

## Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: And thereupon, by God's leave, they routed them. And David slew Goliath; and God bestowed upon him dominion, and wisdom, and imparted to him the knowledge of whatever He willed. And if God had not enabled people to defend themselves against one another,<sup>242</sup> corruption would surely overwhelm the earth: but God is limitless in His bounty unto all the worlds.

Malik: By Allah's will they put the unbelievers to flight, and Dawood (David) killed Jalut. Allah gave Dawood the kingdom and wisdom and taught him what else He pleased. If Allah had not been repelling one set of people by the might of others, there would indeed be disorder on earth, but Allah is Gracious to all the worlds.

Mustafa Khattab:

So they defeated them by Allah's Will, and David killed Goliath. And Allah blessed David with kingship and wisdom and taught him what He willed. Had Allah not repelled a group of people by the might of another, corruption would have dominated the earth, but Allah is Gracious to all.

Pickthall: So they routed them by Allah's leave and David slew Goliath; and Allah gave him the kingdom and wisdom, and taught him of that which He willeth. And if Allah had not repelled some men by others the earth would have been corrupted. But Allah is a Lord of Kindness to (His) creatures.

Yusuf Ali: By Allah's will they routed them: and David slew Goliath; and Allah gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever (else) He willed. And did not Allah check one set of people by means of another the earth would indeed be full of mischief but Allah is full of bounty to all the worlds. <sup>286 287 283</sup>

Transliteration: Fahazamoohum biithni Allahi waqatala dawoodu jaloota waatahu Allahu almulka waalhikmata waAAallahahu mimma yashao walawla dafAAu Allahi alnnasa baAAadahum bibaAAdin lafasadati alardu walakinna Allaha thoo fadlin AAala alAAalameena

### Author Comments

242 - Lit., "were it not that God repels some people by means of others": an elliptic reference to God's enabling people to defend themselves against aggression or oppression. {Exactly the same phrase occurs in [22:40](#), which deals with fighting in self-defence}.

283 - Carried by angels: these words refer to the Tabut or Ark, the cherubims with outstretched wings on the lid may well be supposed to carry the security or peace which the Ark symbolised.

286 - Note how the whole story is compressed into a few words as regards narration, but its spiritual

lessons are dwelt upon from many points of view. The Old Testament is mainly interested in the narrative, which is full of detail, but says little about the universal truths of which every true story is a parable. The Qur-an assumes the story, but tells the parable.

287 - David was not only a shepherd, a warrior, a king, a wise man, and a prophet, but was also endowed with the gifts of poetry and music. His Psalms (sabar) are still extant.

[View Page](#)

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