

You must have once seen me flitting like a butterfly, skimming low over the grass, my rounded wings spreading and closing, exposing and concealing their bold black and white strips, and my striking orange-colored body with the distinctive crown of feathers over my head.

My soft, quick "poe-poe-poe" call gives me my common name, 'Hoopoe.' I feed mainly on the ground, walking with ease, my head bobbing up and down. My long, black decurved bill helps me probe for worms and insects, my favorite food. All I need as a bird is an area of short grass or some soft soil where I can feed, and some trees where I can find shelter.

I depend on God to find both; this is why I, like all birds, lead a worry-free life. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) held up our life as the example to follow in your life. He said to mankind: "If only you rely on God with due reliance, He will provide you with sustenance as He provides birds; they go forth hungry in the morning and return satisfied in the afternoon." (Related by Al-Tirmidhy)

Live like me to be worry free



Have you grasped the meaning of the Prophet's words? If people, in their hearts, truly rely on God alone and put all their trust in Him to bring about benefit and ward off harm, while also adopting behavior to help themselves, He will provide them with what they need by the simplest of means, just as He provides birds with sustenance. But birds must fly to obtain it. As the proverb goes, "God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into its nest."

In simple words, our happy life recipe goes as follows: **Adoption of the available means + Putting total trust in God = Stretch your wings and fly in this life.** It's quick, easy, and its results are guaranteed.

Despite how it may appear to you, the life of birds is not all about food and shelter. We have a mission, the same as humans.

God says about living creatures other than man: (There is not a moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, that is not part of communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book, then to their Lord they shall be gathered.) [Qur'an 6: 38]

Like mankind, animals live together unified by a common nature, common needs, common fears, and common goals.

Like mankind, they feel pain, hunger, thirst, fear, anger, heat, and cold.

Like mankind, they must have shelter, daily food, water, and rest. They experience the pangs of labor, tenderly nurse their young, and protect them, sometimes at the risk of their own lives.

They grow old, die, and shall be resurrected. Therefore, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) urges you to respect the life existing in all living beings and have mercy on them; to be their helpers, not their oppressors.

Show mercy to those on the earth

Birds Have a Mission



Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The All-Merciful One has mercy on those who are merciful. Show mercy to those on the earth, and He Who is in heaven will show mercy to you." (Related by At-Tirmidhy)

Plus, they have their own language and also have knowledge. I, the hoopoe, am mentioned by name in the Noble Qur'an, which makes me a VIP bird. I am quoted as saying to Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him), whom God taught the language of birds and animals: "I have encompassed (in knowledge) that which you have not encompassed, and I have come to you from Sheba with certain news." [Qur'an 27: 22]

With this God-given ability, Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) formed an army squadron composed of birds, to both carry messages and gather information. This knowledge facilitated communication with other countries and so the Message of God was able to reach distant areas.

Unlike much of mankind, all living creatures are humble worshippers of God alone. You will not find a bird worshipping the sun, the grass worshipping water, or a cat worshipping a human. The Plant, Animal, and Bird Kingdoms worship only God.

(Do you not see that it is God Whose Praises all that is in the heavens and the earth celebrate, and the birds with wings outspread? Each knows its prayer and glorification. And God is Knowing of what they do.) [Qur'an 24: 41]

VIP Bird



Following is the rest of my report to the Prophet of God: "I found a woman (Queen of Sheba) ruling over them, and she has been given all things that could be possessed by any ruler of the earth, and she has a great throne. I found her and her people prostrating to the sun instead of to God, and Satan has made their deeds pleasing to them and averted them from the right path, so they have no guidance. (Satan has barred them from God's Way) so that they do not worship God, Who brings to light what is hidden in the heavens and the earth, and knows what you conceal and what you reveal." [Qur'an 27: 23-25]



(Do you not see that to God prostrates whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth, and the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the mountains, and the trees, and the moving creatures, and much of mankind? And much of mankind deserve punishment (for not worshipping God alone).) [Qur'an 22: 18]

Perhaps they are more devoted to God than mankind is. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Do not take animals as chairs; perhaps the one being ridden on remembers God, the Most Exalted, more than its rider."

So the next time you hear me poe-poe at your window, know that it is me talking to you, to my fellow birds, or to God. Do not forget that we are a community, just like you.

I have come to you from Sheba with certain news

All of them continually praise God, day and night; each with its own prayer and glorification.

