

Queen of Ants In the Qur'an Surah An-Naml verse 18

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Abstract

The discussion of ants in the Qur'an is found in surah an-Naml verse 18. This critical study of ants is found in the context of language discussion and laboratory research. The beginning of the spirit of rise in this discussion was a critical study of the translation of the meaning of Namlatun which translates to "an ant". Though lafadz namlatun should mean a female ant. The purpose of this research is to explore the meaning of language and match it with field research conducted in biological laboratories. Research on this discussion begins by departing from the study of texts that refer to the words Qaalat, Namlatun, an-Naml, and Udkhuluu. The results of the discussion of this article are expected to contribute knowledge that explains the world of ants as a balancer of forest ecosystems and the earth in general, because the presence of ants is a benchmark for the health of a food chain system in a forest.

Keywords: Ant, Qur'an, Queen, Ecosystem

Introduction

The Quran mentions ants in general using the words *Namlatun* and *An-Namlu*. Ants are insects belonging to the order Hymenoptera along with many other popular insects such as wasps or bees. They are classified as a phylum of Arthropods characterized by the presence of a hard exoskeleton or external skeleton and serve to protect the body that does not have internal bones. (ULFA, n.d.)

Ants are social insects that live in a colony containing thousands to millions of ants in it. (ULFA, n.d.) These tiny creatures are known for their complex hierarchical social structure within colonies. Each member of the colony has different roles and responsibilities in maintaining the colony. (Purwanto, 2015)

Ants in the Qur'an are mentioned in surah an-Naml verse 18, as follows :

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا آتَوَا عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ قَالَتْ نَمْلَةٌ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّمْلُ ادْخُلُوا مَسَاكِنَكُمْ لَا يَحْطِمَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمٌ وَجُنُودُهُ وَهُمْ لَا يَتَسَعَّرُونَ

When they came to the valley of the ants, an ant said, "O ants! Enter into your nests, lest you be trodden on by Solomon and his army, while they are unaware

This verse becomes a very interesting discussion because of the argument for the translation of "an ant" taken from the word نَمْلَةٌ, which in language studies drew criticism because supposedly ta' marbutoh is one of the signs of ta'nis or the sign of isim mu'annats. Then the translation of يَا أَيُّهَا النَّمْلُ ادْخُلُوا which begins with the word *an-Namlu* and continues with fi'il amr *Udkhuluu* which relies on isim Dhomir Hum, plural meaning, which means a swarm or colony of ants. Then if the form *an-Namlu* is the plural form then the word *namlatun* is the form mufrod *muannats* and قَالَتْ uses ta' ta'nis sakinah although many speculate that ta' marbutoh does not always initiate the meaning of muannats. (Purwanto, 2015)

The translation of the word ant is correct and acceptable, but then a critical question arises. Is the ant in question a male ant, or is it a female ant? The provisions of *al-Qomar's* mudzakkar and *al-Shams' s* muannats are not about gender classification. But from *kalam al-A'robiy*. Unlike the case with ants that have a male-female classification, it will certainly require grouping by sex. (Purwanto, 2015)

The story in surah an-Naml mentions that in an ant colony there was an ant that called on other ants to enter the hole for fear that they would be stepped on by the soldiers of Prophet Solomon. The critical question then is, who are the screaming ants?. What social status does the ant have?. Mahmud Yunus in his translation states with "King of Ants". The reason is certainly subjective because according to the majority of Muslims a leader is a man. Even in the Qur'an surah an-Nisa verse 34 it is also stated that men are female leaders. But in this episode of the story of Prophet Solomon there is a unique ant story, because it is led by a *Namlatun* aka a female ant, and in the next episode *an-Naml* mentions that the country of Saba 'is also led by a female queen named Balqis. (Aswatun, 2019)

In this article, we will discuss in depth, about the analysis of the language of the queen of ants, then connected with the study of animal zoology that examines the life of ants.

Method

This research approach is quantitative.(Darmawan, 2013) Data are taken from literature research in accordance with the main problems discussed. The research method used is descriptive-analytical.(Nazir, 1988) The mechanism of application of analysis here is the analysis of language studies or often called lughowi studies because it makes the starting point of language meaning.(Akbar & Maulana, 2022) Then the study of research data of Muslim and non-Muslim Zoologists taken from sources of articles and books. The steps are divided into several stages, namely:

- 1) Choose the word focus and why.
- 2) Conduct research from dictionaries, books related to tafsir ilmi, tafsir Tanthawi Jauhari, and related articles.
- 3) Linking the relationship between the study of language and the science of zoology.

The data contained in this study were obtained from various references derived from previous studies, books of interpretation, journals, articles, and other books that have the same discussion and are relevant to the topic of discussion to be discussed here. These data are divided into two, namely primary data and secondary data.

1. First Date

Primary data sources are data obtained from primary source data, namely original sources that contain the data or information. The primary sources of this research are: Al-Quran Al-Karim, Tafsir Al-Ayat Al-Kauniyah fi Al-Qur'an Al-Karim, Ayat-Ayat Semesta, and Nalar Ayat-Ayat Semesta

2. Data Seconds

Secondary data sources are data obtained from non-original sources that contain the data or information. Namely as a complement to the primary data source. The secondary data sources that the researchers used, and Tantawi Jawhari's Tafsir Al-Jawahir fi tafsiril Qur'an al-Karim, and the books, books, journals, articles and other sources related to that field are relevant.

Results and Discussion

In large dictionaries Indonesian ants are small insects that walk creeping.(Rajid, 2022) lives in groups, and is one of the Formicidae tribe, which consists of various types. Ants are included in insects or insects that are one of the types of living things with the most population compared to other types of living things that are threaded, which means the word arthos means segment and podos means foot.(Li et al., 2022) Therefore, insects belong to larger animal species in the group of animals that have internodes.

In this case it is an indication that the most numerous creatures on earth are insects. Ants belong to the family Formicidae, and the order Hymenoptera such as ants and bees.(Helanterä, 2022) Hymenoptera are insects that have membrane wings, not all ants have wings, only male and queen ants have wings. Ants give many advantages to humans because they are predators of pests.(Andriani & Nugroho, 2023)

Ants are small animal species that can be found in every type of ecosystem except in polar regions. It has a diversity of species, and an important role in the overall natural order both in the archipelago and on the vast landmass. Ants in Barry Bolton's view are estimated to be very many types of ants in this world except in waters, which are about 15,000 species or more, and develop very quickly. In the life of an ant colony there is nothing to fight like fighting for food and others, even when in the nest, they will exchange food between each other, and from food, ants can produce a chemical that they use to communicate and defense.(Andriani & Nugroho, 2023)

Ants are among the strongest animals in the world because if we compare with humans, ants are stronger than humans 3000 times. Like being able to lift weights weighing 50 times their own body weight as male ants do, in addition, ants are known as one of the most intelligent species among insects.(Fauzan, 2023) The ant's head has a sensory organ known as an antenna, which consists of a smaller collection of eyepieces that can perceive vibrations or movements very well and can identify changes in polarization and surrounding light. These antennae also serve to identify chemical stimuli and pheromone hormones (stimulants) produced by the ant's body, which are then used to communicate with others.(ULFA, n.d.)

Ants have an abdomen or abdomen consisting of seven parts or segments, but queen ants are somewhat different, namely their stomachs are larger than other ants and queens have the task of ensuring the continuity of their generation or colony.(Hajimi, 2022) And all non-reproductive ants have the task of doing almost all the work in the ant's life. All kinds of ants, both tree-dwelling and underground, begin

their colony by flying from their nests. After mating with the male, the wings of the queen ant detach, and the male then dies. (Ruslan, 2022)

Ants, small creatures with a very high level of species diversity, play an important role in the order of the universe, such as "ecosystem engineers" or as long as ants build their homes, it can fertilize soil conditions. Even ants are included in some species of living things that are used as a measure of good and bad nature. (Andriani & Nugroho, 2023)

Some types of ants have faster sensitivity if there is a problem that occurs in nature such as forest fires, logging, and waste disposal. (Rajid, 2022) There will be impacts on ants such as reduced ant diversity, changes in the number of ant species, and a reduced ecological role played by ants. Ants have an important role as "ecosystem engineers" which are very important for the natural order. Ants are an important part in engineering or remodeling organic materials, such as litter, trees, dead branches, and animal carcasses which are all part of nature and must be separated and reduced until they turn into organic compounds and as fertilizer for plants in the forest, and are very useful for the sustainability of forest ecosystems. (Dzakiy, 2023)

But from the other side, ants also have a detrimental role such as invading an area and dominating tropical habitats, thus threatening the life of local flora and fauna. Even if it's like that. Ant diversity must still be well protected because the sustainability of ant life is very important for natural ecosystems. Even the diversity of ants can be a benchmark for the stability of the ecosystem, the higher the diversity of ants, the interaction between living things or species that eat each other in the natural order is increasingly diverse and diverse so that it can cause a balance of nature and stability of the ecosystem. (Dzakiy, 2023)

Ants are called social creatures because their lives are very fond of mutual assistance, living together like helping each other and like humans in society. In the life of ants, they have a strong colony when anyone disturbs them, they fight together against the enemy. Even one ant colony can control a large area to encourage the sustainability of their lives and generations. (Ruslan, 2022)

Ants are creatures that have male and female sex. (Purwanto, 2015) Therefore, because of this fundamental distinction, then in the context of scientific construction, further identification is needed. Such as body anatomai and types of activity, for example ant mating. Or, When someone will tell a more descriptive story about a male ant and a female ant. For example, how is the Arabic word for "a female ant has carried the eggs to her nest", is the expression "*an-Namlatu hamalat al-Buyuudho ilaa maskanihaa*"? (Rhain et al., 2023)

While the translation of "a male ant is looking for his friends" is "*an-Namlu yabhatsu 'an ashabihi*"?

Of course, the scientific differences of this verse need not be categorized in the realm of fiqh. Because of the analysis of the redaction of this verse, it is only found in the fragment *of the sentence qalat namlatun* *قَالَتْ نَمْلَةٌ*, harf nida' ya', and the verb command *udkhaluu* which leads to the conclusion that the leader of the ant community is the female who becomes queen. (Purwanto, 2015) This understanding of the ant queen requires field tests such as laboratory tests, because it is still a language analysis, not a clear redaction stating Malkatu an-Naml. (ULFA, n.d.)

In the end, Muslim biologists then designed a stage or several stages that would be carried out to then prove the hypothesis born from the study of text analysis along with the procurement of a laboratory that would be a judge. Thus it can determine whether the conjecture that the ant leader is female is true or false. Therefore, truth does not stop at the study of interpretation and alleged hypotheses. However, it must be confirmed through laboratory research.

The next critical question in this regard is, Why are ants chosen to be immortalized in the Qur'an?. Why not other animals, such as worms, grasshoppers, cockroaches, crickets, or others? What are the advantages of ants compared to other animals? Or, what's wrong with ants?. The answer to this question can only be made through the process of laboratory research.

Reader's Digest *magazine* that was published in the 70s once described at length the features of ants compared to other animals. (Purwanto, 2015)

First, the ant community has a complex community system, even to the details of the division of their respective tasks.

Secondly, the ant community is familiar with the system of warfare between clans. That is, a group of ants led by a queen ant can go to war with other ant communities. While other animals generally fight individually.

Third, ants know the system of slavery. Eggs are looted by the losing party, then the hatched eggs will be made slaves by the victorious side.

Fourth, ants are familiar with the animal husbandry system. On the leaves of guava, mango, and rambutan trees sometimes there is a soft *puti* mushroom. There dwells a small white animal that produces sweet *cia*, ants know this animal is lazy to move, therefore ants help move it to a new place when the land around it has begun to barren and at a certain time, the ants will redder the liquid. Until now, no other animals are known to know the system of slavery and animal husbandry other than ants.

Fifth, ants know a good navigation system. Some traits of ants have been recognized, but questions remain. The queen ant can recognize who is about to pass, then communicate it to the members of the group she leads. Therefore, in the story of Seant and Prophet Solomon he was able to coordinate his army to be careful with Solomon's army passing through their valley. Ants also have intelligence. So, what

about ants today? Do they also recognize passers-by, or do man-made products also influence the development of ant intelligence? Of course, the answer to the question that then arises will be obtained by systematic laboratory studies. (Purwanto, 2015)

Conclusion

The diversity of ants does have an important point for the sustainability of a good ecosystem, but on the other hand it becomes a threat when it invades too many other creature populations.

The study of ants is found in surah an-Naml verse 18, departing through linguistic analysis, it was found that ants are led by the Queen of ants called by the word *Namlatun*. Although there is a difference of opinion among linguists about the singular status of the word *Namlatun* whether it is a male or female ant, eventually biological and zoological studies establish that the leader of the ant is female.

The miracle of the Qur'an that explains the system of ant colonialism that was established centuries ago, is now really proven by the research of scientists who get evidence about the Ant Queen in the Qur'an.

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