

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: And We caused the clouds to comfort you with their shade, and sent down unto you manna and quails, [saying,] "Partake of the good things which We have provided for you as sustenance." And [by all their sinning] they did no harm unto Us - but [only] against their own selves did they sin.

Malik: And We even provided you the shade of clouds and sent down to you manna (sweet dish) and salva (quail meat) saying: "Eat of the good things We have provided for you;" in spite of these favors your forefathers violated our commandments. However, by violating our commandments they did not harm Us, but they harmed their own souls.

Mustafa Khattab:

And ?remember when? We shaded you with clouds and sent down to you manna and quails,¹ ?saying?, "Eat from the good things We have provided for you." The evildoers ?certainly? did not wrong Us, but wronged themselves.

Pickthall: And We caused the white cloud to overshadow you and sent down on you the manna and the quails, (saying): Eat of the good things wherewith We have provided you. We wronged them not, but they did wrong themselves.

Yusuf Ali: And We gave You the shade of clouds and sent down to you manna and quails saying: "Eat of the good things We have provided for you"; (but they rebelled); to Us they did no harm but they harmed their own souls. ⁷¹

Transliteration: Wathallalnā AAalaykumu alghamama waanzalnā AAalaykumu almanna waalissalwā kuloo min tayyibatī ma razaqnakum wama thalamoonā walakin kanoo anfusahum yathlimoonā

Author Comments

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Manna (heavenly bread) and quails (chicken-like birds) sustained the children of Israel in the wilderness after they left Egypt.

71 - Manna=Hebrew, Manhu: Arabic Mahuwa? - What is it? In Exod. xvi. 14 it is described as "a small round thing as small as the hoar frost on the ground." It usually rotted if left over till next day; it melted in the hot sun; the amount necessary for each man was about an Omer, a Hebrew measure of capacity

equal to about 2| quarts. This is the Hebrew account, probably distorted by traditional exaggeration. The actual Manna found to this day in the Sinai region is a gummy saccharine secretion found on a species of Tamarisk. It is produced by the puncture of a species of insect like the cochineal, just as lac is produced by the puncture of the lac insect on certain trees in India. As to quails, large flights of them are driven by winds in the Eastern Mediterranean in certain seasons of the year, as was witnessed during the Great War of 1914-1918 by many Indian officers who campaigned between Egypt and Palestine.

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Source : *Alim.org-Compare Translation-Surah 2-Ayah 57*