

## Mice

## Translated by Saad ibn Aboo Talhah Daawood Burbank



In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Shaykh Muhammad bin Saalih al-Uthaymeen (May Allaah have mercy on him) said:

The flood of the dam<sup>1</sup> that was demolished by rats – a type of rodent. They also destroy animal hides, especially water-skins that were used [in the times of old] to hold water; they destroy them and rip them open. Likewise they steal gold – and this is something we have witnessed at home. We lost a ring from the rings of the women, so we searched and searched for it until we noticed a crack in the wall. And I had prior knowledge that they steal gold. So we made the crack bigger and found the ring inside the hole.

And our Shaykh [Imaam as-Sa`dee] (*May Allaah have mercy on him*) informed us of a man who was writing in his room when a mouse descended from the roof and came close to him; so he placed a vessel over it and trapped it. After a while – when it had become delayed from its friends – one of them came looking for it to see where it had gone. It came to know that it was underneath the vessel, so it ascended to the roof and returned with a gold coin. The coin was small, such that the mouse could easily carry it. So it brought the coin and dropped it next to the man. Why?

The students reply: As a ransom.

**Shaykh Muhammad bin Saalih al-Uthaymeen** (*May Allaah have mercy on him*): Or as blood money!

Anyway, the man said [to himself]: I will not release it. The mouse waited to no avail. So it ascended to the roof and returned with another gold coin, and dropped it. However the man said [to himself]: 'Behind the hills is that which is behind them'<sup>2</sup>. It continued to bring a

The Shaykh (May Allaah have mercy on him) is referring to the story Allaah the Most High mentions in His saying: الله المن المنافع ال

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> An Arabic metaphor used to describe something suspicious, or a scheme/plot behind something. Its origin is that a slave-girl promised her male friend that she would meet him behind the hill when she finished serving her family at night. However they busied her and prevented her from going, until her longing overtook her, and she said: "You prevented me, and behind the hills is that which is behind them". [See: 'Lisaanul-`Arab' of Ibn Manthoor]

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third, fourth, fifth – until it reached ten. Ten gold coins! It had become a collection!! He said: In the end it came with the bag. Indicating what? That's it! All that it had was finished. He said: When it brought the bag he uncovered the vessel and killed it. He killed the mouse and the other one ran away.

In any case, this story I mentioned my Shaykh [Imaam as-Sa`dee] (May Allaah have mercy on him) informed me of; indicating that from the harm and mischief of the mouse is it steals gold.

Similarly, it enters flour and contaminates it by defecation and other than that. So it is from the most corrupt of animals, and it is from the Sunnah (supererogatory) to kill it; even in the middle of the Masjidul-Haraam (i.e. where the Ka`bah is)."