-Nahl — verse 78

The ear is working



Week 24

The eye is working



Week 28

Hearing is complete four weeks before sight

In the entire Qur'an, sight never once precedes hearing in the context of human creation

In plain words

The Qur'an mentions hearing **always** before sight, in every single place without exception. And science says: the ear of the foetus works and hears months before its eyes work.

What did people believe then?

The eye is the sense every human being puts first by instinct: "I saw it with my own eyes" outranks "I heard", and eyewitness testimony stands above report. The natural order in every language begins with sight. And it was not known that a foetus hears at all.

What does science say today?

The cochlea completes its structure at around the twentieth week, and the foetus shows a confirmed response to sound from **week twenty-four**. The retina and the visual pathway, by contrast, do not become functional before **week twenty-eight**. A newborn recognises its mother's voice from the moment of birth, while it cannot see clearly for months.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

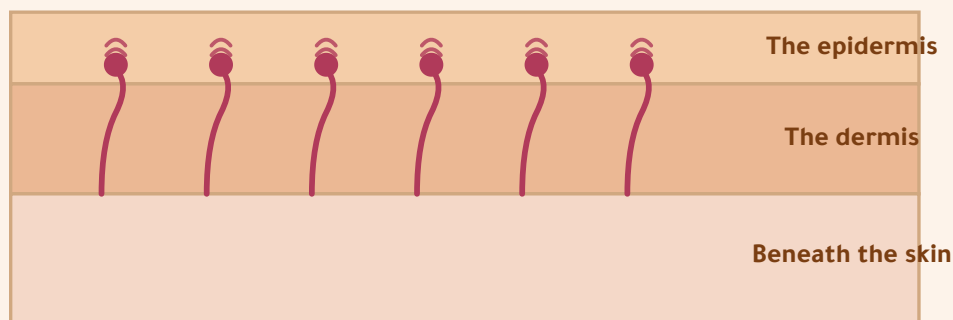
The miracle is not in one place but in the **perfect consistency**. Had the order been coincidence, it would have varied at least once across thirteen separate passages. Yet it holds without exception, even though it runs against the general instinct of language. And the precision goes further still: "hearing" appears **always in the singular** and "sight" **always in the plural** — because hearing is one faculty receiving one kind of input from every direction, whereas the two eyes produce two different images that are merged in the brain.

Pain Lives in the Skin

Every time their skins are roasted through, We will replace them with other skins so that they may taste the punishment.

Surah an-Nisa — verse 56

Dense free nerve endings near the surface



All the pain receptors are in the skin – burn it away and the sensation is gone

A deep third-degree burn does not hurt — because the pain receptors have burned away

In plain words

The sensation of pain is not spread through the whole body — it is in the **skin** specifically. That is why, when skin burns deeply, sensation stops in that place. The verse replaces the skin so that the sensation continues.

What did people believe then?

Pain was imagined as a general feeling in the whole body, or in the heart, or in the soul. It was not known that it has **specialised nerve receptors**, nor that those receptors have a particular location. Pain receptors were not described scientifically until 1906, by Charles Sherrington.

What does science say today?

Pain receptors (nociceptors) are free nerve endings concentrated in the **layers of the skin**. In third-degree burns, where the skin is destroyed through its full thickness, **the patient loses the sensation of pain in the burned area** entirely — this is a recognised diagnostic sign that doctors use to distinguish burn depth. Treatment requires skin grafting for sensation to return.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The reason is given in the verse itself: **“so that they may taste the punishment”**. The replacement of the skin is not an addition to the penalty — it is **the condition for the sensation of it continuing**. That requires knowing two things together: that the sensation of pain is located in the skin, and that when skin is roasted through, **the sensation ceases**. The verse does not merely describe pain; it builds a logical consequence on it that holds only if this medical fact is true.

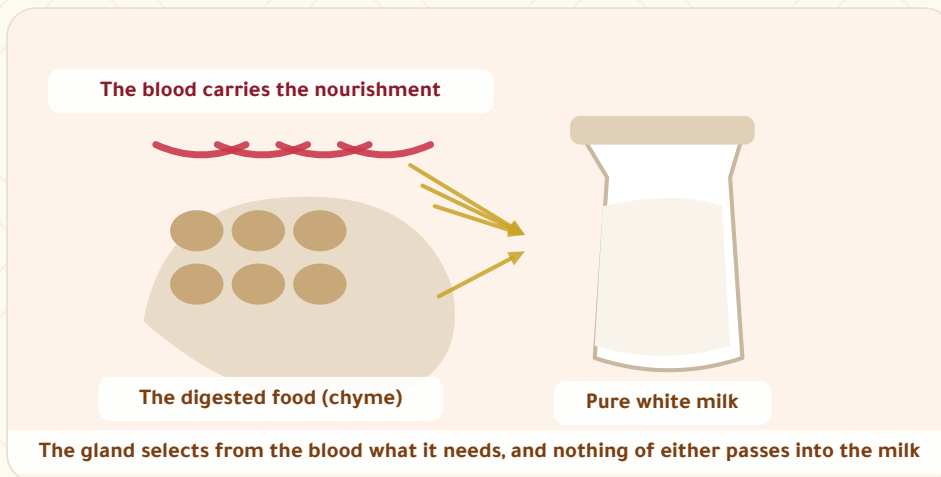


Pure Milk From Between Digested Food and Blood

And indeed, for you in grazing livestock is a lesson. We give you drink from what is in their

❖ *bellies — from between digested food and blood — pure milk, palatable to drinkers.* ❖

Surah an-Nahl — verse 66



Milk is manufactured in the udder from materials the blood carries from the intestine

🔍 In plain words

The pure white milk you drink is made inside the cow at a point **between** the digested food in the intestine and the blood running in the veins. And yet it comes out **pure**, carrying no colour from either of them.

⌘ What did people believe then?

The mechanism by which milk forms was completely unknown. The assumption was that milk collected in the udder the way water collects in a waterskin. As for linking it to digested food and blood together, and placing it **between them**, no one had any knowledge of that.

🔬 What does science say today?

Food is digested in the intestine, and its components are then absorbed into the blood. The blood carries them to the mammary gland in the udder, where the epithelial cells take from the blood the sugars, amino acids, fats and salts they need, and then **synthesise milk anew** and secrete it. Milk is therefore neither filtered blood nor dissolved food, but a manufactured substance whose place of origin lies between the digestive tract and the circulation.

✦ Why is this a decisive miracle?

The phrase **"from between"** is where the miracle sits. The verse does not say "from digested food and blood", which would make the milk extracted from them and mixed with them; nor "after digested food and blood". It says "from between them" — that is, the site of production **falls between them in the sequence**: after digestion and after the blood has carried them, and before the milk emerges. It then describes the product as **"pure"** — entirely free of any trace of what it came from. This describes a physiological pathway that was not understood until the circulation of the blood was discovered in 1628.



Wash Your Hands Before You Know Why

❖ *When one of you wakes from sleep, let him not dip his hand into the vessel until he has washed it three times, for he does not know where his hand has spent the night.* ❖

Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim — agreed upon

"For he does not know where his hand spent the night" — a reason resting on the unseen



Ablution five times

Per day



Washing the hand

On waking



The tooth-stick

After every prayer



Rinsing the mouth

And the nose and the face

Hand-washing is the single most important preventive measure in medicine

The World Health Organisation

A daily regime of purity imposed on every Muslim five times a day

🗨 In plain words

The Prophet ﷺ commanded washing the hands on waking, before touching food, and he gave a remarkable reason: **"he does not know where his hand has spent the night"** — that is, there is a possible harm that **cannot be seen by the eye**.

⌘ What did people believe then?

Germs were unknown in any form. Cleanliness was a matter of **appearance and smell**: if a hand looked clean, it was clean. There was no concept of a hidden contamination transmitted by touch. Indeed, doctors in Europe went on moving from dissecting the dead to delivering babies without washing their hands until the nineteenth century.

🔬 What does science say today?

Hand-washing is today **the single most important preventive measure in all of medicine** by the acknowledgement of the World Health Organization, and by itself prevents millions of infections a year. It was discovered in 1847 by the Hungarian physician **Semmelweis**, who observed that washing doctors' hands cut deaths among new mothers from about 18 per cent to about 2 — **and his colleagues mocked him, he was driven from his post, and he died in an asylum**. The Muslim, meanwhile, washes his hands, face, mouth, nose, forearms and feet five times a day.

✦ Why is this a decisive miracle?

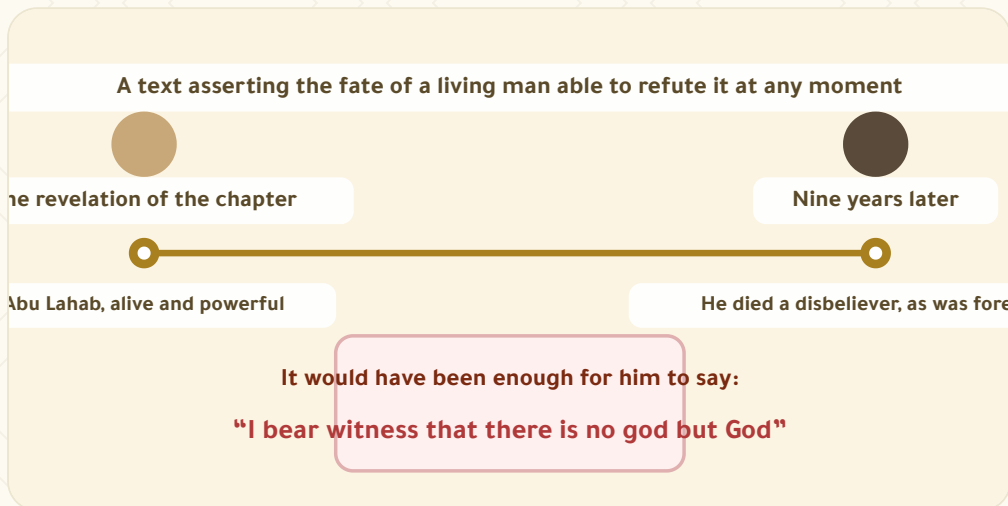
The significance lies in the **reason given**, not in the command. A command to cleanliness might be put down to taste or custom. But the words **"he does not know where his hand has spent the night"** justify it by something **unknown and unseen** — that is, the danger stands even when the hand looks clean. That is the very core of the concept of hidden contamination on which all preventive medicine is built. Add to it the rest of the system: the toothstick at every prayer, rinsing the mouth and nose in ablution, the command to cover vessels, the prohibition of breathing into a drink, the prohibition of urinating into standing water, and the obligation of the full bath. An integrated sanitary system formulated twelve centuries before germ theory.



Perish the Hands of Abu Lahab — Nine Years of Challenge

Perish the hands of Abu Lahab, and perish he. His wealth will not avail him, nor what he has earned. He will burn in a Fire of blazing flame.

Surah al-Masad — verses 1-3



The most dangerous text that could be written: a final verdict on a man who has not yet died

In plain words

A chapter came down saying that the Prophet's own uncle — Abu Lahab — **would enter the Fire**. That is, he would never become a Muslim. He lived nine years afterwards, and it would have been enough for him to utter the testimony of faith, even falsely, to bring the whole Qur'an down — and he never did.

What did people believe then?

Abu Lahab was among the fiercest enemies of the message and the most capable of harming it, and he was the Prophet's own uncle and a chief among the Quraysh. No one could know what a man would become in the days ahead — how many bitter enemies became Muslims after long hostility, such as Umar ibn al-Khattab, Khalid ibn al-Walid and Ikrima ibn Abi Jahl.

What does science say today?

Abu Lahab died a few days after the Battle of Badr — about nine years after the chapter was revealed — **still a disbeliever**, of an illness from which his own family shrank. This is agreed upon in all the books of biography and history, and not even the opponents of Islam have disputed it.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

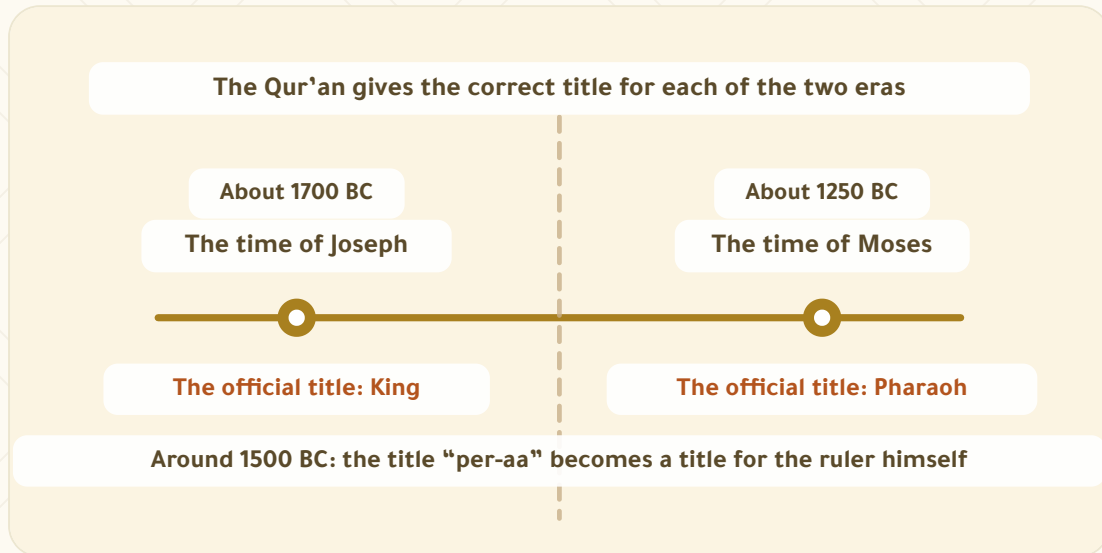
This is not a prophecy about some distant matter beyond anyone's influence — it is about **the choice of a living man who heard it with his own ears**, and who was the keenest of all people to destroy this message. He had nine years in which to say a single sentence — even as a pretence — and the text would have collapsed and the message ended the same day. **Leaving that challenge open for nine years, and having it close exactly as stated, is a risk no human being takes.** Add to it that the chapter passed the same verdict on his wife, and she too died a disbeliever. Two out of two, struck together, after nine years of opportunities to falsify it.



“King” in Joseph’s Time, “Pharaoh” in Moses’

And the king said: bring him to me, I will take him for myself ... And Pharaoh said: leave me to kill Moses.

Surah Yusuf 54 — and Surah Ghafir 26



The change in the royal title is a fact unknown until hieroglyphics were deciphered



In plain words

The Qur'an calls the ruler of Egypt in Joseph's time **"the king"**, and the ruler in Moses' time **"Pharaoh"** — and it never confuses the two. Egyptology says this is exactly right.



What did people believe then?

In Arabia there was no knowledge of the titles of Egypt's rulers or of when they changed. Everywhere in the region the habit was to call every Egyptian ruler "Pharaoh" without distinction. Indeed **the Torah itself calls Joseph's ruler "Pharaoh"** repeatedly in the book of Genesis.



What does science say today?

The word "Pharaoh" comes from the Egyptian **per-aa**, meaning "the Great House" — that is, the palace itself, not the person of the ruler. It stayed that way throughout the Old and Middle Kingdoms. It was not used as a title **for the ruler himself** until the New Kingdom, roughly from the reign of Thutmose III in the fifteenth century BC, becoming common thereafter. Joseph's era falls before that, and Moses' after it. This is settled in modern Egyptological references.



Why is this a decisive miracle?

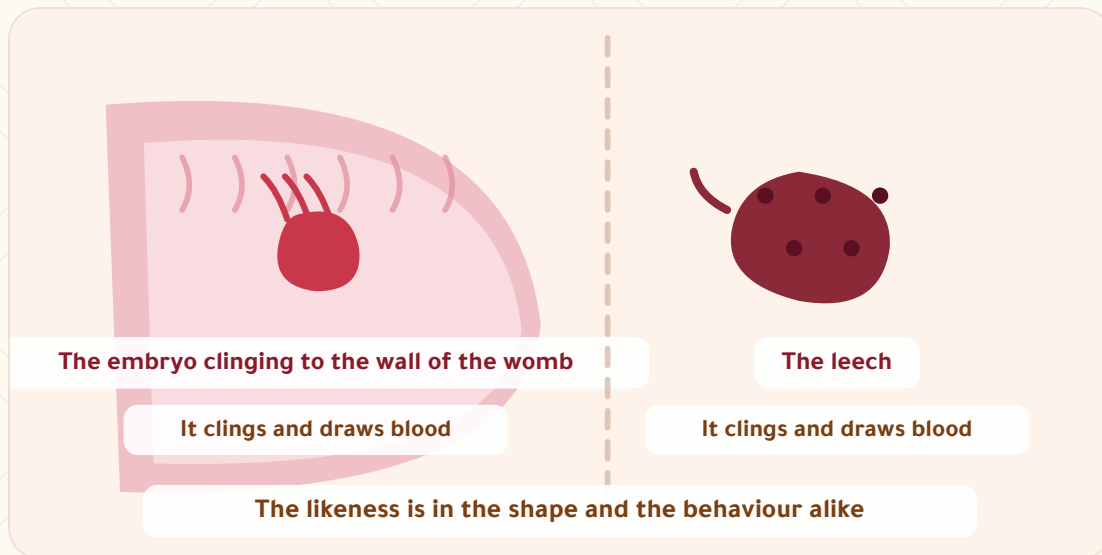
The consistency is the proof. Had it been coincidence, the two titles would have been mixed at least once across some thirty passages. Yet the Qur'an keeps the distinction perfectly. Stronger still, it **contradicts the biblical text circulating among the People of the Book at the time** — the only source it is accused of copying from. Had the transmitter been human, he would have carried the error across with him. And the correction was not known to be correct until more than a thousand years later, when hieroglyphics were deciphered.



The Clinging Form: Something Suspended That Draws Blood

He created man from a clinging form.

Surah al-Alaq — verse 2



The embryo in its third week: its shape and its function are the shape and function of a leech

In plain words

The Arabic word here carries three meanings at once: something **suspended**, a **leech** that sucks blood, and **clotted blood**. The embryo at this stage is all three together.

What did people believe then?

No one had seen an embryo in its third week. It is less than two millimetres and invisible without a microscope. It was not known that the embryo **attaches to the wall of the womb and feeds from it**; the prevailing assumption was that it floated in a fluid and fed from that.

What does science say today?

On the sixth day the blastocyst implants into the lining of the womb, becoming **suspended from it**. Its cells then erode the mother's blood vessels so that blood floods the spaces around it — that is, it **draws blood, literally**. And microscope images of the embryo in the third week show a form that matches a leech closely, down to the curvature and the lateral segmentation.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

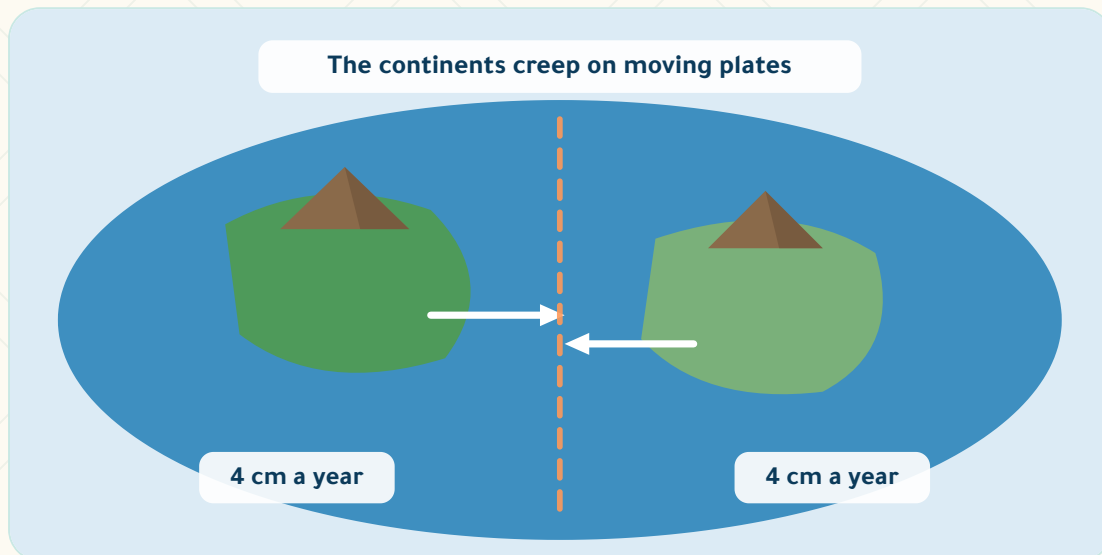
The convergence of three meanings in a single word is the miracle. Had suspension alone been meant, another word would serve; had blood alone been meant, the word for blood would do. But this one word describes at once: **the place** (suspended from the wall), **the feeding** (drawing blood), **the shape** (like a leech), and **the surrounding matter** (enveloped in clotted blood). Four microscopic facts in one word, revealed to an unlettered man a thousand years before the microscope.



The Mountains Are Walking While You Think Them Still

And you see the mountains, thinking them firmly fixed, while they pass by like the passing of clouds.

Surah an-Naml — verse 88



Whole continents are moving, very slowly, and everything on them moves with them

In plain words

Mountains look to you as though they were standing still. In truth they are **walking** — so slowly your eye cannot catch it, exactly as you cannot see a cloud move if you glance at it for a moment.

What did people believe then?

For every human being on earth, mountains were the very symbol of absolute stability. "Firm as a mountain" is a proverb in every language. No one claimed that the ground itself was sliding beneath them.

What does science say today?

Plate tectonics, settled since the 1960s: the earth's crust is divided into giant plates that float and slide, carrying continents and mountains with them at a few centimetres a year. That motion is measured today by satellite.

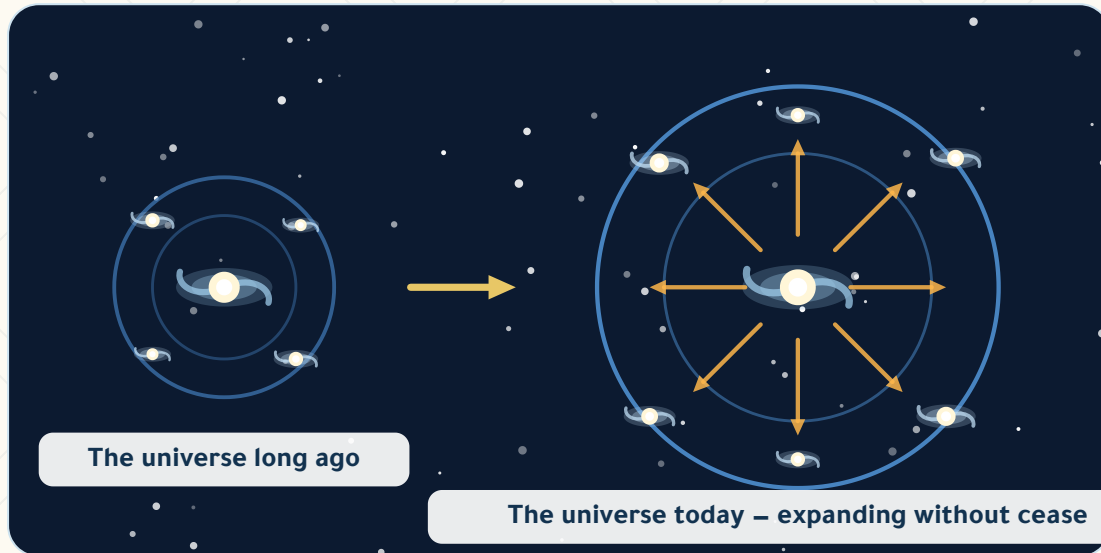
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The simile itself is the proof. "Thinking them firmly fixed" states plainly that their stillness is an **optical illusion**. Then "passing like the passing of clouds" — and clouds move **horizontally, slowly, and as a body**; they do not fall or leap. So the verse describes a real motion and explains why it cannot be seen. More precisely still: the mountains do not pass alone, they pass **together with everything around them** — exactly like clouds.

The Universe Is Growing Every Moment

And the heaven We constructed with strength, and indeed We are expanding it.

Surah adh-Dhariyat — verse 47



Galaxies drawing apart like dots on a balloon being inflated



In plain words

Imagine a balloon with dots drawn on it, and then you inflate it. Every dot moves away from its neighbour. The universe does exactly this: the heaven **grows and widens every second** of its life.



What did people believe then?

People — and the great philosophers and scientists too — believed the universe was **static and fixed**, one size that neither grew nor shrank. That belief held until the twentieth century; Einstein himself added an artificial constant to his equations to force the universe to stay still.



What does science say today?

In 1929 Edwin Hubble observed that the light of distant galaxies is **shifted towards the red**, meaning they are fleeing from us — and the farther they are, the faster they flee. The universe is expanding. In 1998 it was discovered that the expansion is **accelerating**, and its discoverers received the Nobel Prize in 2011.



Why is this a decisive miracle?

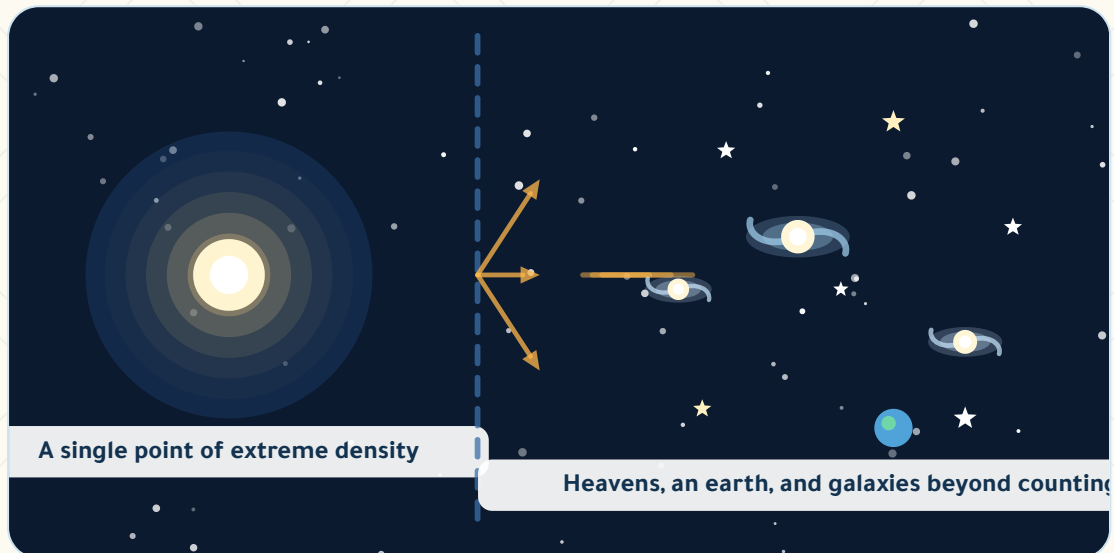
The word used is an active participle indicating an action that is **ongoing and unbroken**, not a past tense. That is, the expanding is happening now. An unlettered man in the desert of Arabia, with no telescope and no spectrometer, says a sentence that contradicts the consensus of all mankind — and then the greatest astronomical discovery in history arrives to confirm it, letter for letter. That is not explained by chance, nor by cleverness.



They Were One Thing — Then They Were Parted

Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined mass, and We parted them?

Surah al-Anbiya — verse 30



From one fused mass to an expanding universe filled with galaxies

In plain words

The Qur'an says: the heaven and the earth were at first **stuck together** as one thing, and God split them apart. Exactly like one small seed that opens and a whole tree comes out of it.

What did people believe then?

There was no idea of a "beginning to the universe" at all. The belief was that the universe was **eternal, with no beginning**. Those who imagined an origin imagined myths of warring gods, not the physical separation of a single body.

What does science say today?

The Big Bang theory, today the standard model worldwide: the whole universe began as **a single point of extreme density and heat**, then it parted and expanded. It rests on three lines of evidence: the recession of galaxies; the **cosmic microwave background** discovered in 1965, which is the leftover heat of that beginning; and the proportions of hydrogen and helium in the universe.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Arabic word for the first state means a thing fused shut, and the word for the act means splitting it open. That is a precise description that admits no reinterpretation. More importantly, the verse offers it **as a challenge** to the disbelievers — "have they not considered" — which is a wager that it will one day be seen. And it was, thirteen centuries later; its two discoverers received the Nobel Prize for it in 1978.

Mountains Are Pegs Driven Into the Earth

Have We not made the earth a resting place, and the mountains as pegs?

Surah an-Naba — verses 6-7



A mountain is like a tent peg: little shows, and what is buried is many times more

In plain words

The peg you fix a tent with has a small part showing and a large part buried. Mountains are exactly the same: they have **deep roots beneath the ground**, many times what you see above.

What did people believe then?

A mountain was, to people's minds, a block of rock placed **on** the surface of the earth, like a stone on a table. No one had any way of knowing that there was an extension beneath it, since digging never went past shallow wells.

What does science say today?

Geology calls these **mountain roots**: every mountain sinks into the crust to a depth typically around five times its visible height. Those roots are what stabilise the crust and limit its shaking — the principle known as isostasy.

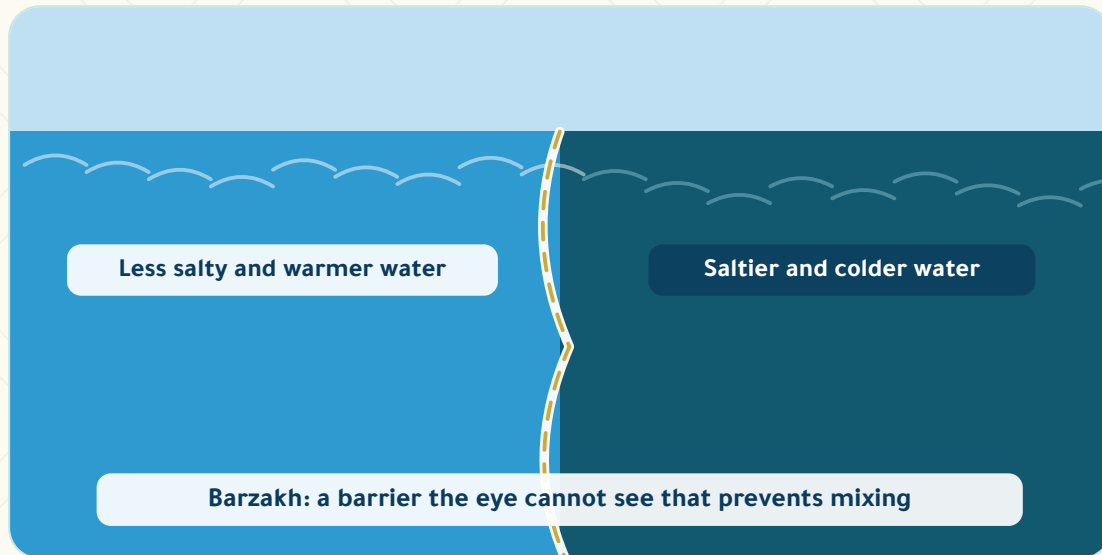
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The word "peg" is not a comparison of size or of pointed shape. In Arabic a peg is an object defined by its function: **a body mostly buried in order to steady what is above it**. So the verse gives mountains two properties that were not known: the extension below the surface, and the stabilising. And note what precedes it — the earth as a "resting place", something that could move — so the pegs come to steady it.

Two Seas That Meet and Do Not Mix

He released the two seas, meeting; between them is a barrier they do not transgress.

Surah ar-Rahman — verses 19-20



The dividing line between two seas is visible to the naked eye in many places on earth

In plain words

When two different seas meet, they do not mix at once as you would expect. A **barrier** remains between them that keeps the water of one from the water of the other, so each sea holds on to its colour, its saltiness and its temperature.

What did people believe then?

It was self-evident to every human being that water meeting water mixes immediately — as two cups of water mix. No one conceived of a “wall” between water and water.

What does science say today?

Ocean science establishes the existence of **real water barriers** called fronts and haloclines: differences in salinity, density and temperature create a narrow transition zone with its own surface tension that prevents rapid mixing. It can be seen with the naked eye at the Strait of Gibraltar and at the Cape of Good Hope.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

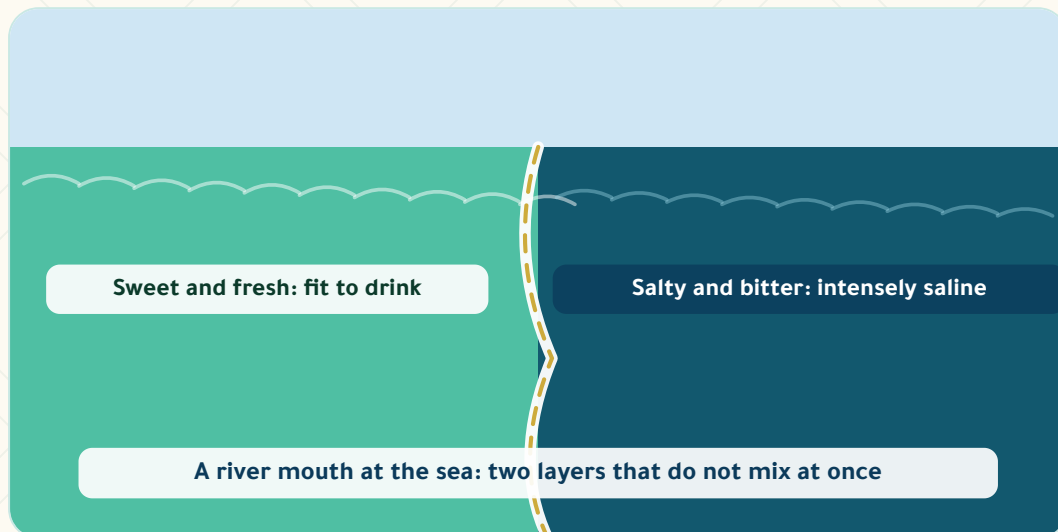
The verse does not stop at the absence of mixing; it names the cause: a **barrier** — in Arabic, a partition standing between two things. Then it describes its effect: neither one transgresses upon the other. This is a description of a phenomenon that was not discovered until salinity and density were measured instrumentally in the twentieth century. And in another verse the description is sharper still: a barrier and a **forbidding partition**.



Fresh and Sweet — and Salty and Bitter

And it is He who released the two seas, this one sweet and fresh and that one salty and bitter, and placed between them a barrier and a forbidding partition.

Surah al-Furqan — verse 53



Fresh water floats above salt water at river mouths with a clear boundary

In plain words

When a fresh river pours into a salty sea, the two do not mix at once. A **barrier** stays between them that satellites can see clearly, and it stretches for tens of kilometres.

What did people believe then?

Water is water to everyone, and it mixes with water by simple intuition. It was not known that different waters have **different densities and surface tensions** that make them stratify rather than blend. As for describing what lies between them as a “forbidding” barrier, that has no counterpart in ordinary observation.

What does science say today?

At the mouths of the great rivers — the Amazon, the Mississippi, the Nile — fresh water extends tens of kilometres into the sea while **keeping its colour and density**, and the dividing line is visible from space. The cause is the difference in density, salinity and temperature, which creates a narrow transition layer called the **halocline** that slows mixing severely. Astronauts have photographed the phenomenon repeatedly.

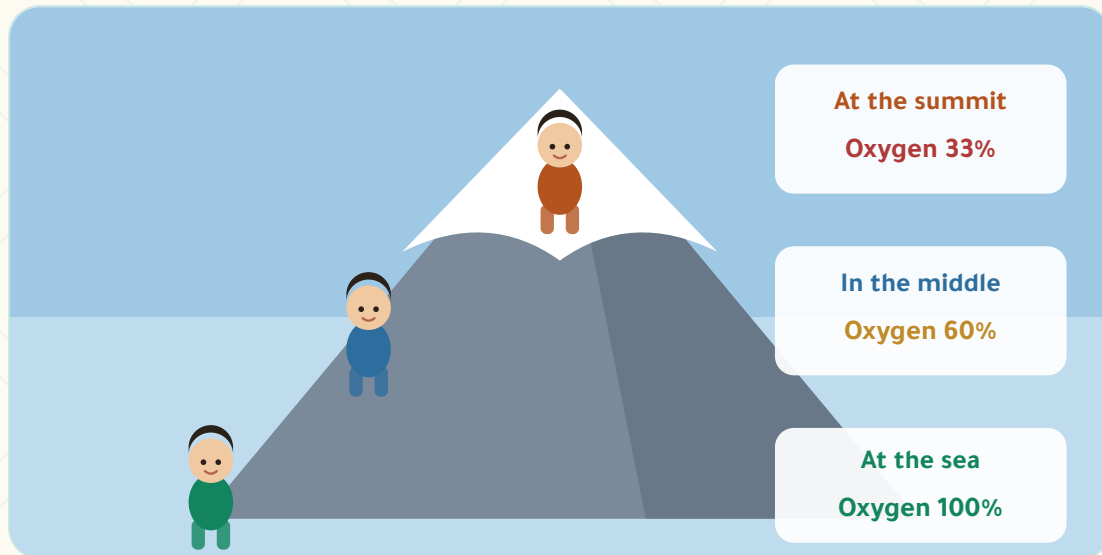
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The difference between this verse and the one in Surah ar-Rahman is a fine one that only someone who knows would notice. There the two seas are both salty with differing properties, and the divider is named with a single word: a barrier. Here — where the meeting is between **fresh and salt** — a second description is added: **a forbidding partition**, an emphatic, reinforced prevention. The physical reason is plain: the density difference between fresh and salt water is **far greater** than between two salt waters, so the separation is sharper and stronger. The intensifying of the wording matches the intensifying of the phenomenon exactly.

The Higher You Climb, the Tighter Your Chest

And whoever He wills to leave astray, He makes his chest tight and constricted, as though he were climbing into the sky.

Surah al-An'am — verse 125



The higher you go the less oxygen there is, so breathing narrows and distress grows

In plain words

If you climbed a very high mountain you would feel your chest tighten and breathing become hard work. The higher you go, the tighter your chest becomes. The Qur'an uses this as a **simile** for the tightness in the chest of one who turns away.

What did people believe then?

The highest any human being in that environment had reached was a modest mountaintop, and no one connected altitude to breathlessness in a **graded** way. Indeed it was not known that air had weight or pressure at all; Torricelli did not measure atmospheric pressure until 1643.

What does science say today?

The higher you climb, the lower the air pressure and the less oxygen reaches the blood. At 3,500 metres it is about 60 per cent of its sea-level value, and at the summit of Everest about 33 per cent. The result is breathlessness, chest tightness and headache — what is called **altitude sickness**. This is why aircraft are fitted with cabin pressurisation.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

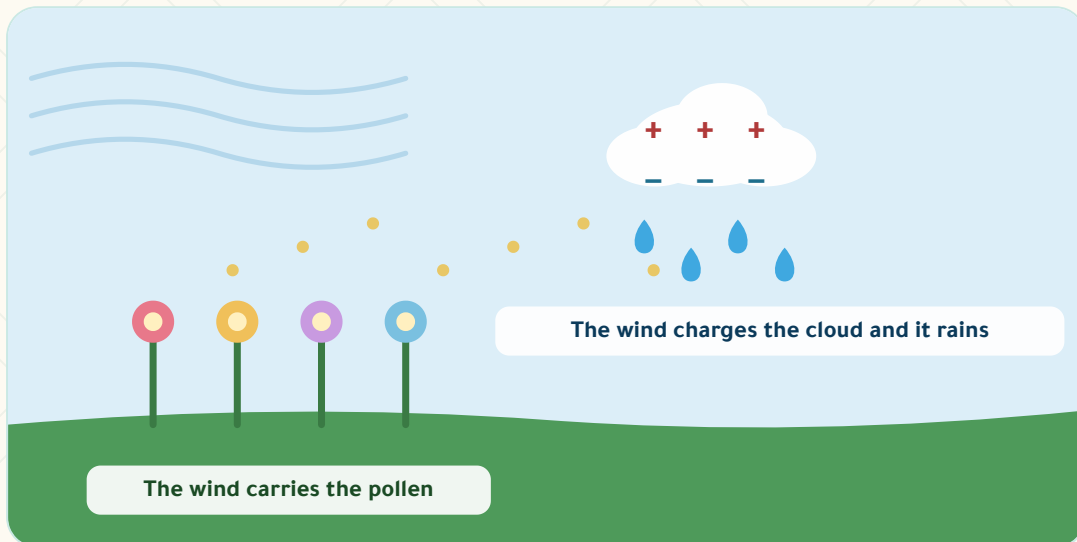
Three precise points in a single phrase. First: connecting ascent with chest tightness at all. Second: the word for "constricted" conveys tightness upon tightness — that is, a gradation in severity. Third, and most precise: the Arabic verb form used for "climbing" is an intensive one that conveys **strain and struggle, little by little**, not merely rising. The grammatical form itself carries the gradation that physiology describes today.



Fertilising Winds — They Wed the Plants and the Clouds

And We sent the fertilising winds, then sent down water from the sky and gave it to you to drink.

Surah al-Hijr — verse 22



Wind fertilises plants with pollen, and fertilises clouds with charge and dust

♀ In plain words

Wind does not only move things — it **weds**. It carries pollen from flower to flower so they bear fruit, and it carries dust and electric charge to the clouds so they rain.

⌘ What did people believe then?

Wind was a force of pushing and carrying, nothing more: it drove ships and raised dust. That it had a role in **fertilisation** was unknown; it was not even established that plants had male and female until 1694, by the German scientist Camerarius.

⚙ What does science say today?

Wind pollination is the means of reproduction for thousands of plant species — wheat, rice, maize, palms and pines. And in the clouds: wind carries the **condensation nuclei** of dust and salt around which water vapour gathers and becomes droplets, and it separates the electrical charges between the top and bottom of a cloud, producing lightning and bringing down rain. Without those nuclei a cloud does not rain at all.

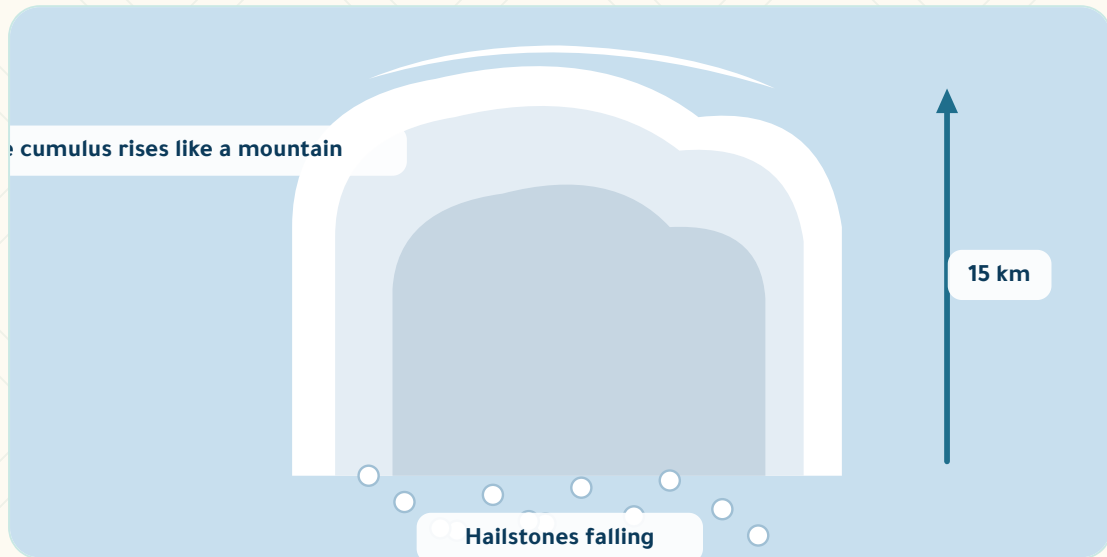
✦ Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Arabic word is an active participle from a verb reserved in the language for **fertilisation and mating** — the same word used for hand-pollinating date palms, which the Arabs knew for palms alone. To attribute that act to **the wind itself** is to establish a role that was not known. More precisely still: the verse puts the fertilising and then the sending down of rain in immediate sequence — that is, the wind also fertilises the cloud so that it produces rain. That is modern meteorology, word for word.

Mountains in the Sky, and in Them Hail

And He sends down from the sky, from mountains within it, hail, and strikes with it whom He wills.

Surah an-Nur — verse 43



A cumulonimbus: a vast mass rising vertically as though it were a mountain in the sky

In plain words

Hail does not fall from just any cloud. It falls only from enormous clouds that **rise into the sky like mountains**, reaching many times the height of the tallest mountain on earth.

What did people believe then?

From the ground, cloud is seen as a surface spread out horizontally, not as mountains. There was no way to know the height of a cloud, nor to grasp that clouds come in different shapes and altitudes.

What does science say today?

Hail forms exclusively in **cumulonimbus**: a vertical mass between eight and fifteen kilometres tall — higher than Everest. The updraughts inside it lift a water droplet repeatedly to the top, where it freezes layer upon layer, until it grows heavy enough to fall. This is why, if you split a hailstone, you find rings inside it like the rings of a tree trunk.

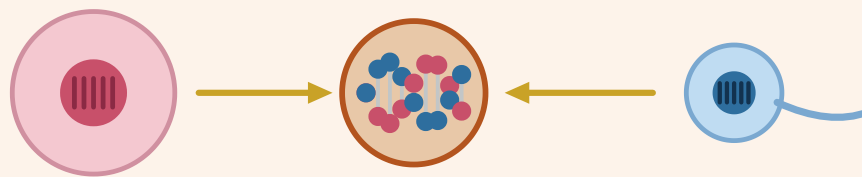
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The phrase gives three pieces of information in a handful of words: that clouds have a **mountainous, vertical form**; that the hail is **inside** them rather than above them; and that it falls **only from these** and not from other clouds. That exclusivity is the most precise part of it, and no one standing on the ground can know it.

A Mingled Drop

Indeed We created man from a mingled drop, that We might try him, and We made him hearing and seeing.

Surah al-Insan — verse 2



From the mother: 46 chromosomes = a new human being from the father: 23

Amshaj = mingled mixtures

The first cell is not one thing, but the mingling of two halves from two parents

In plain words

A human being does not begin from one fluid — but from a **mixture** of two substances: half from the father and half from the mother, mingling into one new thing.

What did people believe then?

The common belief was that the child formed from the man's fluid alone, and that the mother was merely **a vessel and a soil in which the seed grows**. That is Aristotle's text explicitly, and it dominated medicine for centuries. The woman's ovum was not discovered until 1827, by Karl Ernst von Baer.

What does science say today?

Fertilisation: a sperm carrying 23 chromosomes fuses with an ovum carrying 23 chromosomes, producing a single cell of 46 chromosomes that is the origin of the whole human being. The first drop is therefore a **genuine mixture** of two equal components, not a single substance.

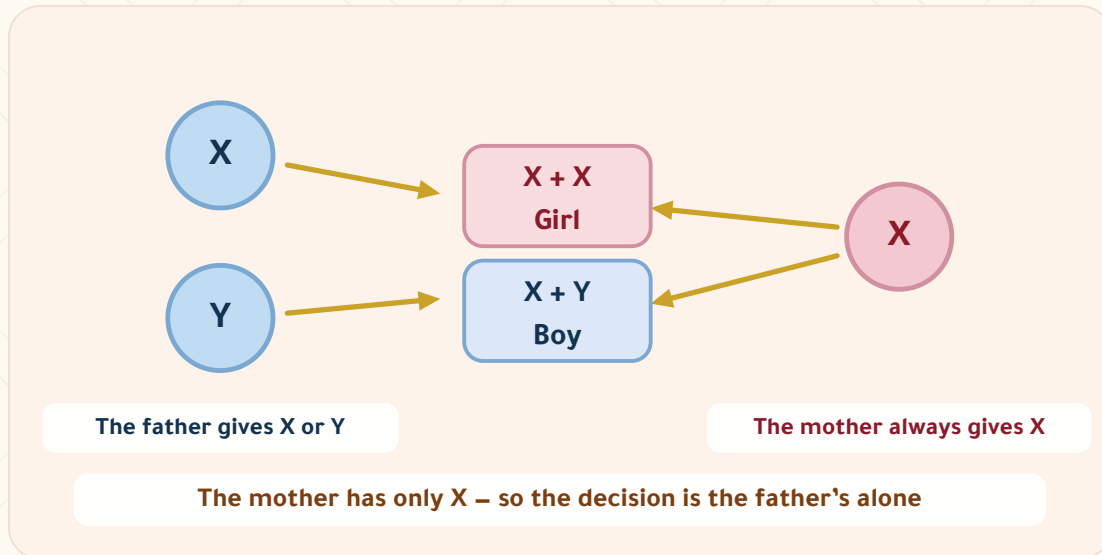
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Arabic word means mixtures blended until one cannot be told from another. And it is an adjective of a **singular** noun — that is, the one drop is itself mixtures. This corrects the doctrine of Aristotle that governed the world for two thousand years. Elsewhere the detail increases: man is created "from a gushing fluid", and the Qur'an attributes the difference of male and female to the drop, not to the womb.

Male and Female — The Father Decides

And that He created the two mates, the male and the female, from a drop of fluid when it is emitted.

Surah an-Najm — verses 45-46



The sex of the child is fixed at the instant of fertilisation, by what the sperm carries

In plain words

Is the baby a boy or a girl? The decision never comes from the mother — it comes from **the father**. The mother carries only one kind; the father carries both.

What did people believe then?

Women were blamed — and in some societies still are — for bearing daughters, and a wife could be divorced because she “does not produce sons”. Aristotle built an entire theory on the idea that the heat of the womb and the ripeness of the blood decided the sex.

What does science say today?

The sex chromosomes: a woman is XX, a man is XY. The egg always carries X, without exception; the sperm may carry X or Y. If an egg meets a sperm carrying X the child is female; if it carries Y, male. **The sex is determined entirely from the father's side.** This was discovered in 1905 by Nettie Stevens.

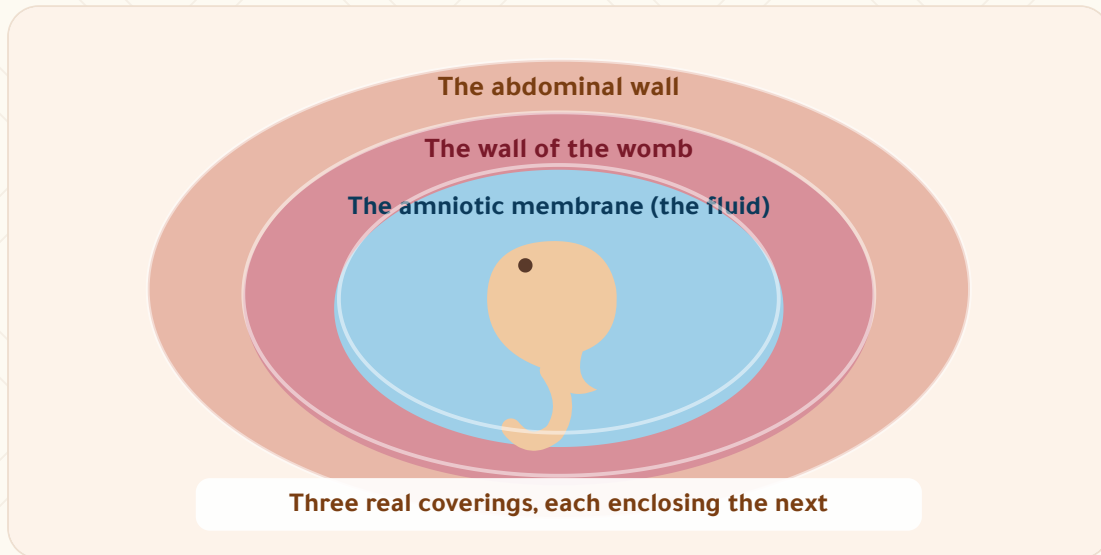
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The verse attributes the creation of the two mates — male and female — to **the drop of fluid when it is emitted**, and the verb used belongs specifically to the man's fluid. The source is named without ambiguity. Had this text been human, written in a culture that blamed the woman for the sex of her child, the safe course would have been silence or agreement. Instead it **contradicted the prevailing belief outright and assigned the matter to the father** — and science came thirteen centuries later to confirm it.

In Three Darknesses

He creates you in the wombs of your mothers, creation after creation, in three darknesses.

Surah az-Zumar — verse 6



Three layered veils: the wall of the abdomen, then the wall of the womb, then the foetal membranes

In plain words

The unborn child does not lie in one dark room — it lies in **three rooms**, each one inside the next: the wall of the mother's abdomen, then the wall of the womb, then the sac of fluid that surrounds it.

What did people believe then?

There was no dissection of pregnant women and no knowledge of the structure of the womb. The obvious assumption was that the child lay in **one darkness**: inside its mother. To count three specific darknesses is a precise claim that requires knowing the layers one by one.

What does science say today?

The foetus is enclosed by three successive veils: **the anterior abdominal wall**, then **the wall of the uterus** with its three muscle layers, then **the foetal membranes** (amnion and chorion) with the fluid between them. Each blocks light on its own, and they are ordered from outside inward exactly as stated.

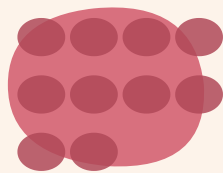
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The number is what settles it. The Qur'an did not say "in darkness", nor "in darknesses" loosely, but specified: **three**. A numerical claim can be falsified immediately if it is wrong. And it came joined to another phrase of extreme precision: "creation after creation" — successive stages, each brought about after the one before it. So a single verse describes both **the place with its layers** and **the time with its stages**.

The Chewed Lump — Marked by Teeth

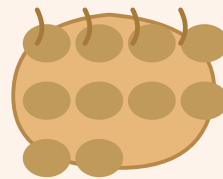
Then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed, that We may make clear to you.

Surah al-Hajj — verse 5



The chewed lump

A mass with protruding lobes



A chewed piece of gum

The marks of teeth upon it

The resemblance in shape is striking when the two images are compared

The embryo in the fourth week: protruding somites like tooth-marks on something chewed

In plain words

The Arabic word *mudghah* means **a morsel you have chewed with your teeth**. At this stage the embryo is a small mass covered in bumps and grooves, like the marks teeth leave on a piece of gum.

What did people believe then?

Nothing was known of this stage. Any attempt to imagine it would have described the embryo either as blood or as a tiny human figure. To describe it as **a chewed thing bearing tooth-marks** is a strange description that would occur to no one who had not seen it.

What does science say today?

In the fourth week a series of blocks appears along the embryo's back, called **somites**, separated by deep grooves, so that the embryo looks like a chewed piece. The embryologist Keith Moore photographed a chewed piece of gum beside an embryo at this stage, and the resemblance was striking. Some of these blocks differentiate into organs; others disappear.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

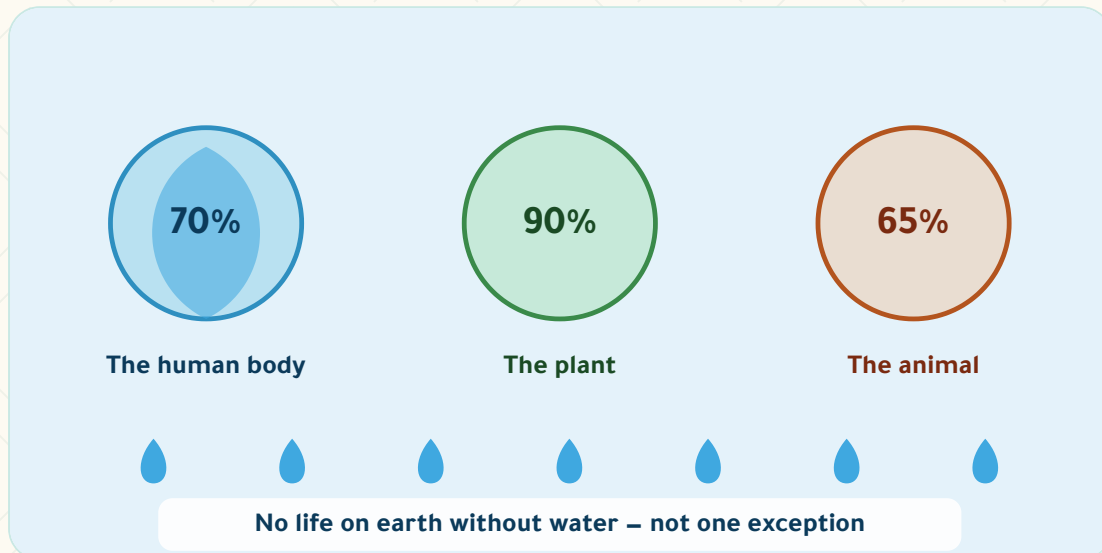
The phrase that follows is the most precise of all: "formed **and unformed**" — within the one lump there is a part that becomes a creature and a part that does not. This is an exact embryological fact: some cells differentiate into tissues and organs, and others die by a programmed death that clears away what is not needed (today called apoptosis). To describe a division inside a single mass, at a time when the embryo had never been seen at all, is not explained by guesswork.



Every Living Thing — Made of Water

And We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?

Surah al-Anbiya — verse 30



Every living creature known to this day needs water and cannot exist without it

In plain words

Every living thing — a human, an animal, a plant, even the smallest microbe — is **made of water**, and cannot live without it. Your own body is about seventy per cent water.

What did people believe then?

In a barren desert, where water was scarce and most of the ground was sand and stone, the last thing anyone would suppose is that water is the origin of **every** living thing. Philosophers argued over the origin of things — fire, air, earth, water — and none had proof that settled the matter.

What does science say today?

The living cell — the unit of all life — is about 70% water by mass, and every biochemical reaction takes place within it. Not one living organism is known to this day that does without water. That is why the first thing space agencies look for when searching another world for life is **water** — their declared motto: "Follow the water."

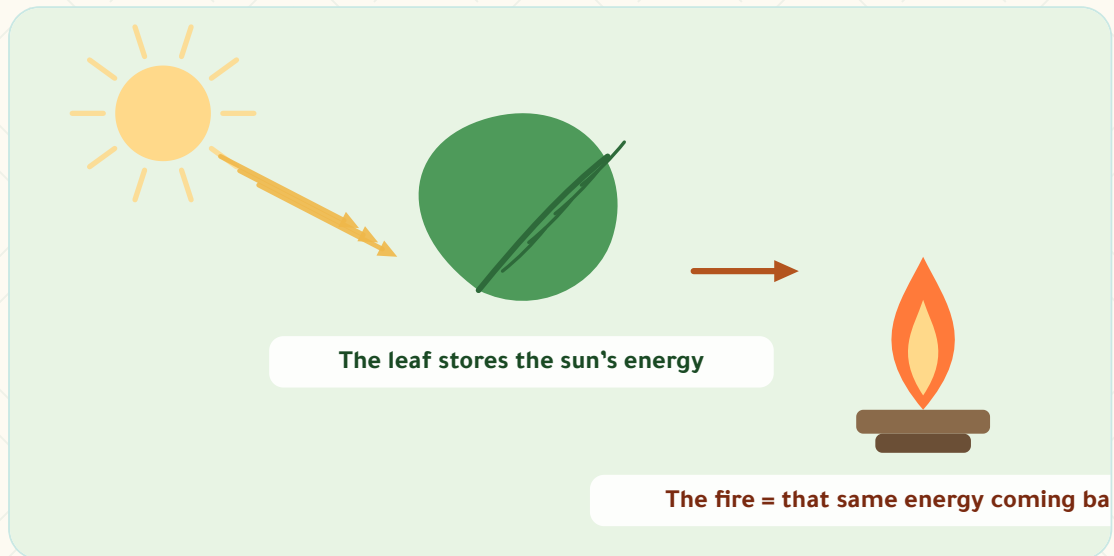
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The miracle lies in the word "**every**". The verse did not say water is a cause of life, nor that most living things come from water — it made water the origin of every living thing without exception. That is a **universal rule, and therefore falsifiable**: a single living creature that did not need water would bring it down. Science has searched for fourteen centuries in every environment on earth — in ice, in volcanic vents, in the deep ocean, inside nuclear reactors — and has not found one exception.

Fire Stored Inside the Green Tree

He who made for you fire from the green tree, and behold, from it you kindle.

Surah Ya-Sin — verse 80



The tree stores sunlight inside itself, and fire releases it again

In plain words

The fire that burns in firewood is not new — it is **the sunlight itself**, stored by the tree while it was green and alive. When you light the wood, you are releasing an old, imprisoned sun.

What did people believe then?

Green and wet is the opposite of fire in every mind: a green branch does not burn, a dry one does. To attribute fire to **"the green tree"** in particular seemed to contradict everyday observation.

What does science say today?

Photosynthesis: the green leaf captures photons of sunlight and converts them into chemical energy stored in the bonds of sugar and cellulose molecules. Combustion is exactly the reverse process: it breaks those bonds and releases the energy as light and heat. Every fuel we use — wood, coal, oil, gas — is solar energy stored by a green plant.

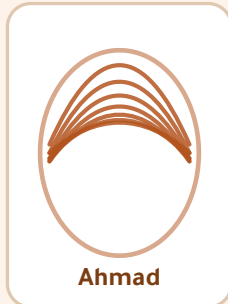
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The specification is what makes it a miracle. The verse did not say "fire from the tree", but "from the **green tree**" — and greenness is precisely the state of photosynthesis and storage. The fire is attributed to the stage in which the energy is **laid up**, not to the stage in which it is burned. Dry wood burns only by what it gathered while it was green. That is an entirely correct causal link between a state and an outcome, and it was not understood until chlorophyll was discovered in 1817.

Fingerprints — Your Only Identity

Does man think that We will not assemble his bones? Yes indeed — We are able to restore his fingertips.

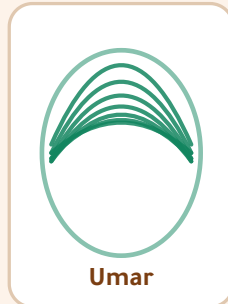
Surah al-Qiyamah — verses 3-4



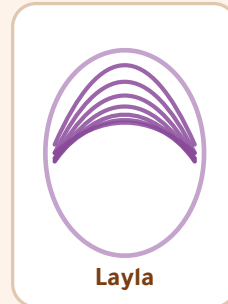
Ahmad



Sarah



Umar



Layla

No two fingerprints ever match – not even an identical twin's

Eight billion people... eight billion different fingerprints

In plain words

Your fingertips carry fine lines. These lines **are never repeated in another human being** — not even in an identical twin who resembles you in everything else.

What did people believe then?

Fingerprints were an ordinary piece of skin; nobody looked at them or thought them distinctive. It occurred to no one that they held what tells one person from another. Fingerprints were not used officially for identification until 1892, in Argentina.

What does science say today?

The ridges of the fingertips form in the tenth week of pregnancy, shaped by a complex interaction between genes and the pressures of the amniotic fluid inside the womb, and they emerge **absolutely unique**. They are fixed for life — they do not change and cannot be erased, and they return as they were even if the surface skin is burnt away. Identity systems across the whole world rest upon them.

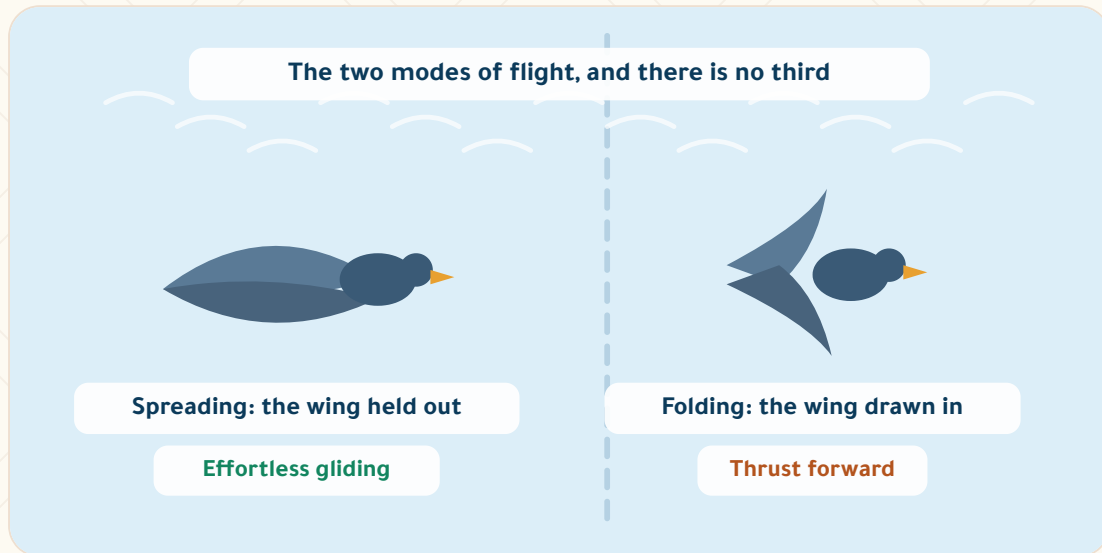
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The context is the key. The verse is speaking of the resurrection of the dead and the gathering of bones. When the answer comes to the one who thinks it impossible, one would expect: yes, We are able to gather his bones. But the answer came with something far more precise: "Yes indeed — We are able to restore his **fingertips**." To single out **the fingertips** from all the parts of the body, in the very place where the point is the power to restore a thing **exactly as it was**, is a pointer to the seat of uniqueness and identity. And that was unknown for twelve more centuries.

Spreading Their Wings, and Folding Them

Do they not see the birds above them, spreading their wings and folding them? None holds them up except the Most Merciful.

Surah al-Mulk — verse 19



Gliding on a spread wing and beating with a folded one: all flight on earth is one of the two

In plain words

Birds fly in two ways only: either they **spread their wings** and glide through the air without moving them, or they **fold them** and beat to push themselves forward. The Qur'an named both and added nothing.

What did people believe then?

Flight was a sight to be watched, not analysed. Nobody distinguished the two modes of flight, or knew which produced lift and which produced thrust. For centuries humans tried to fly by imitating the flapping of wings, and failed.

What does science say today?

Aerodynamics divides bird flight into two modes and no third: **gliding and soaring** on a fixed, spread wing that exploits rising currents, and **flapping flight**, folding and spreading the wing to generate thrust. Every aircraft ever built rests on the first principle — the fixed, spread wing. Man succeeded in flying only when he abandoned imitation of the beat and took up the spread.

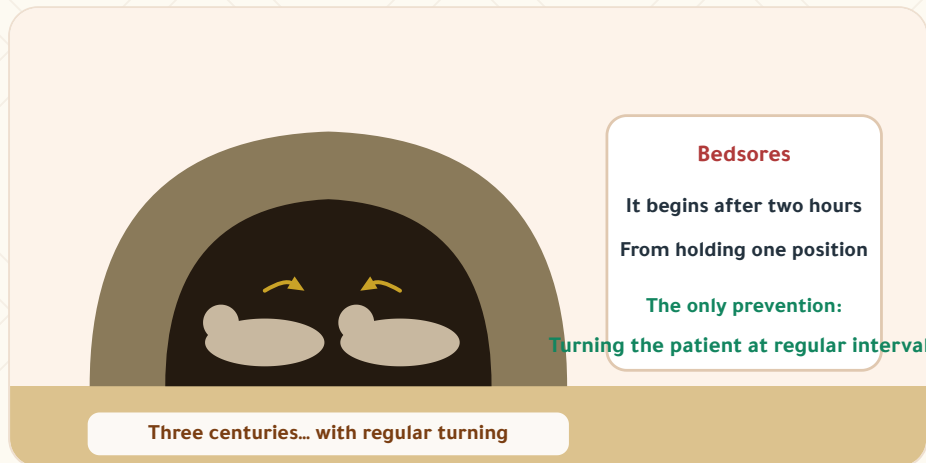
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Restricting flight to two modes is the first precision. The second is in the **grammar**: "spreading" comes as an active participle, indicating a settled, continuous state, while "they fold" comes as a verb in the present tense, indicating repetition and interruption. That is exactly the physical difference: spreading is a sustained condition, folding is a repeated motion. And the third precision: "spreading" is placed before "they fold" — because the spread wing is the foundation that generates lift, and the beat is an addition to it.

Turning the Sleepers — and Preventing Bedsores

And you would think them awake, while they were asleep. And We turned them to the right and to the left.

Surah al-Kahf — verse 18



The bedside care protocol of every hospital in the world today

In plain words

The people of the cave slept for a very long time, and God **kept turning them right and left**. Medicine today says: a patient who lies motionless **develops ulcers and the flesh rots** — and the only remedy is turning.

What did people believe then?

Sleep was pure rest in people's eyes, harmless however long it lasted. It was not known that **holding the body in one position** destroys tissue. So mentioning turning in a story about a long sleep looked like a detail with no purpose.

What does science say today?

Bedsore (pressure ulcer): they arise when the body's weight presses on one spot, cutting off its blood supply, so the cells die and the skin ulcerates, then the muscle, then the bone. The damage begins within **two hours** of complete stillness. It is among the most dangerous complications of long bed rest and can kill. The accepted prevention in every nursing protocol in the world: **turn the patient every two hours, right and left**.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

Notice that the verse does not mention the turning idly, nor as ornament in a story. It comes in the course of explaining **how their bodies were preserved** through that long span — which requires knowing that a motionless body decays, and that **turning is the remedy**. The wording is more precise still: "to the right and to the left" — which is exactly the side-lying position medicine recommends (the 30-degree tilt), because it lifts the pressure off the sacrum and the heels, the most dangerous sites of all. Then one further detail in the same verse: "**and their dog stretching out its forelegs at the entrance**" — stretching out the forelegs is a posture of rest, not of guarding, and it is what a dog does when its lying down grows long.

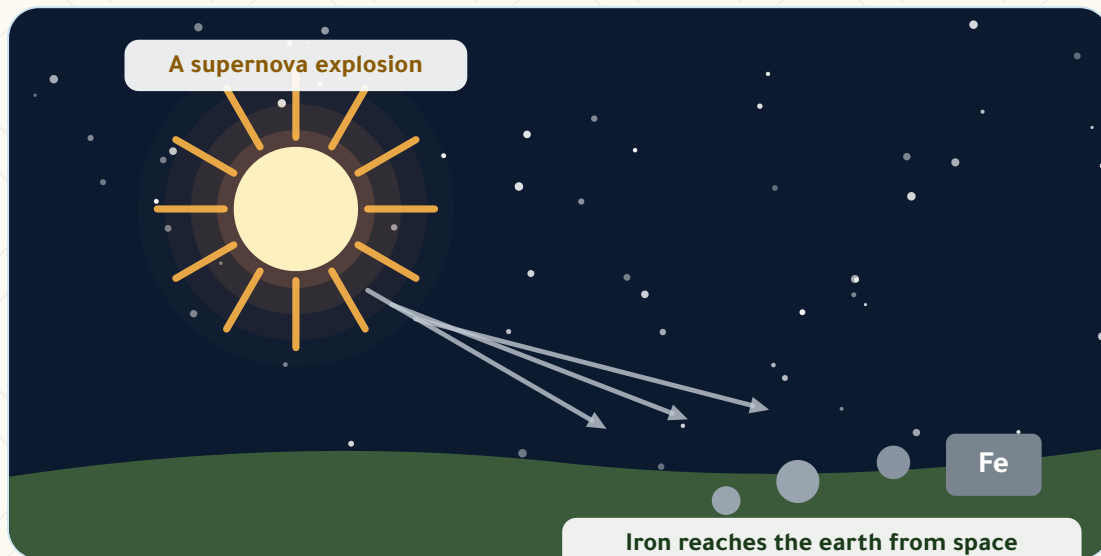


Iron

Iron — Sent Down, Not Made Here

And We sent down iron, in which is great might and benefits for the people.

Surah al-Hadid — verse 25



Every atom of iron on earth — and in your blood — was born inside a star

In plain words

All the iron on earth, even the iron in your blood, was not made here. It came from **the explosion of giant stars in space**, and then fell to the earth. And the Qur'an did not say "We created iron"; it said: **"We sent down"**.

What did people believe then?

Metals, as people saw it, were dug out of the ground: they belonged to the earth and were of its kind. There was no conception at all of a particular metal **arriving from outside the planet**.

What does science say today?

Nuclear fusion inside stars produces the elements up to iron — and then stops, because forming iron **consumes energy rather than releasing it**. So no ordinary star can make anything heavier. Only supernova explosions hurl iron out into space. Our planet and all its iron gathered from that stellar dust.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Qur'an used the verb of "sending down" with iron specifically, in a passage that speaks of sending messengers and revealing books — that is, in the context of what comes **from above**. And that is the physical reality, literally. Add to it that iron's atomic number is 26 and its mass number 56, that Surah al-Hadid is the 57th chapter of the Qur'an, and that this is verse 25 in the standard count. But the strongest evidence remains a single word: "We sent down."



Two Complete Years of Nursing

Mothers may nurse their children two complete years, for whoever wishes to complete the nursing.

Surah al-Baqarah — verse 233

The Qur'an – 1,400 years ago

24 months

“two complete years”

For whoever wishes to complete it

The World Health Organisation

24 months

“two years or more”

An internationally adopted recommendation

The same figure... fourteen centuries apart

The World Health Organisation's recommendation matches the verse in both duration and principle

In plain words

The Qur'an set the full period of breastfeeding at **two complete years**. The World Health Organisation today recommends exactly the same span.

What did people believe then?

The length of nursing varied enormously between peoples, according to custom and circumstance — from a few months to many years, with no scientific basis. There was no means whatever of knowing the ideal duration for a child's growth and immunity.

What does science say today?

The WHO and UNICEF recommend **exclusive breastfeeding for six months**, then continuing alongside complementary food **until two years or beyond**. Mother's milk has been shown to carry antibodies that build the child's immunity, to reduce infant mortality, infections and diabetes, and to be associated with better cognitive development.

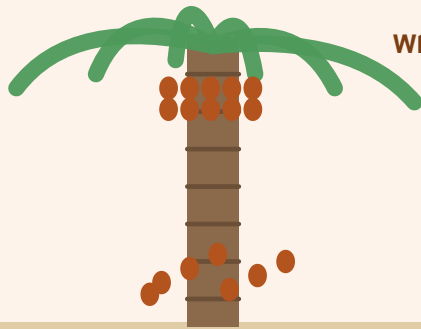
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The precision is not in the number alone but in **the qualification attached to it**: “for whoever wishes to complete the nursing”. The verse did not impose two years as a rigid obligation; it made them **the recommended ceiling of completion** — which is the exact phrasing of the modern medical recommendation (“two years or more”, not “two years compulsory”). Then it added further flexibility: early weaning is permitted by the mutual consent and consultation of both parents, and nursing by another woman is permitted. It agrees with medicine in the number and in the spirit of the recommendation together.

Shake the Trunk of the Palm Toward You

And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. So eat and drink and be comforted.

Surah Maryam — verses 25-26



What fresh dates hold for a woman after childbirth

- Fast sugar that restores energy
- Oxytocin: it contracts the uterus
- It reduces bleeding after birth
- Iron, potassium and magnesium
- Fibre that prevents constipation

The best possible food for a woman giving birth

Dates are recommended today for pregnant women in the final weeks and after delivery

In plain words

A woman gives birth alone beneath a palm tree, and she is told: **eat the fresh dates**. Medicine today says that dates are among the best things a woman can eat at birth and afterwards.

What did people believe then?

Fresh dates were a familiar and much-loved food, but no specific medical effect in childbirth was known for them. The usual advice for a woman after delivery was rest, warmth and broth. To single out one particular fruit at that precise moment is a striking specification.

What does science say today?

Clinical studies published in peer-reviewed journals have shown that eating dates in the final weeks of pregnancy **shortens labour and reduces the need for induction**. Dates are rich in rapidly absorbed fructose and glucose — exactly what a mother needs after her strength has been spent — and in potassium, iron and magnesium, and they contain compounds that act like **oxytocin**, helping the uterus contract and reducing bleeding.

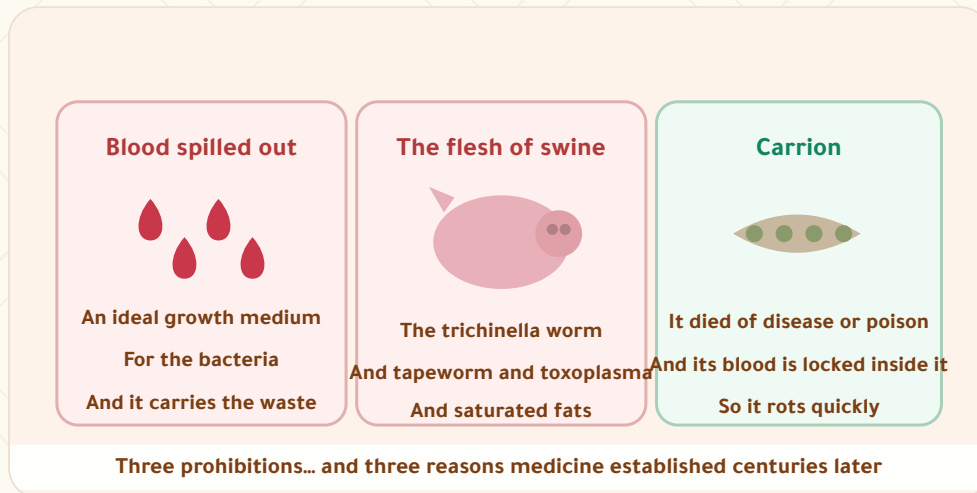
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Notice three things here. First, the fruit is specified — dates in particular and nothing else, the most suitable possible food for this condition. Second, the state is specified — “**ripe, fresh dates**”, soft and fresh rather than dried, which are faster to absorb and easier to digest. Third, and most remarkable: the command to **shake the trunk** — a woman at her moment of greatest weakness is ordered to move and exert herself. Modern medicine recommends movement during labour precisely because it speeds delivery. Food, movement and a calmed heart (“be comforted”) — a complete protocol.

Why Spilled Blood and Pork Were Forbidden

Say: I do not find within that which was revealed to me anything forbidden to one who would eat it unless it be carrion, or blood spilled out, or the flesh of swine — for indeed it is impure.

Surah al-An'am — verse 145



The prohibition preceded the knowledge of its reason by fourteen centuries

In plain words

The Qur'an forbade three foods: flowing blood, the flesh of swine, and an animal that died by itself. Science today shows that each one of them is **a known carrier of disease**.

What did people believe then?

Food was chosen by custom, taste and availability. There was no knowledge of parasites, of bacteria, or of diseases passing from animals to humans. Pork was eaten in most civilisations on earth without reservation.

What does science say today?

Blood is the ideal medium for bacterial growth, and it carries metabolic waste, hormones and toxins on their way to the kidneys. **Pork** is a principal carrier of the trichinella worm, which encysts in muscle and survives light cooking; of the pork tapeworm, whose larvae may reach the brain; and of toxoplasma — besides its high saturated fat. **Carrion** may have died of disease or poison, and its blood is locked inside its tissues, so it decays quickly.

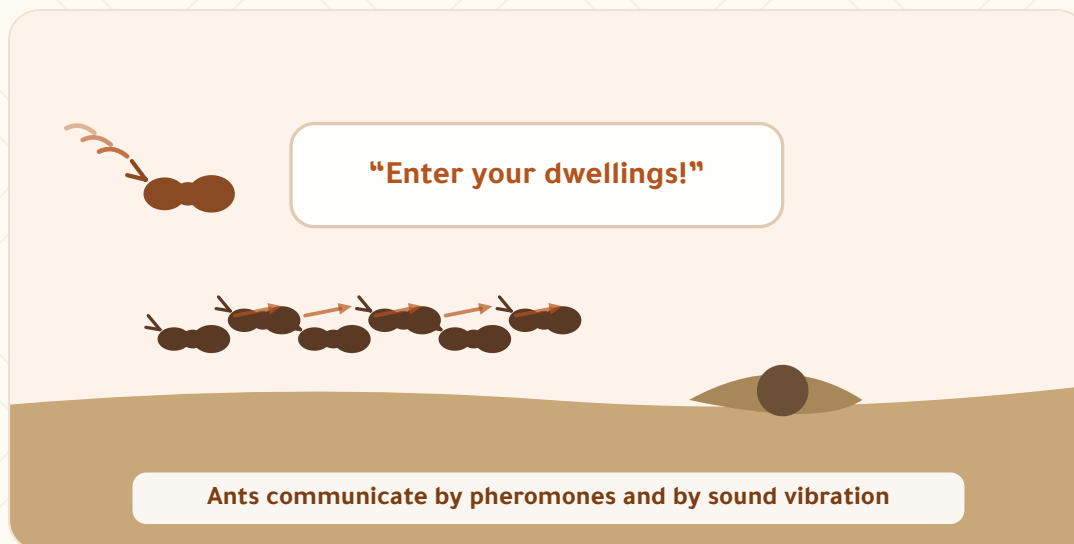
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The precise qualification is **"spilled out"**. The prohibition did not fall on all blood, but on the flowing blood shed at slaughter. What remains threaded through the tissue — myoglobin — is exempted, and there is no way to remove it in any case. The prohibition is **calibrated with a scientific precision that neither falls short nor goes too far**. The same applies to the method of slaughter: it requires cutting the vessels of the throat so that all the blood drains out — which is exactly what meat-safety standards recommend today to reduce bacterial load. A complete body of law consistent with a science not yet born.

The Ant That Spoke and Warned

Until, when they came upon the valley of the ants, an ant said: O ants, enter your dwellings lest Solomon and his soldiers crush you.

Surah an-Naml — verse 18



One ant warns its colony, and the whole colony withdraws into its burrows

In plain words

A small ant saw an army coming and warned the other ants to go into their homes. And science says: ants really do **send alarm signals**, and the whole colony responds at once.

What did people believe then?

In the old conception an animal was a mute creature with no language and no organisation. That a single ant should produce a sentence containing **a call, a command, a warning, a reason and an excuse for the aggressor** ("while they perceive not") seemed to a listener a symbolic tale rather than a factual report.

What does science say today?

Ants are among the most highly organised social creatures on earth, and they communicate in three proven ways: **chemical pheromones** — each message has its own substance, including the alarm pheromone, which spreads so that the colony responds within seconds; **tapping and vibration**; and **sound** — it was discovered that ants possess a stridulatory organ producing sounds of specific meaning, which have been recorded and analysed in the laboratory.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

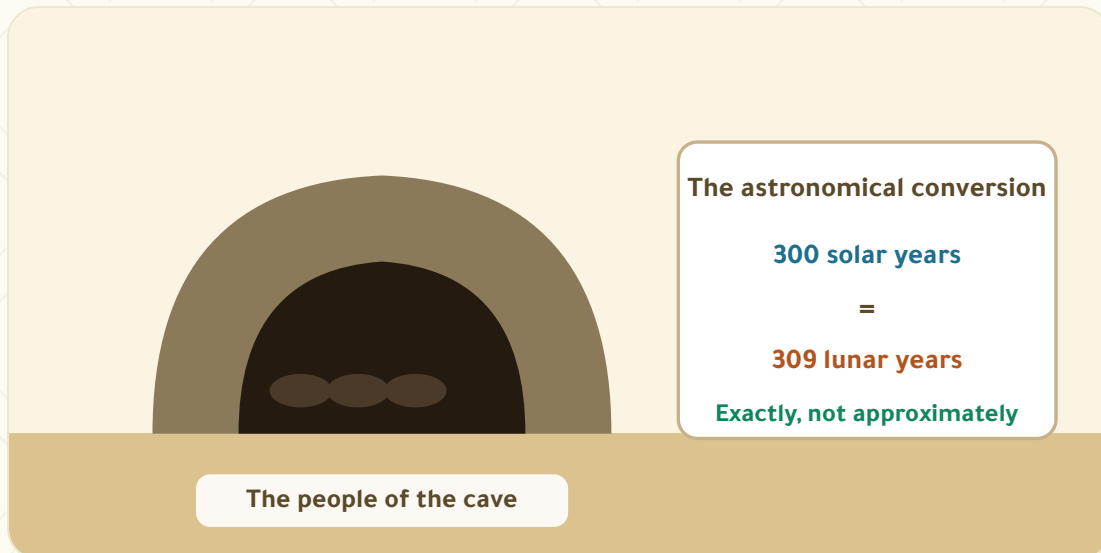
The small details are the proof. First: the verb **"said"** comes in the feminine — and the worker ants who go out, guard and give warning are **all female**, while the males have no function beyond mating and then die. Second: the command to enter **"your dwellings"** — and an ant nest is a genuine dwelling, divided into chambers, tunnels and stores. Third: **"lest they crush you"** — the Arabic verb means to break, and an ant's body is a hard exoskeleton that **breaks rather than squashes**. Three precisions in a single verse.



Three Hundred Years, and Nine More

And they remained in their cave three hundred years, and exceeded by nine.

Surah al-Kahf — verse 25



The difference between the two calendars is exactly nine years over three centuries

In plain words

The Qur'an said they remained **three hundred years**, then added: "**and exceeded by nine**". The reason is beautiful: three hundred solar years equal exactly three hundred and nine lunar years.

What did people believe then?

People used a single calendar in each region and did not convert between calendars. Adding "nine" after a round number looked like a strange, meaningless addition — some readers even took it for hesitation about the figure.

What does science say today?

The solar year is 365.2422 days and the lunar year 354.367 days. So three hundred solar years = 109,572.6 days. Divided by the length of a lunar year, that gives **309.2** lunar years. The difference is precisely nine years. The people of the cave lived in a Roman environment using the solar calendar, while the Qur'an addresses a people using the lunar one — so it gave the figure in both calendars at once.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

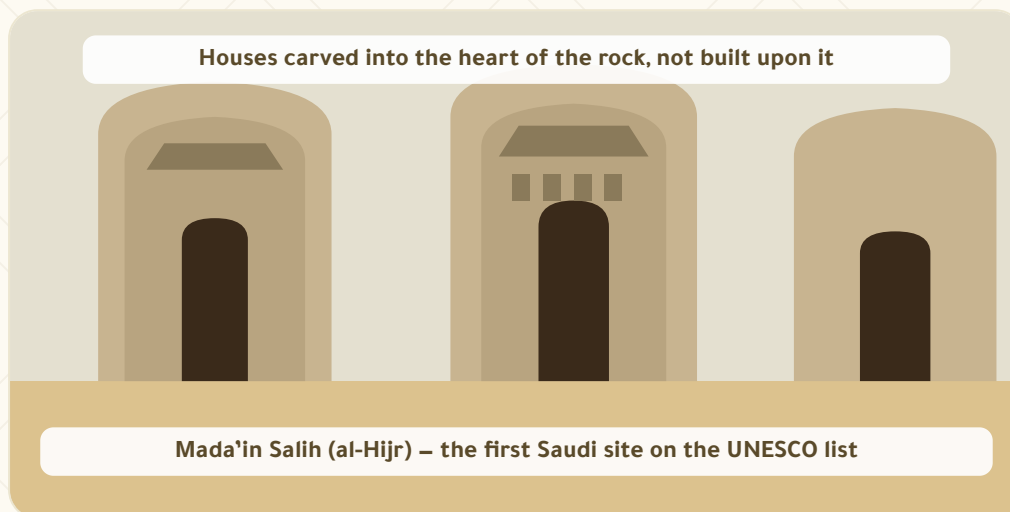
Had the number been arbitrary, it would have said "three hundred years" and stopped, or "three hundred and some". But the addition came **specified as exactly nine** — which is precisely the result of the astronomical conversion. And notice the wording: "three hundred years **and exceeded by nine**" — the verb indicates that the nine are not a further period they spent, but **an increase in the count, not in the time**: the span is one and the number differs with the calendar. This is the only reading that holds together arithmetically and linguistically at once.



Thamud, Who Carved Houses Out of Mountains

And you carve out of the mountains, homes, with skill. ... And they used to carve from the mountains, houses, feeling secure.

Surah ash-Shu'ara 149 — and Surah al-Hijr 82



Vast façades cut from the top of the rock downward — allowing no single mistake

In plain words

The Qur'an said the people of Thamud **carved their houses inside the mountains** — not built of stone, but hollowed out of the mountain itself into a dwelling. Those houses still stand today and visitors see them.

What did people believe then?

The building known in Arabia was clay, stone and palm fronds. The idea of a whole civilisation carving its dwellings into the bodies of mountains was alien to the listeners. And the Qur'an named a specific people mentioned neither in the Torah nor in the Greek books, and attributed to them a specific building technique.

What does science say today?

Mada'in Salih (al-Hijr) in al-Ula, northern Saudi Arabia: more than 130 façades carved into sandstone, some over twenty metres high, with columns, capitals, cornices and Thamudic and Nabataean inscriptions. In 2008 it became the first Saudi site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The site is named in the Qur'an: "And certainly did **the companions of al-Hijr** deny the messengers."

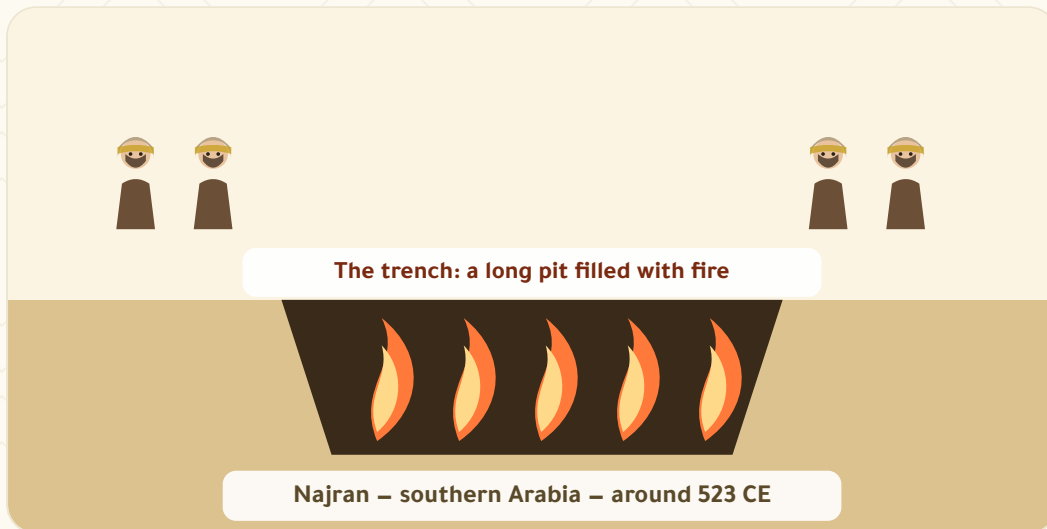
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The verb used is what settles it: **"they carve"**, not **"they build"**. Carving in Arabic is the removal of material from a solid mass — the exact opposite of building. Then the specification: **"out of the mountains"** — the mountain itself is the material of the house. This is a precise description of a technique resembling nothing around the listeners. And it added a psychological detail full of meaning: **"feeling secure"** — these houses do not collapse, do not burn, and cannot be demolished by an enemy, for they are the rock itself. Which sharpens the verse's point: the greatest engineering security availed them nothing.

The People of the Trench Who Dug a Fire

Cursed were the companions of the trench — the fire full of fuel — when they were sitting beside it, and they, to what they were doing against the believers, were witnesses.

Surah al-Buruj — verses 4-7



A historical massacre documented in Yemeni inscriptions and in contemporary Syriac letters

In plain words

The Qur'an mentioned a people who dug **a long trench**, lit a fire in it, threw the believers into it and sat watching. This is a real historical event recorded in stone inscriptions.

What did people believe then?

This event was not recorded in the books of the Arabs in any reliable detail, and no written source for it was available in Mecca. It is a story about another nation, an earlier time and a distant land.

What does science say today?

History confirms the massacre of **Najran** around 523 CE, when the Himyarite king **Dhu Nuwas** persecuted the Christians of Najran and burned those who refused to renounce their faith. The event is documented in **the Husn Ghurab inscription** and the Himyarite inscriptions of Bi'r Hima, in **the Syriac letter of Simeon of Beth-Arsham**, contemporary with the event, and in Byzantine and Ethiopian sources. Inscriptions found at al-Ula and Bi'r Hima record the campaign and the numbers of the slain.

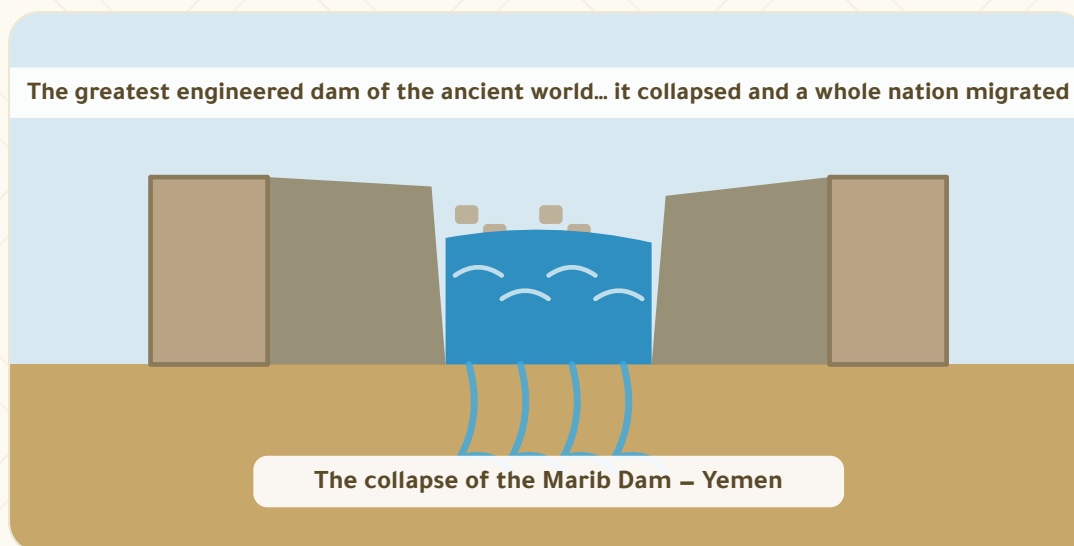
Why is this a decisive miracle?

It is the precision in the small details that decides it. The Arabic word "**ukhdud**" means a long, straight cleft in the ground — not a round pit. That matches the description of dug trenches. "**Full of fuel**" indicates that the fire was supplied with renewed fuel, not a chance blaze. "**Sitting beside it**" and "**witnesses**": the perpetrators sat and watched — a detail matching Simeon's letter, which records that the king attended the executions in person. And notice that the Qur'an named neither the king nor the people — because the purpose is the lesson, not the chronicle.

Sheba and the Bursting of the Dam

❖ *But they turned away, so We sent upon them the flood of the dam, and We replaced their two gardens with two gardens of bitter fruit and tamarisk.* ❖

Surah Saba — verse 16



The remains of the colossal dam still stand at Marib to this day

🔍 In plain words

In Yemen there was a wealthy kingdom called **Sheba**, living off a great dam that watered its gardens. The dam collapsed, the flood swept everything away, and the gardens turned into bitter trees that cannot be eaten.

⌘ What did people believe then?

Sheba lived in Arab memory as a name in poetry and proverb — “scattered like the people of Saba”. But there were no excavated remains and no readable inscriptions. Western historians doubted the kingdom had existed at all and counted it half legend.

🔧 What does science say today?

The Marib Dam is a standing monument today: built around the eighth century BC, nearly 600 metres long, watering some ten thousand hectares. Its collapses are documented in **Sabaeen Musnad inscriptions** found at the site — among them Abraha’s famous inscription describing the repair of the dam in 548 CE. The final collapse around 570-580 CE led to **the migration of whole Yemeni tribes** northward — a migration well known in Arab genealogy and history.

✦ Why is this a decisive miracle?

The verse did not stop at the collapse; it described what became of the land afterwards with botanical precision: “two gardens of **bitter fruit, tamarisk and a few lote trees**”. The first is the bitter thorny shrub, the second a kind of tamarisk, the third the jujube — and these are exactly **the plants of a dry, saline environment** that take over farmland when irrigation stops and the soil turns salty. Then it said “and **a few lote trees**” — a diminishment in exactly the right place, since the lote is the most useful of the three and the scarcest.

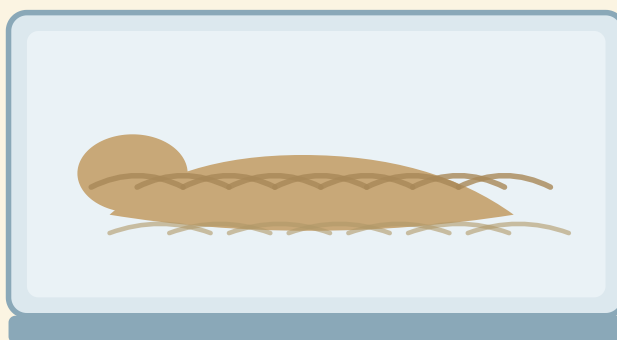


Pharaoh's Body — Preserved as a Sign

So today We will save you in your body, that you may be for those who succeed you a sign.

Surah Yunus — verse 92

A body over three thousand years old... still here



The Cairo Museum – the royal mummy hall

Pharaoh's body is displayed today behind glass, where people see it with their own eyes

In plain words

When Pharaoh drowned in the sea, God said He would preserve **his body** so that those who came after would see it and take heed. That body exists today in a museum visited by people from all over the world.

What did people believe then?

A man who drowns in the sea loses his body: the fish eat it, or it decays, or it is lost in the sand. When the verse was revealed not one Arab knew anything of royal mummification or of the tombs of the pharaohs. Indeed the hieroglyphic language itself was entirely forgotten, and was not deciphered until 1822.

What does science say today?

The royal mummy cache was discovered at Deir el-Bahari in 1881, then the tomb of Amenhotep II in 1898, bringing to light the bodies of the New Kingdom pharaohs. The body of **Merneptah** — the best-known candidate for the Pharaoh of the Exodus — is preserved in the Cairo museum. X-ray examination revealed findings consistent with a violent death and injuries to the skull and neck, and examiners noted salt deposits on the skin.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

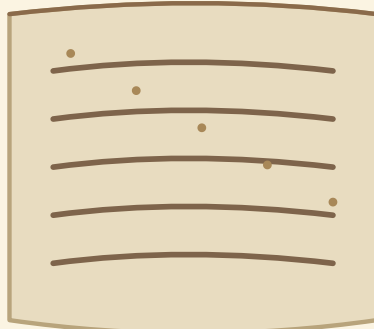
The verse did not merely say “We will save you”; it specified: “**in your body**” — the body alone, without the soul. That is a precise distinction between the rescue of a person and the survival of his corpse. Then it gave the reason: “**that you may be for those who succeed you a sign**” — the survival of the body itself is the purpose; it is prepared to be seen. And this was revealed in a desert whose people knew nothing of mummies or tombs, twelve hundred years before those tombs were opened and their occupants displayed in glass halls.



Manuscripts Confirmed by Carbon Dating

Indeed, it is We who sent down the Reminder, and indeed, We will be its guardian.

Surah al-Hijr — verse 9



The University of Birmingham – Britain

The Birmingham manuscript

Carbon-14 dating

568 - 645 CE

With 95% probability

Its text matches the Qur'an of today

Parchment from the Prophet's lifetime or just after — and its text is the text of today

In plain words

The Qur'an promised that it would remain preserved and unchanged. Today we have **manuscripts dated by radiocarbon** reaching back to roughly the time of the Prophet ﷺ — and their text is the text of the copy in your hands, letter for letter.

What did people believe then?

All ancient books are subject to addition, loss and alteration through copying and translation. That is the natural fate of any text transmitted by hand over centuries. So a claim of perfect preservation was **a claim falsifiable by any divergent manuscript**.

What does science say today?

The Birmingham manuscript: parchment carbon-14 tested at the University of Oxford in 2015 and dated between **568 and 645 CE** with 95% probability. Then the Sana'a lower text, the Tübingen manuscript, the Samarkand codex, and the great codices of Istanbul and Cairo. Researchers — Muslim and non-Muslim alike — have compared these manuscripts with the Qur'an in circulation today, and the agreement in the text was near total, apart from orthographic differences in letter shapes that change neither pronunciation nor meaning.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The preservation did not rest on manuscripts alone, but on a **dual system unique in human history**: meticulous writing, and **memorisation in the breast, transmitted by mass narration**. In every generation hundreds of thousands of people across distant lands, under no single authority, hold the whole text by heart — so it is practically impossible for them to agree on altering one letter. And the text itself **declared this guarantee at its weakest moment** — a hunted community in Mecca. That a text should stand fourteen centuries without two divergent copies has no parallel in any other book on earth.

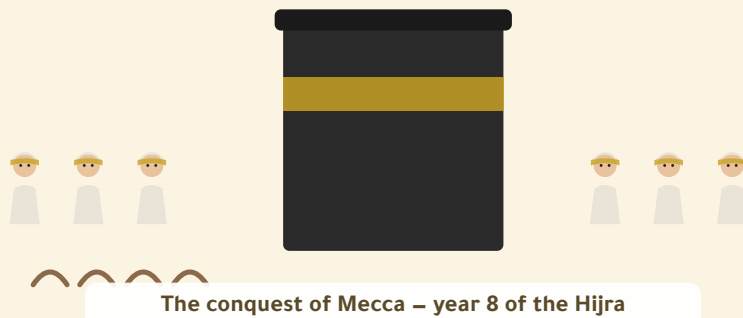


You Will Surely Enter the Sacred Mosque in Safety

Certainly has God showed to His Messenger the vision in truth: you will surely enter the Sacred Mosque, if God wills, in safety, with your heads shaved and hair shortened, not fearing.

Surah al-Fath — verse 27

Revealed while the Muslims were turned back from the House, unable to enter



A promise of safe entry... given at the sharpest moment of exclusion

In plain words

The Muslims were barred from entering Mecca and turned back along the road with their spirits broken. Then a verse came promising them they **would enter the House in safety**. Two years later they entered Mecca as victors, without fear or fighting.

What did people believe then?

In year 6 of the Hijra, at Hudaibiyyah, the Muslims were turned back from the House and made peace with Quraysh on terms many of them saw as unjust — so much so that Umar said: "Why should we accept this humiliation in our religion?" Mecca was at the height of its power, and the Muslims fewer in number and equipment. Nothing on the horizon suggested a conquest was near.

What does science say today?

In year 8 of the Hijra (630 CE) the Prophet ﷺ entered Mecca at the head of ten thousand, **with no battle worth the name**, and declared a general amnesty: "Go, for you are free." The Muslims circled the House in safety, and shaved and shortened their hair. This is among the most thoroughly documented events in Islamic history, and all the sources agree upon it.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The small details in the verse are what lift it from hope to prophecy. It did not merely say "you will conquer Mecca", but specified **the manner of entry: "in safety"** — not as conquerors after a savage war; **"not fearing"** — an emphasis on complete security; **"with your heads shaved and hair shortened"** — that is, they would complete the full rites in tranquillity, which is possible only with total control of the city. Four details in a single sentence, and every one of them came to pass.

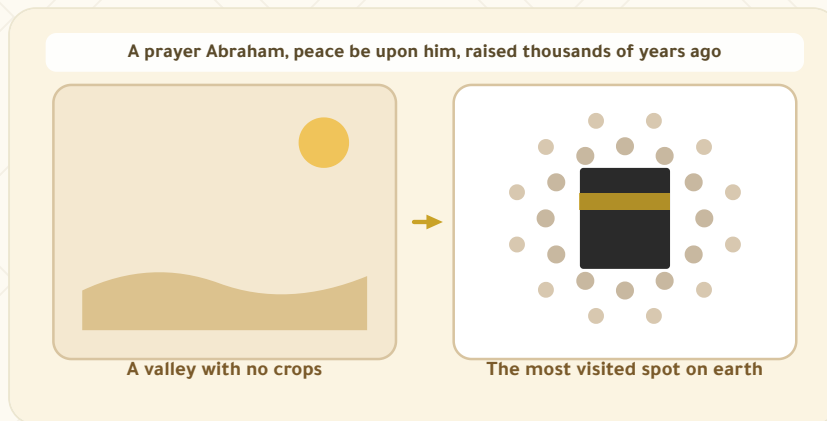


A Valley With No Crops — Now the Most Crowded Place on Earth

Our Lord, I have settled some of my descendants in an uncultivated valley near Your sacred House ...

❖ *so make hearts among the people incline toward them, and provide for them from the fruits.* ❖

Surah Ibrahim — verse 37



A land that grows nothing... where you find the fruits of the whole world

🔍 In plain words

Abraham, peace be upon him, prayed as he left his wife and child in a valley with **no water and no crops**, that God would make people's hearts long for them and provide them with fruits. That valley is today **the most visited place on the face of the earth**.

⌚ What did people believe then?

The valley was bare desert between barren mountains — no river, no spring, and at that time no trade route. There was nothing in it to draw anyone toward it. And the prayer itself is strangely worded: he did not ask for crops or for water for the land, but for two separate things: **hearts that incline**, and **fruits to be provided**.

🌐 What does science say today?

Mecca today: in the pilgrimage season alone more than two million people come within a few days, and millions more perform the lesser pilgrimage throughout the year. Toward it the faces of more than one billion eight hundred million people turn **five times every day**. Its ground has not changed: it is still a valley with no crops. And yet in its markets you find the fruits of all the earth, arriving from every continent all year round. And the well of Zamzam has flowed for four thousand years in the heart of a desert.

✦ Why is this a decisive miracle?

The miracle lies in **the structure of the prayer itself**. The natural thing for a man leaving his family in a desert is to pray for the land to grow fertile or for rain to fall. But he prayed that **people's hearts would incline toward them** — that provision would come through people, not through the soil. And he was precise: **"hearts among the people"**, not all people — for had he prayed for all, the place could never hold them. Then he said **"incline"** rather than **"come"** — and the Arabic verb means to fall toward something out of longing and attraction, not the arrival of someone compelled. That is an exact description of a person seeing the Kaaba for the first time. A prayer framed with that precision, fulfilled to the letter across four thousand years.



A Fulfilled Prophecy

The Bracelets of Chosroes on Suraqah's Arms

He said to Suraqah ibn Malik: How will it be with you when you wear the two bracelets of Chosroes?

Narrated by al-Bayhaqi, Ibn Abd al-Barr and others

The day of the migration

The Prophet ﷺ pursued
With a reward on his head

"How will it be with you when you wear
the two bracelets of Chosroes?"



The caliphate of Umar



The bracelets of Chosroes on his arms
Before all the people

About 15 years between them... and the fall of the greatest empire in the East

A man who rode out to kill him for a hundred camels... was promised the treasure of Persia

🔍 In plain words

Suraqah rode out chasing the Prophet ﷺ on the day of the migration, hoping for the reward. The Prophet ﷺ said to him: **How will it be with you when you wear the two bracelets of the king of Persia?** Years later he wore them in fact, in the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab.

⌚ What did people believe then?

The moment these words were spoken is **the most desperate moment in the whole biography**: the Prophet ﷺ fleeing his own city, hunted, owning nothing but his mount and his companion, with a hundred camels offered for his capture. Persia at that time was one of the two greatest empires on earth, and its king tore up the Prophet's letter in scorn.

🔗 What does science say today?

In the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab the Sasanian empire fell and Ctesiphon was taken, and the treasures of Chosroes were carried to Medina. Umar summoned Suraqah ibn Malik and dressed him in **the bracelets of Chosroes, his crown and his belt**, and said to him: "Say: Praise be to God, who stripped these from Chosroes son of Hormuz and clothed in them Suraqah ibn Malik, a bedouin of Banu Mudlij." The report is transmitted in the books of hadith and history through several chains.

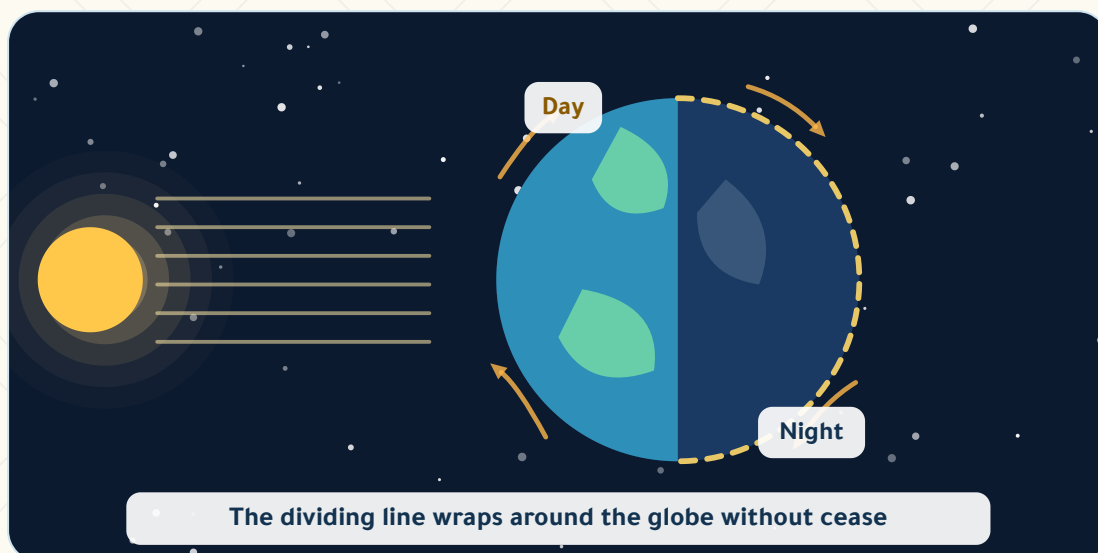
✨ Why is this a decisive miracle?

This prophecy gathers three things that cannot come together by guesswork: **a named individual** (Suraqah), **a specific object** (the bracelets of Chosroes, not any spoils), and **an enormous political event** (the fall of Persia and the arrival of its treasure among the Arabs). And it was said to a man who at that moment was **an enemy in pursuit**, not a companion being given good news. Had the aim been to win him over, a far smaller promise would have served better. That a hunted man who owned nothing that day should promise his pursuer the treasures of the greatest empire on earth — this is the speech of someone certain of a source that is not human.

He Wraps the Night Around the Day

He created the heavens and the earth in truth. He wraps the night over the day and wraps the day over the night.

Surah az-Zumar — verse 5



Night and day wind around the globe in a rotation that never stops

In plain words

The Arabic verb here comes from the word for a ball, and from the winding of a turban — that is, **wrapping one thing around something round**. Night wraps around the earth as a turban wraps around a head. And wrapping happens only on a spherical body.

What did people believe then?

The common belief everywhere was that the earth was a flat surface, and that night **replaced** the day and did away with it. Even those Greek philosophers who held it round did not connect that to a continuous winding motion of the line between night and day.

What does science say today?

The earth is a sphere (slightly flattened at the poles), and the sun always lights half of it. The earth's rotation makes **the dividing line between night and day** creep across its surface without stopping — that is, night wraps around the globe literally, and does not vanish but moves. You can see it with your own eyes in any live satellite image of the earth.

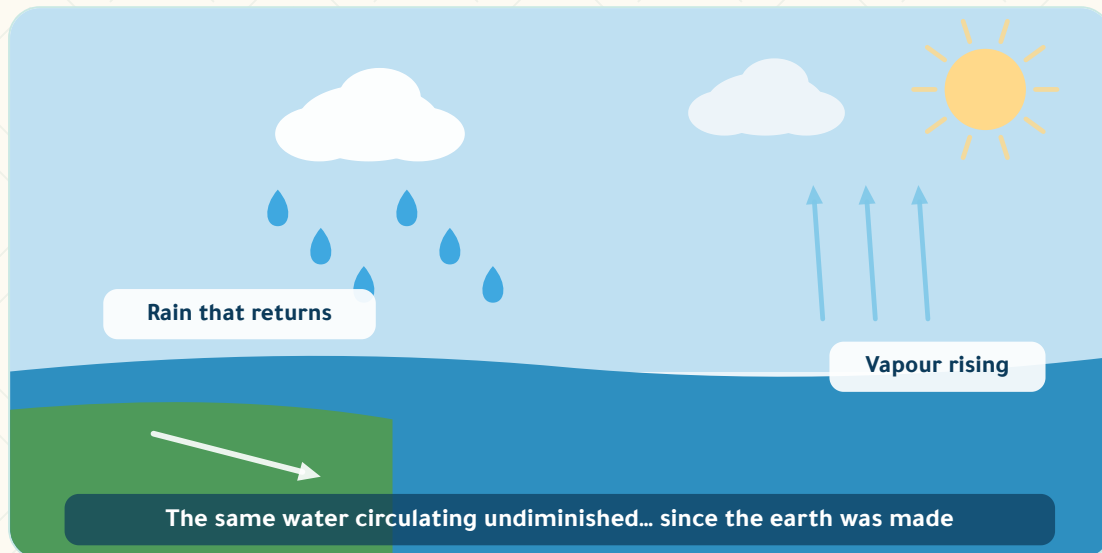
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Choosing a verb from the root for “ball” to describe the succession of night and day does not make sense on a flat surface. More precise still: the verse makes the wrapping **reciprocal, in both directions** — “He wraps the night over the day and wraps the day over the night” — and only someone seeing a continuous rotation on a spherical body would describe it so. And elsewhere: “and after that He **spread the earth out**” — the Arabic verb means to spread out with roundness, and from the same root comes the word for an ostrich's egg.

The Sky That Returns

By the sky which returns.

Surah at-Tariq — verse 11



Water rises as vapour and returns as rain — a closed cycle in which nothing is lost

In plain words

The sky takes water from the sea as vapour, then **returns** it to us as rain. Every drop you drink today was drunk by someone before you, and will be drunk by someone after you. Water does not run out; it returns.

What did people believe then?

Rain was understood as **new** water sent down by God from stores in the sky, not water returning from the earth itself. The link between sea vapour and falling rain was not known; the water cycle was not fully described in Europe until the seventeenth century.

What does science say today?

The water cycle: evaporation from bodies of water → condensation in cloud → precipitation → run-off → evaporation. The quantity of water on earth has been **constant for billions of years**, circulating without increase or decrease. And the atmosphere returns not only water but heat and radio waves as well.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

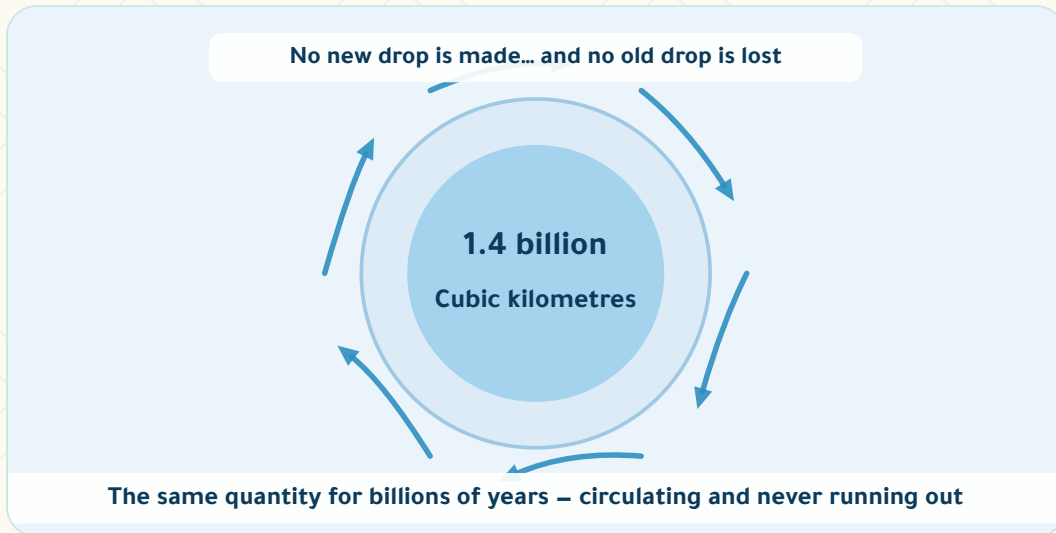
A single word — **"the return"** — carries the whole meaning. In Arabic it means **a thing coming back to where it was**, not merely falling. To describe the sky with that attribute is to state that what comes down from it had first gone up to it. It is a complete summary of the water cycle in two words. And it is confirmed elsewhere: "And We sent down from the sky water **in due measure**" — a fixed, measured quantity that does not change.



Water in Due Measure — Never More, Never Less

And We sent down from the sky water in due measure, and We settled it in the earth. And indeed, We are able to take it away.

Surah al-Mu'minun — verse 18



A fixed water balance across the whole planet

In plain words

The amount of water on earth is **fixed: it neither increases nor decreases**. The water a dinosaur drank is the same water you drink today. And the phrase “**in due measure**” in the verse means: in a calculated, exact quantity.

What did people believe then?

Rain was understood as new water sent down from stores in the sky whenever people needed it. The idea of **a closed, constant quantity in circulation** existed in no culture. The obvious assumption is that sea water is lost to evaporation and that rain is a fresh addition.

What does science say today?

The volume of water on earth is estimated at about **1.4 billion cubic kilometres**, and it has been roughly constant for billions of years. It evaporates, condenses, falls, flows and returns — in a closed cycle that neither adds nor removes. The atmosphere and the magnetic field together prevent water vapour from escaping into space — which is exactly what did not happen on Mars, whose water evaporated and was lost, leaving a dead desert.

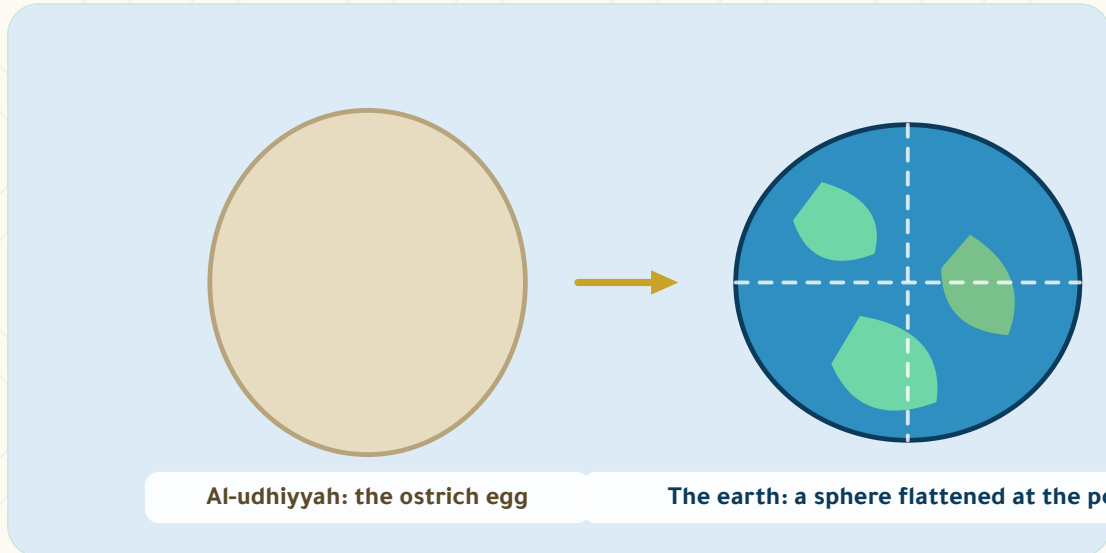
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The qualification “**in due measure**” is the miracle, and it has no meaning unless the quantity is constant. If water were created anew each time it fell, measuring it would mean nothing. More precise still is what follows: “**and We settled it in the earth**” — settling implies remaining and being stored, not being consumed; the water is held in the earth, not used up by it. Then the closing warning: “**and indeed, We are able to take it away**” — this balance is a blessing that can be withdrawn. Which is exactly what scientists see today on Mars, a world that lost all its water.

And the Earth — He Spread It Out Round

And after that He spread the earth out. He brought forth from it its water and its pasture.

Surah an-Nazi'at — verses 30-31



The earth is not a perfect sphere but slightly flattened — like an ostrich egg

In plain words

The Arabic verb *daha* means to spread a thing out **with roundness**. From the same root comes the word for the hollow where an ostrich lays, and for the ostrich egg itself. So the earth is spread out for you to walk upon, and round and flattened in its true form.

What did people believe then?

To ordinary people the earth was a flat surface and nothing else. Those philosophers who held it round held it to be **a perfect sphere**. Nobody at all proposed a flattening at the poles.

What does science say today?

The earth is an **oblate spheroid**: its diameter at the equator exceeds its pole-to-pole diameter by about 43 kilometres, because of its rotation. Newton proved this theoretically in 1687, and the French expeditions measured it in the field in 1736. The precise shape, called the geoid, is closest of all to the shape of an egg.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The language settles it. In the Arabic dictionaries *daha* means to spread out and widen, and from the same root come the words for an ostrich's nest and its egg. The root itself unites **spreading and an egg-like shape**. And the choice of this verb in particular — rather than the two ordinary verbs for "spread" and "extend", both of which the Qur'an uses elsewhere for other meanings — carries both senses in one word. The key is that the next verse explains what the spreading was for: "He brought forth from it its water and its pasture" — that is, preparation for habitation, not flattening.

In Honey There Is Healing for People

There emerges from their bellies a drink of varying colours, in which there is healing for people.

Surah an-Nahl — verse 69



Raw honey

Medical honey dressings are officially approved in Europe and America

What medicine established

- It kills bacteria
- It treats wounds and burns
- It soothes coughs in children
- Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory
- Used in hospitals today

Medical honey dressings are sold in pharmacies today under official licence

In plain words

Fourteen hundred years ago the Qur'an said that in honey there is **healing**. Today honey is used in hospitals to treat wounds and burns that antibiotics have failed to heal.

What did people believe then?

Honey was a sweet food and a precious one, and folk experience credited it with benefits. But to assert as a divine statement that it contains **healing** is another matter — especially as it comes out of the belly of an insect, from which one would not rationally expect benefit.

What does science say today?

Honey is a natural antibiotic by three mechanisms: its sugar density draws water out of bacteria and kills them; its acidity prevents their growth; and the enzyme glucose oxidase within it produces **hydrogen peroxide** slowly and continuously. Official drug agencies have approved manuka honey dressings for chronic wounds, and the World Health Organisation recommends honey to soothe coughs in children. Honey found in pharaonic tombs was still edible after three thousand years.

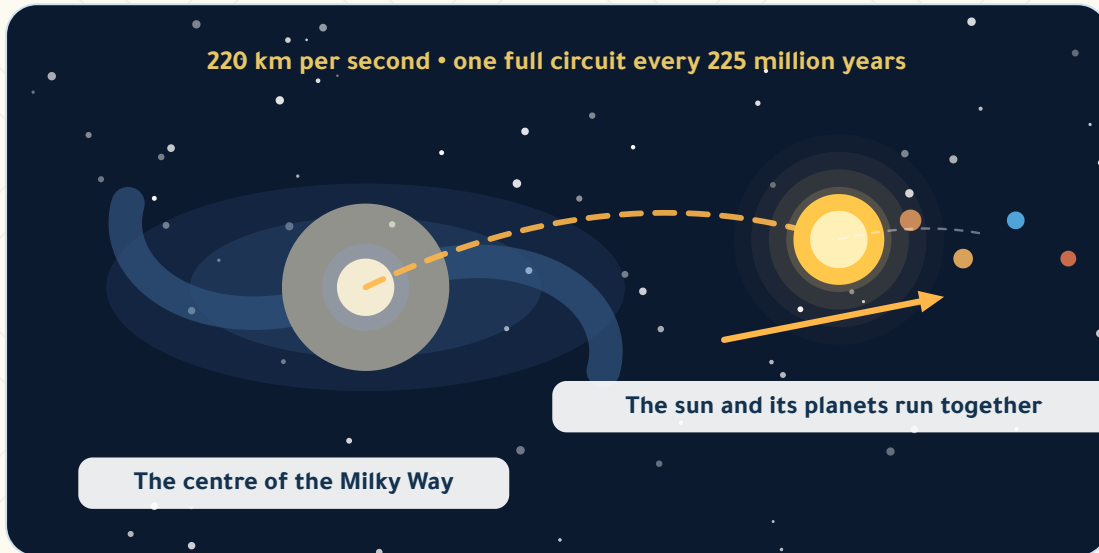
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Two points of precision are not explained by folk experience. First: "of varying **colours**" — it is a known fact today that the colour of honey and its medicinal properties differ with the plant source, which is why its therapeutic effect varies. Second: "there emerges from their **bellies**" — honey is in fact made in **the honey stomach**, an internal sac separate from the digestive stomach, where the enzymes are added before it is regurgitated. The text identified the correct anatomical source precisely.

The Sun Runs — It Is Not Fixed

*And the sun runs toward its resting place. That is the determination of the
Exalted in Might, the Knowing.*

Surah Ya-Sin — verse 38



The sun swims around the centre of the galaxy, dragging all its planets with it

In plain words

The sun is not standing still. It **runs** at an enormous speed, dragging the earth and all the planets along with it, on a journey around the centre of our galaxy.

What did people believe then?

People saw the sun rise and set, and supposed its motion was simply a circuit around the earth. Then the modern age came and said: no, it is the earth that turns, and **the sun is fixed at the centre of the system**. That was the settled science throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

What does science say today?

The sun really does move, in three established motions: it rotates on its axis about every 25 days; it runs around the centre of the Milky Way at about **220 kilometres per second**, completing one circuit every 225 million years; and it is also travelling toward a point in the sky called the solar apex.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

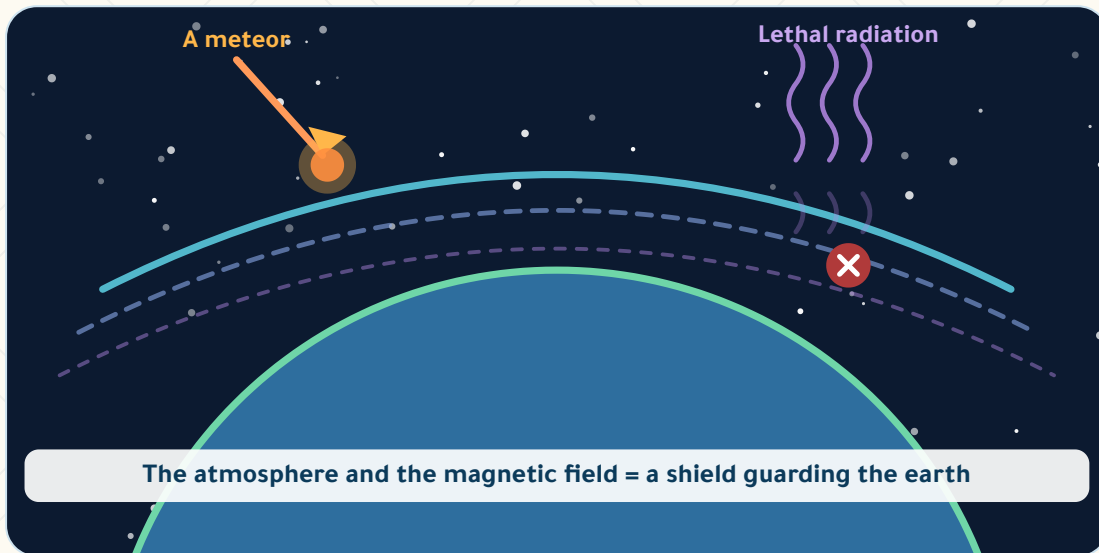
Note the irony: the verse came down when people believed the sun circled around them, and it affirmed that the sun runs. Then an age came that denied it all motion and said "it is fixed", so the verse appeared to contradict science. Then a newer science established for it a real motion **greater than anyone had imagined**. One text that stood firm through two complete reversals in science — and that alone is evidence.



A Roof That Protects You, and You Cannot See It

And We made the sky a protected ceiling, but they turn away from its signs.

Surah al-Anbiya — verse 32



Thousands of meteors burn up every day before they reach you, while you sleep in your house

In plain words

Above your head is a ceiling you cannot see, and it protects you. The meteors hurtling toward us burn up in it before they arrive, and it blocks the killing rays. **Without it, every living thing on earth would die.**

What did people believe then?

"The sky" to people was either empty void or a solid dome with the stars fixed in it. It never occurred to anyone that above us is **an invisible layer performing a protective function**. A burning shooting star was in their eyes a falling star, not a meteor burning up in a shield.

What does science say today?

The atmosphere burns up an estimated hundred tonnes of space material every day before it arrives. The ozone layer absorbs about 99% of lethal ultraviolet radiation. And the earth's magnetic field repels **the solar wind**, which would otherwise have stripped the earth of its air and water exactly as happened to Mars.

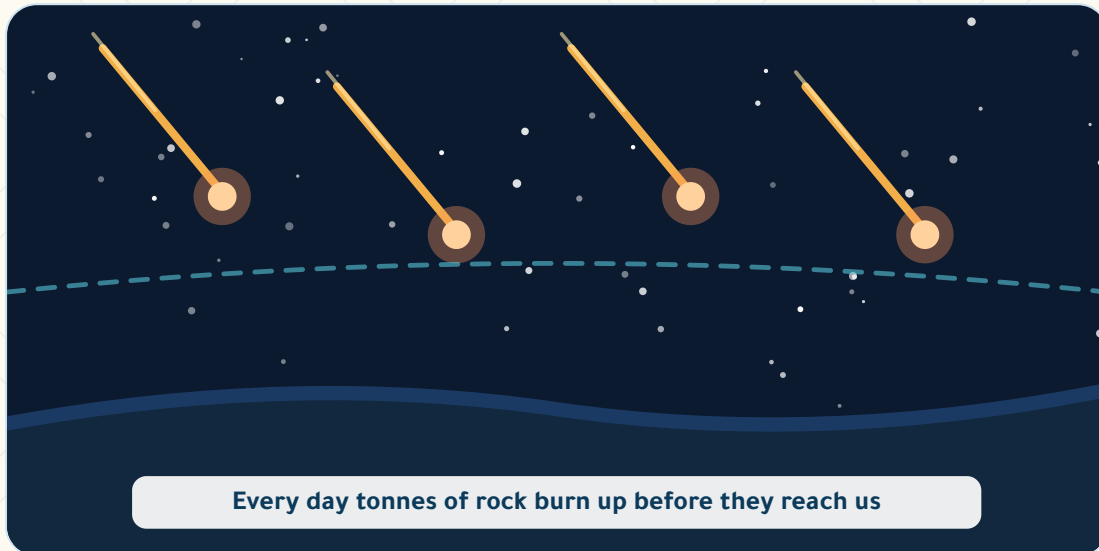
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Joining the two words "ceiling" and "protected" is what makes it a miracle. A ceiling indicates complete cover, and the Arabic passive participle indicates that it is both **guarded and guarding what lies beneath it**. Then came the following clause: "but they turn away from its signs" — that is, this ceiling holds **signs** that people will overlook. An explicit indication that it contains wonders not yet discovered. And so it proved: ozone was not discovered until 1913, and the protective magnetic field not until 1958.

The Shooting Stars That Guard the Sky

And We have certainly adorned the nearest heaven with lamps, and We have made them missiles against the devils.

Surah al-Mulk — verse 5



A meteor ignites when it enters the atmosphere faster than a bullet

In plain words

The verse gives the stars and shining bodies two functions at once: **an adornment for the sky**, and **projectiles that drive off anyone trying to slip upward**.

What did people believe then?

Shooting stars were to the Arabs “falling stars”, and in other cultures signs of a king’s death or a great event. That they are **solid bodies burning up by friction** was not known. Indeed official science denied until the nineteenth century that stones could fall from the sky, and the French Academy mocked those who said so.

What does science say today?

Meteoroids are rocky and metallic bodies entering the atmosphere at speeds of tens of kilometres per second, and most of them burn up completely from the pressure and heat of the air. The mass entering daily is estimated at about **a hundred tonnes**. The fall of meteorites was scientifically established after the L’Aigle event in France in 1803.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

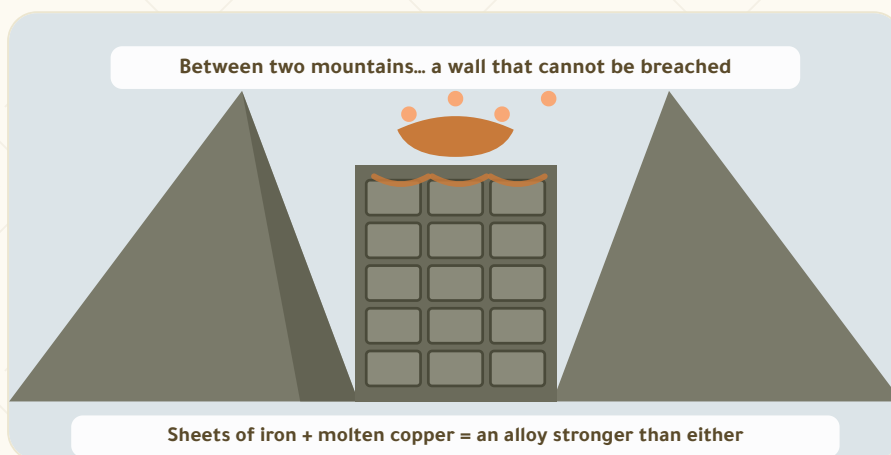
The verse distinguished two different functions for the bodies of the sky: the fixed adornment, and **the moving missile**. The Arabic word used means specifically throwing with stones — not with light and not with fire. To describe what comes down from the sky burning as a thrown stone, at a time when official science would still — centuries later — deny that there were stones in the sky at all, is a description that cannot be chance.



The Barrier of Dhul-Qarnayn — Iron and Molten Copper

Bring me sheets of iron — until, when he had levelled it between the two mountain walls, he said: Blow. Until, when he had made it fire, he said: Bring me molten copper that I may pour it over.

Surah al-Kahf — verse 96



Pouring molten copper over iron fills the gaps and prevents rust

In plain words

Dhul-Qarnayn built a wall between two mountains: he packed in **sheets of iron**, then lit a fire until they glowed red, then poured **molten copper** over them. That is exactly the method for making an extremely hard alloy that does not rust.

What did people believe then?

Knowledge of metals was simple: iron beaten while hot, copper poured into moulds. The idea of **fusing two metals into one structure** was not known as a construction technique, nor was it known why one should be poured over the other while it is heated.

What does science say today?

Pouring molten copper over heated iron produces something like **brazing**: the liquid copper penetrates the gaps between the pieces by capillary action, binding them tightly and driving out the air. The result is a solid, cohesive mass with no voids. The copper coating also **insulates the iron from air and moisture and so prevents rust** — the principle of metal plating used today.

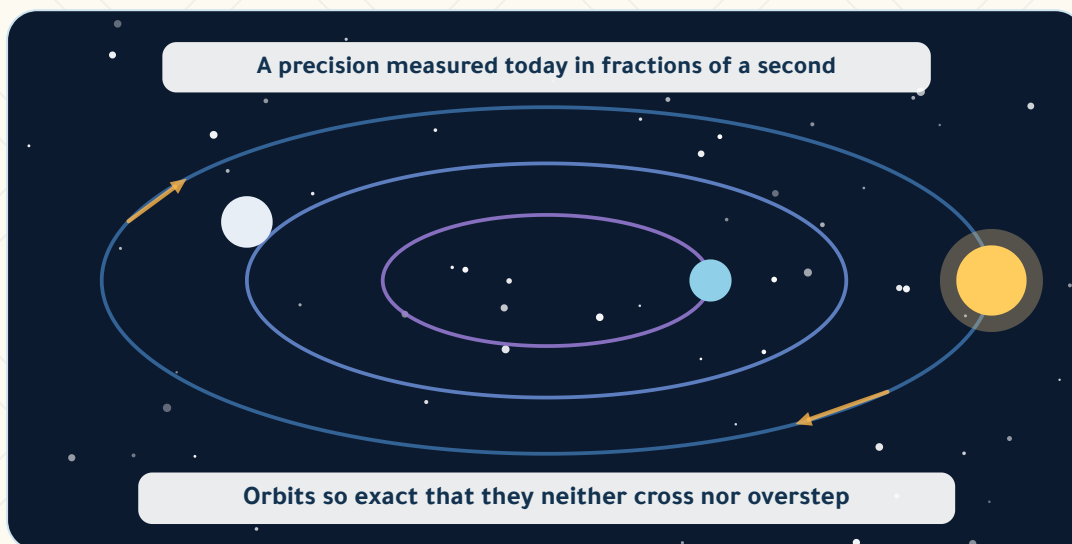
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The order of the steps is the miracle, and it is an engineering order that admits no other sequence: 1) **sheets of iron** — the Arabic word means a large mass, so the load-bearing structure is iron. 2) **Blow** — supplying air to raise the temperature, which is exactly what the bellows does in a foundry. 3) **Until he had made it fire** — the iron reached the red heat at which it accepts fusion. 4) **Then pouring the molten copper** over it. Had the copper been poured on cold iron, no bond would have formed. The text describes the heat condition before the pour — which is the heart of the whole process.

The Sun Cannot Overtake the Moon

It is not allowable for the sun to reach the moon, nor does the night overtake the day, but each, in an orbit, is swimming.

Surah Ya-Sin — verse 40



Every body keeps to its path, never crossing it and never reaching another

In plain words

The heavenly bodies travel at enormous speeds, and yet **none of them collides with another**, and night neither outruns day nor lags behind it. A system that does not falter for the blink of an eye.

What did people believe then?

There was no knowledge of the speeds of the heavenly bodies, of their orbits, or of the laws of their motion. Eclipses were explained as anger or as a warning, not as **appointments that can be calculated centuries before they happen**.

What does science say today?

The orbits of the heavenly bodies are regulated with a precision that astonishes astronomers. The earth travels its orbit around the sun at 30 km per second, and the moon circles the earth, and no collision occurs. The precision of the system is such that **the date of an eclipse a thousand years from now can be calculated to the second**. All space navigation is built on this regularity: a craft launched today to meet a planet seven years hence at a point calculated in advance.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The phrase **"it is not allowable"** is the point of precision. It denies not merely the occurrence but **the possibility** — that is, the system itself does not permit it, not that it merely happens not to occur. And that is precisely the meaning of a **physical law**. Then note the detail: it denied that the sun reaches the moon — and they lie in two different orbits; and it denied that night outruns day — and both follow from the earth's rotation. Two phenomena of different causes, gathered under one rule: **"each, in an orbit, is swimming"** — the cause in both cases is the same: every body held to its own path.



You See No Inconsistency in the Creation of the Merciful

He who created seven heavens in layers. You see in the creation of the Most Merciful no inconsistency. So return your vision — do you see any breaks?

Surah al-Mulk — verse 3



Gravity: a little stronger and the universe would have collapsed



The nuclear force: a fraction weaker and not one element would form



The universe's initial density: a tuning beyond imagining



The dark-energy constant: the most finely tuned number in physics

"So return your vision — do you see any breaks?"

The constants of the universe are tuned to a margin that tolerates no deviation

In plain words

The verse challenges you to look into the universe and find in it **a flaw, a crack or a deficiency**. Then it repeats: look a second time. And science today says the constants of the universe are tuned with a precision the mind can scarcely believe.

What did people believe then?

The universe was regarded with a general, aesthetic gaze. There was no concept of "physical constants" at all, nor of a universe resting on numbers such that a slight change in any one of them would bring everything down.

What does science say today?

Modern physics calls this **fine-tuning**. Had the force of gravity differed by a minute fraction, stars would never have formed or the universe would have collapsed at once; had the strong nuclear force differed by a small fraction, there would be no carbon and no oxygen; and the dark-energy constant is described as **the most finely balanced number in all of physics**. Great physicists have acknowledged this — Fred Hoyle among them, who said that what he saw looked as though "a superintellect had monkeyed with physics".

Why is this a decisive miracle?

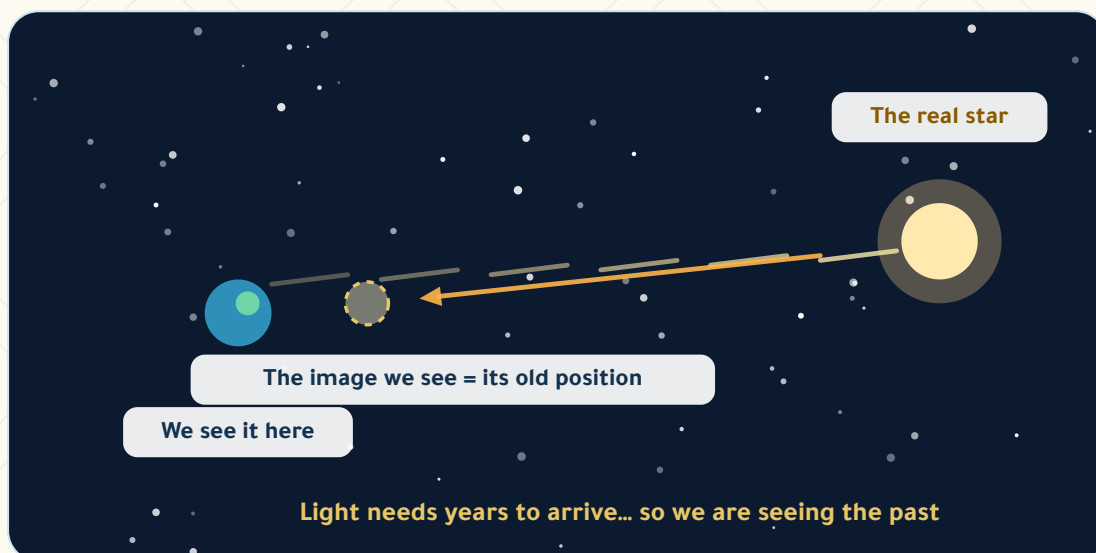
The verse is not merely a statement but **an explicit invitation to examine and to repeat the examination**: "So return your vision", then "return your vision twice again". That is, it wagers that closer scrutiny **will confirm it rather than overturn it**. And that is literally what happened: the more precise the instruments of observation became, the more the tuning showed itself. The Arabic word for **"breaks"** means cracks and fractures, and **"inconsistency"** means disorder and disproportion. So the verse denies the universe two attributes: a flaw in the proportions and a crack in the structure — which is exactly what a physicist looks for when he tests a cosmological model.



An Oath by the Positions of the Stars — Not by the Stars

So I swear by the positions of the stars — and indeed, it is a great oath, if you but knew.

Surah al-Waqi'ah — verses 75-76



A star's light travels for years, so what you see is its old position, not where it is now

In plain words

When you look at a star at night, you are not seeing the star! You are seeing **light that left it years ago**, perhaps thousands of years ago. The star itself may have gone out and ended, while you are still seeing it.

What did people believe then?

It occurred to nobody that light had a speed at all. Light appeared instantly, outside of time. The star was what you saw, in the place where you saw it, and that was the end of the matter.

What does science say today?

The speed of light is about 300,000 kilometres per second — fast, yes, but **finite**. The nearest star after the sun is 4.2 light-years away, and some of what we see with the naked eye is thousands of light-years distant. So the sky you see tonight is **an album of old photographs**, every star in it from a different time. Stars have indeed been observed whose explosions happened centuries ago while their light still reaches us.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

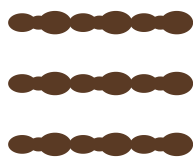
The oath was not sworn by the stars themselves but **by their positions** — a specification with no purpose unless there is a real difference between a star and its position. Then the following verse states it plainly: “and indeed, it is a great oath, **if you but knew**” — the greatness of this oath depends on a knowledge the listeners did not have. A text saying openly: here is a secret you will come to know later. And it came to be known.

Communities Like Yourselves

And there is no creature on earth or bird that flies with its wings except that they are communities like you.

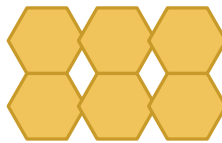
Surah al-An'am — verse 38

The ants



Layers and tasks

The bees



A queen and workers

Migrating birds



Leadership, rotation and routes

Societies with order, communication, division of labour and learning

Animals are not scattered individuals but organised societies

In plain words

The Qur'an called animals "**communities**" — and a community is a group with an order, a language and traditions. And it said they are "like you". Science today proves that animals have highly organised societies.

What did people believe then?

In the old conception an animal was purely instinctive, with no organisation, no communication and no learning. The gulf between it and man was absolute. To describe it as a "community" — a word used of peoples with laws and systems — was strange.

What does science say today?

Animal behaviour science has established the existence of genuine societies: strict division of labour among ants and bees; complex communication languages among whales and dolphins, with **regional dialects**; cultures transmitted by learning among chimpanzees; organised migration and rotating leadership among birds; and even systems of "agriculture" among leafcutter ants, which farm fungus in underground plantations.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The miracle lies in two words. "**Communities**": in Arabic an organised group with a shared concern, not merely a herd. And "**like you**": like you in being societies with their own orders — not like you in intellect and moral responsibility. Until recently official science refused to attribute culture or language to animals, counting that unscientific anthropomorphism — then retreated before the evidence. As for the phrase "that flies **with its wings**", it is a striking specification, excluding what flies without wings.

The Frailest of Houses — and the Female Spider

The example of those who take allies other than God is like that of the spider who takes a home. And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider.

Surah al-Ankabut — verse 41



thread is stronger than steel... and its house the frailest of houses

The spider's house

- A female builds it alone
- The male does not build
- She sometimes eats the male
- She eats her young
- A home with no safety in it at all

The frailty is not in the thread, but in the relationships inside this "home"

In plain words

A spider's home is built by **the female** alone; the male has no part in it. And it is the frailest of homes not because the thread is weak — but because it is **a home with no mercy and no safety**: the female may eat her mate and her young.

What did people believe then?

The spider is a familiar creature in every house, and its web an obvious image of weakness. But the distinction between male and female in who builds it, and the predation that goes on inside the web, were not known — these are details visible only under careful scientific observation.

What does science say today?

Spider webs are **built exclusively by females**; in most species the male spider does not spin a hunting web at all, but wanders in search of a female. In dozens of species the female kills the male after mating and eats him, and in other species the young eat their mother or she eats them. As for the thread itself, it is among the strongest known materials: stronger than steel for its weight.

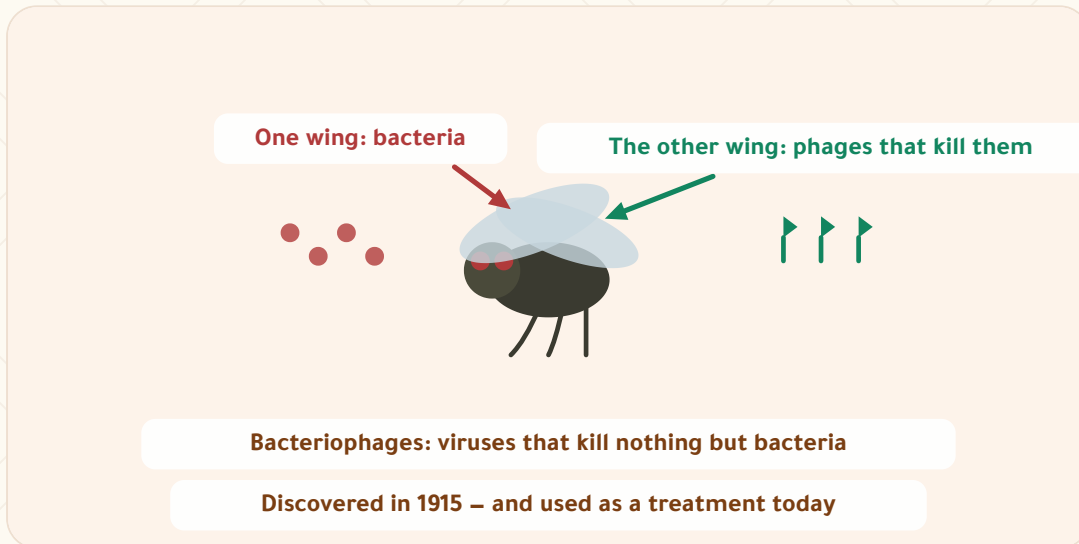
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Had the frailty been in the strength of the thread, the text would have been refuted by science, since spider silk is proven to be among the toughest things in nature. But the verse speaks of **the home**, not the thread, and a home in Arabic means the family, the dwelling and the safety. The whole context is about **a corrupt relationship that does its holder no good**. So the description is socially precise, not materially. And this is confirmed by the verb coming in the feminine: "**she** takes a home" — for it is she who takes it, and not the male.

One Wing Carries Disease, the Other the Cure

If a fly falls into the drink of any of you, let him dip it in fully and then remove it, for on one of its wings is disease and on the other a cure.

Narrated by al-Bukhari — authentic



Bacteriophages are the most numerous organisms on earth, and their only task is killing bacteria



In plain words

Flies carry germs — that much is known. But the hadith says something else: it also carries **what kills those germs**. And science has indeed discovered microscopic beings whose only task is to prey on bacteria.



What did people believe then?

Bacteria were not known at all — they were not seen until 1676, through Leeuwenhoek's microscope. So speaking of a "disease" carried by flies precedes germ theory by a thousand years. And the presence of **a cure** alongside it had no framework in which it could be understood.



What does science say today?

Bacteriophages: minute viruses that infect only bacteria and kill them, discovered by Twort in 1915 and d'Hérelle in 1917. They are **the most numerous organisms on the face of the earth**, and they concentrate wherever bacteria abound — that is, on flies and in their habitats. They have in fact been found on the common housefly. Phage therapy is an established medical speciality today, used in cases where antibiotics fail.



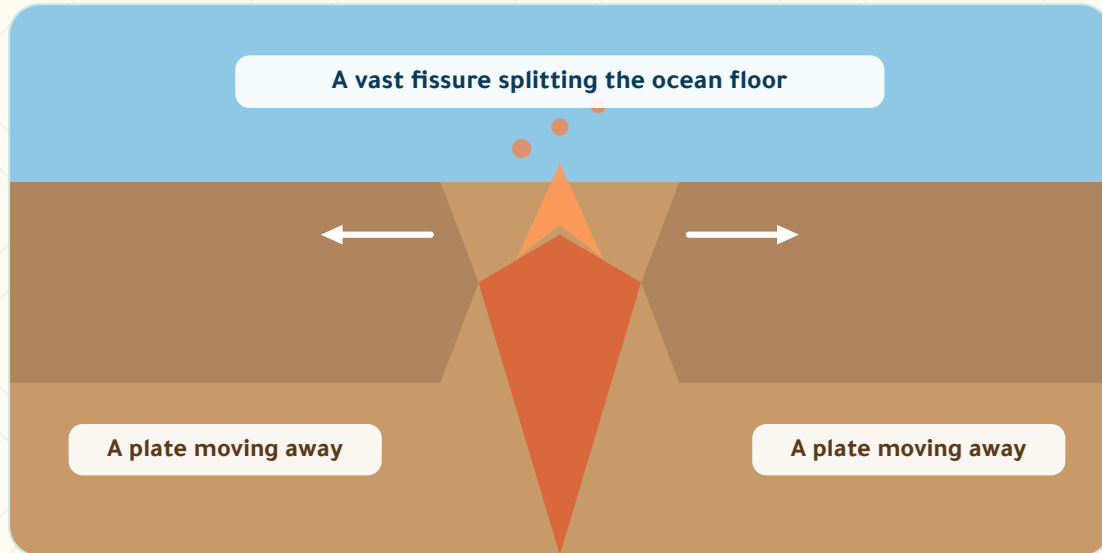
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The hadith did not merely mention the cure; it gave **a practical procedure**: complete immersion. That is where the significance lies — for immersion has no meaning unless the antibacterial agent must be released into the liquid to act. Then the distinction between **two wings**: one carrying the harm and the other the remedy. That is not a division that would occur to someone inventing words; the expected phrasing is "in the fly is disease and cure". To assign each one to a particular wing is a testable specification — and science came to confirm it.

The Earth, Full of Fissures

By the sky which returns, and by the earth which cracks open.

Surah at-Tariq — verses 11-12



A chain of fissures wrapping the whole earth beneath the oceans, 65,000 km long

In plain words

The earth is not a solid, continuous ball. Its crust is **split** — it holds vast fissures that wrap around the whole planet, out of which molten rock rises from the depths.

What did people believe then?

The earth was conceived as a single solid, cohesive body. To describe the whole earth as “full of fissures” — that is, split — had no meaning in anyone’s experience at that time; the visible cracks were no more than the cracking of dry ground or the beds of valleys.

What does science say today?

This is called the **mid-ocean ridge**: a chain of volcanic fissures some 65,000 kilometres long, winding around the whole planet like the seam of a tennis ball. Molten material rises from it and forms new crust. It was not discovered until the 1950s, with sonar instruments.

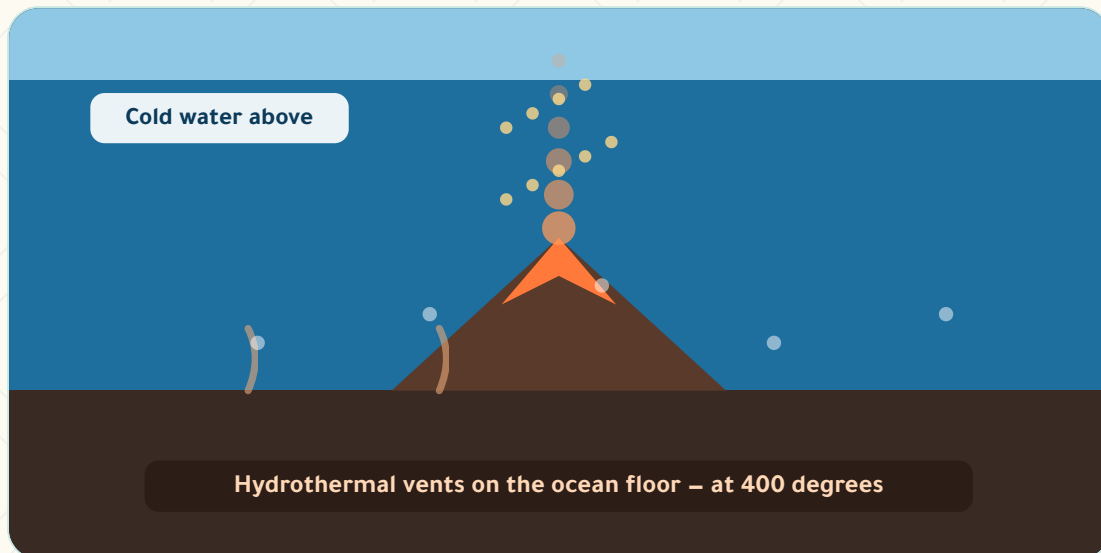
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The oath here describes the earth with a **total, inherent attribute**: “the earth which cracks open” — as one says “full of trees” of a place whose nature is to bear trees. It does not speak of an incidental crack but makes the fissure an attribute of the planet itself. And that is precisely the geological fact: the earth is a planet **whose crust is fractured by nature**, and that is the origin of earthquakes, volcanoes and the movement of the continents.

The Kindled Sea — Fire Beneath the Water

By the mount, and by a Book inscribed ... and by the sea kindled.

Surah at-Tur — verses 1-6



More than 80% of the earth's volcanic activity takes place beneath the surface of the seas

In plain words

Beneath the sea there is fire burning! On the floor of the oceans are volcanoes and vents pouring out water at four hundred degrees. So the sea is **kindled** — set alight from below.

What did people believe then?

Water and fire are opposites that cannot meet — this is self-evident to every human being. The sea is the very symbol of coldness and of quenching. To describe the sea as “kindled” seemed to the listeners an obscure expression with no counterpart in reality.

What does science say today?

Beneath the oceans runs an immense volcanic chain, and more than 80% of volcanic emission on earth happens under water. In 1977 **hydrothermal vents** were discovered, ejecting water above 400 degrees that does not boil because of the intense pressure. And around these fires there is a whole ecosystem that does not depend on sunlight at all.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Arabic verb means **to stoke an oven and fill it with fire** — and from the same root comes “and when the seas are set aflame”. The description is explicit about kindling, not about filling or flowing. And the oath by the kindled sea comes between an oath by Mount Sinai and an oath by the Frequented House — that is, among real, existing things. So it swears by a present reality, one that man uncovered 1,350 years later.



A Fulfilled Prophecy

We Are Sufficient for You Against the Mockers

Indeed, We are sufficient for you against the mockers — those who make another deity alongside God. But they are going to know.

Surah al-Hijr — verses 95-96

A promise to suffice him against named opponents – and he was sufficed



Al-As

He perished



Al-Aswad

He perished



Al-Aswad

He perished



Al-Walid

He perished



Al-Harith

He perished

Five ringleaders named in the biographies... all perished before the migration

The ringleaders of mockery in Mecca died one after another within a short span

In plain words

In Mecca there were well-known men who led the mockery of the Prophet ﷺ and harassed him. Then a verse came saying: **We will suffice you against them**. Not long afterwards they all perished, each by a different cause.

What did people believe then?

These were among the chiefs of Quraysh, men of standing and wealth, at the peak of their power and influence. The Prophet ﷺ and those with him were at their weakest: besieged and persecuted, with no army and no protection. There was no human means of warding off their harm, let alone of destroying them.

What does science say today?

The books of biography and history — the earliest being Ibn Ishaq's biography in Ibn Hisham's recension — record that the ringleaders of the mockery were five, and that they all perished within a close span before or around the migration, by varied causes with nothing in common: illness, plague, an accident, a thorn that struck, a wound that went septic. None of them remained afterwards to oppose the call.

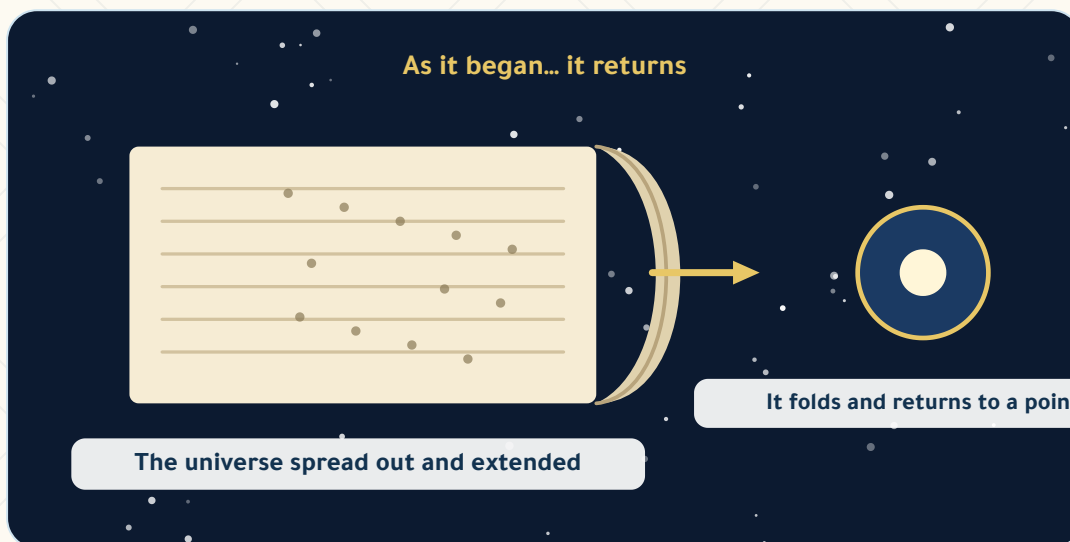
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The text contains **a guarantee**, not merely a prayer or a hope. A guarantee is a commitment that can be broken, exposing the one who made it before his opponents at once. Had one of them lived on harming and mocking for years, the verse would have been an argument against them, not for them. More importantly: this is a promise **made against the strongest men in the town on behalf of the weakest** — a pattern that recurs throughout the Qur'an: "The assembly will be defeated and will turn their backs" was revealed in Mecca years before Badr, and the Prophet ﷺ recited it on the day of Badr, and so it came to pass.

The Sky Folded Like a Scroll

The Day We will fold the heaven like the folding of a scroll for records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it.

Surah al-Anbiya — verse 104



The universe expanded from a point... and will fold back into a point

In plain words

The verse says the end of the universe will be a **folding** — a contraction and a rolling up, as you roll a sheet of paper. Then it says something astonishing: this ending will be exactly **like the beginning**.

What did people believe then?

There was no question on the horizon called “how does the universe end?”, because the universe in people’s minds was eternal and everlasting, with no beginning and no end. And linking the shape of the ending to the shape of the beginning had no framework in which it could be understood.

What does science say today?

Among the best-known scenarios for the end of the universe in theoretical physics is the **Big Crunch**: gravity overcomes the expansion, and the universe contracts back upon itself until it returns to its original state — a point of extreme density. That is, **the ending is a mirror image of the beginning**.

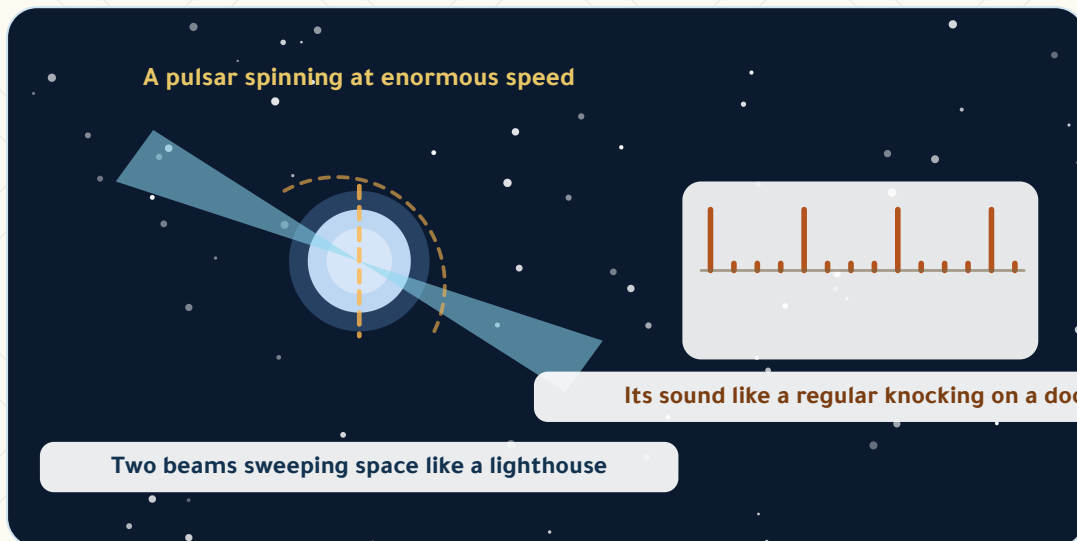
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The miracle here is in the second half of the verse: “As We began the first creation, We will repeat it.” This sentence lays down a rule: **the shape of the end = the shape of the beginning**. And in doing so it tells us implicitly that the universe was at its beginning **folded** — contracted into a point — which is precisely what the Big Bang model says. A single verse gave the beginning and the end together, at a time when the universe had neither beginning nor end in anyone’s mind.

The Star That Knocks and Pierces

By the sky and the night-comer — and what can make you know what the night-comer is? — the piercing star.

Surah at-Tariq — verses 1-3



A pulsar sends out regular pulses like the strokes of a hammer that never misses

In plain words

Some stars send out signals **like regular knocks on a door**: knock... knock... knock... with a precision greater than the finest clock man has ever made. And the Qur'an called such a star "the knocker" — the one that knocks.

What did people believe then?

A star, to people, was a silent, motionless point of light. It had no sound, no pulse and no penetration. To link the word for knocking — a repeated, sounding blow — to a star in the sky was meaningless speech to any listener of that age.

What does science say today?

In 1967 the astronomer Jocelyn Bell detected radio signals repeating with astonishing regularity from space, so much so that the team at first took them for messages from intelligent beings and named them LGM-1. They proved to be **pulsars**: the remains of exploded stars, rotating tens and even hundreds of times per second and emitting two beams that sweep space like a lighthouse. When their signals were converted into sound, they were exactly **a regular knocking**.

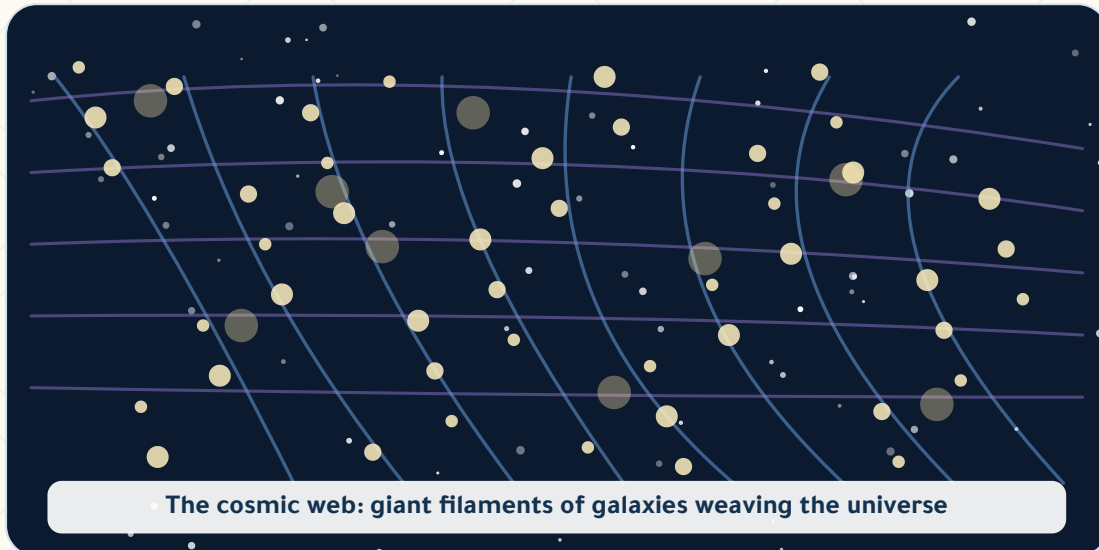
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The two words together leave no room for doubt: "the knocker" = that which produces a repeated knocking sound, and "the piercing" = that which penetrates and passes through. A pulsar unites both descriptions literally: its signals are a regular knocking, and they pierce thousands of light-years and penetrate to us through the dust of the galaxy. Indeed the oath itself was followed by a challenging question: "and what can make you know what the night-comer is?" — that is, this is something **you have no way of knowing**. And so it was, until 1967.

The Sky Woven With Interlacing Paths

By the sky woven with paths.

Surah adh-Dhariyat — verse 7



The great map of the universe: not scattered galaxies, but a woven fabric of filaments and nodes

In plain words

If you looked at the whole universe from very far away, you would not see scattered stars. You would see something like **woven cloth, or a net of threads**: long filaments of galaxies with vast black voids between them. And the Arabic word here means **a tight weave with paths running through it**.

What did people believe then?

The sky to people was a smooth dome studded with points of light, with no structure, no shape and no arrangement. The idea that the universe had an overall “shape” at all was not on the table.

What does science say today?

In recent decades observatories have produced three-dimensional maps of millions of galaxies (the SDSS project and the 2dF survey), and the result was astonishing: the galaxies are not distributed at random but arranged in the **cosmic web** — giant filaments and walls of galaxies surrounding enormous empty voids. The resulting image resembles a woven fabric to a startling degree.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

The Arabic plural here means, in the dictionaries, the interlacing paths in something tightly woven, like the rippling of water or the crimping of sand. And that is exactly the scientific term used today: **filaments**. The agreement of an Arabic word with a modern scientific term in so rare and specific a meaning, fourteen centuries later, is not the sort of thing that happens by coincidence.

The Receding, the Running, the Sweeping

So I swear by the retreating stars — those that run and sweep.

Surah at-Takwir — verses 15-16



A black hole: it vanishes from sight, it runs, and it sweeps up what is around it

A black hole swallows the gas and stars around it like a cosmic broom

In plain words

There are bodies in space with three qualities: they **vanish** and cannot be seen, they **run** at enormous speed, and they **sweep up** what is around them and swallow it. Those three qualities are exactly what God swears by here.

What did people believe then?

Nowhere in the world was there a conception of an **invisible** heavenly body. A body was either seen and therefore existed, or not seen and therefore did not. That something enormous should exist in the sky which no eye ever sees, and which swallows what is around it — nobody imagined that.

What does science say today?

Black holes: bodies of such immense density that not even light escapes them, so they are **completely invisible** by nature. They rotate and travel within their galaxies, and they draw in gas, dust and stars and swallow them. The first black hole was directly imaged in 2019 (in galaxy M87), and work proving their existence won the Nobel Prize in 2020.

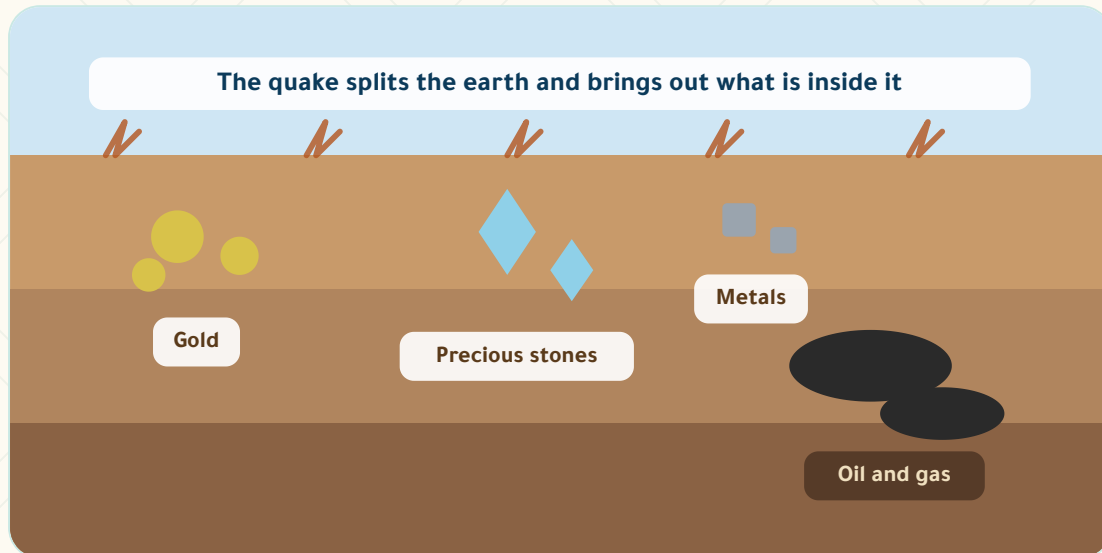
Why is this a decisive miracle?

The three words are precise to an astonishing degree: the first root means **to vanish and contract**; the second means **running, in motion**; the third means **to gather up what is around and swallow it** (from it comes the Arabic word for a broom, and the word for the burrow in which a gazelle disappears). Three attributes in two verses, all of them applying to one thing that was not known until the twentieth century. And note that in the Qur'an an oath is never sworn except by something great.

The Earth Casts Out Its Burdens

When the earth is shaken with its earthquake, and the earth casts out its burdens.

Surah az-Zalzalah — verses 1-2



Earthquakes and plate movement are what lifted metals and oil within our reach

In plain words

All the gold, metals and oil we extract today were buried deep inside the earth. What raised them near the surface was **earthquakes and the movement of the earth** over millions of years.

What did people believe then?

An earthquake was pure catastrophe: collapse, swallowing and death. Nobody connected it with any benefit or with bringing out any good. And the word "its burdens" in the sense of the treasures of its interior had no clear meaning to the listeners.

What does science say today?

Most of the world's economic mines lie at **the boundaries of the tectonic plates** and in zones of seismic and volcanic activity. The movement of the plates is what drives metal-rich rock from the depths up into the crust, and hot fluids are what concentrate gold and copper into veins. Without this activity all the earth's treasures would have remained forever beyond our reach.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

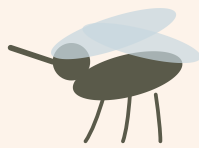
The verse links two events that ordinary reason does not connect: the quaking → the casting out of the burdens. And that is exactly what the science of mining establishes. The word "burdens" is strikingly precise: the precious metals — gold, platinum, uranium — are **the densest of the elements**, and by their nature they sink toward the centre of the earth, so they rise only when a force drives them up. They were named by the very physical property that sets them apart.

A Mosquito, and What Is Beyond It

Indeed, God is not shy to present an example — that of a mosquito or what is beyond it.

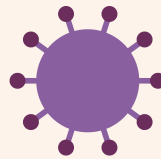
Surah al-Baqarah — verse 26

“or what is beyond it” = or what is smaller than it



The mosquito

The smallest thing the eye can see



The virus

A million times smaller than



Bacteria

Between the two

A mosquito is a giant when measured against bacteria and viruses

In plain words

The Qur'an gave as its example the smallest thing people can see — a mosquito — and then said: **“or what is beyond it”**. And in Arabic the word “beyond” can also mean **going further in smallness**: that is, and what is smaller still.

What did people believe then?

The mosquito was the limit of possible smallness: the smallest creature the eye can see and whose limbs it can distinguish. Life smaller than that was inconceivable, because what cannot be seen cannot be known to exist. And so it remained until the microscope was invented.

What does science say today?

A mosquito is a relatively enormous creature: about 6 millimetres long. In its body alone live **millions of bacteria**, and upon it are viruses hundreds of times smaller than bacteria. A single mosquito has been found to have an extremely complex structure: a compound eye of hundreds of lenses, a proboscis containing six separate instruments for piercing, sucking and injecting an anticoagulant, and wings that beat 600 times a second.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

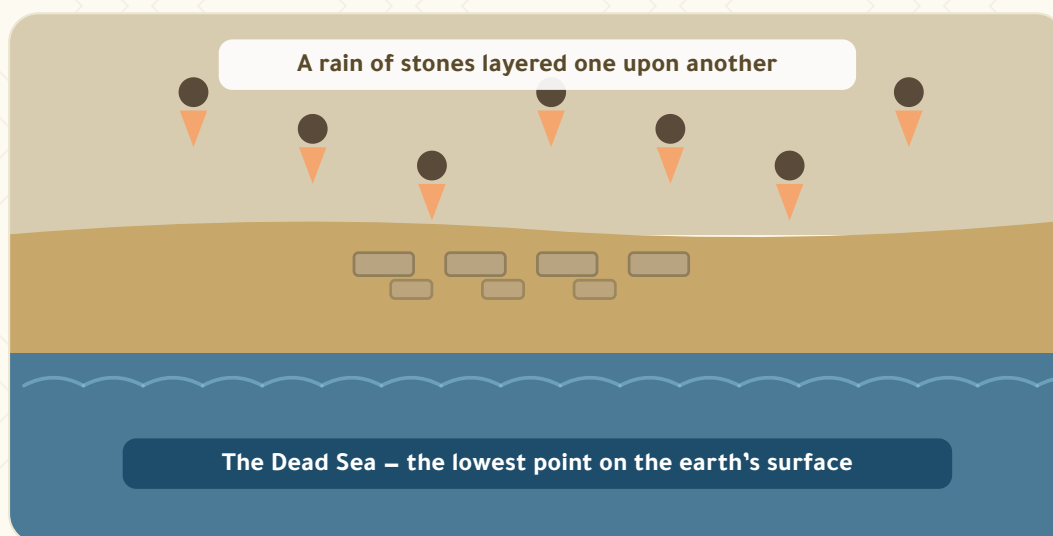
The context settles it. The verse comes in the course of explaining that God is not ashamed to present an example **from the small**, in answer to those who mocked the mention of the fly and the spider. So the reading consistent with the context is: nor by what is **further still in smallness** than it. And this usage is correct Arabic, as one says “this man is beyond him in ignorance”. So the text implicitly affirms the existence of creatures smaller than the smallest thing the eye can see, at a time when the mosquito was the limit of human knowledge of smallness.



The People of Lot — Its Top Turned Into Its Bottom

So when Our command came, We made its highest part its lowest, and rained upon it stones of layered hard clay.

Surah Hud — verse 82



A region that subsided and overturned, then was flooded by intensely salt water

In plain words

The verse says the city of the people of Lot was **turned upside down**, and then stones packed one above another fell upon it. Geology explains how this happens in that region in particular.

What did people believe then?

Subsidence and overturning were understood as purely unseen punishment with no natural mechanism. It was not known that the region lies on a huge geological fault, nor that its subsurface holds gases, bitumen and sulphur.

What does science say today?

The Dead Sea region lies on the **Dead Sea Transform Fault** — one of the most active seismic faults in the world — and it is the lowest patch of dry land on the planet. The area is rich in natural bitumen, sulphur and flammable gases. Researchers have suggested that a violent earthquake caused **soil liquefaction and subsidence** and the overturning of its strata, together with the ejection of burning material that fell back on the region. At Tall el-Hammam in Jordan a layer of sudden destruction was found containing glass melted at enormous temperature.

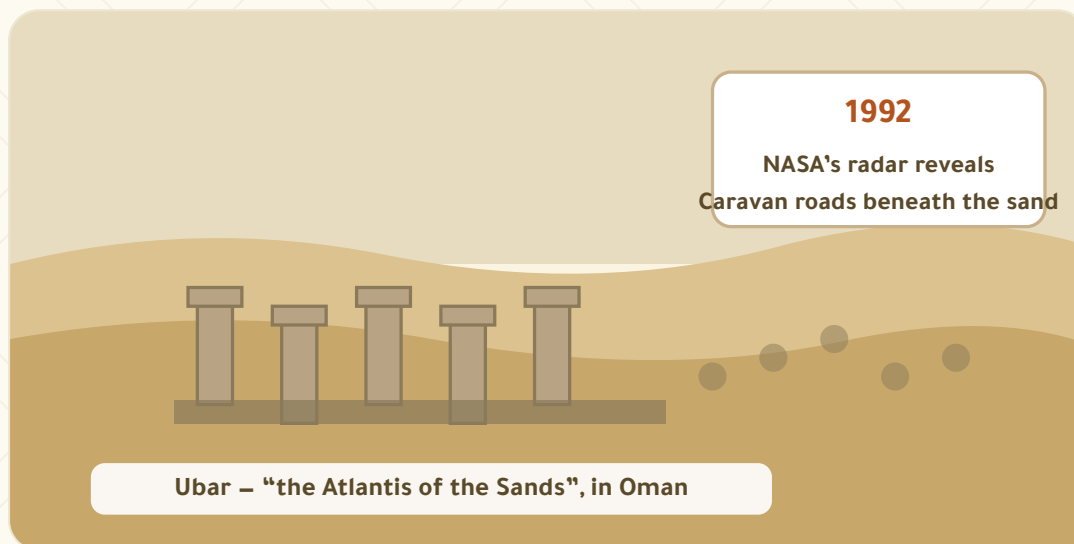
Why is this a decisive miracle?

Three words carry the whole description. **"We made its highest part its lowest"**: a complete vertical inversion of the strata, not mere demolition — and that is the geological description of subsidence and overturning. **"Hard layered clay"**: a word joining stone and hardened clay. And **"layered"**: packed one above another in strata — a precise description of the bedded sedimentary rock of that region. The text describes a coherent natural mechanism, not a vague imaginative picture.

Iram of the Pillars — the Buried City

Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with Aad — Iram of the pillars, the like of which had never been created in the lands?

Surah al-Fajr — verses 6-8



Pillars and a fortress emerged from beneath the dunes after thousands of years

In plain words

The Qur'an mentioned a great city with **pillars** whose like had never been built, and said that it perished. People went on counting it a legend... until satellite radar uncovered its remains beneath the sands.

What did people believe then?

In the Empty Quarter there was nothing but endless sand. Western historians counted "Aad" and "Iram" among the legends of the Arabs, since there was no trace of them and no mention in other sources. And the desert keeps no secret visible from its surface.

What does science say today?

In 1992 a team led by Nicholas Clapp used radar images from NASA's space shuttle, and beneath the sands there appeared **ancient caravan roads converging on a single point** at **Shisr** in the Dhofar governorate of Oman. Excavation revealed an octagonal fortress with **tall towers** and the remains of a city that had collapsed into a limestone sinkhole beneath it. The world's newspapers announced it as "Ubar: the Atlantis of the Sands".

Why is this a decisive miracle?

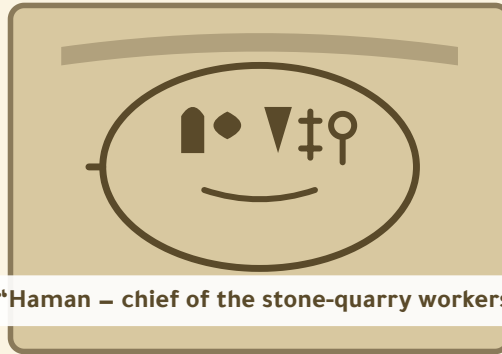
The Qur'anic description gave the city one particular attribute: "**of the pillars**" — that is, columns or tall towers. This is not a general attribute of any city; the towns of Arabia were houses of clay and tents. Then it added: "**the like of which had never been created in the lands**" — its architectural uniqueness. And the towers did indeed appear. Most importantly, the Qur'an spoke of it as **real history** and not legend, at a time when no one had any evidence for it — and that remained a charge against it for fourteen centuries, until the radar came.

Haman — a Name That Came Out of the Stone

And Pharaoh said: O Haman, build for me a tower that I may reach the ways.

Surah Ghafir — verse 36

The name written in hieroglyphs, unreadable until 1822



"Haman – chief of the stone-quarry workers"

An ancient Egyptian inscription – the Hof Museum, Vienna

A hieroglyphic cartouche bearing the name Haman and his role in building

In plain words

The Qur'an mentioned a man named **Haman** who worked with Pharaoh on **building**. More than a thousand years later scholars learned to read hieroglyphs and found this very name — and his post: overseer of the stone workers.

What did people believe then?

The hieroglyphic language died out completely around the fourth century CE, and nobody on earth was left who could read it. The names of the officials of ancient Egypt passed into absolute obscurity. Critics accused the Qur'an of confusion, saying Haman was a name borrowed from a Babylonian story in the Book of Esther and that mentioning him in Egypt was a historical error.

What does science say today?

In 1822 Champollion deciphered the hieroglyphs with the Rosetta Stone. In the catalogue of ancient Egyptian names published by the Hof Museum in Vienna, the name **Haman** appears on an inscribed tablet, coupled with the title: "**chief of the workers in the stone quarries**". That is, the man was a real Egyptian, and his office was connected specifically with building in stone.

Why is this a decisive miracle?

Consider what a fabricator of the text could have fallen into. A strange name for a secondary figure in a civilisation whose language had died, mentioned ten times in the Qur'an and always coupled with Pharaoh and with Egypt. And then he is asked, of all things, to **build a tower** — which is the man's actual occupation according to the inscription. That a forger should hit upon a forgotten name and its function together, in a language no one on earth could read, is not a reasonable probability. The charge levelled at the Qur'an for centuries turned into a testimony in its favour.