

الله
رسول
محمد

HARUN YAHYA

GOD'S GENTLE ARTISTRY



Almost every newborn creature is weak and helpless, unaware of the dangers that surround it. It is very unlikely that it could survive and grow on its own. From the moment it is born it will always have adults nearby to feed it, protect it from danger and, if necessary, sacrifice their own lives for it.

Another wonder is how cute all young animals. Babies of most species usually have big eyes and round faces; and an expression that we humans interpret as innocent, helpless, and bewildered. Also, their behavior makes them loveable and awakens in us the instinct to protect them.

These qualities in young animals are manifestations of God's gentle artistry (gentle in this sense also includes the ideas of "loveable," "friendly," "tame" and "docile").

This book documents the tenderness that creatures have for their young and some features of young animals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. His main focus has been the refutation of Darwinism and materialism, two modern myths presented under a scientific guise. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the readers' perspective by encouraging them to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of God and His unity, and to display the decrepit foundations and perverted works of godless systems.



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اللّٰهُ
رَسُوْلُهُ
مُحَمَّدٌ



To the Reader

● A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, God's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our books, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

● All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn God's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning God's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensures that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

● This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

● In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of God. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

● We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

● In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

GOD'S
GENTLE
ARTISTRY





About the Author


Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His pen-name is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the Final Scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (May God bless him and grant him peace), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as God's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in God and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer



advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for God's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of God, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of God, these books will be a means through which people in the twenty-first century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

*Say Your Prayers Before
Prayers Are Said For You*

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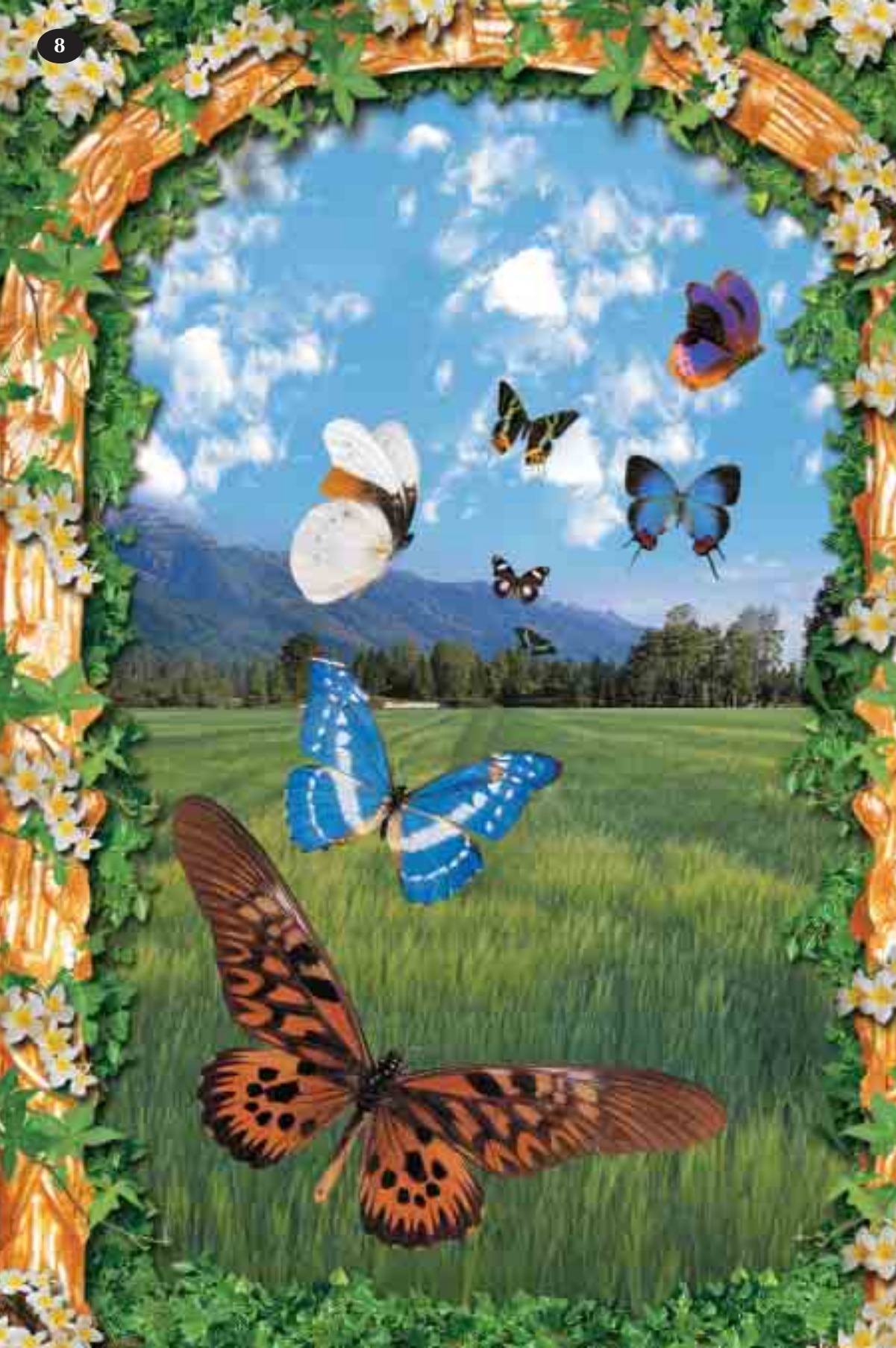


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Introduction

Almost every newborn creature is weak and helpless, unaware of the dangers that surround it. It is very unlikely that it could survive and grow on its own. From the moment it is born it will always have adults nearby to feed it, protect it from danger and, if necessary, sacrifice their own lives for it.

Young animals can survive only if they are looked after by strong grown-ups. A gazelle abandoned at birth or bird's eggs left uncared for have no chance of survival. But young animals usually can survive because they have careful parents who do not neglect their responsibilities, even before their young are still in the egg or the womb. Many creatures go to a lot of trouble to protect their eggs, hiding them where they will not get broken, keeping them warm and when necessary, protecting them from too much heat. They will guard over their eggs for weeks and even carry them around in their mouths without harming them in any way.

This book documents the tenderness that creatures have for their young and the conscious acts of self-sacrifice performed throughout the animal world. You will read about the great care taken by animal parents to build comfortable nests for their young. You will learn how they clean their offspring,

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how hard they work to feed them, protect them from cold, and even how they place their own lives in danger when an enemy is nearby.

But why do these creatures work so tirelessly on behalf of their young? Why don't they leave them on their own, instead of dutifully attending to all their needs? Do they do so consciously? For example, is it reasonable to think that a bird can be consciously determined to risk its own death to protect its young? Of course not! An animal cannot possess such feelings of tenderness and compassion on its own. The plain fact is that God has inspired in these creatures a wondrous sense of tenderness and parental love. And one of creation's greatest wonders is the self-sacrifice of parents for their babies.

Another wonder is how cute all young animals are, as some examples in the following pages will show. Babies of



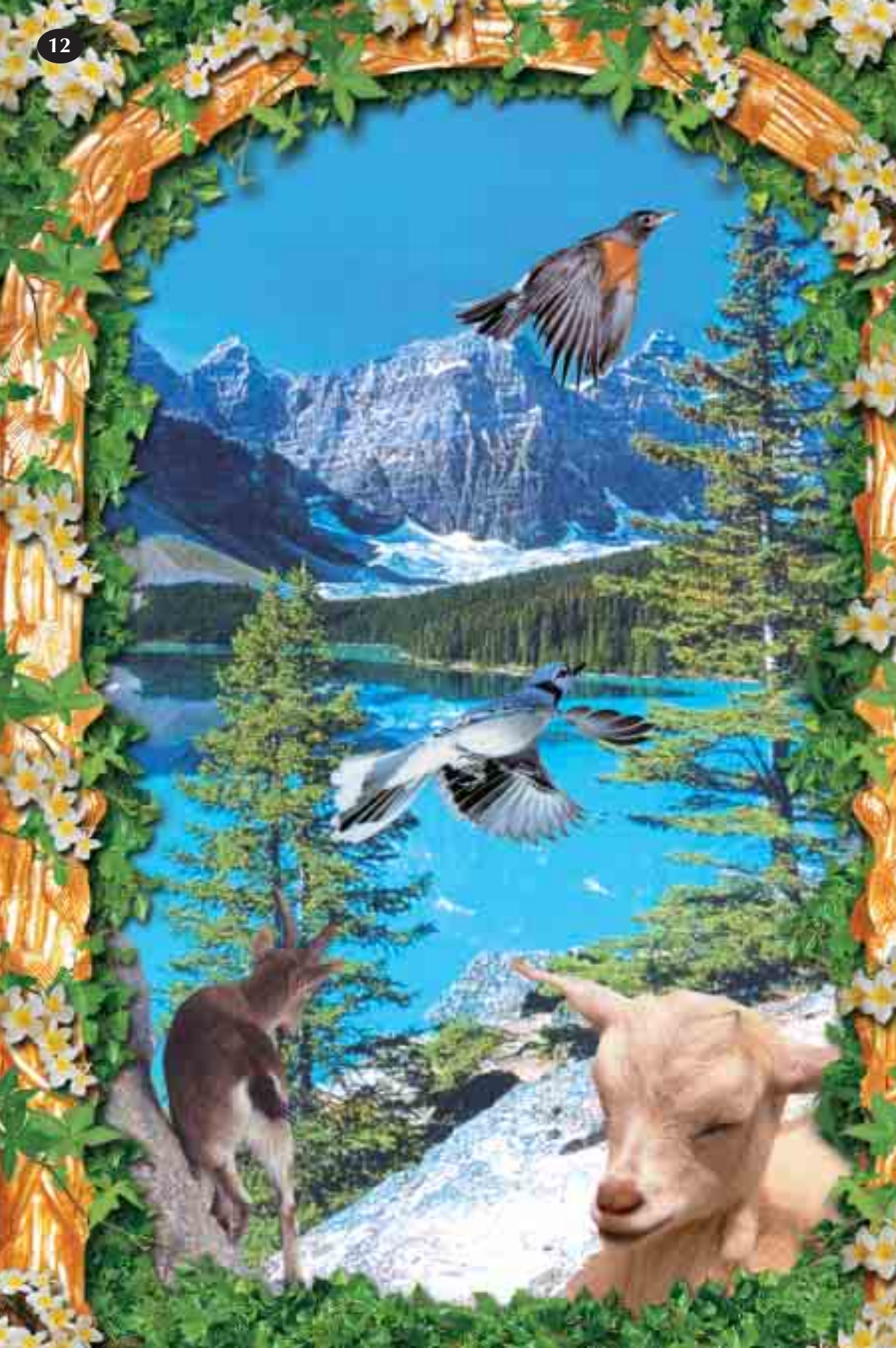
Introduction

most species usually have big eyes and round faces; and an expression that we humans interpret as innocent, helpless, and bewildered. Also, their behavior makes them loveable and awakens in us the instinct to protect them.

These qualities in young animals are manifestations of God's gentle artistry (gentle in this sense also includes the ideas of "lovable," "friendly," "tame" and "docile"). As with everything else in the universe, these animals are submissive to God, as He reveals to us in the following verse:

... when everything in the heavens and Earth, willingly or unwillingly, submits to Him and to Him you will be returned... (Qur'an, 3:83)





*The Wondrous
Beauty in
Animals*



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Is He Who creates like him who does
not create? So will you not pay heed?
(Qur'an, 16:17)

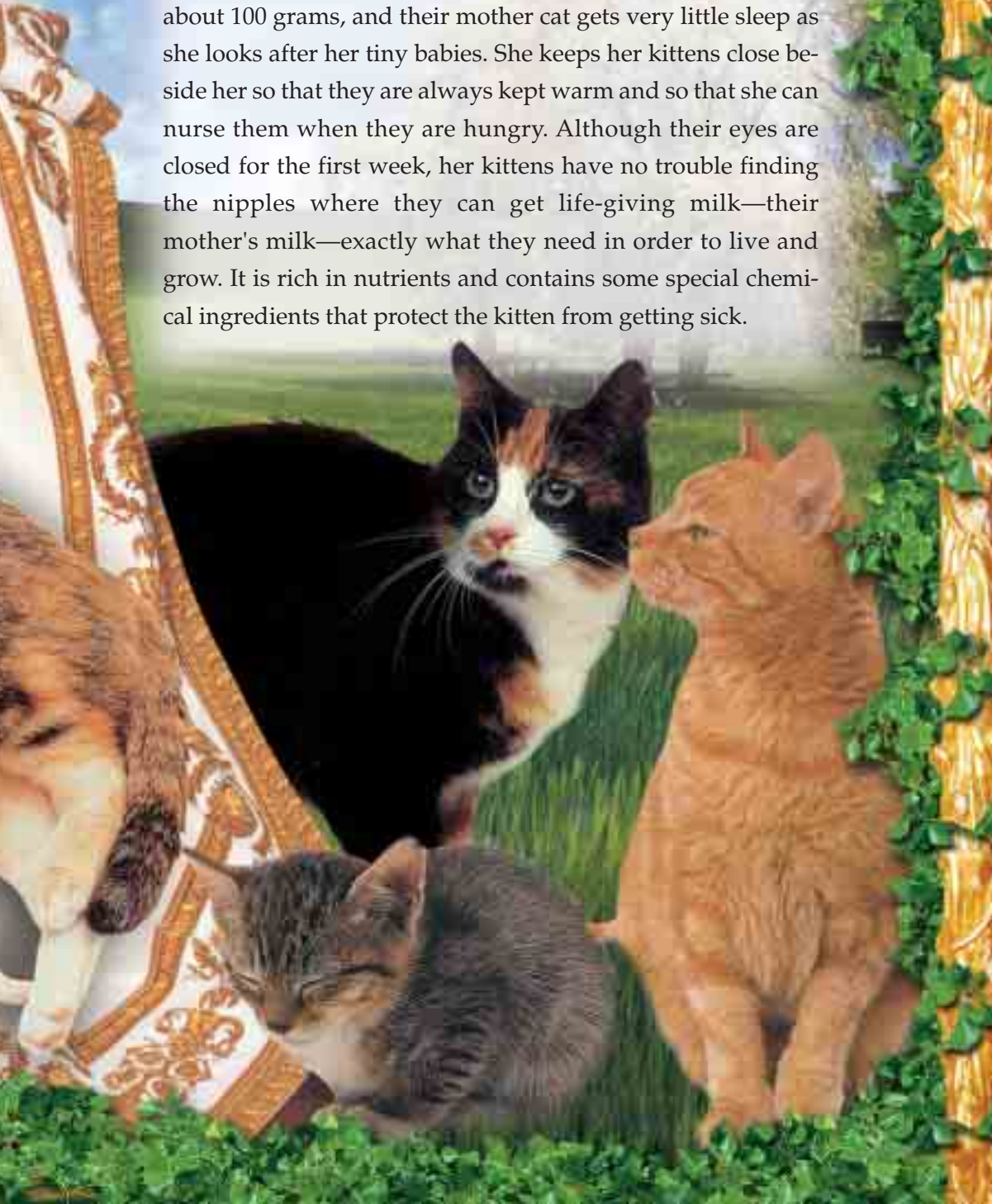


God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Newborn kittens are blind and defenseless. They weigh about 100 grams, and their mother cat gets very little sleep as she looks after her tiny babies. She keeps her kittens close beside her so that they are always kept warm and so that she can nurse them when they are hungry. Although their eyes are closed for the first week, her kittens have no trouble finding the nipples where they can get life-giving milk—their mother's milk—exactly what they need in order to live and grow. It is rich in nutrients and contains some special chemical ingredients that protect the kitten from getting sick.



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Nine days later, their eyes open, but the kittens are able to fend for themselves only after eight weeks. Until then, their mothers look after them with great care and carry them to secure places to play and to rest.

The devotion of these unthinking and unreasoning creatures to their young should make every intelligent individual pause to consider. Their behavior can come only from the inspiration of God, the Ruler of all living things:

There is no creature on the Earth which is not dependent upon God for its provision. He knows where it lives and where it dies. They are all in a Clear Book. (Qur'an, 11:6)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



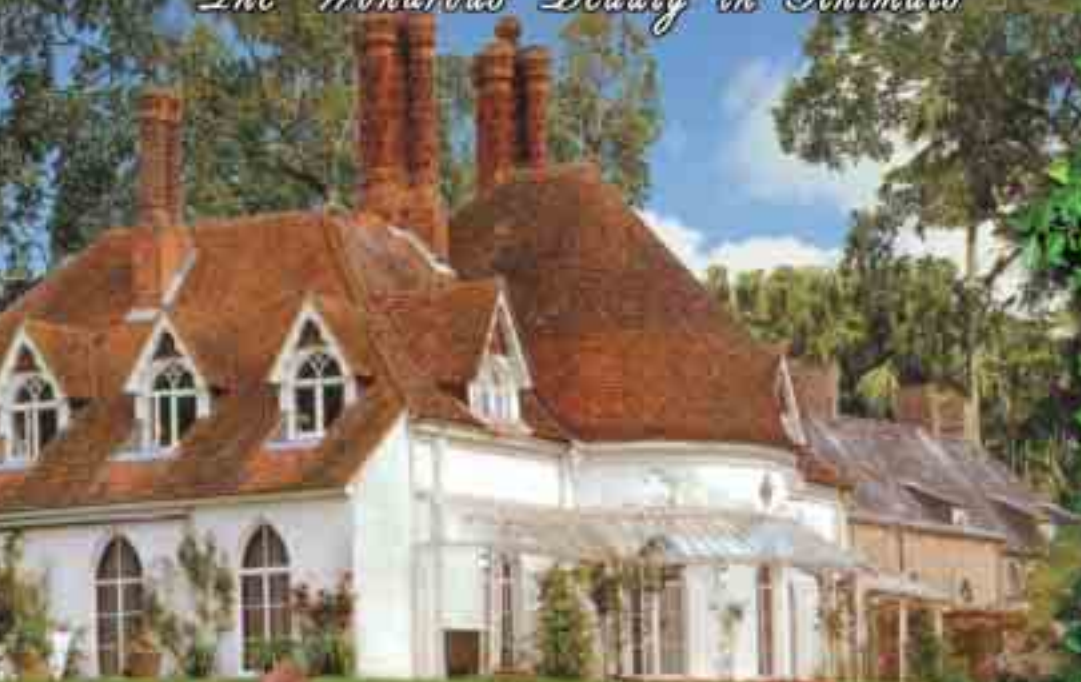
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God shows favor to mankind
but most of them are not thankful.

(Qur'an, 27:73)



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God is the Creator of everything
and He is Guardian
over everything.
(Qur'an, 39:62)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



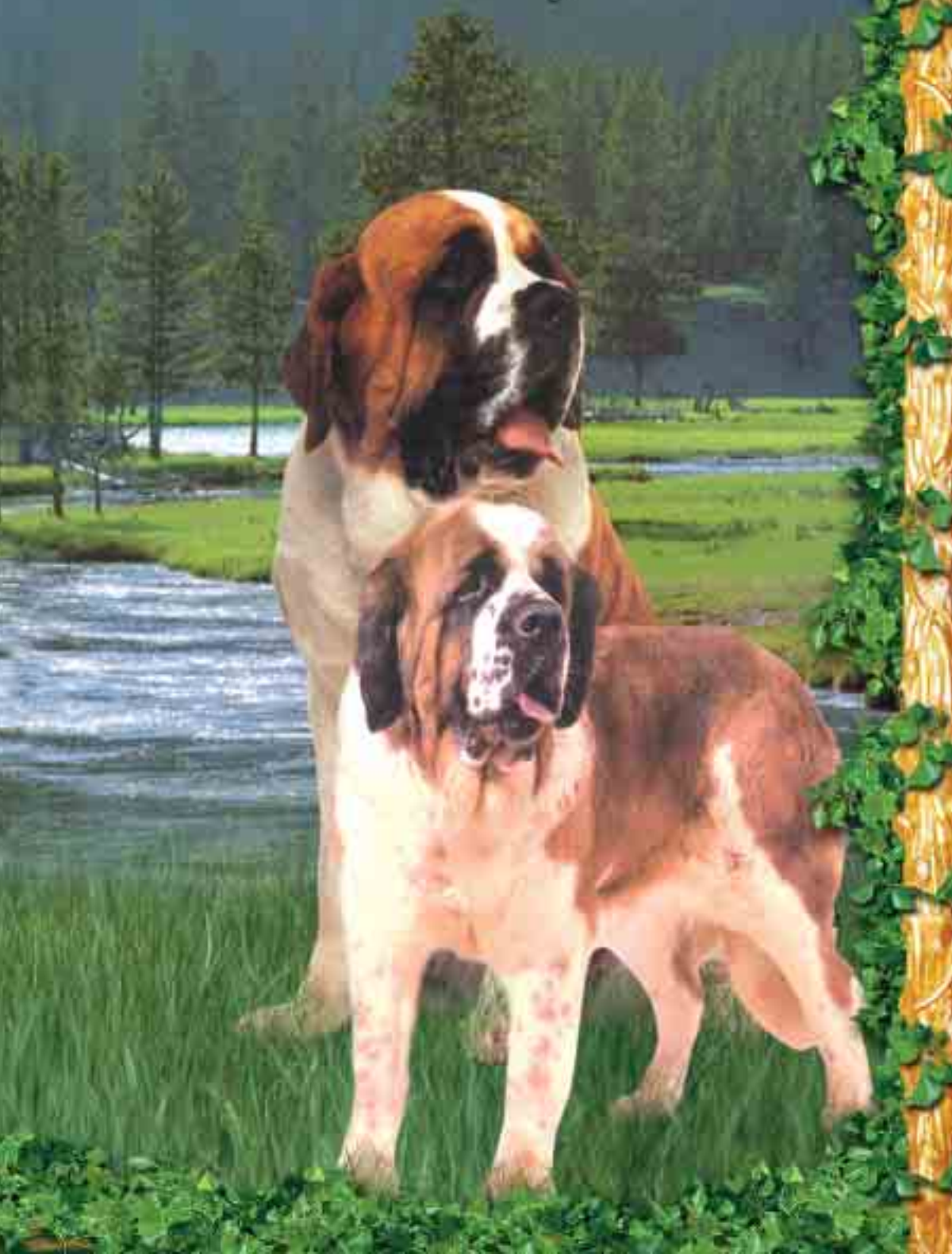
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The merciful ones will be given mercy by the All-Merciful. Be merciful to those who are on this Earth, and the One in heaven will have mercy on you.

(Sahih Bukhari)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



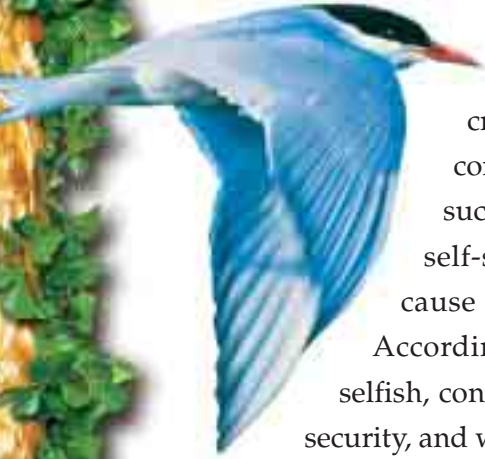
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Self-Sacrifice in Nature Proves Darwinism to be False

The theory of evolution claims that the natural world is the scene of merciless competition, and the theory's supporters try to inculcate this idea into the minds of others. Actually, the erroneous belief that nature is simply an arena of struggle has been a part of the theory since evolution was first proposed. The mechanism of "natural selection" promulgated by Darwin, the theory's author, proposes that creatures strong enough to adapt to their natural environment are able to survive and reproduce, while those that are too weak die off. According to this idea of "natural selection," nature is a savage battleground where creatures contend with one another in merciless struggles for survival, and where the weak fall victim to the strong.



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According to this idea, every creature must be strong enough to overcome others, if its species is to survive. In such an environment, there is no room for self-sacrifice, altruism, or cooperation because these could prove disadvantageous.

Accordingly, every creature must be entirely selfish, concerned only for its own personal food, security, and well-being.

But, is the natural world really an environment where creatures engage in pitiless combat with one another, where cruelly selfish individuals strive to outdo everyone else and destroy them?

No! The observations made in this regard do not agree with evolution. Nature is not merely the place of competition that evolutionists claim. On the contrary, many species offer countless instances of intelligent cooperation: One animal may sacrifice its own well-being to the point of risking death; yet another may put itself in danger for the sake of the flock or herd, with no possible promise of reward. In his book entitled *Eorim Kurami ve Bagnazlik* (The Theory of Evolution and Bigotry) Dr. Cemal Yildirim, a professor and himself an evolutionist, explains why Darwin and other evolutionists of his time thought as they did:

Scientists of the nineteenth century were easily misled into adopting the thesis that nature is a battlefield, because more often than not, they were imprisoned in their studies or laboratories and generally didn't bother to acquaint themselves with nature directly. Not even a respectable scientist like Huxley could exempt himself from this error.¹

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In his book, *Mutual Aid: A Factor in Evolution*, the evolutionist Peter Kropotkin writes about the support that animals give to one another, citing the error that Darwin and his followers fell into:

... the numberless followers of Darwin reduced the notion of struggle for existence to its narrowest limits. They came to conceive the animal world as a world of perpetual struggle among half-starved individuals, thirsting for one another's blood... In fact, if we take Huxley, who certainly is considered as one of the ablest exponents of the theory of evolution, were we not taught by him, in a paper on the "Struggle for Existence and its Bearing upon Man," that, "from the point of view of the moralist, the animal world is on about the same level as a gladiators' show. The creatures are fairly well treated, and set to, fight hereby the strongest, the swiftest, and the cunningest live to fight another day."... [I]t may be remarked at once that Huxley's view of nature had as little claim to be taken as a scientific deduction.²

True; there is a struggle and conflict in the natural world. But along with this fact, there is also self-sacrifice, enough to prove that the idea of natural selection, so basic to the theory of evolution, is totally groundless. Natural selection does not add any new features to any given species, nor can it change existing features to create an entirely new species. These facts stop evolutionists in their tracks; and their



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stalemate in this regard is discussed in the journal *Bilim ve Teknik* (Science and Technology):

The question is, why do living beings help one another? According to Darwin's theory, every animal is fighting for its own survival and the continuation of its species. Helping other creatures would decrease its own chances of surviving, and therefore, evolution should have eliminated this type of behavior, whereas we observe that animals can indeed behave selflessly.³

These facts about the natural world completely invalidate evolutionists' claim that nature is an arena of self-interested struggle, where the individual who best protects his own interests comes out on top. With regard to these characteristics of living creatures, John Maynard Smith poses a question to his fellow evolutionists:

Here one of the key questions has to do with altruism: How is it that natural selection can favor patterns of behavior that apparently do not favor the survival of the individual?⁴

John Maynard Smith is an evolutionist scientist and evolutionists cannot give an answer in the name of their theory to the question he has asked. (For examples of the extraordinary self-sacrifice and mutual assistance among creatures in the world of nature, see Harun Yahya's, *Devotion Among Animals Revealing the Work of God*, Global Publishing, Istanbul: 2004)

EVOLUTION CANNOT EXPLAIN INSTINCT

Another deception evolutionists resort to is pointing to the similarities between animal and human behavior. On this basis; they claim that human beings and animals are descended from

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a common ancestor and that similar behaviors have been passed down from that ancestor to subsequent generations. Some evolutionists, viewing aggressive behavior as a universally inherited impulse or instinct, maintain that we humans have not yet found a way to suppress it in our daily lives. This intentionally deceptive claim rests on no other foundation besides evolutionists' imagination. We must be careful to point out that actually, the impulse or instinct supposed to reside in both human beings and animals brings the theory of evolution to an impasse and is enough to demonstrate its invalidity.

Evolutionist scientists use the word instinct to describe certain behavior patterns that animals are born with, but they leave unanswered the questions of how creatures came to possess this instinct, how the first instinctual behavior patterns came about, and by what mechanism they are passed on from one generation to another.

In his book, *The Great Evolution Mystery*, the evolutionist and geneticist Gordon Rattray Taylor admits that with regard to instinct, there is an impasse in the theory:

If in fact behaviour is heritable, what are the units of behaviour which are passed on—for presumably there *are* units? No one has suggested an answer.⁵

Unlike Taylor, many evolutionists cannot make this admission, remain silent on the question, and try to gloss over it, offering an-



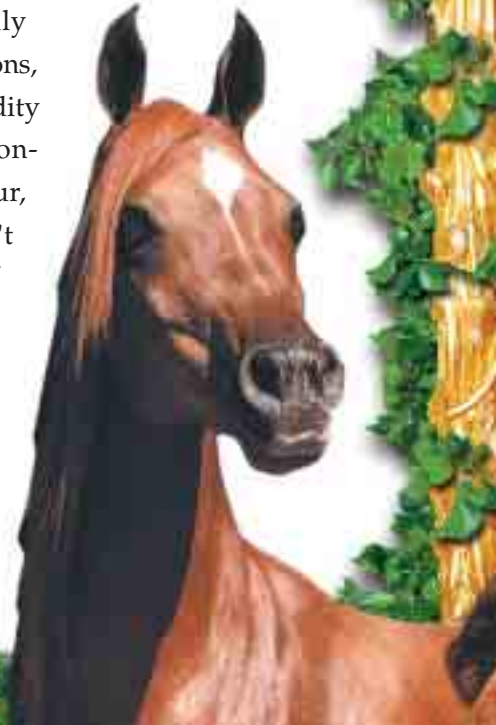
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swers that make no real sense. Actually, Charles Darwin himself realized that animals' instinctive behavior posed a serious danger to his theory. In his book, *The Origin of the Species*, he actually admitted as much—several times. Here is one such:

So wonderful an instinct as that of the hive-bee making its cells will probably have occurred to many readers, as a difficulty sufficient to overthrow my whole theory.⁶

Darwinists commit another error by claiming that their supposed instinctual impulses have been passed down to us from preceding generations. From the scientific point of view, this "Lamarckian" way of thinking was proved to be false a century ago. So even evolutionist scientists themselves admit that instinctual impulses could not have evolved over generations! Gordon R. Taylor labels "pathetic" the claim that behavior patterns are inherited by subsequent generations:

Biologists assume freely that such inheritance of specific behaviour patterns is possible, and indeed that it regularly occurs. Thus Dobzhansky roundly asserts: "All bodily structures and functions, without exception, are products of heredity realized in some sequence of environments. So are all forms of behaviour, without exception." This simply isn't true and it is lamentable that a man of Dobzhansky's standing should dogmatically assert it.⁷



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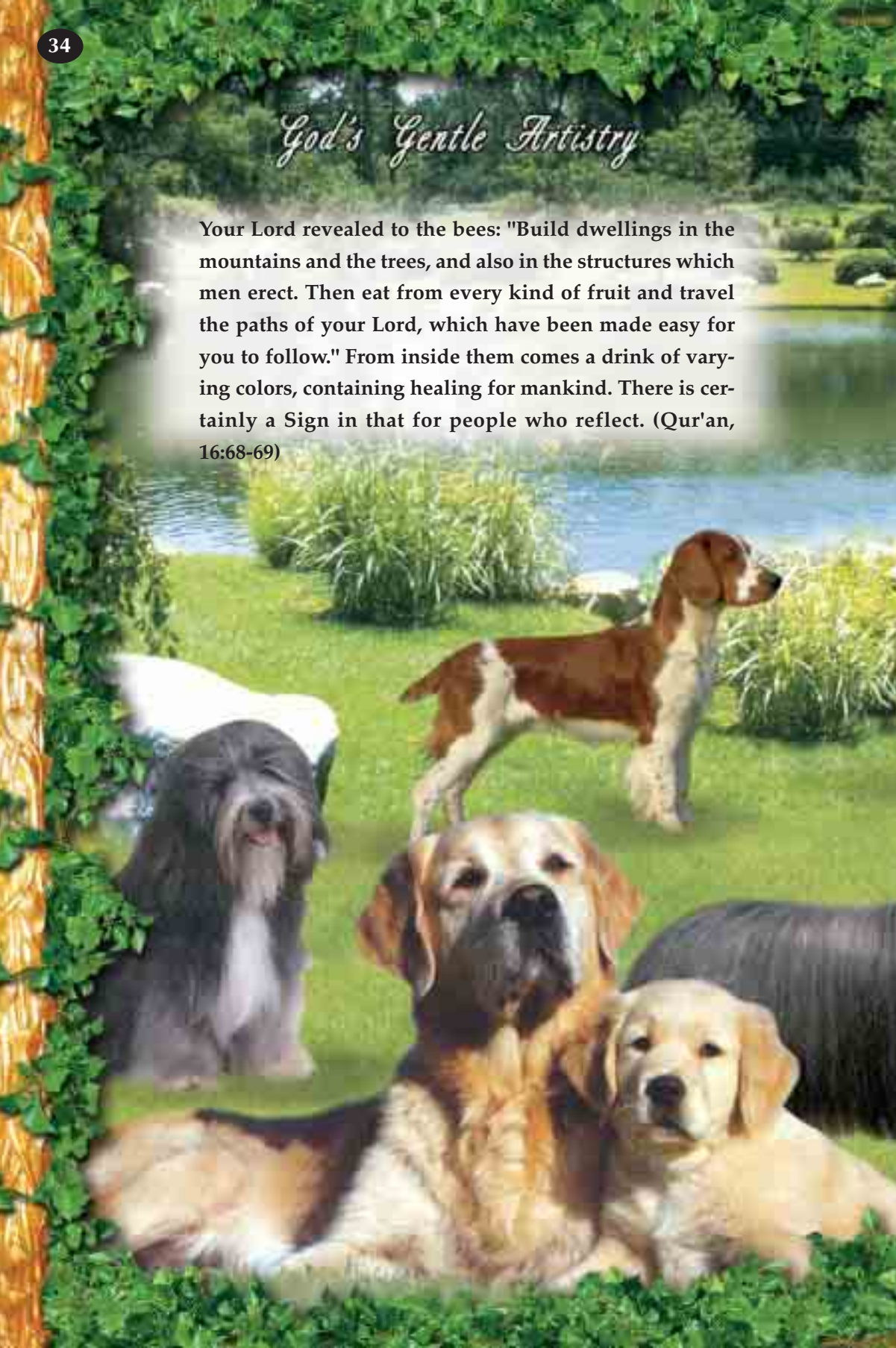
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Your god is God alone, there is no god but Him. He encompasses all things in His knowledge. (Qur'an, 20:98)



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Your Lord revealed to the bees: "Build dwellings in the mountains and the trees, and also in the structures which men erect. Then eat from every kind of fruit and travel the paths of your Lord, which have been made easy for you to follow." From inside them comes a drink of varying colors, containing healing for mankind. There is certainly a Sign in that for people who reflect. (Qur'an, 16:68-69)



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In Surat an-Nahl in the Qur'an, God gives the example of the honeybee to demonstrate the extraordinary secrets in the behavior of living creatures. Not only honeybees, but all living things behave according to God's inspiration. It is He Who inspires acts of self-sacrifice in living creatures and gives them their wonderful abilities.



God's Gentle Artistry

He is God. There is no god but Him.
Praise be to Him in this world and the
Hereafter. Judgment belongs to Him...
(Qur'an, 28:70)



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God created the heavens and the Earth
with truth. There is certainly a Sign
in that for the believers.

(Qur'an, 29:44)



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The Prophet (pbuh) not only preached to the people to show kindness to one another but also to all living creatures.

(Sahih Muslim)



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We did not create the heavens
and Earth and everything between
them, except with truth. The Hour
is certainly coming, so turn
away graciously.

(Qur'an, 15:85)



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He is Lord of the heavens and the Earth and everything in between them, so worship Him and persevere in His worship. Do you know of any other with His Name?

(Qur'an, 19:65)



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There are certainly Signs in the Earth
for people with certainty.

(Qur'an, 51:20)



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And in yourselves as well.

Do you not then see?

(Qur'an, 51:21)



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Your god is One God. There is
no god but Him, the All-Merciful,
the Most Merciful.

(Qur'an, 2:163)



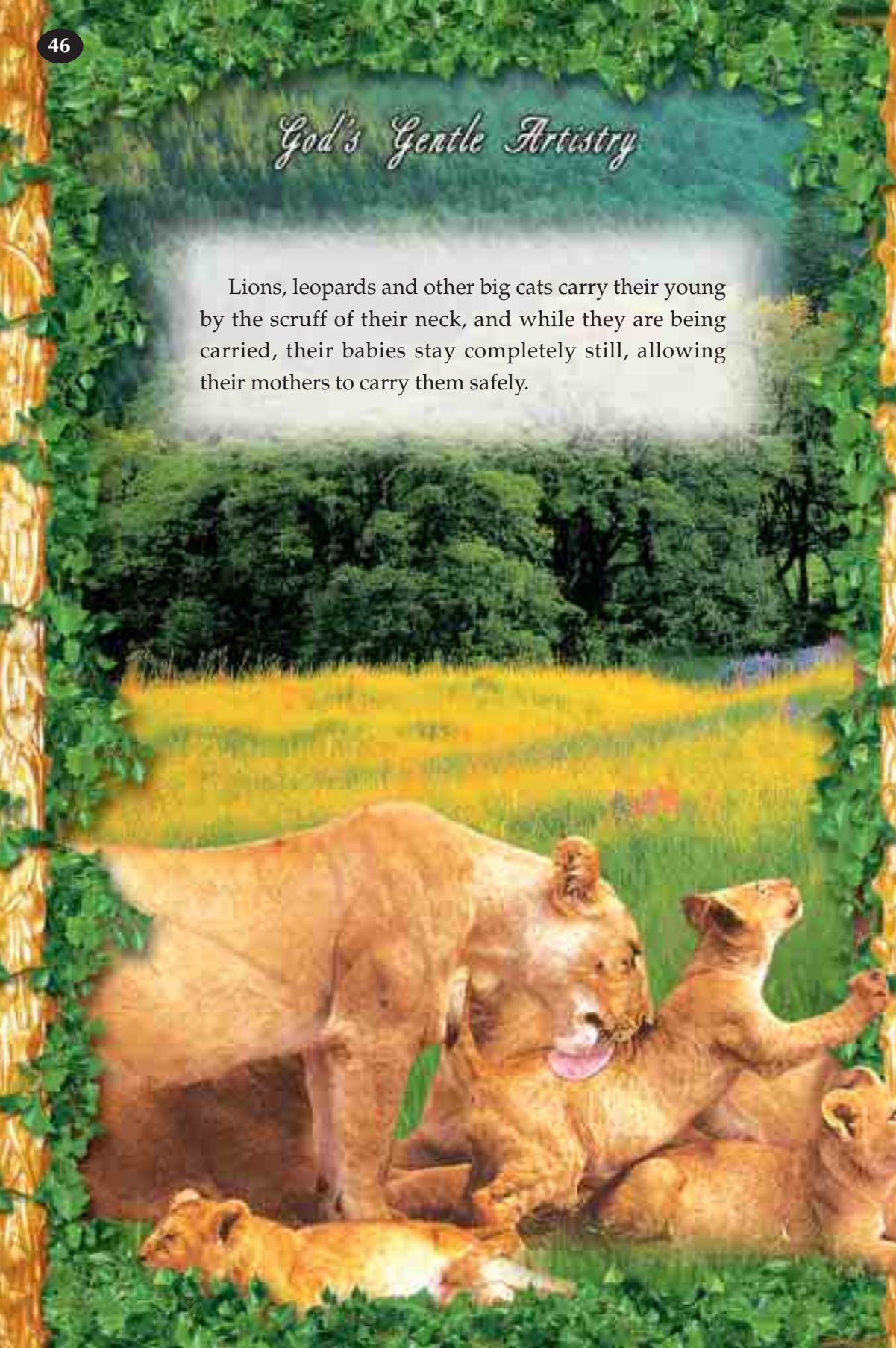
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Lions are among of the strongest predators in the African continent. They can be very savage towards their enemies and their prey, but very tender towards their own young. When baby lions are born, they are very small. They begin to eat meat at the age of three months, but the mother and other female lions in the pride continue to suckle them until they are six months old.

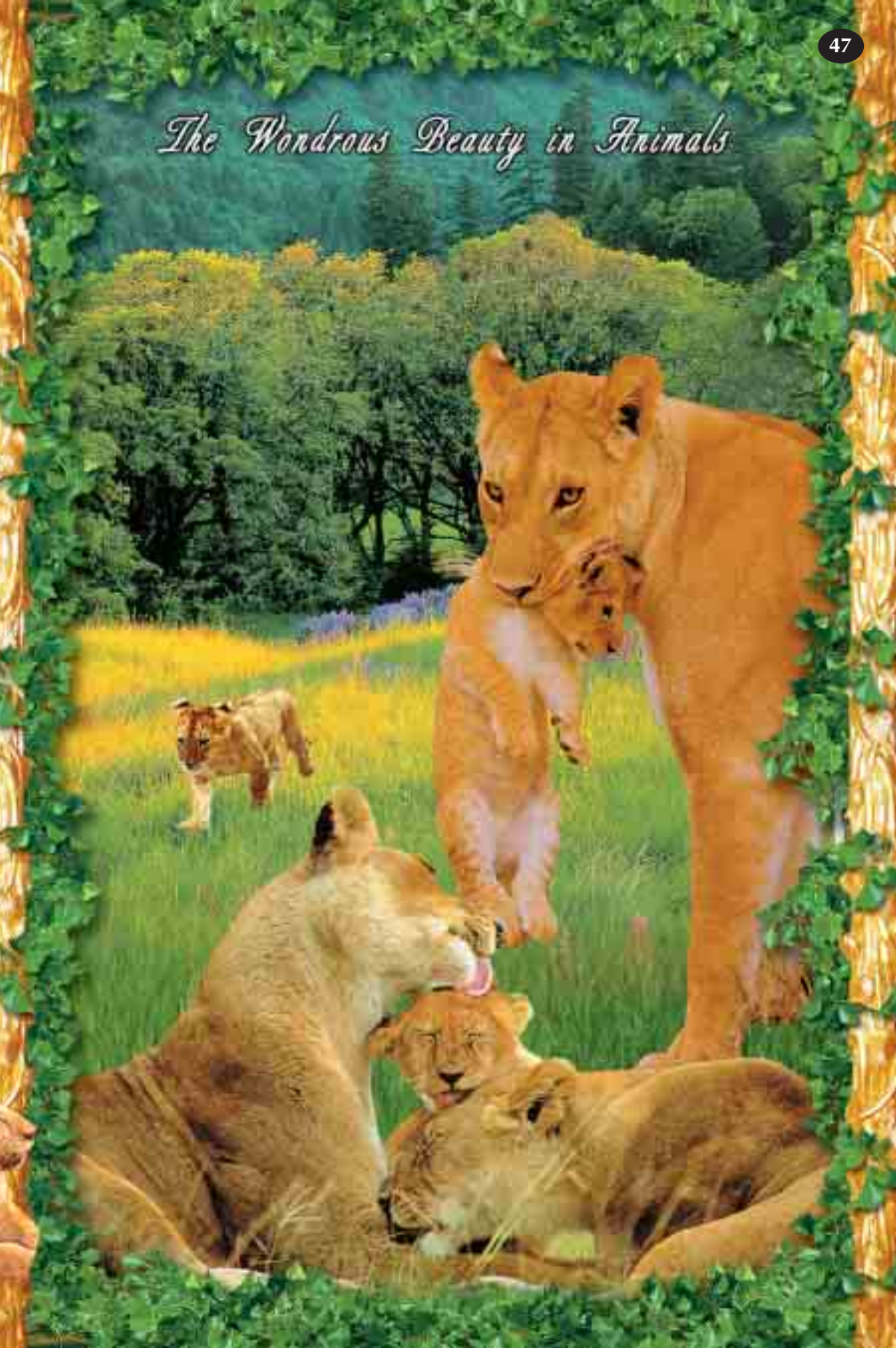


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Lions, leopards and other big cats carry their young by the scruff of their neck, and while they are being carried, their babies stay completely still, allowing their mothers to carry them safely.



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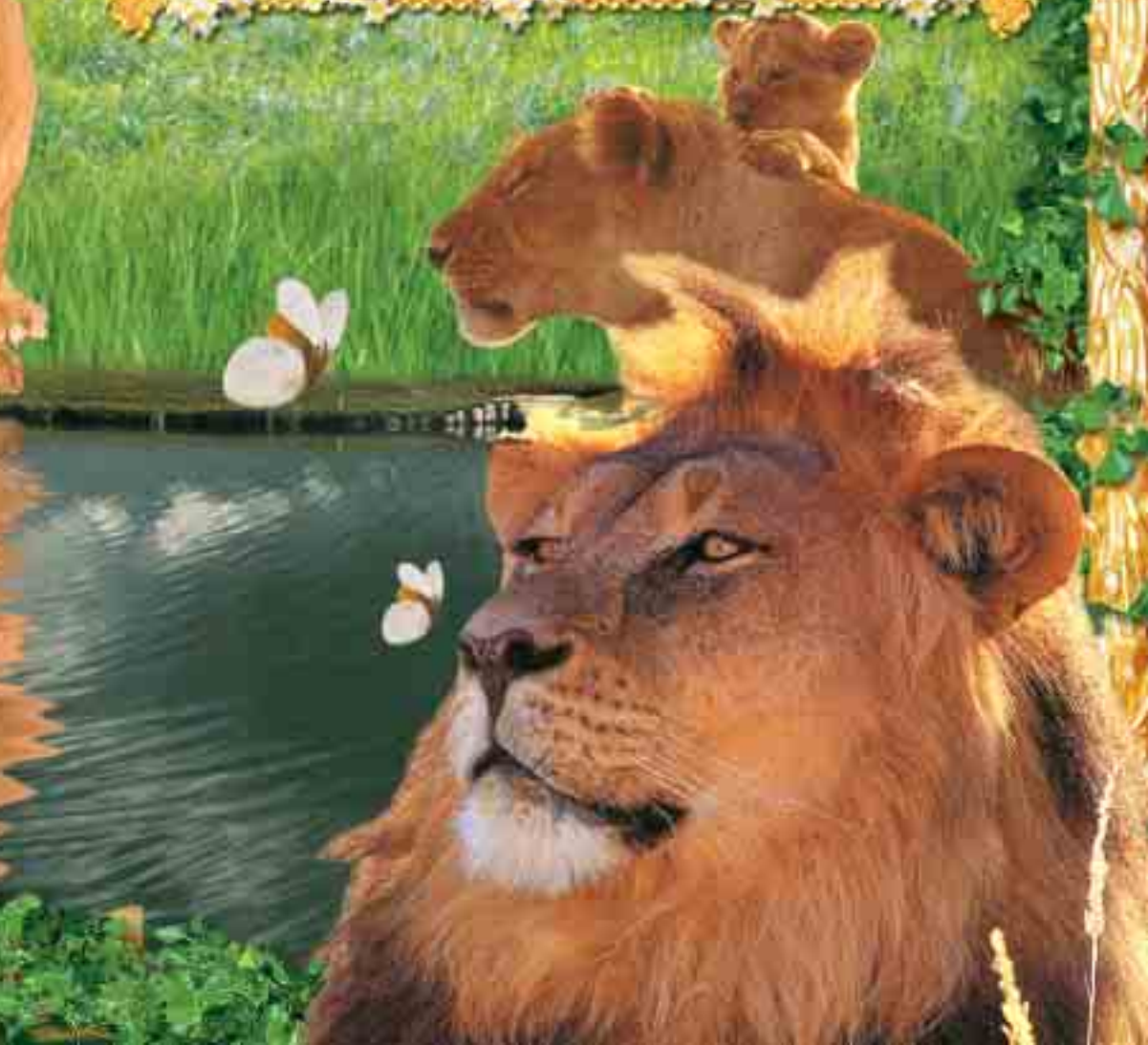
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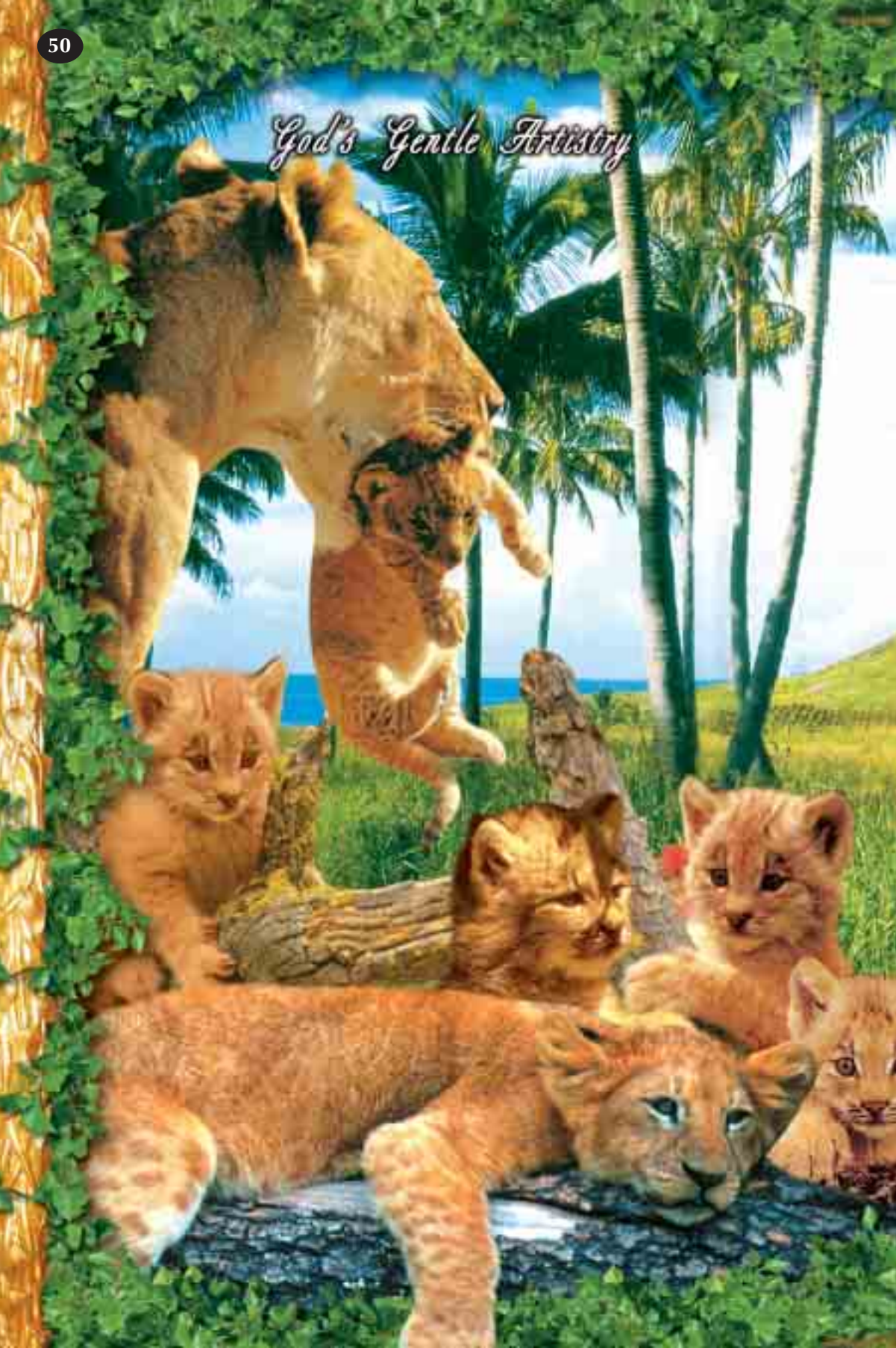


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God, there is no god but Him, the Living, the Self-Sustaining. He is not subject to drowsiness or sleep. Everything in the heavens and the Earth belongs to Him...

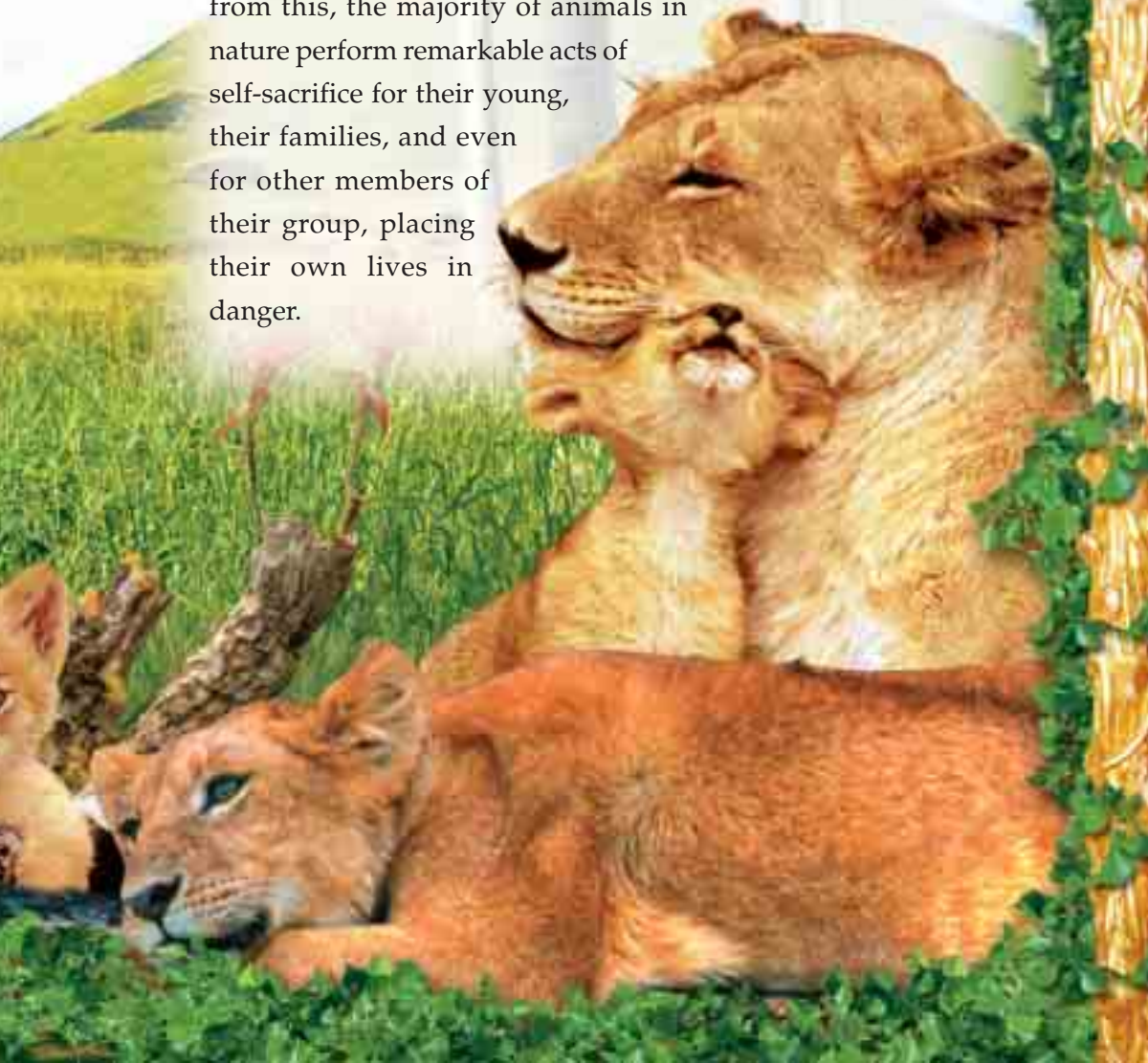
(Qur'an, 2:255)



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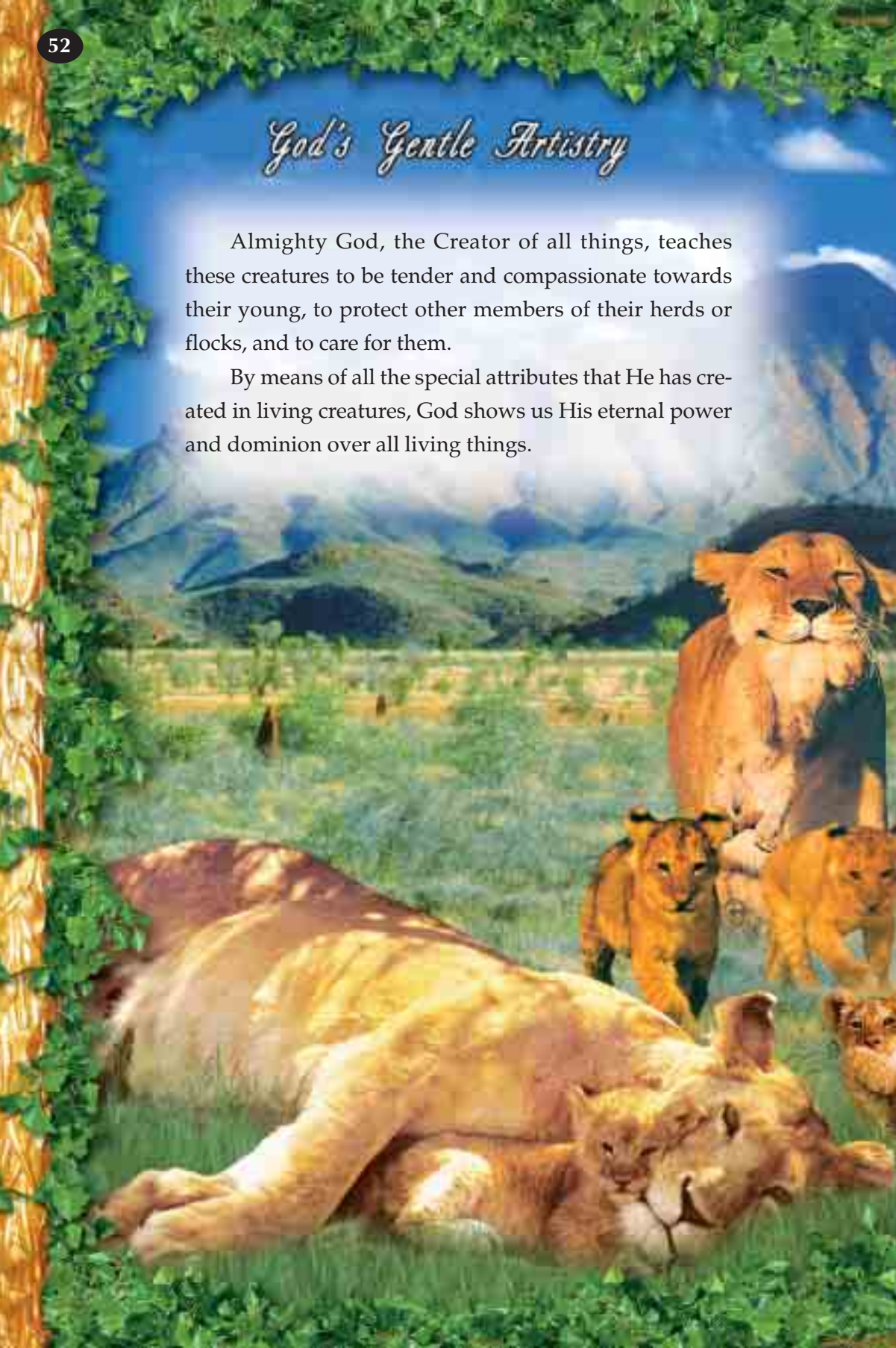
The care and tenderness that lions show for their young is only one of the proofs that invalidates the claims of evolutionists. They claim that in the natural world only the strong survive; the weak are eliminated and die off. The world of nature, they claim, is dominated by self-interest and a savage struggle for survival. Of course, creatures in their natural habitats hunt to provide themselves with food, and sometimes may even attack to defend themselves and ensure their security. But apart from this, the majority of animals in nature perform remarkable acts of self-sacrifice for their young, their families, and even for other members of their group, placing their own lives in danger.



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Almighty God, the Creator of all things, teaches these creatures to be tender and compassionate towards their young, to protect other members of their herds or flocks, and to care for them.

By means of all the special attributes that He has created in living creatures, God shows us His eternal power and dominion over all living things.



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Everything in the heavens and everything
in the Earth belongs to God...

(Qur'an, 3:129)



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When their young are in danger, mother animals behave differently than usual. Deer, for example, are usually timid and excitable creatures, but don't hesitate to use their sharp, cutting hooves against any fox or coyote that threatens their young. If they understand that they cannot repel an enemy threatening their fawns, they immediately throw themselves



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into the attacker's path, to divert the enemy away from their young.⁹

Why do these animals put their own lives in danger to protect their young? As stated earlier, proponents of evolutionary theory assert that the world of nature is a battlefield, that creatures are in a constant struggle with one another in which the strong dominate and the weak are killed or die off. But this claim is very erroneous: As is the case with deer, many creatures are willing to risk their lives to protect their young, which fact by itself shows clearly how unreasonable the claims of evolutionists are.

With His supreme power, God has created gazelles, antelopes, elephants, birds and every other living thing. He is Lord of everything on Earth and in heaven.

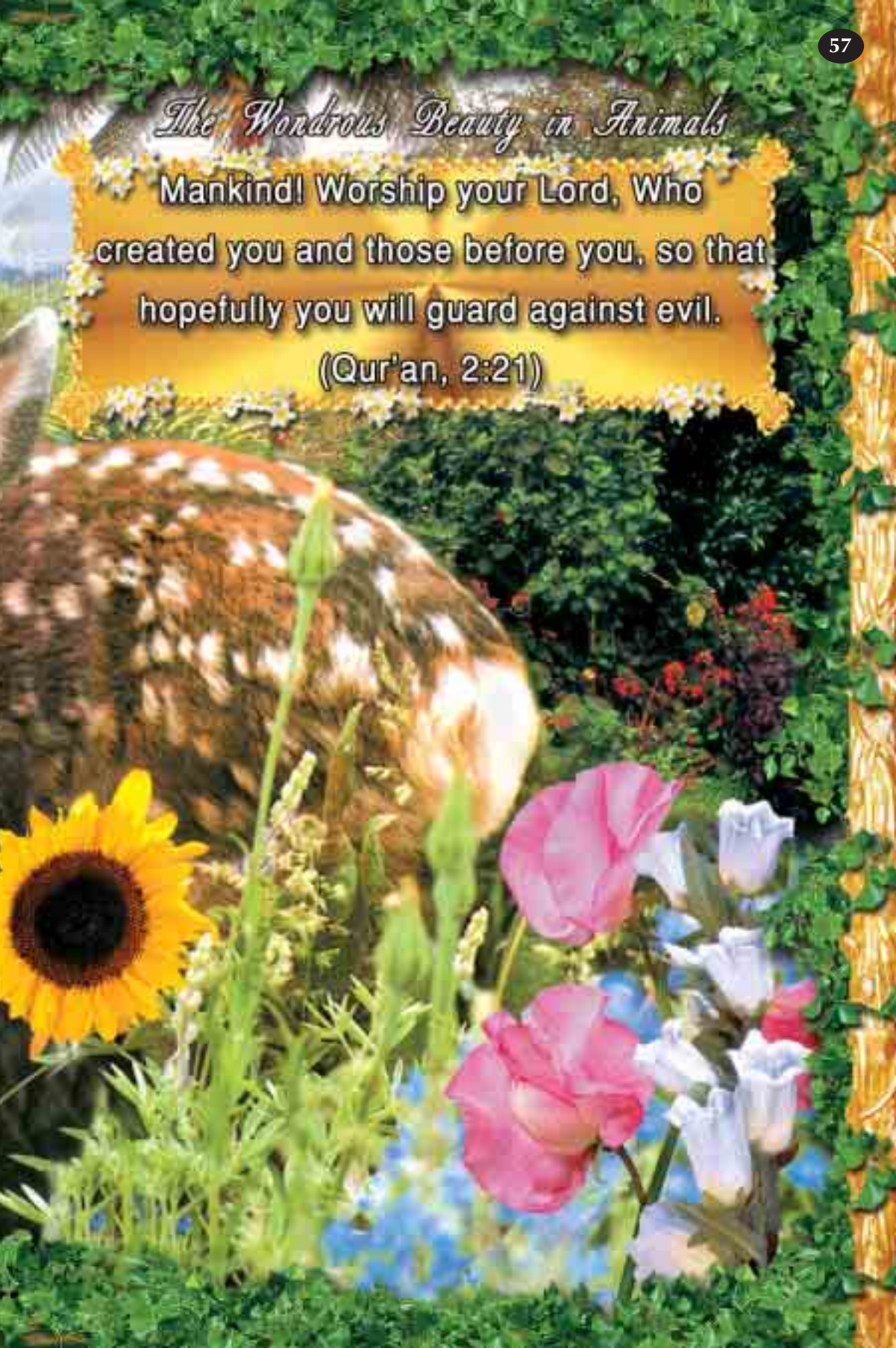


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Mankind! Worship your Lord, Who created you and those before you, so that hopefully you will guard against evil.

(Qur'an, 2:21)



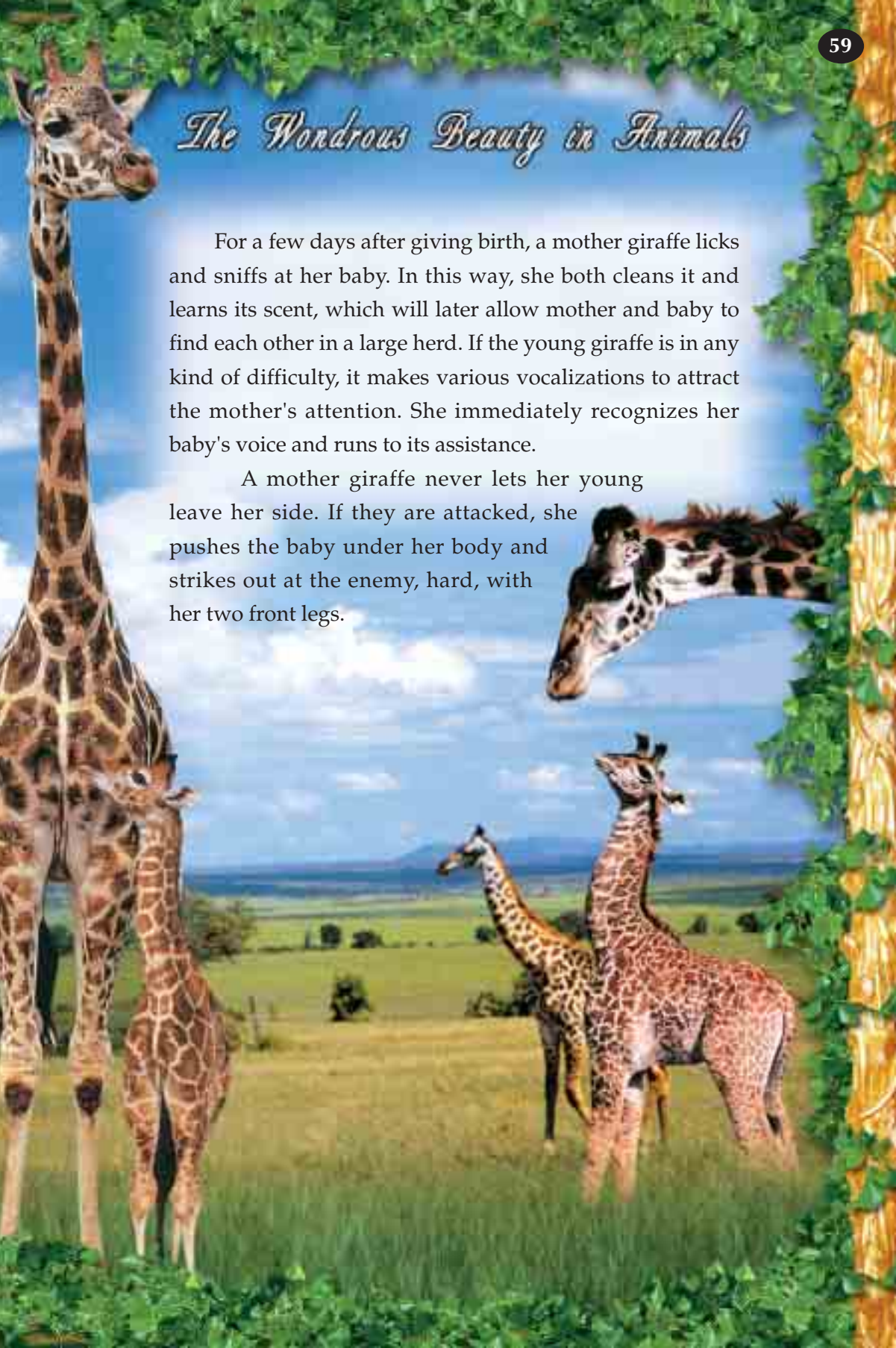
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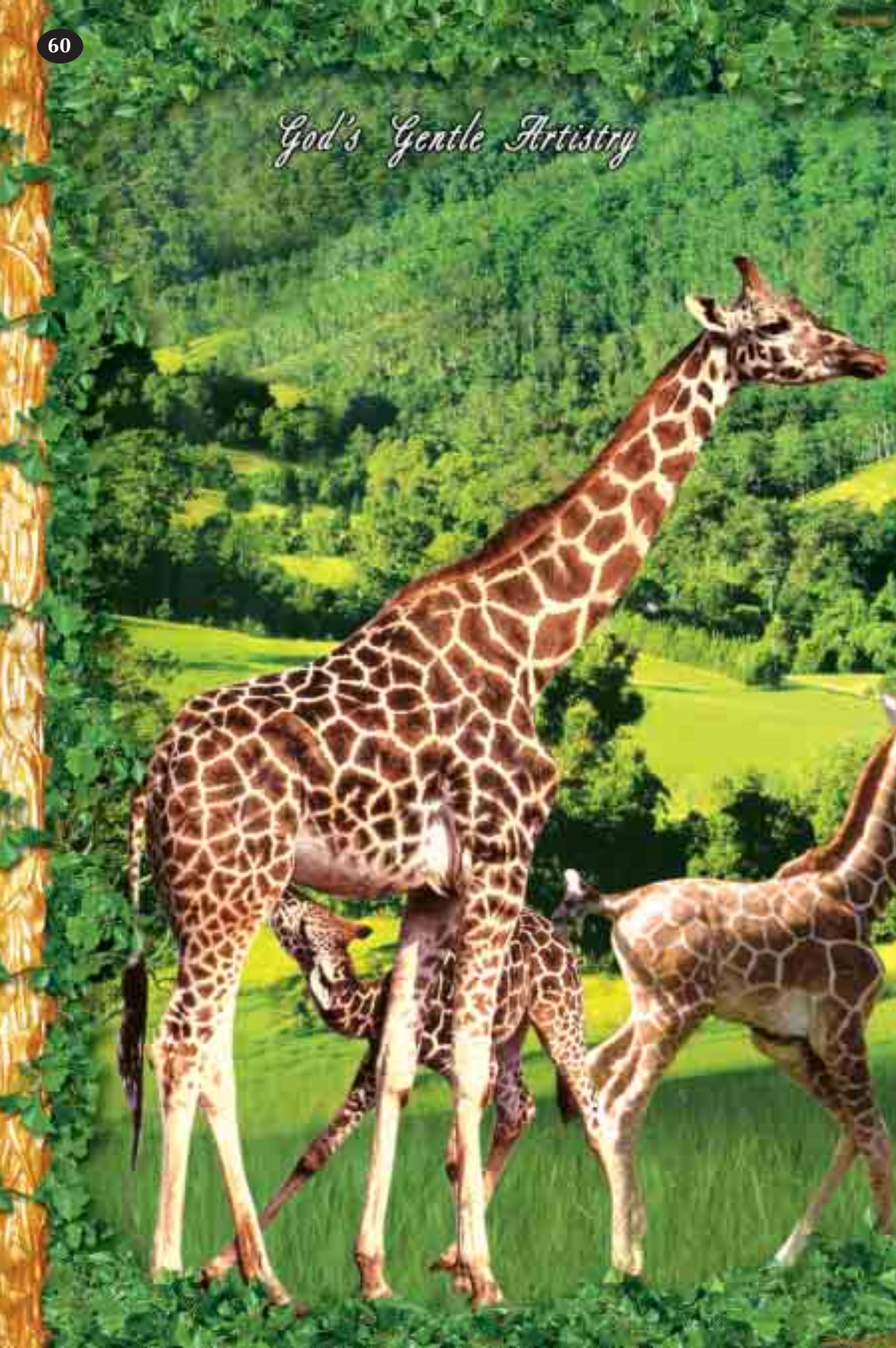
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For a few days after giving birth, a mother giraffe licks and sniffs at her baby. In this way, she both cleans it and learns its scent, which will later allow mother and baby to find each other in a large herd. If the young giraffe is in any kind of difficulty, it makes various vocalizations to attract the mother's attention. She immediately recognizes her baby's voice and runs to its assistance.

A mother giraffe never lets her young leave her side. If they are attacked, she pushes the baby under her body and strikes out at the enemy, hard, with her two front legs.



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Giraffes live in small herds and look after their young together, and adults take turns caring for the young. Because of this cooperative system of "babysitting," other mother giraffes can leave their babies and go kilometers away in search of food.¹⁰

All the beautiful creatures in the natural world show us the majesty of God. And we must always be mindful of His existence and thank Him for all the blessings He has given us.

In the Qur'an, God has told us that we must be thankful to Him for everything:

God brought you out of your mothers' wombs knowing nothing at all, and gave you hearing, sight and hearts so that perhaps you would show thanks. (Qur'an, 16:78)



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

One factor that helps ducks swim so well is their webbed feet. When they push their feet out behind them, the webs spread out to give them more surface area to propel them. Baby ducklings have this ability from the moment of their birth. God, with His unlimited knowledge, has created ducks with everything they need to survive.



God's Gentle Artistry

The feathers of a female duck are less colorful than those of the male. This difference in color is an important advantage for the females, who must sit on her eggs in the nest; their lack of bright color makes them less visible to predators as they wait for their eggs to hatch. They blend with their environment, and because of this camouflage it is harder for their enemies to notice them.

On the other hand, a male duck uses his brightly colored



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

feathers to protect his females, diverting the attention of enemies while she is building the nest or sitting on it.

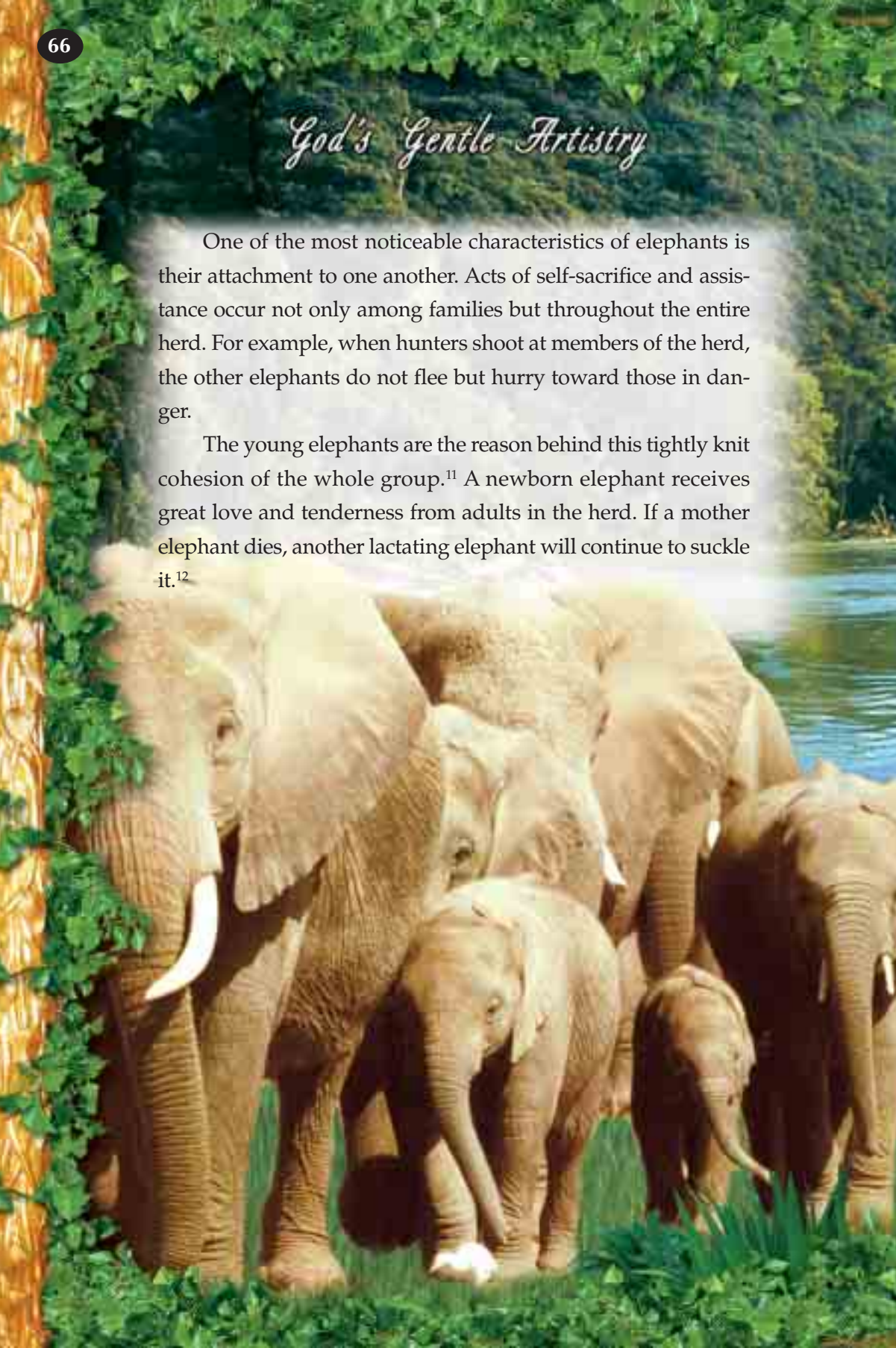
If trouble approaches the nest, the male immediately takes flight, making a lot of noise; doing everything he can to lead the enemy away from the nest. These acts of self-sacrifice, vitally important for baby ducklings' survival, sometimes end with the death of a parent and provide yet another example of God's creative artistry.



God's Gentle Artistry

One of the most noticeable characteristics of elephants is their attachment to one another. Acts of self-sacrifice and assistance occur not only among families but throughout the entire herd. For example, when hunters shoot at members of the herd, the other elephants do not flee but hurry toward those in danger.

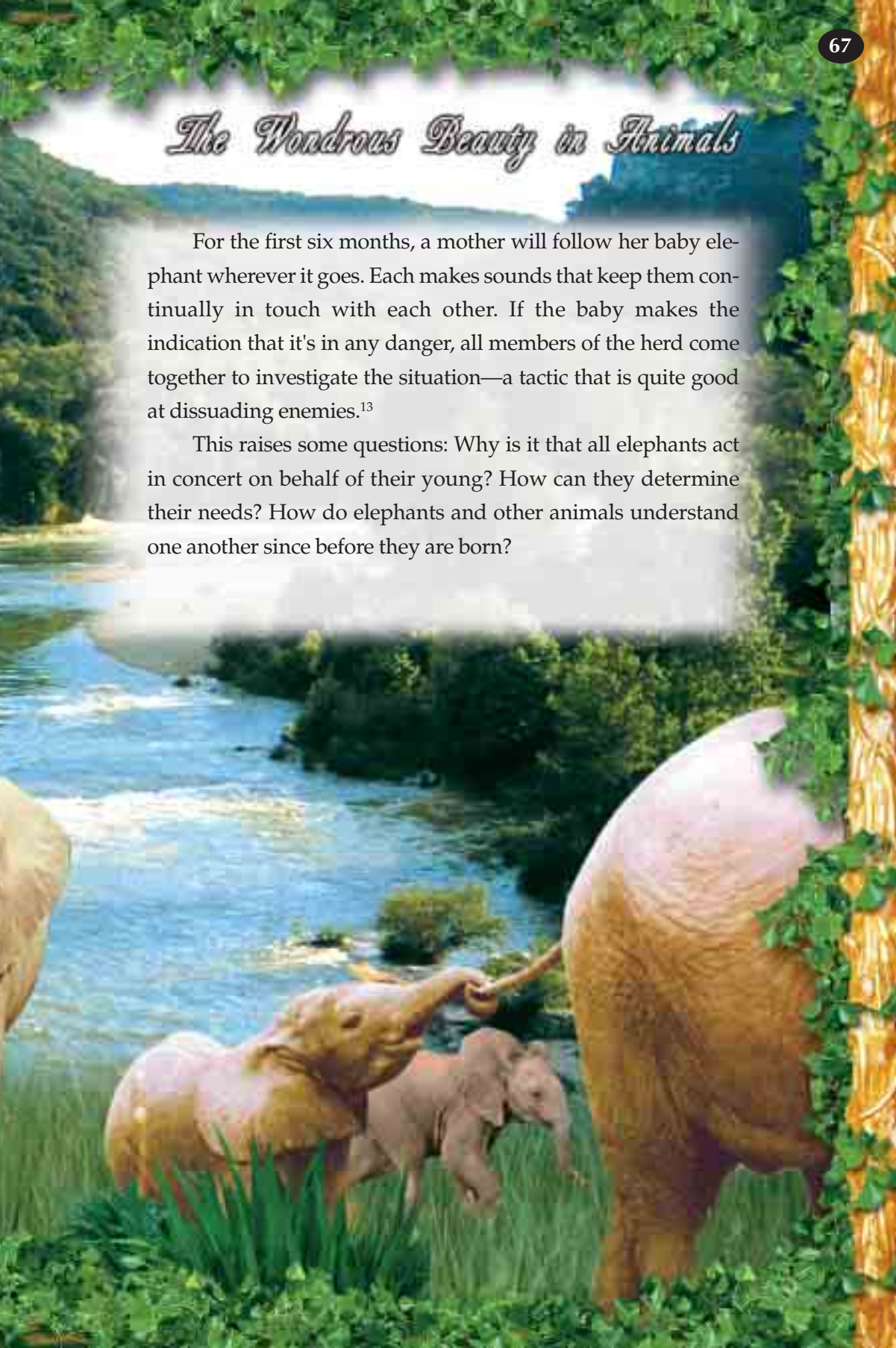
The young elephants are the reason behind this tightly knit cohesion of the whole group.¹¹ A newborn elephant receives great love and tenderness from adults in the herd. If a mother elephant dies, another lactating elephant will continue to suckle it.¹²



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

For the first six months, a mother will follow her baby elephant wherever it goes. Each makes sounds that keep them continually in touch with each other. If the baby makes the indication that it's in any danger, all members of the herd come together to investigate the situation—a tactic that is quite good at dissuading enemies.¹³

This raises some questions: Why is it that all elephants act in concert on behalf of their young? How can they determine their needs? How do elephants and other animals understand one another since before they are born?



God's Gentle Herdistry

None of these creatures can manage these accomplishments through their own intelligence and willpower. The fact that elephants in every part of the world assist one another in these ways is an indication that a single Creator cre-



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

ated them all; and that Creator is God with His limitless power. The amazing acts of self-sacrifice among animals form one of the wonders of His creation. In the Qur'an, God says:

**The kingdom of the heavens and Earth belongs to God.
God has power over all things. (Qur'an, 3:189)**

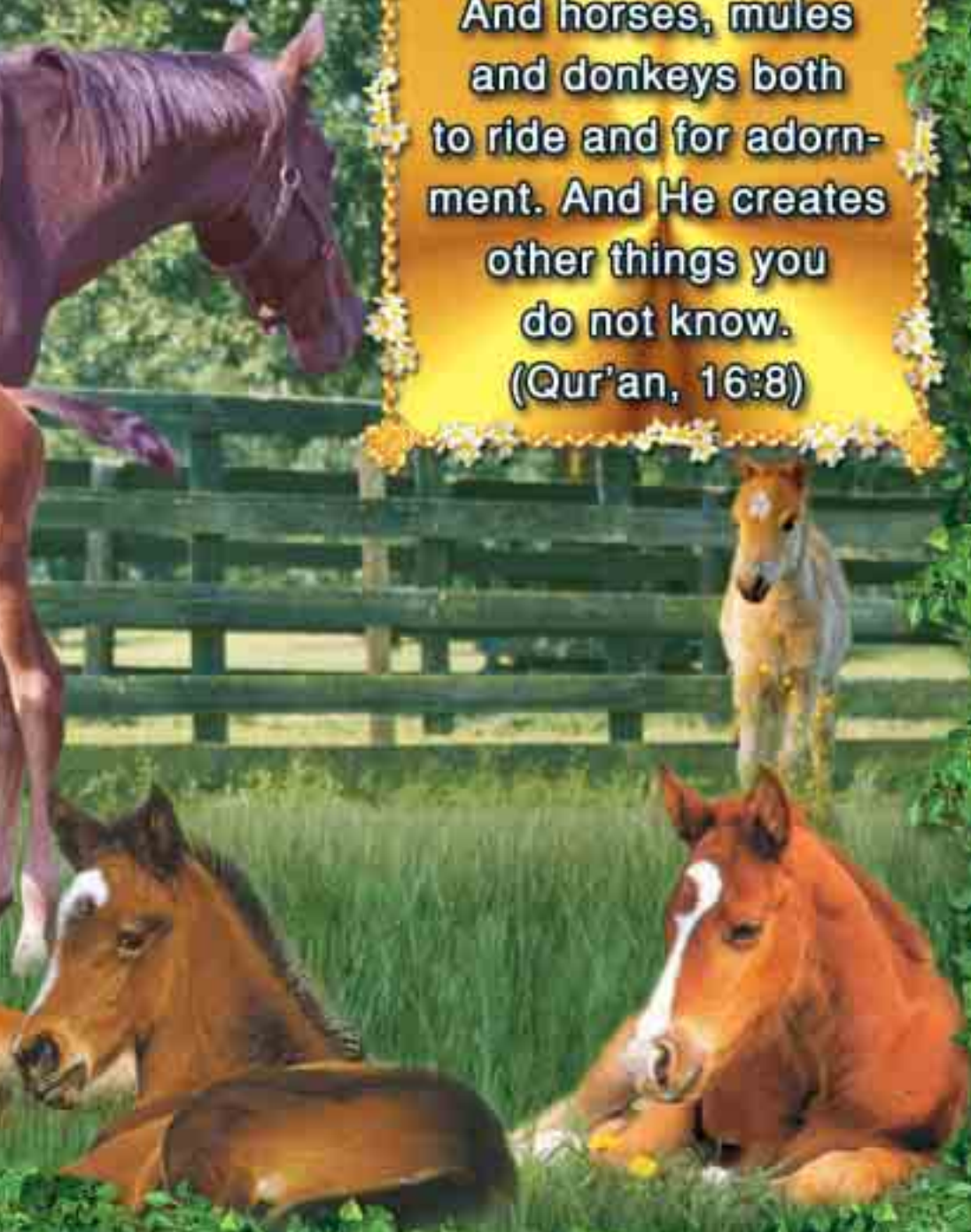


God's Gentle Fertility



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

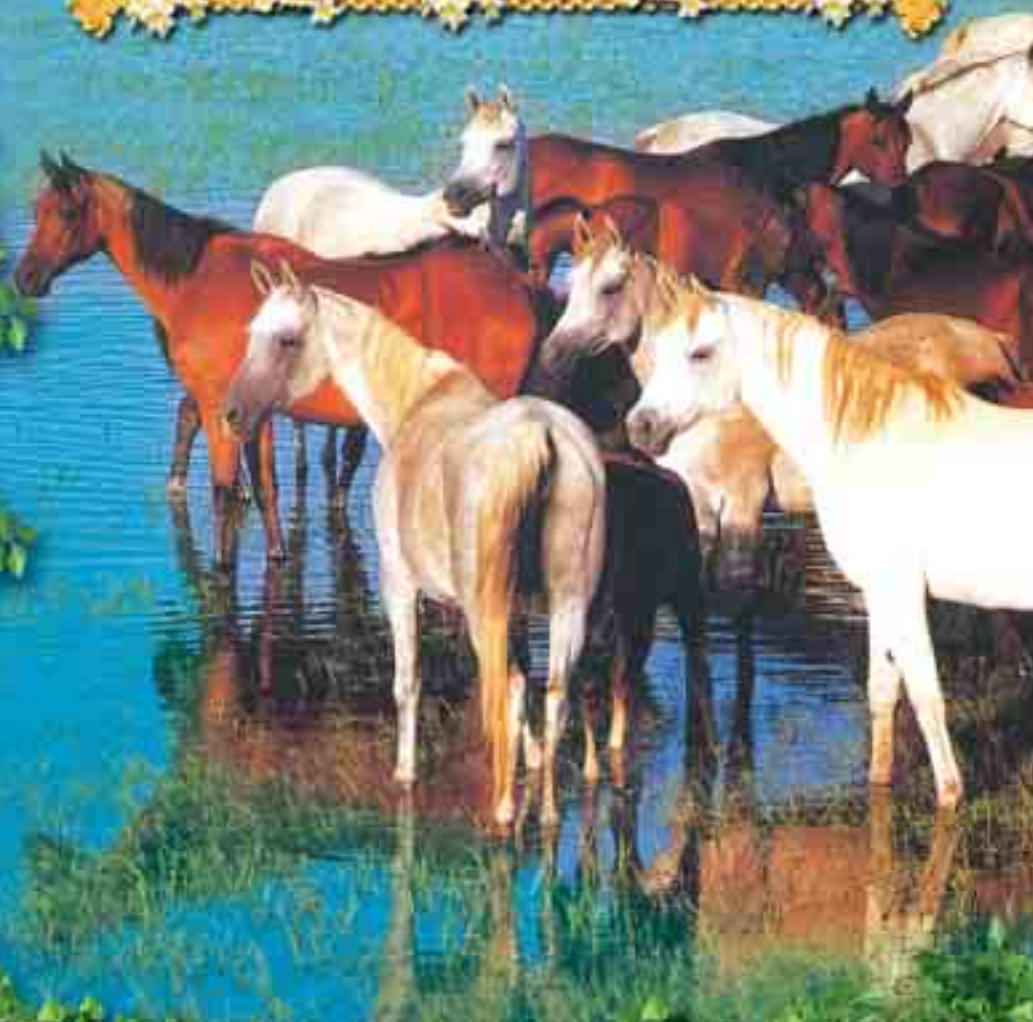
**And horses, mules
and donkeys both
to ride and for adorn-
ment. And He creates
other things you
do not know.
(Qur'an, 16:8)**



God's Gentle Artistry

All that inhabits the night and
the day belongs to Him. He is the
All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

(Qur'an, 6:13)



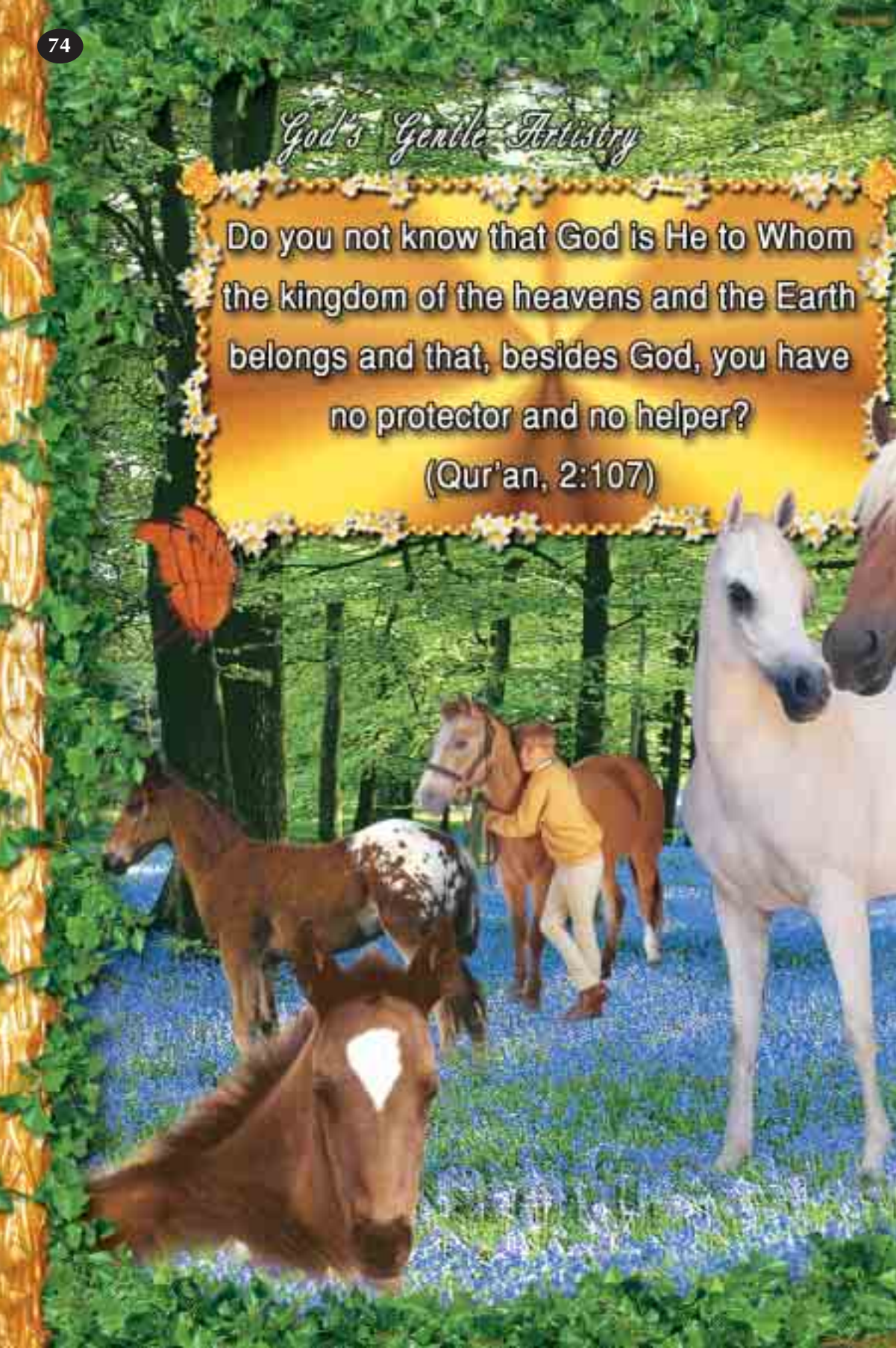
The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle History

Do you not know that God is He to Whom
the kingdom of the heavens and the Earth
belongs and that, besides God, you have
no protector and no helper?

(Qur'an, 2:107)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Friendship

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

To mankind the love of worldly appetites is painted in glowing colors: women and children, and heaped-up mounds of gold and silver, and horses with fine markings, and livestock and fertile farmland. All that is merely the enjoyment of the life of this world. The best homecoming is in the presence of God.

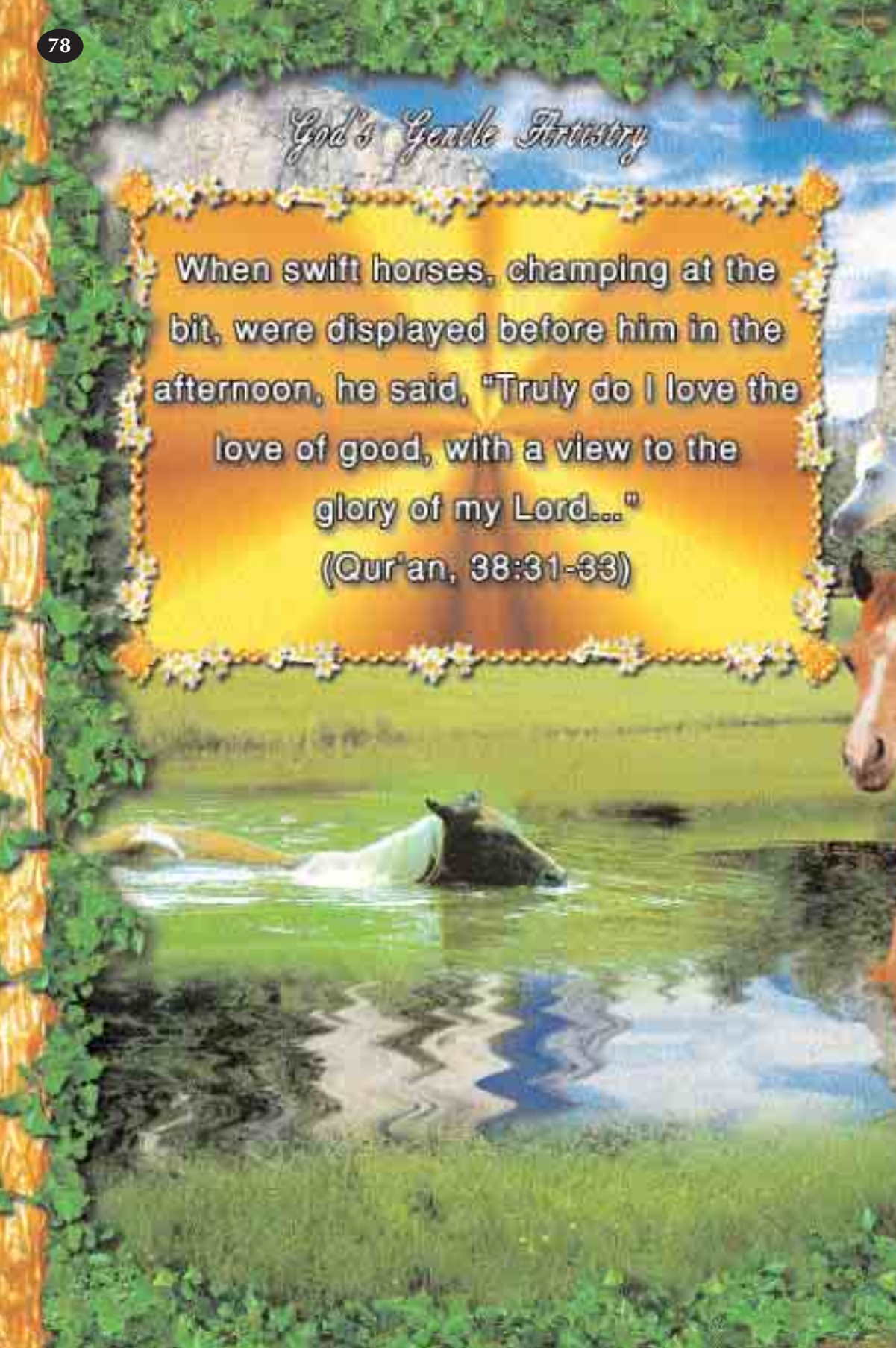
(Qur'an, 3:14)



God's Gentle Forgiveness

When swift horses, champing at the bit, were displayed before him in the afternoon, he said, "Truly do I love the love of good, with a view to the glory of my Lord..."

(Qur'an, 38:31-33)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



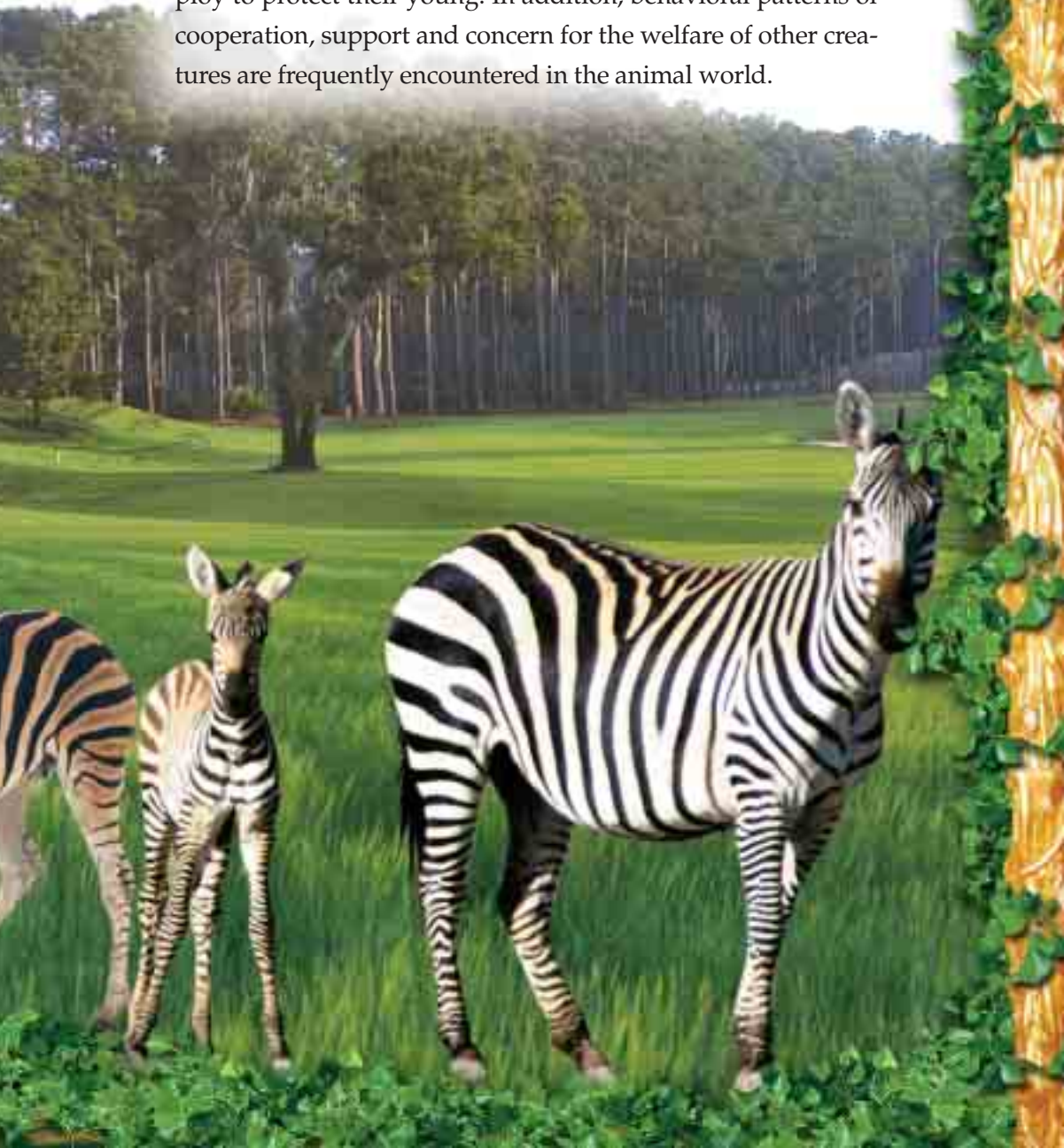
God's Gentle Artistry

A mother zebra will risk her life to save her baby. If an enemy attacks, she uses her body as a shield between her foal and the attacker. Although she can run much faster, she runs much more slowly so that, if a predator animal catches up with them, she will fall victim and not her baby. As a result of one of these dangerous encounters, the mother zebra may expose herself to death and even lose her life to protect her baby—behavior that cannot be explained by the imaginary theory of evolution.



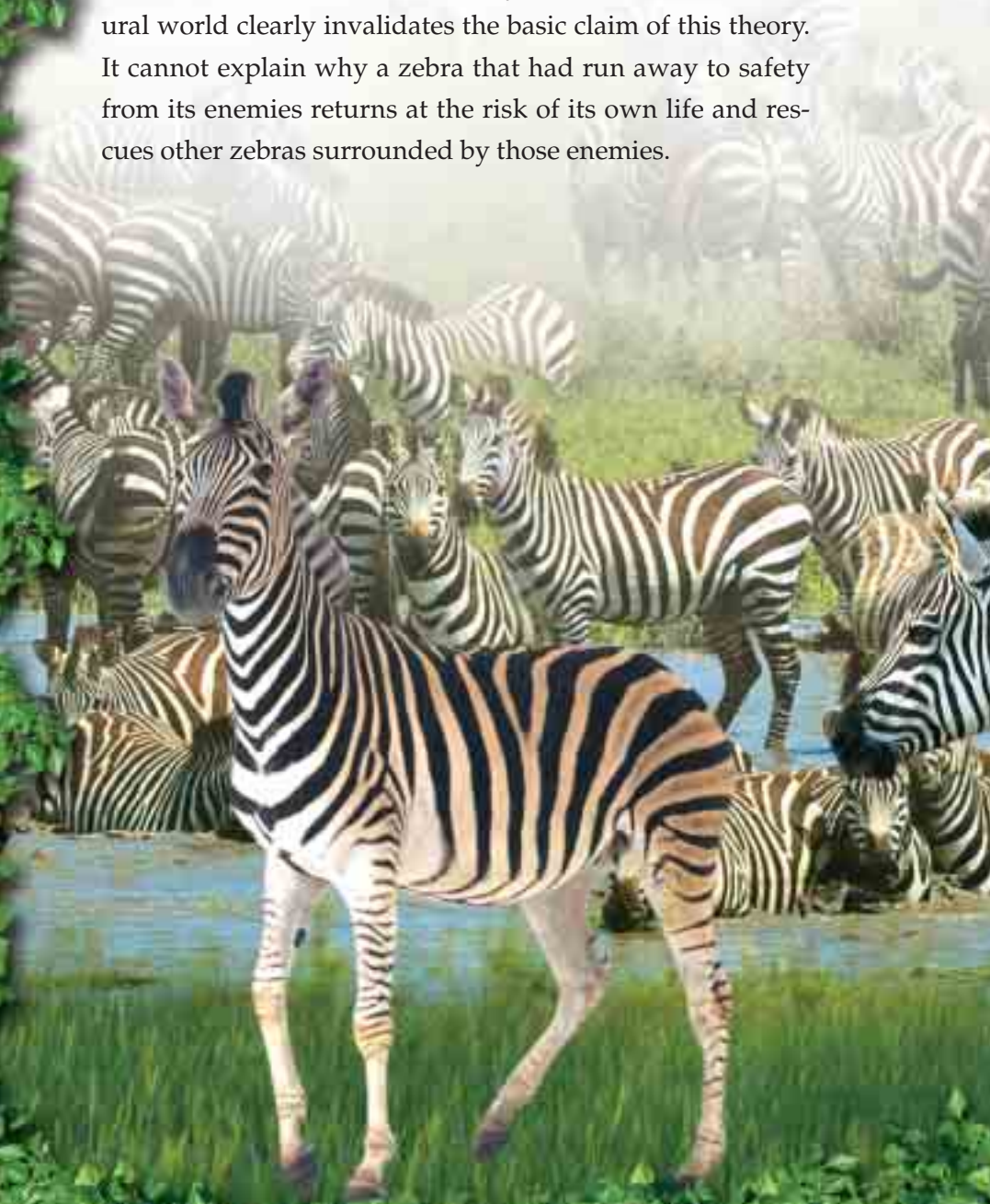
The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

All animals in the natural world are engaged in a struggle. They hunt to survive and may attack when they have to defend themselves. Evolutionists take only these characteristics into account, disregarding the acts of self-sacrifice that animals employ to protect their young. In addition, behavioral patterns of cooperation, support and concern for the welfare of other creatures are frequently encountered in the animal world.



God's Gentle Artistry

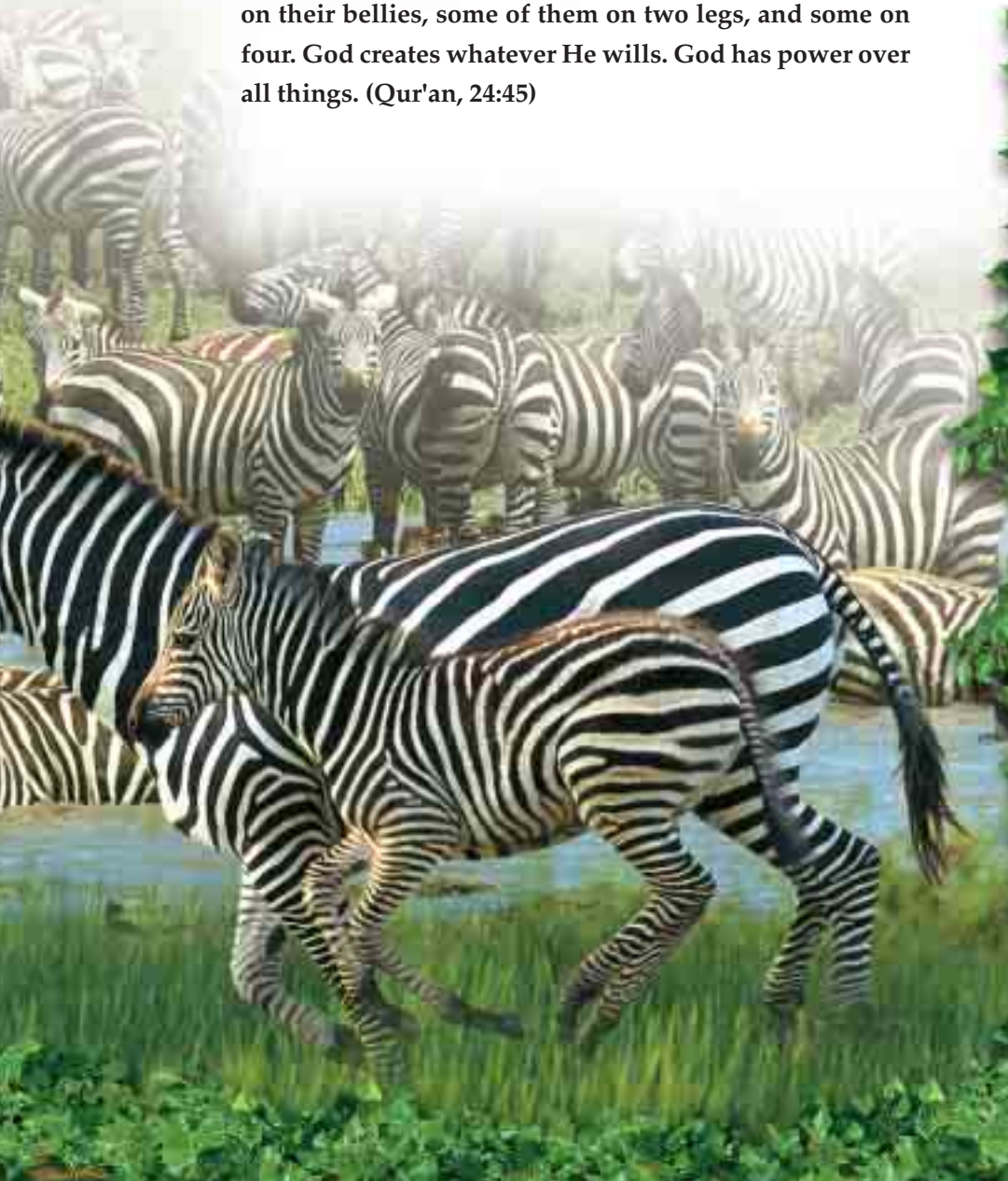
Because the theory of evolution regards the natural world as a battlefield, it can't explain the instances of self-sacrifice that occur there. The way animals live in the natural world clearly invalidates the basic claim of this theory. It cannot explain why a zebra that had run away to safety from its enemies returns at the risk of its own life and rescues other zebras surrounded by those enemies.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

The self-sacrificial and cooperative behavior exhibited by animals is clear proof of the fact that the theory of evolution is untenable. God is the Supreme Creator Who has made the universe and every creature acts by His inspiration:

God created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. God creates whatever He wills. God has power over all things. (Qur'an, 24:45)



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

It is unthinkable that acts of self-sacrifice by living creatures could result from millions of years of evolution. The intelligent behavior exhibited by animals is not a strategy they have developed over time, nor a solution produced by chance. We can't possibly expect intelligent, self-sacrificial behavior from a creature that is supposedly the product of natural selection, struggling to prolong its own lifespan in a savage world. The evident foresight and planning that animals display destroys Darwinism's basic assumption, that every creature is engaged in a self-centered battle for its own individual survival.

Creation is the only way to explain all of these animals' special characteristics. The instances of mutual support and intelligent strategy in every species clearly demonstrate God's dominion over living creatures. All the abilities they possess, as well as their intelligent behavior, are taught to them by God, the Creator of all, Who teaches them and shows them how to use their abilities. In His endless compassion and mercy, He protects and looks after all His creatures.



God's Gentle Artistry

God says, "Do not take two gods.
He is only One God. So
dread Me alone."
(Qur'an, 16:51)



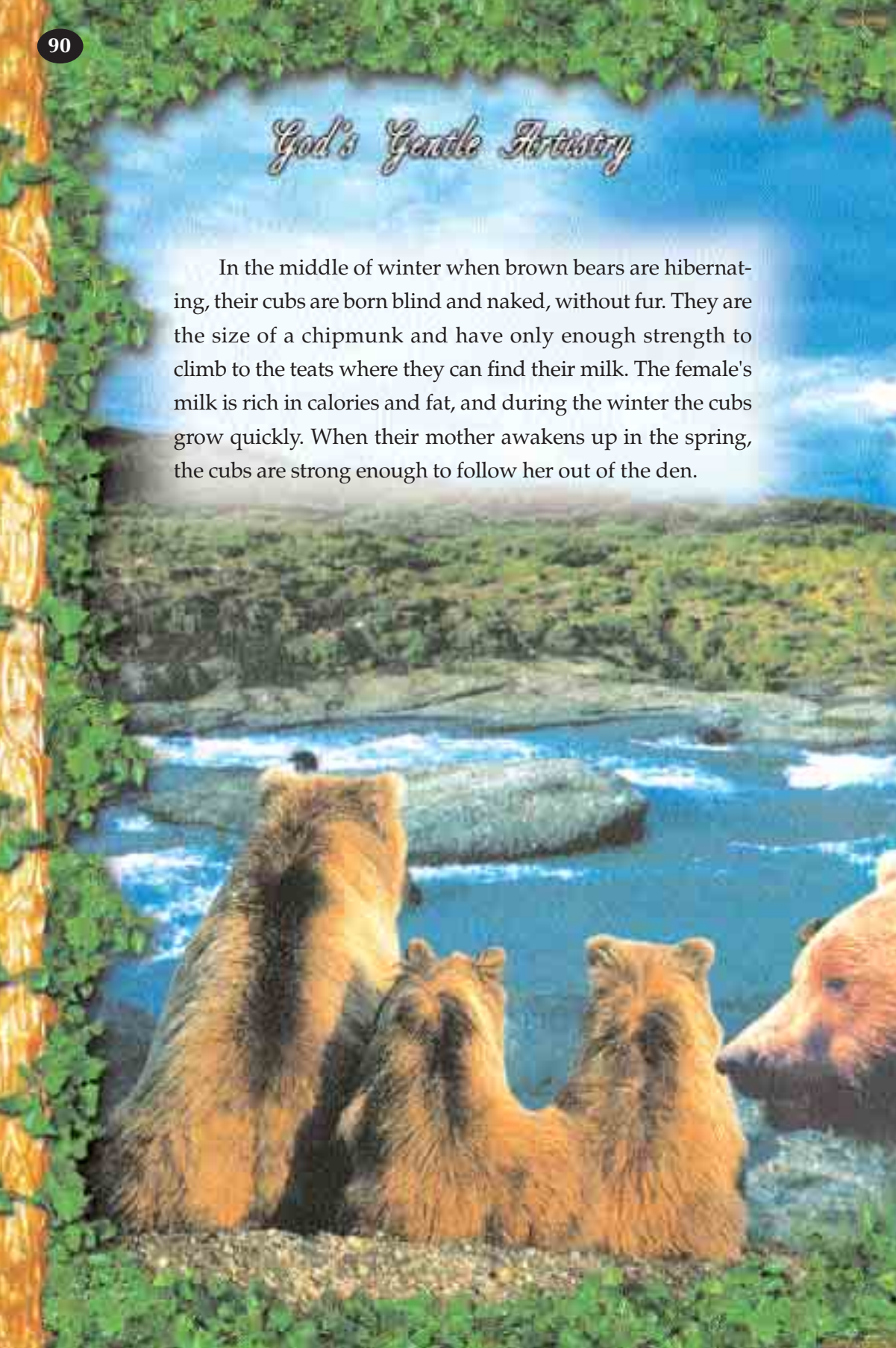
The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Everything in the heavens and Earth
belongs to Him, and the religion
belongs to Him, firmly and for ever.
So why do you fear anyone other
than God? (Qur'an, 16:52)



God's Gentle Artistry

In the middle of winter when brown bears are hibernating, their cubs are born blind and naked, without fur. They are the size of a chipmunk and have only enough strength to climb to the teats where they can find their milk. The female's milk is rich in calories and fat, and during the winter the cubs grow quickly. When their mother awakens up in the spring, the cubs are strong enough to follow her out of the den.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

The cubs are very active and once outside, quite vulnerable. For a year they stay with their mother, who protects them from every danger while they learn how to look after themselves. Because they are fed constantly for a certain length of time, they grow quickly. Always playing games, they try to climb on top of their mother and wrestle with each other. Like other animal parents, mother bears can be very ferocious towards intruders who may want to harm their cubs. For three years, the mother bear looks after and protects her cubs constantly.¹⁴



God's Gentle Hospitality

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Do they not see that God, Who created the heavens and Earth, has the power to create the like of them, and has appointed fixed terms for them of which there is no doubt? But the wrongdoers still spurn anything but disbelief.

(Qur'an, 17:99)



God's Gentle Artistry

And He created livestock. There is warmth for you in them, and various uses and some you eat.

(Qur'an, 16:5)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

... From the contents of their bellies,
from between the dung and blood,
We give you pure milk to drink, easy
for drinkers to swallow.

(Qur'an, 16:66)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



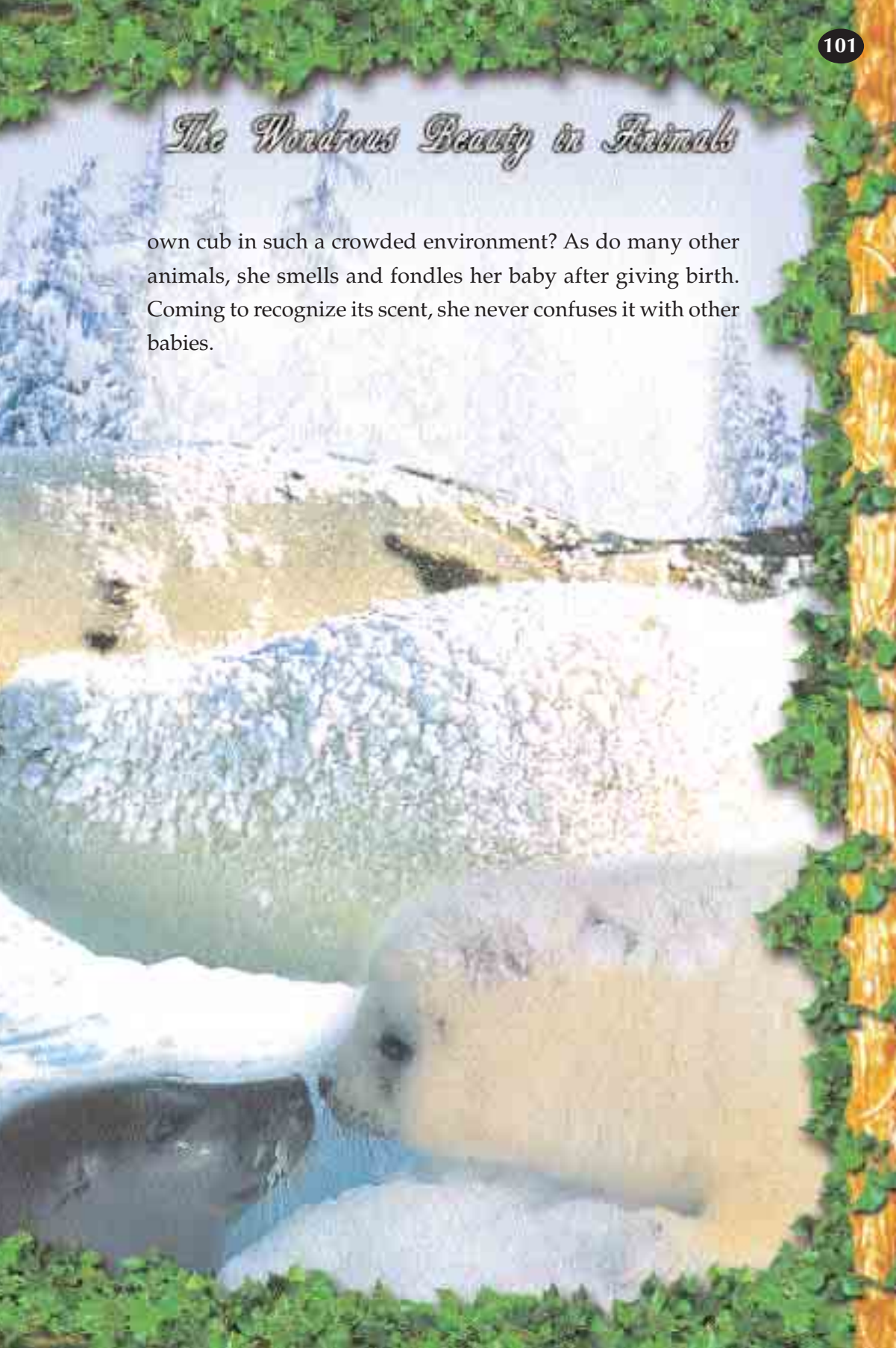
God's Gentle Titmouse

In the regions where seals live, spring temperatures seldom reach -5°C (23°F). But seals do not mind the cold, because their fur and stored body fat keeps them warm. Seals live in large herds, so how can a mother seal recognize her



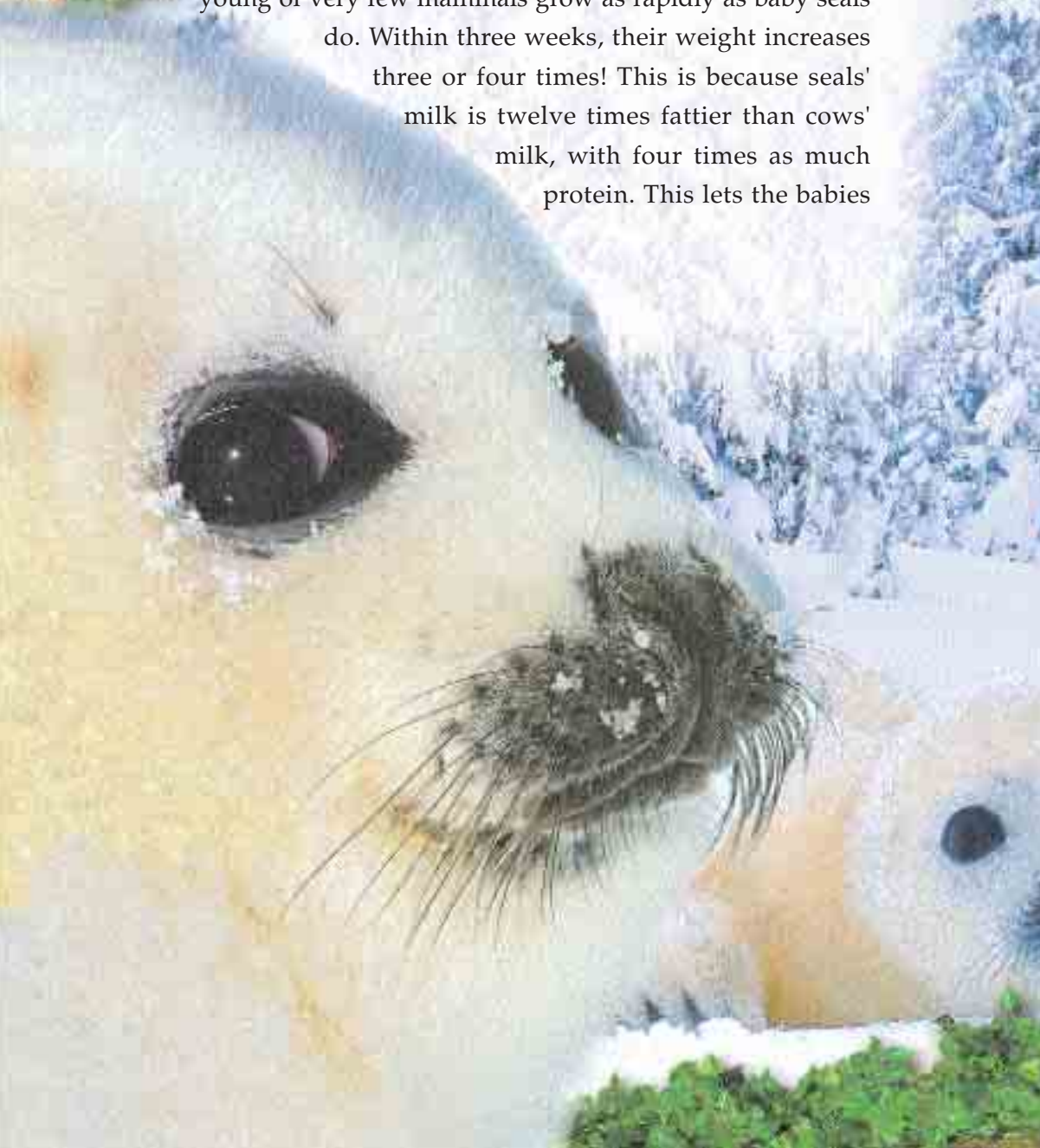
The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

own cub in such a crowded environment? As do many other animals, she smells and fondles her baby after giving birth. Coming to recognize its scent, she never confuses it with other babies.



God's Gentle Titivity

Baby seals are completely helpless and unable to protect themselves, but their mothers supply their every need. They are born covered with a layer of baby fat that insulates their tiny bodies and helps keep them always warm. The young of very few mammals grow as rapidly as baby seals do. Within three weeks, their weight increases three or four times! This is because seals' milk is twelve times fattier than cows' milk, with four times as much protein. This lets the babies

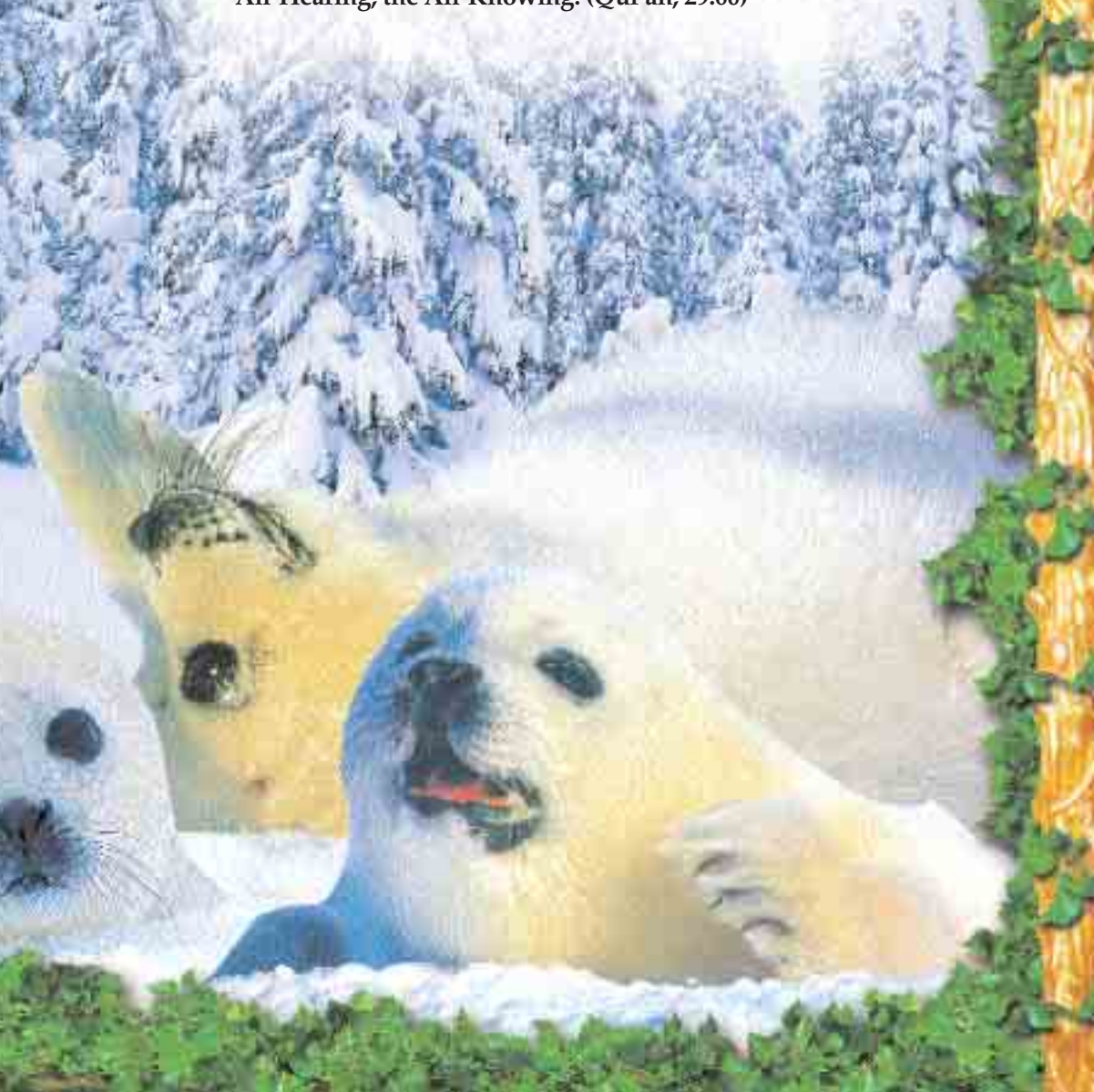


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

grow very fast, and much of their mother's fatty milk is immediately transformed into a protective layer of fat in their bodies.¹⁵

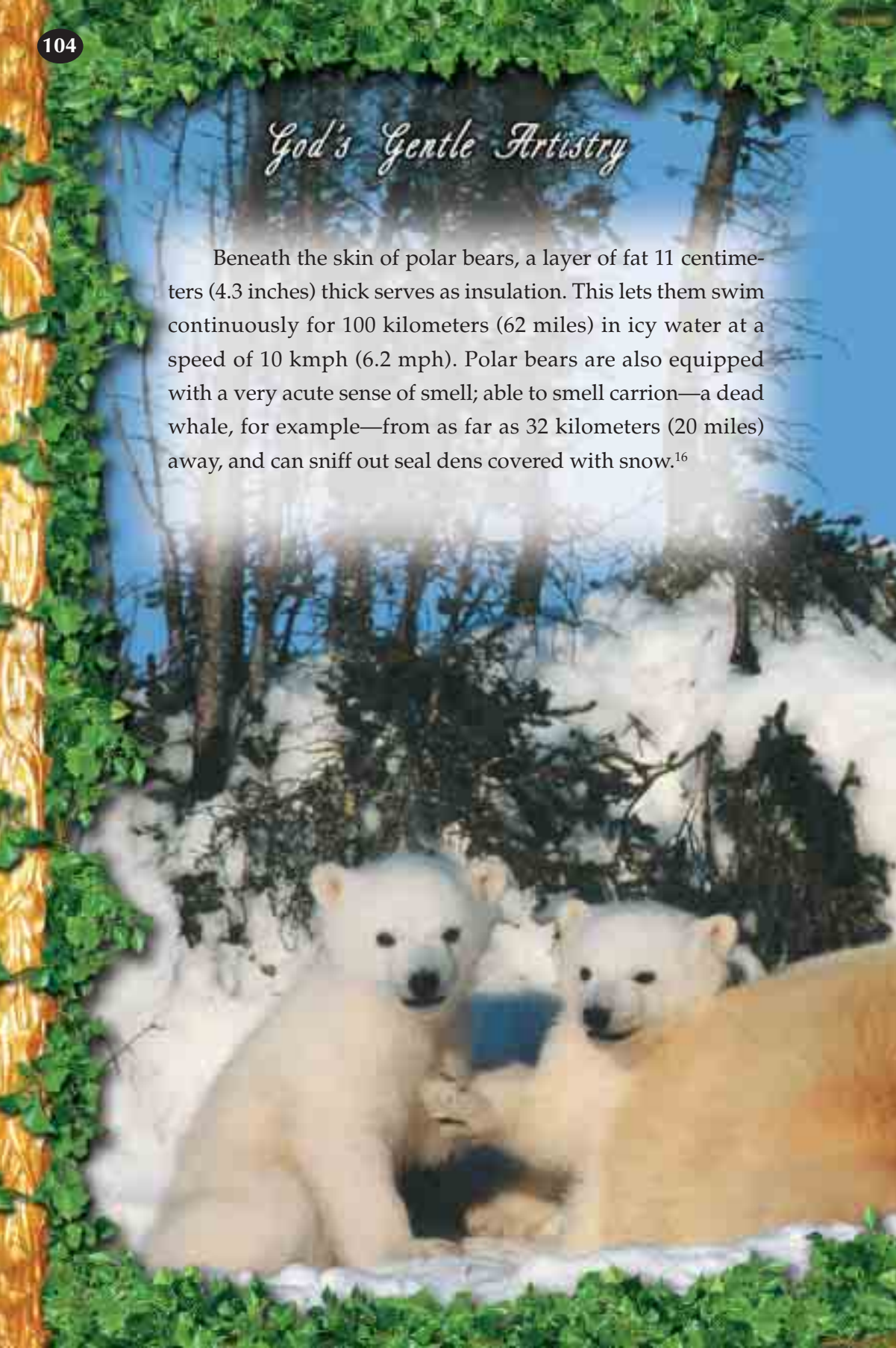
God has created every creature in the best way, supplying its daily food and looking after all its needs:

How many creatures do not carry their provision with them! God provides for them and He will for you. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. (Qur'an, 29:60)



God's Gentle Artistry

Beneath the skin of polar bears, a layer of fat 11 centimeters (4.3 inches) thick serves as insulation. This lets them swim continuously for 100 kilometers (62 miles) in icy water at a speed of 10 kmph (6.2 mph). Polar bears are also equipped with a very acute sense of smell; able to smell carrion—a dead whale, for example—from as far as 32 kilometers (20 miles) away, and can sniff out seal dens covered with snow.¹⁶



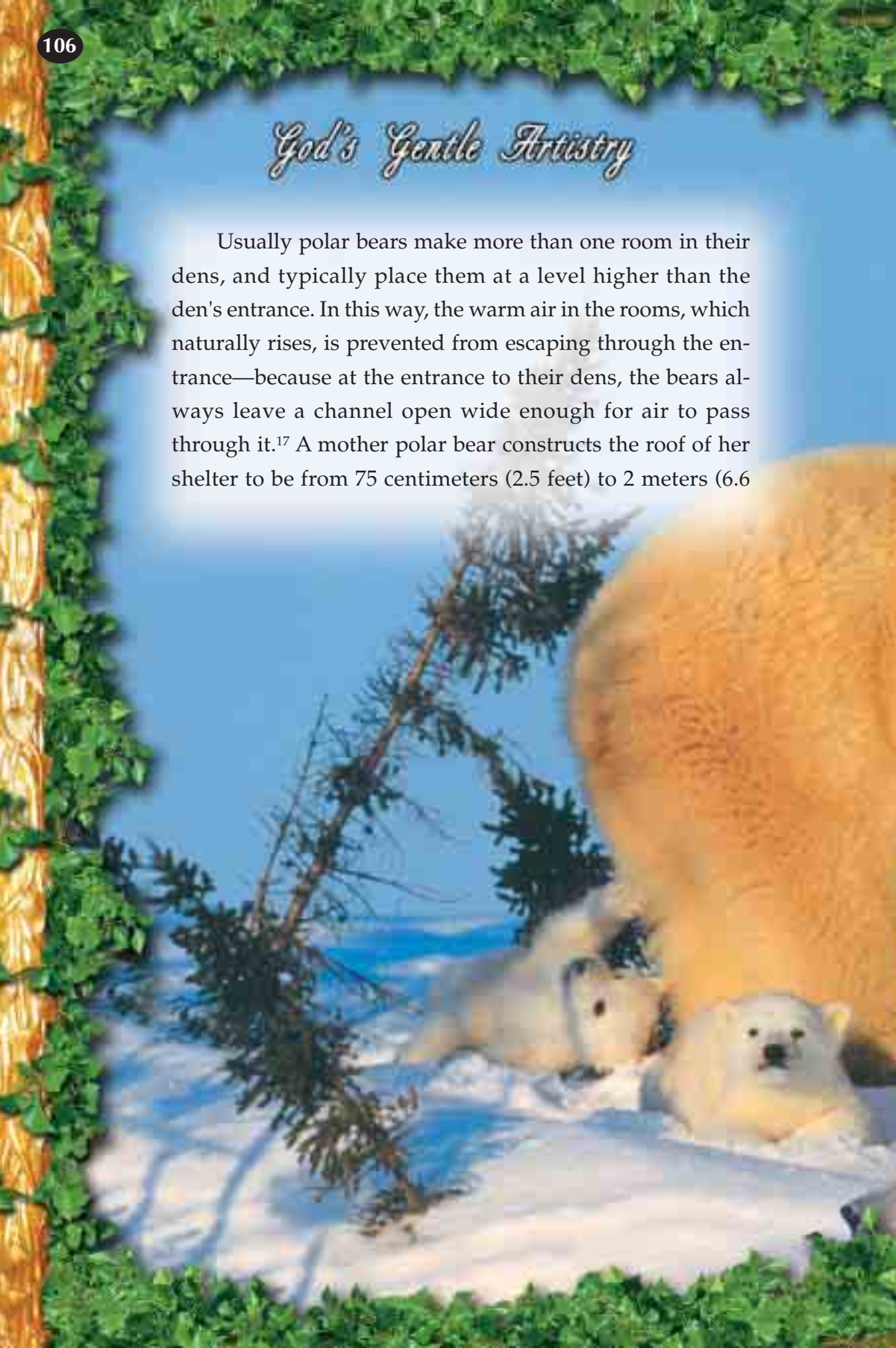
The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Polar bear babies are usually born in the middle of winter, very small, furless and blind. They need a den to live in order to survive the subzero winter cold. But female polar bears make dens only when they are pregnant or have babies. Under banks of snow, they make their dens—round spaces about half a meter (1.6 feet) in diameter which they enter through a tunnel two meters long (6.5 feet).



God's Gentle Artistry

Usually polar bears make more than one room in their dens, and typically place them at a level higher than the den's entrance. In this way, the warm air in the rooms, which naturally rises, is prevented from escaping through the entrance—because at the entrance to their dens, the bears always leave a channel open wide enough for air to pass through it.¹⁷ A mother polar bear constructs the roof of her shelter to be from 75 centimeters (2.5 feet) to 2 meters (6.6

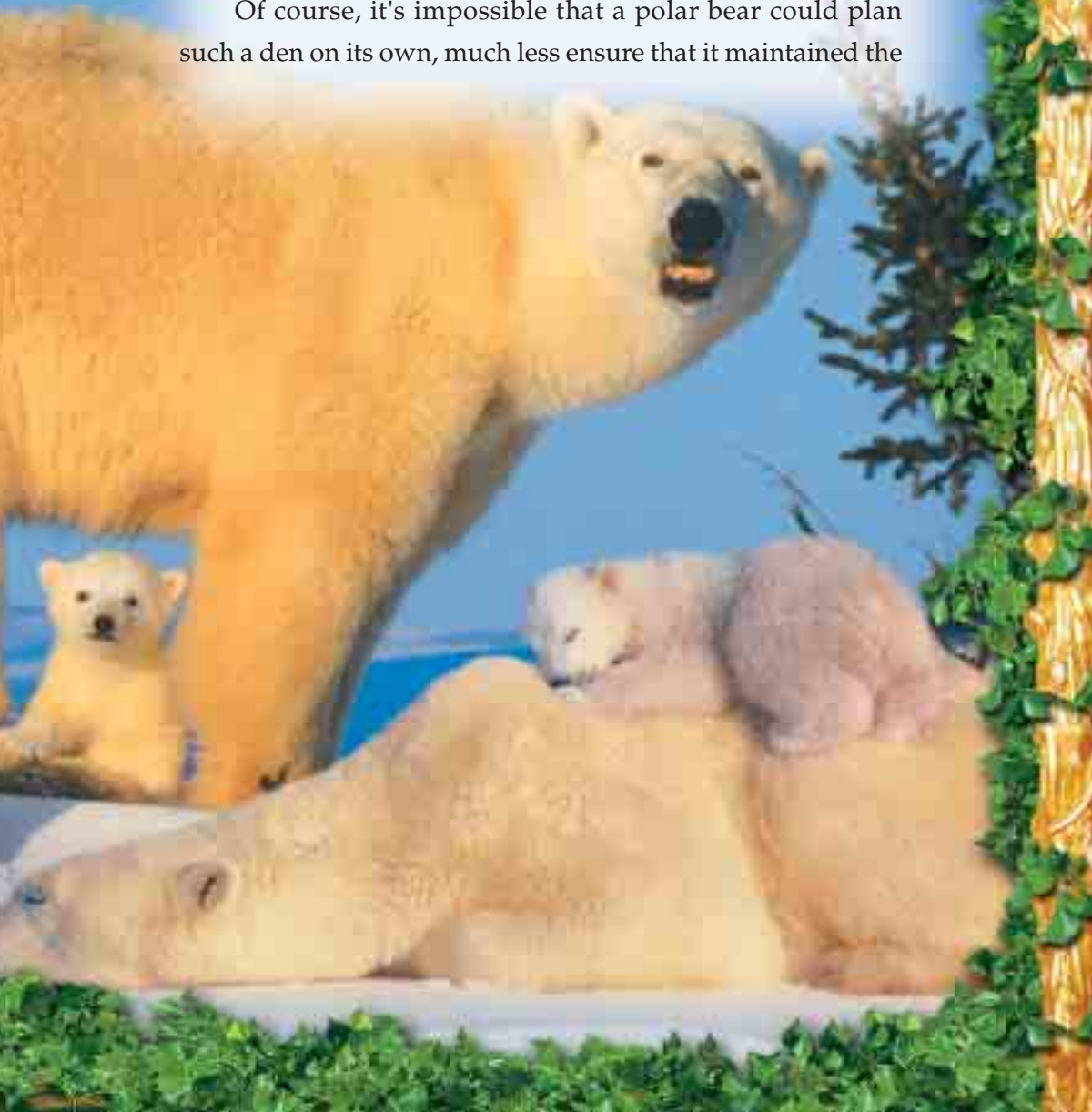


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

feet) thick. Because of this special construction design, heat is retained.¹⁸

A researcher once put a heat-sensing device in the roof of a den, with some very interesting results. When the temperature outside fell to as much as -30°C (-22°F), the air in the den never went below 2 or 3°C (36 - 37°F).

Of course, it's impossible that a polar bear could plan such a den on its own, much less ensure that it maintained the



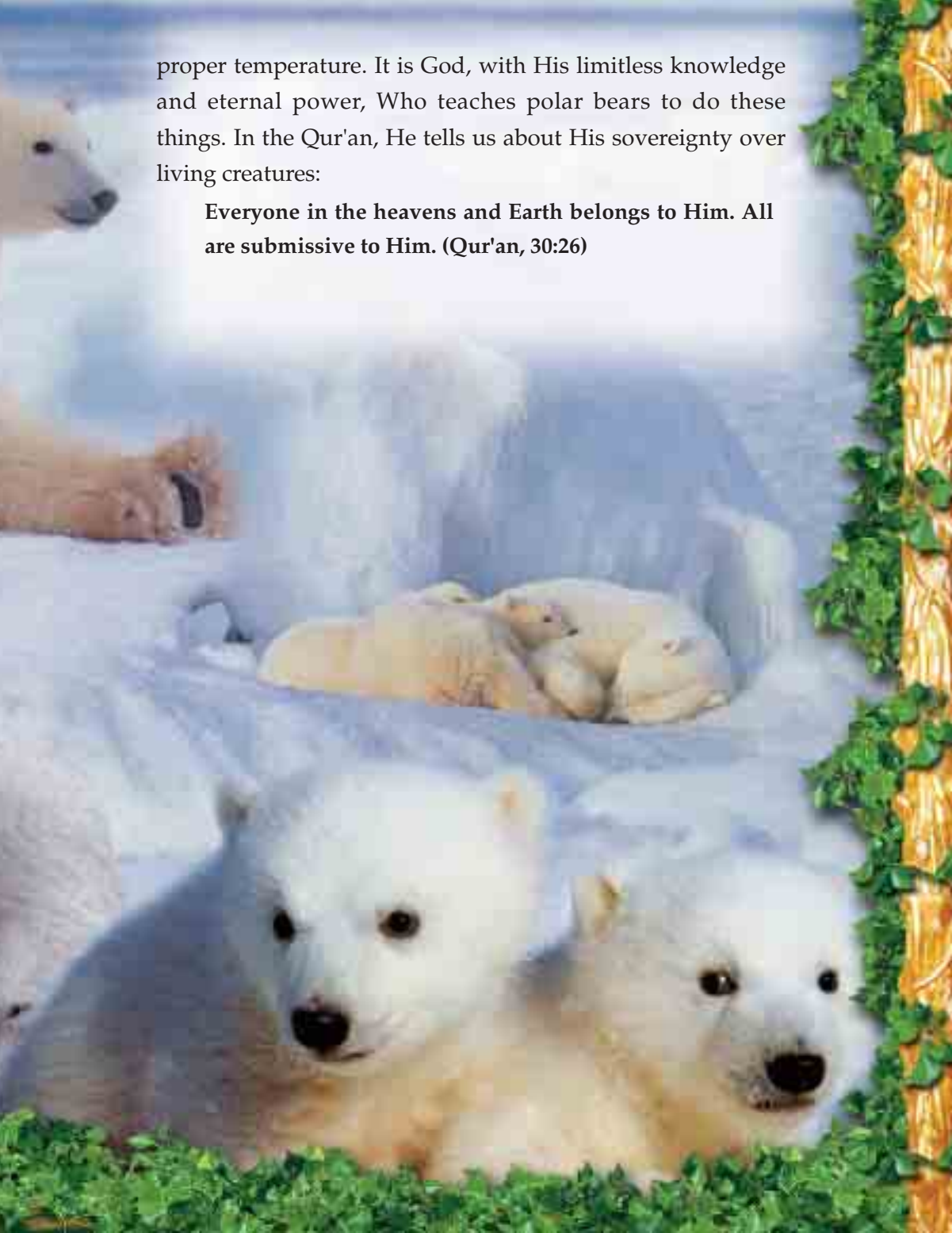
God's Gentle Ministry

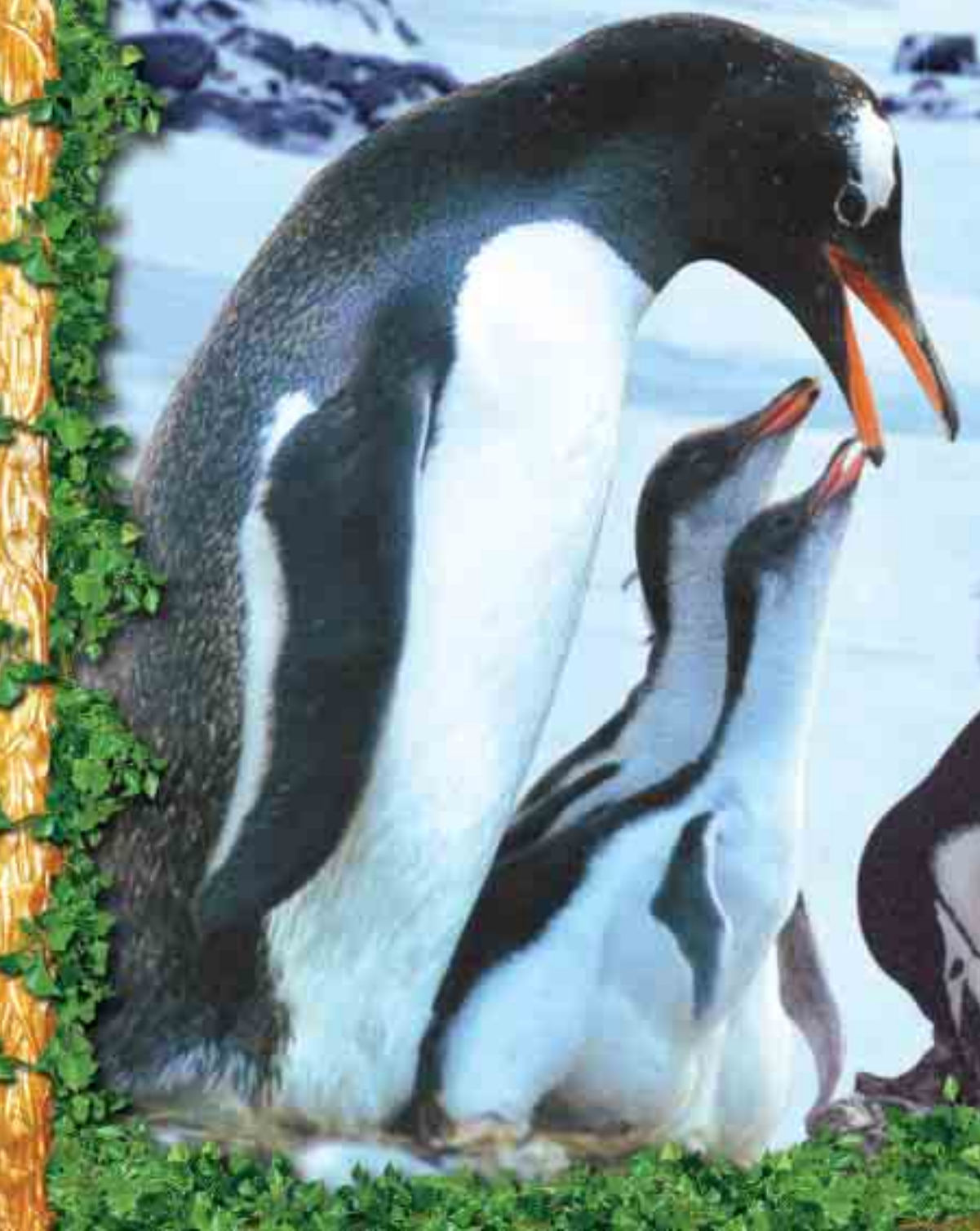


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

proper temperature. It is God, with His limitless knowledge and eternal power, Who teaches polar bears to do these things. In the Qur'an, He tells us about His sovereignty over living creatures:

Everyone in the heavens and Earth belongs to Him. All are submissive to Him. (Qur'an, 30:26)



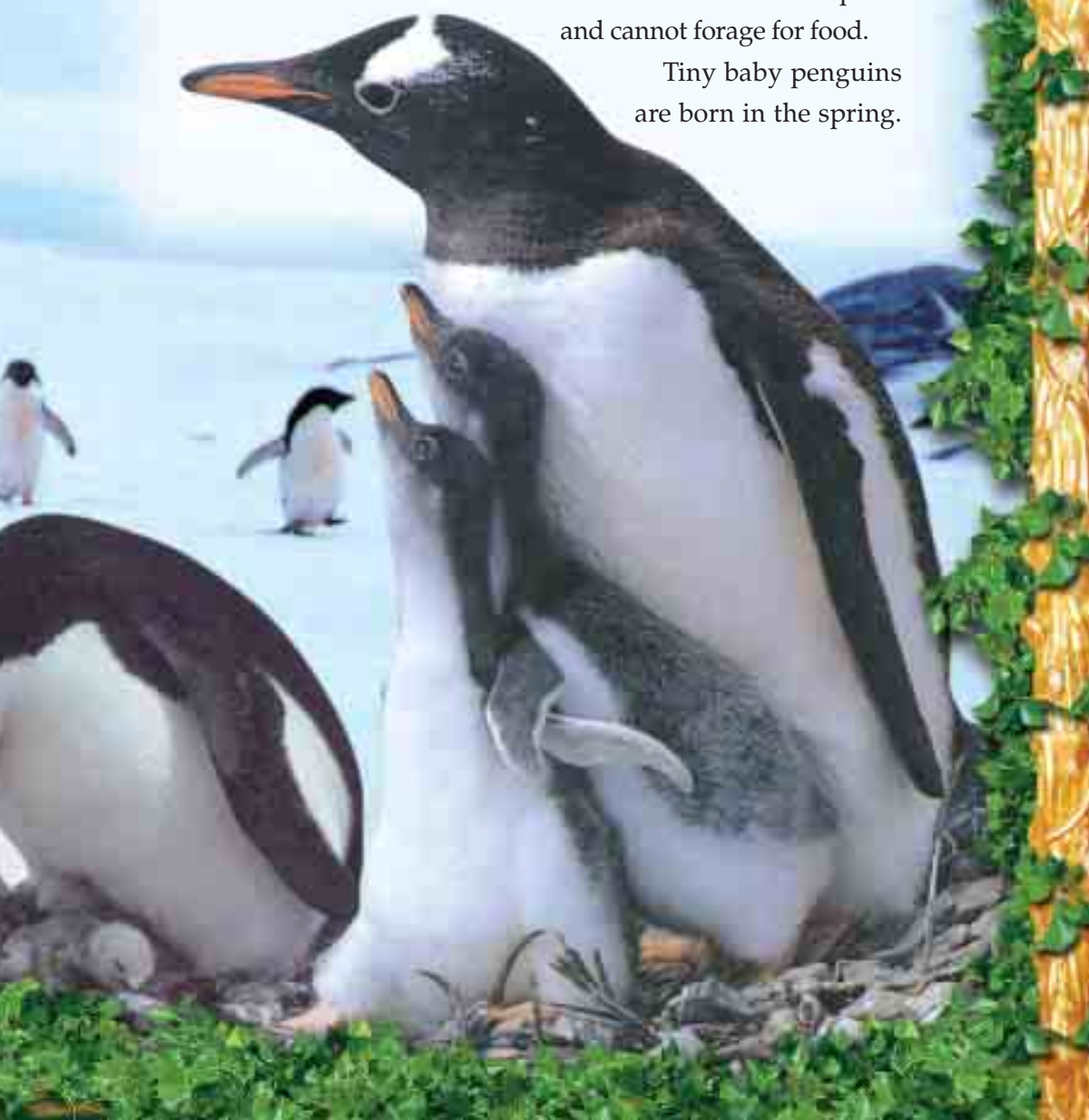
God's Gentle Feeding

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Shortly after mother penguins lay their eggs, winter comes. The females leave their nests to the male penguins and go back to the sea in search of food. In order to keep her egg from freezing, the father penguin carries it on the tops of his feet. His thick feathers will protect the egg from the cold.

This is a very difficult period for male penguins, since they must remain in the exact same place and cannot forage for food.

Tiny baby penguins are born in the spring.



God's Gentle Artistry

They have not yet developed the layer of fat that will protect them from the cold, so they remain on the top of their fathers' feet. Their first food is the gruel that their fathers have stored in their craw. Although the father penguin has not eaten in three months, he performs a great act of self-sacrifice by not swallowing the food stored in his craw, but keeps it for his offspring.

At exactly this time, the mother penguins return from the sea. They have not been idle for those three months, but have been hunting continually and bring back a store of food in their craws for their babies after they hatch. And as soon as they return and feed their young, they return to the sea again—this time, to hunt



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

for the fathers who have been without nourishment for four months now.¹⁹

Why a penguin would remain without food for four months and endure the cold for four months for the sake of its young? Proponents of the theory of evolution cannot explain it. Who inspires all penguins to perform such great acts of self-sacrifice? Who makes the males shelter their young on their feet for four months? To these questions, there is only one answer: God has created penguins. He has taught them all to perform these extraordinary acts of self-sacrifice in order to perpetuate their species.



God's Gentle Artistry

The females of the musk ox, which lives in Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland, give birth to their young in May. Within one hour after its birth, baby musk oxen can stand up and follow their mothers around.

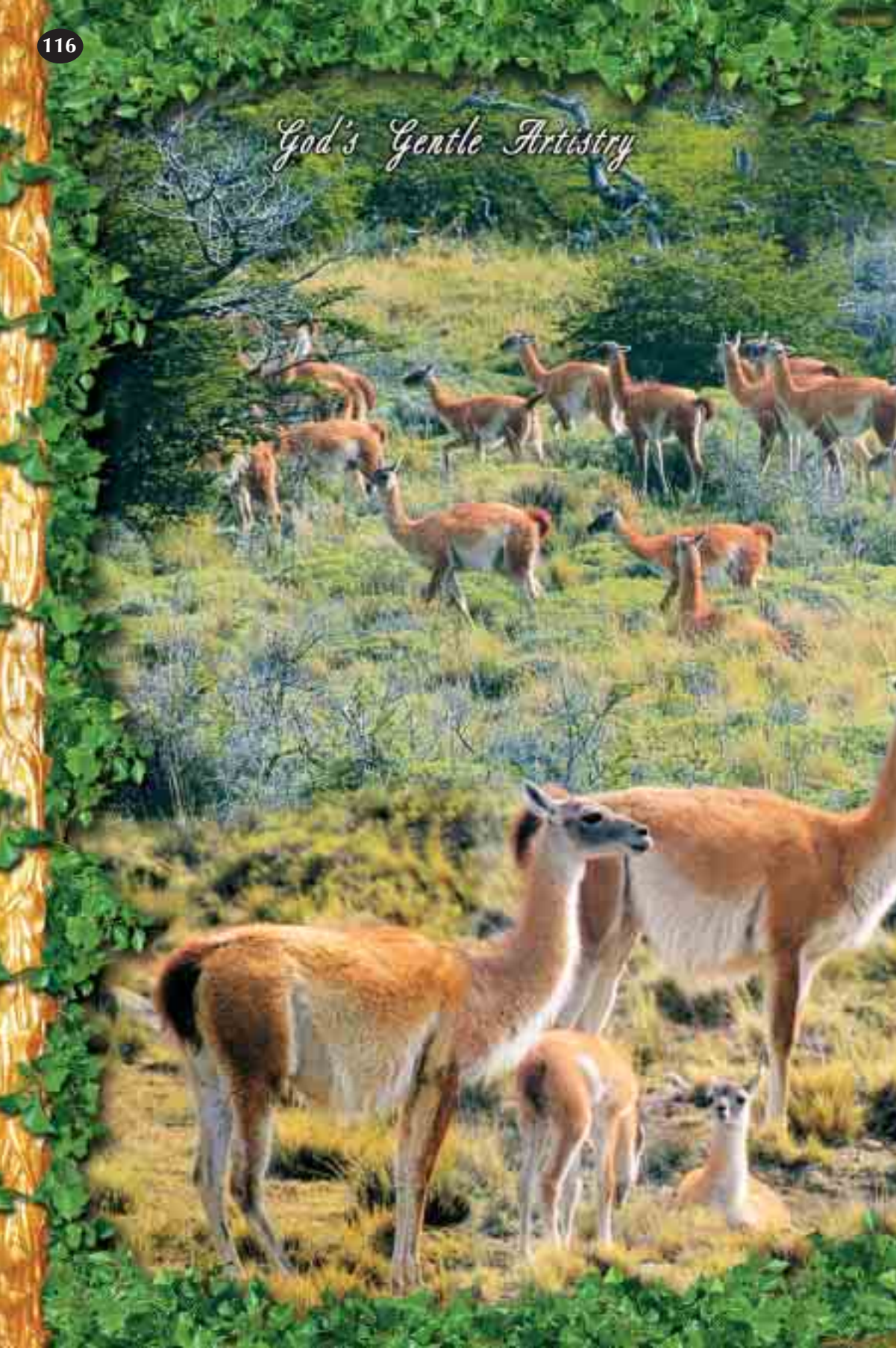
When they encounter an enemy, musk oxen face the aggressor, form a circle and push the young inside it. Each adult musk ox weighs between 350 and 400 kilograms (772 and 882 pounds), and by standing shoulder to shoulder, they form a veritable shield between their babies and any enemy. Every



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

individual making up the circle will attack the enemy and return again to the circle so that it is not broken and the young remain protected. Evolutionists, who claim that nature is rife with cruelty and aggression, cannot explain this self-sacrificial behavior of musk oxen. There is only one explanation for this self-sacrifice: God, the Lord of all, in His supreme power has inspired in every creature these acts of self-sacrifice and extraordinary ways of protecting their young.²⁰



God's Gentle Artistry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

And in your creation and all the
creatures He has spread about
there are Signs for people
with certainty.
(Qur'an, 45:4)



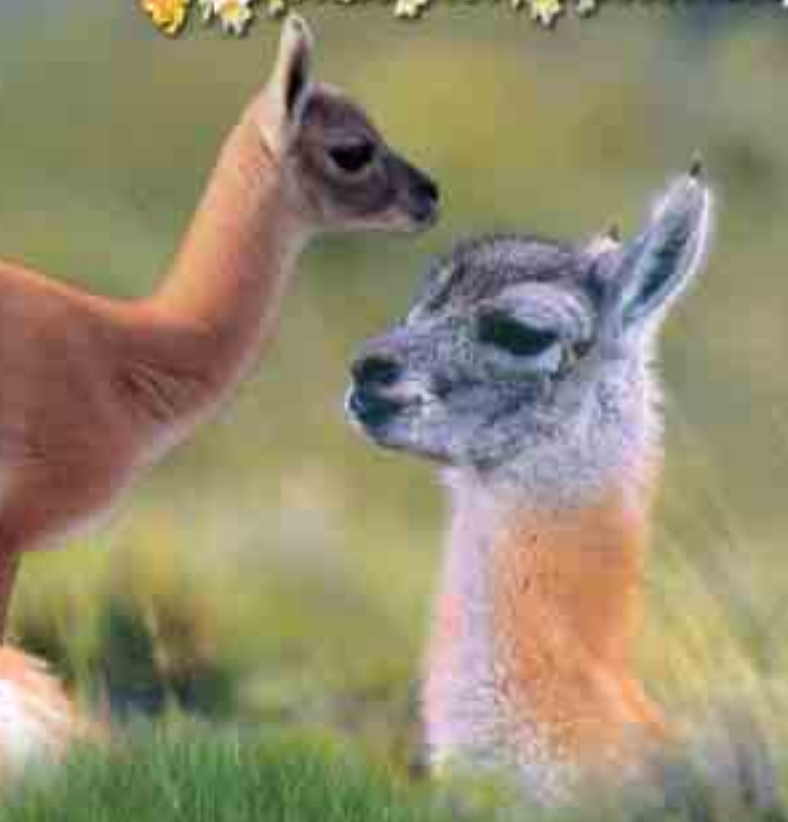
God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

We have not created the heavens and Earth and everything between them except with truth and for a set term. But those who disbelieve turn away from what they have been warned about.

(Qur'an, 46:3)



God's Gentle Artistry

Truly God, He is the Provider, the
Possessor of Strength, the Sure.

(Qur'an, 51:58)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

That is because God
is the Real...
(Qur'an, 22:6)



God's Gentle Artistry

Truly Allah is beautiful and
He loves beauty.

(Sahih Muslim)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Nursery

All mammal babies spend a period of time in their mother's womb, and when they come into the world, not all are fully developed. A newborn kangaroo is no bigger than a bean, and its legs have only just begun to develop. When first born, baby kangaroos are blind. For this reason, the mother kangaroo's furry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

pouch is a very important place of security for the babies. This pouch expands as the baby grows and there are special muscles at its entrance that prevents the babies from falling out. When the mother goes into the water, these muscles prevent it from entering the pouch.²¹



God's Gentle Artistry

The kangaroo's milk is exactly what her baby needs. Over time, as the baby grows, the proportion of fat and other nutrients in the composition of the milk changes.

When the first baby is born and begins to nurse a second baby kangaroo is born immediately afterwards, and it too receives precisely the kind of milk that it can digest most easily. Then when her third baby is born, the mother begins producing three different kinds of milk, each with different nutrients! Each baby can easily locate the milk especially prepared for it; there is no confusion. Clearly this feeding system is the result of a special creation. No mother kangaroo could possibly organize this system consciously.²²

How is it that these three different kinds of milk are delivered through three different ducts? How can an animal unknow-



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

ingly calculate the compositions of the milk needed by its three different-sized babies? Even if it could, how could it produce it in its own body?

Certainly, no kangaroo can perform any of this on its own; she does not even realize that her body produces three different kinds of milk. This extraordinary production is due to the wonder in God's creation of the kangaroos:

... No female becomes pregnant or gives birth except with His knowledge. And no living thing lives long or has its life cut short without that being in a Book. That is easy for God. (Qur'an, 35:11)



God's Gentle Artistry

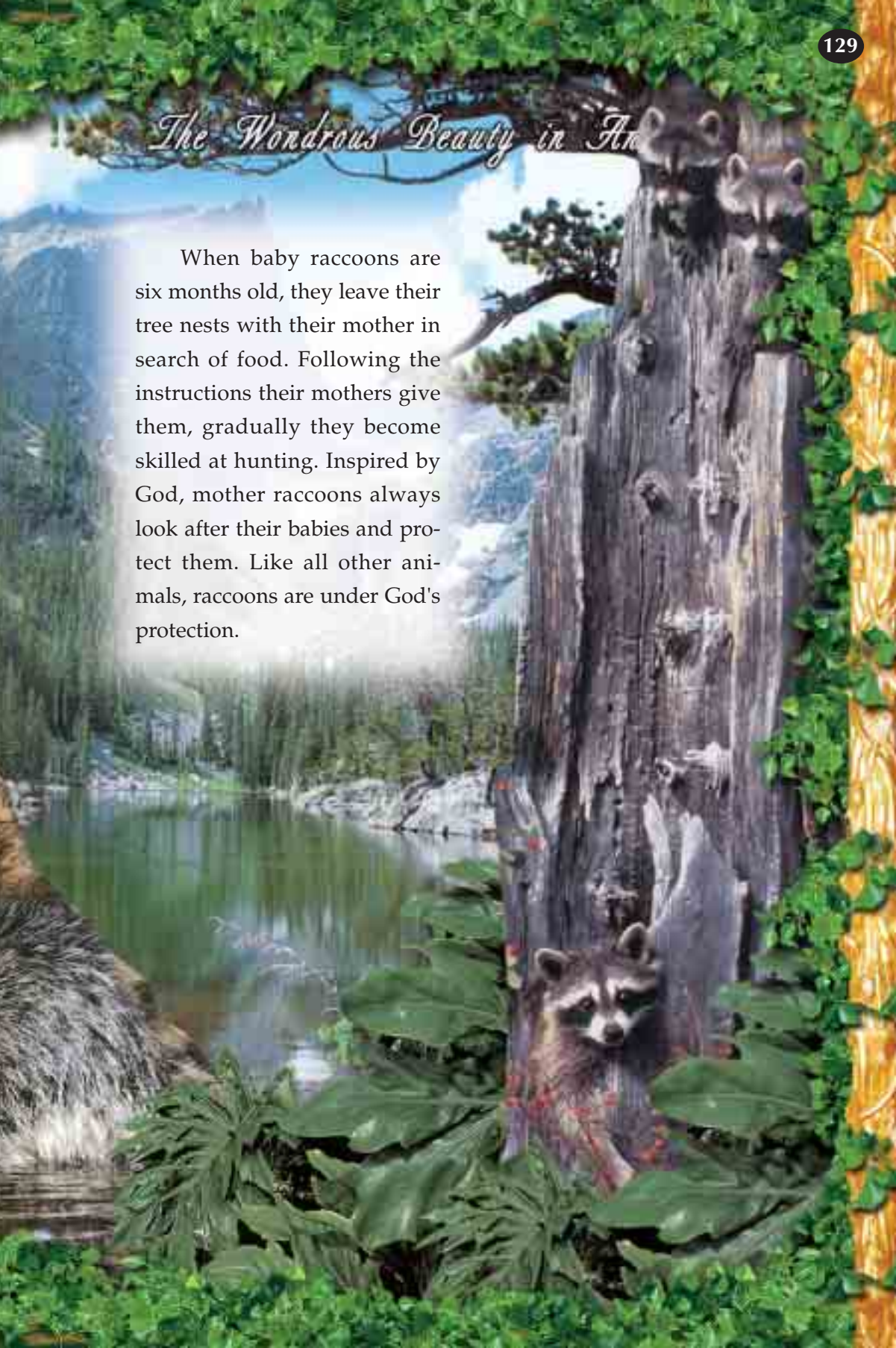
Say: "In whose hand is the dominion over everything, He Who gives protection and from whom no protection can be given, if you have any knowledge?"

(Qur'an, 23:88)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

When baby raccoons are six months old, they leave their tree nests with their mother in search of food. Following the instructions their mothers give them, gradually they become skilled at hunting. Inspired by God, mother raccoons always look after their babies and protect them. Like all other animals, raccoons are under God's protection.



God's Gentle Artistry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

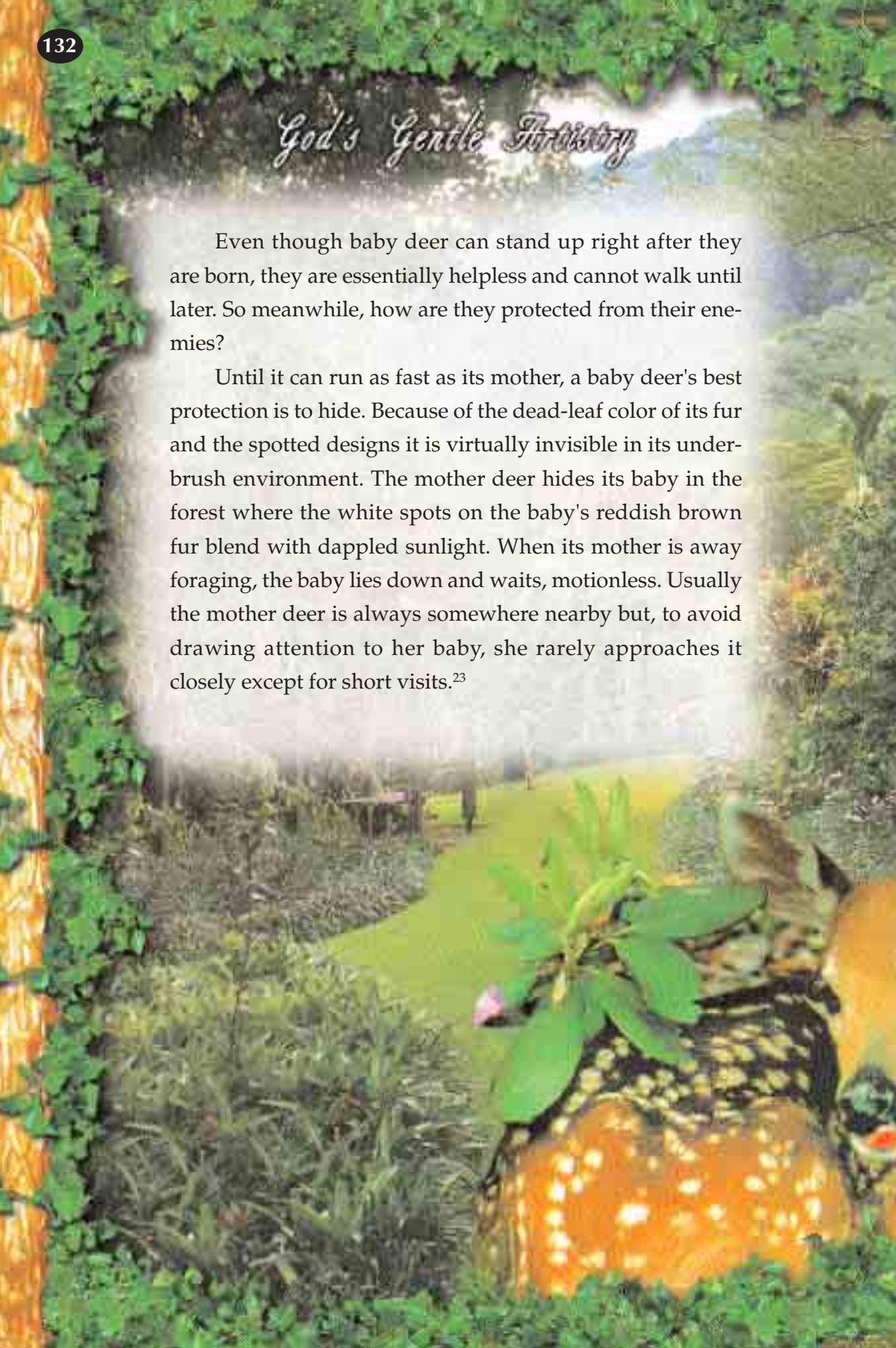
He is Lord of the heavens and the
Earth and everything in between
them... (Qur'an, 19:65)



God's Gentle Nursery

Even though baby deer can stand up right after they are born, they are essentially helpless and cannot walk until later. So meanwhile, how are they protected from their enemies?

Until it can run as fast as its mother, a baby deer's best protection is to hide. Because of the dead-leaf color of its fur and the spotted designs it is virtually invisible in its underbrush environment. The mother deer hides its baby in the forest where the white spots on the baby's reddish brown fur blend with dappled sunlight. When its mother is away foraging, the baby lies down and waits, motionless. Usually the mother deer is always somewhere nearby but, to avoid drawing attention to her baby, she rarely approaches it closely except for short visits.²³

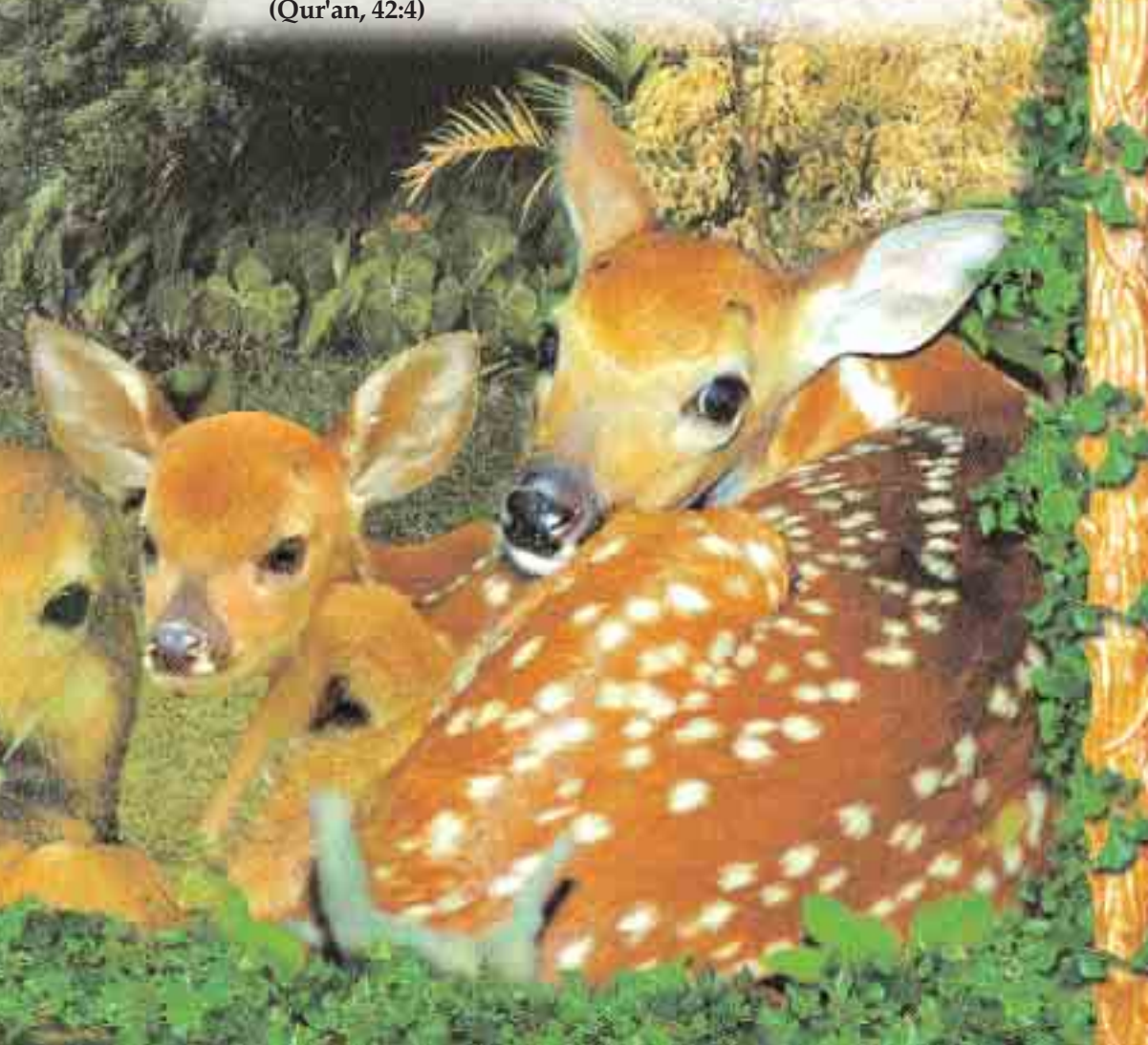


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

How does the baby deer know that it must hide to protect itself? How does it know that the spots of its fur will blend with the overhanging vegetation and that enemies will not perceive it if it stays completely still?

Surely, the baby cannot know these things by itself. These features and behavior are inspired in it by Almighty God, Who knows all creatures' needs and protects them:

**Everything in the heavens and everything in the Earth belongs to Him. He is the Most High, the Magnificent.
(Qur'an, 42:4)**



God's Gentle Artistry

Say: "Who is the Lord of the heavens and the Earth?" Say: "God." Say: "So why have you taken protectors apart from Him who possess no power to help or harm themselves?" Say: "Are the blind and seeing equal?..



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

... Or are darkness and light the same? Or have they assigned partners to God who create as He creates, so that all creating seems the same to them?" Say: "God is the Creator of everything. He is the One, the All-Conquering." (Qur'an, 13:16)



God's Gentle Artistry

What is in the heavens and in the Earth belongs to God. God suffices as a Guardian. (Qur'an, 4:132)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Say: "Have you thought about your partner gods, those you call upon besides God? Show me what they have created of the Earth..."

(Qur'an, 35:40)

God's Gentle Artistry

Do not set up another god together
with God. Truly I bring you a
clear warning from Him.

(Qur'an, 51:51)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

The Unseen of the heavens and the Earth belongs to God and the whole affair will be returned to Him. So worship Him and put your trust in Him...

(Qur'an, 11:123)



God's Gentle Artistry

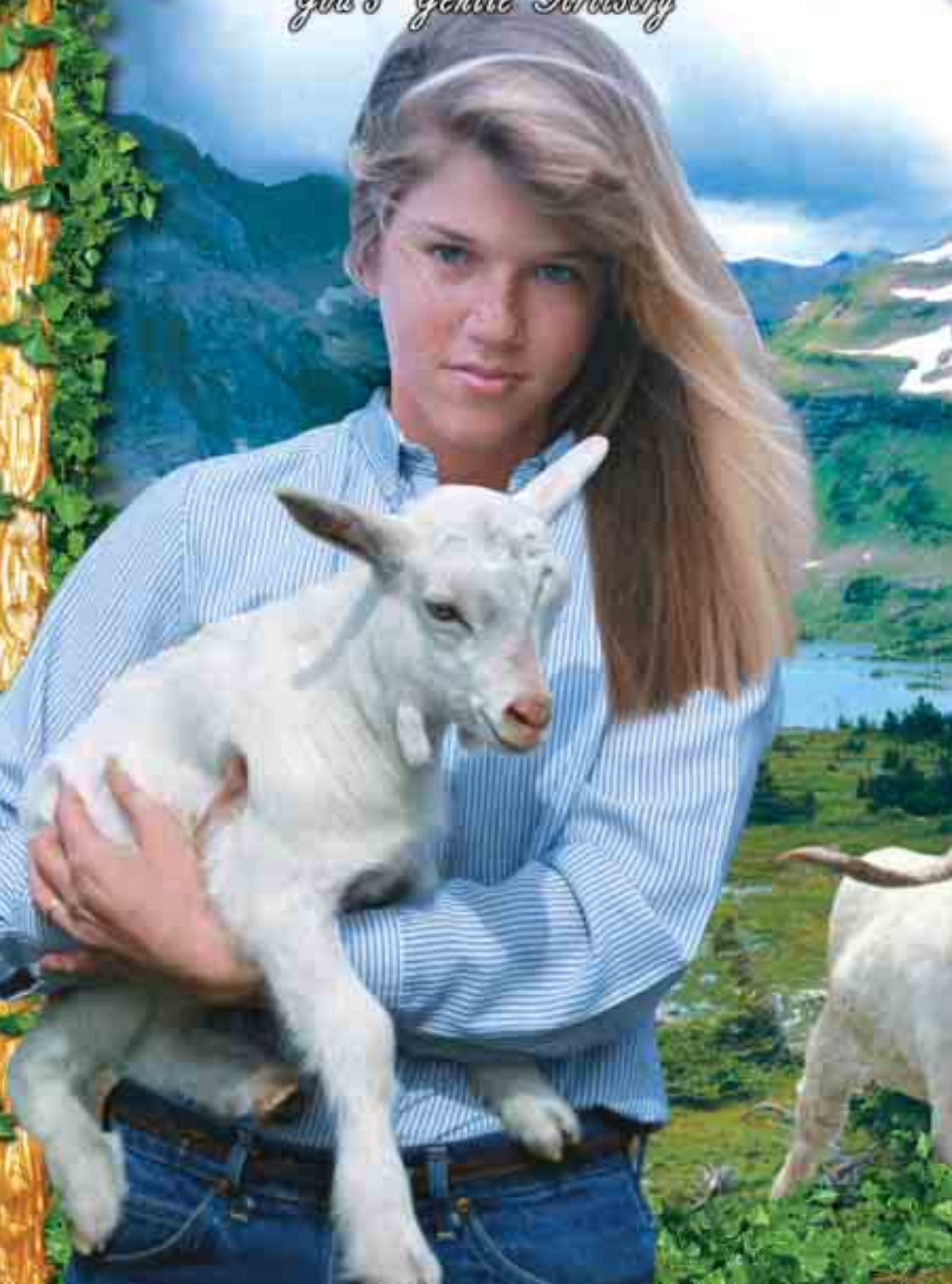


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

... He knows everything in the
land and sea. No leaf falls
without His knowing it...

(Qur'an, 6:59)



God's Gentle Ministry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Shortly after birth, baby mountain goats must move on and follow their mothers, or they will remain unprotected. God has created every creature with perfection and has given it all the special characteristics it may require.

When baby mountain goats are born, they can hear and see. Their hair has already grown long enough to protect them against the cold, and they start to climb steep slopes with their mothers soon after they are born.²⁴



God's Gentle Artistry

Wolves are thought of as one of the most savage animals in the natural world, yet both parents look after their babies together. A basic wolf pack comprises an alpha male, a female, newborn cubs and sometimes one or two young wolves. Females in the pack assist each other. Sometimes, one will stay in the den all night to look after the pups, which allows their mothers to go hunting.

This mutual assistance among wolves shows the self-sacrifice of which animals are capable and gives the lie to evolutionists who claim that animals are merely selfish.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

He is God—the Creator,
the Maker, the Giver of Form...
(Qur'an, 59:24)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Mankind! Remember God's blessing to you. Is there any creator other than God providing for you from heaven and Earth? There is no god but Him. So how have you been led astray?

(Qur'an, 35:3)



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

And mankind and beasts and livestock are likewise of varying colors. Only those of His servants with knowledge have fear of God...
(Qur'an, 35:28)



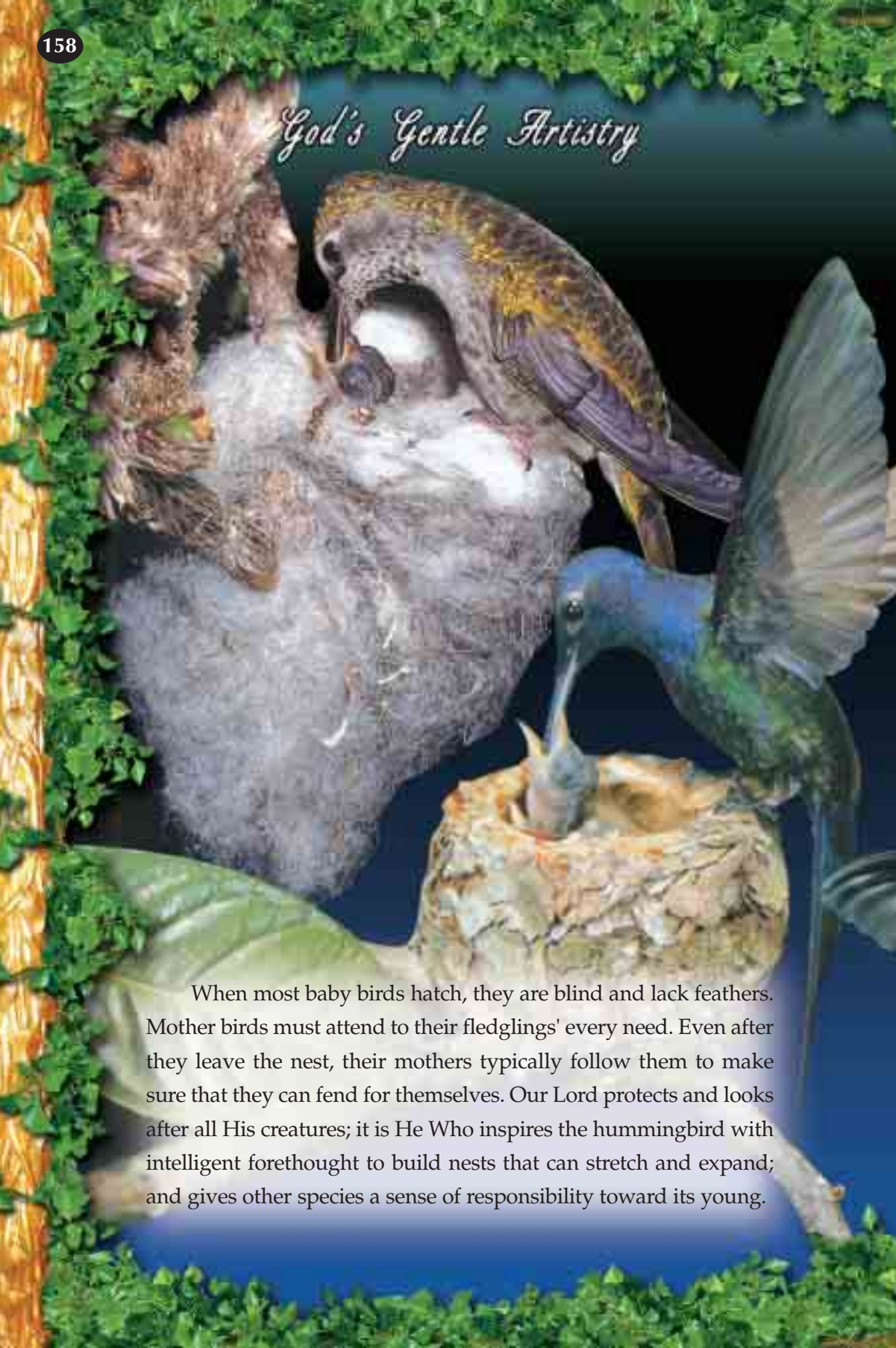
A photograph of a hummingbird sitting on its nest, which is built into a tree branch and surrounded by lush green foliage. The nest is made of twigs and moss. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow. The title "God's Gentle Artistry" is written in a cursive font at the top of the image.

God's Gentle Artistry

A hummingbird's nest is about half the size of a golf ball, but one of its most striking features is that as the babies grow, the nest expands automatically. This is because the parent hummers weave together tree bark, moss and plant stems with very strong, pliable spiders' webs. How can these tiny birds know to choose such an ideally useful material for the construction of their nests? Like every creature on Earth, hummingbirds act by God's inspiration and, with this God-given intelligence and foresight, are able to make their babies comfortable.

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle ArtistryA composite image featuring three scenes of bird care. In the upper left, a fluffy, downy chick is nestled in a cup-shaped nest. In the center, a hummingbird is perched on a nest, feeding a small chick with its beak. In the lower right, a vibrant blue and green hummingbird is shown in flight, its wings spread wide. The background is a dark blue gradient, framed by green foliage and a wooden-textured border on the left.

When most baby birds hatch, they are blind and lack feathers. Mother birds must attend to their fledglings' every need. Even after they leave the nest, their mothers typically follow them to make sure that they can fend for themselves. Our Lord protects and looks after all His creatures; it is He Who inspires the hummingbird with intelligent forethought to build nests that can stretch and expand; and gives other species a sense of responsibility toward its young.

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Everything in the heavens and everything on the Earth and everything in between them and everything under the ground belongs to Him.

(Qur'an, 20:6)



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Do they not see the birds suspended in mid-air up in the sky? Nothing holds them there except God. There are certainly Signs in that for people who believe.
(Qur'an, 16:79)

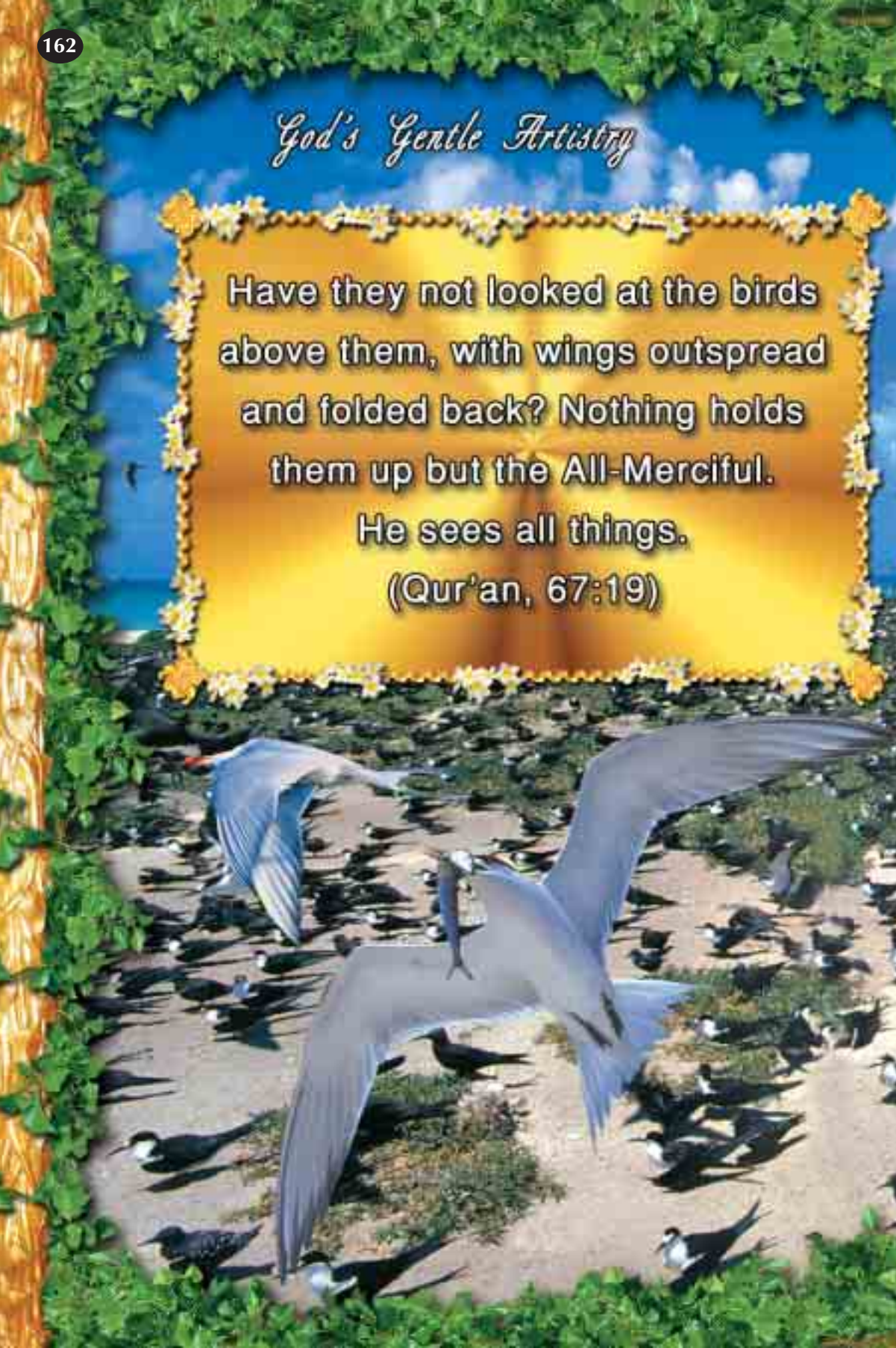


God's Gentle Artistry

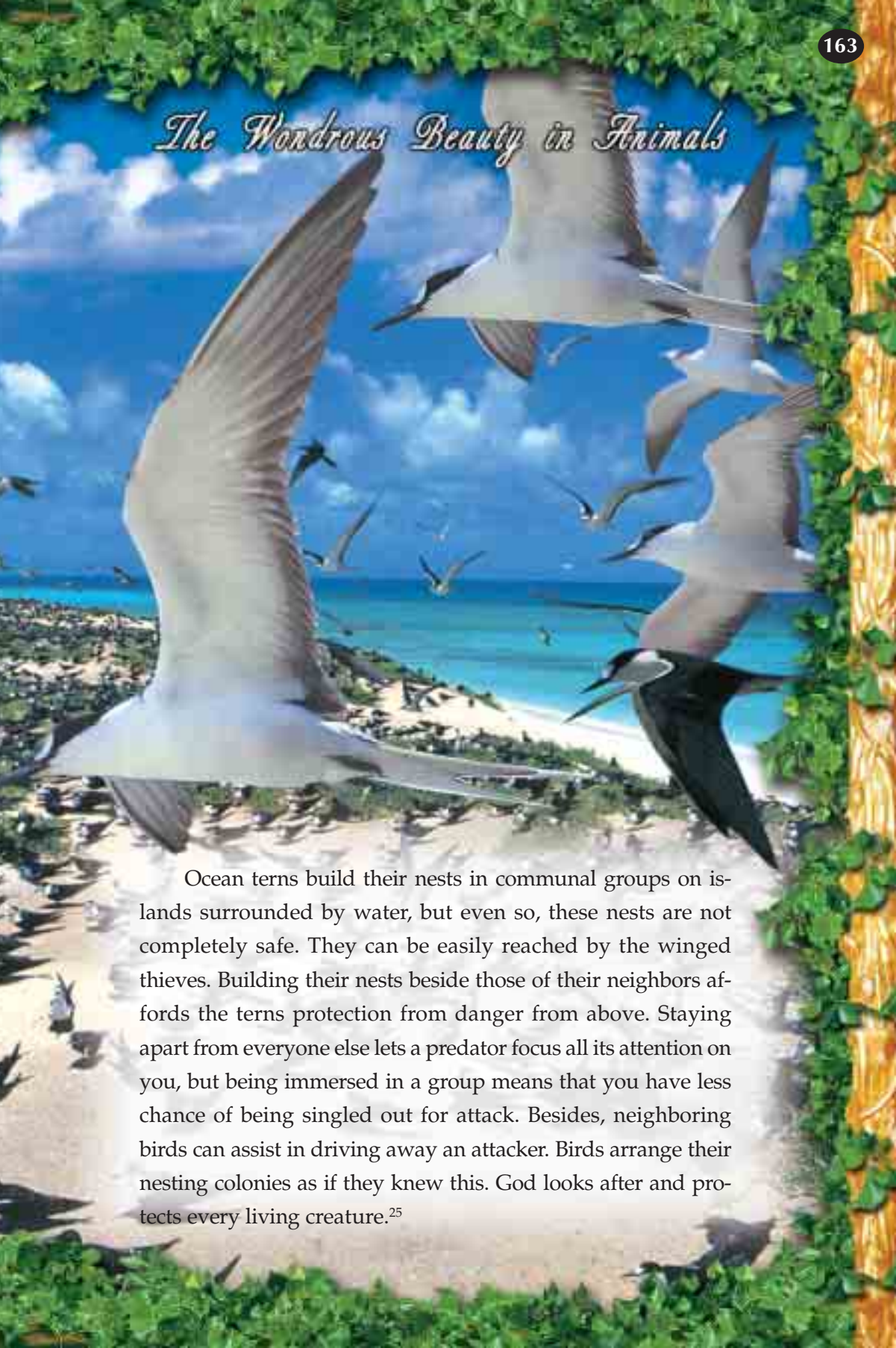
Have they not looked at the birds
above them, with wings outspread
and folded back? Nothing holds
them up but the All-Merciful.

He sees all things.

(Qur'an, 67:19)



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



Ocean terns build their nests in communal groups on islands surrounded by water, but even so, these nests are not completely safe. They can be easily reached by the winged thieves. Building their nests beside those of their neighbors affords the terns protection from danger from above. Staying apart from everyone else lets a predator focus all its attention on you, but being immersed in a group means that you have less chance of being singled out for attack. Besides, neighboring birds can assist in driving away an attacker. Birds arrange their nesting colonies as if they knew this. God looks after and protects every living creature.²⁵

God's Gentle Artistry

The albatross has the widest wingspan of all birds, reaching 3.5 meters (11.5 feet). These birds take characteristically great care in building nests to protect their eggs and their young. During the mating season, they gather together in colonies—but weeks before the females come, the males arrive to repair already-existing nests.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Albatrosses sit on the eggs in their well prepared nests for 50 days without moving. Like some other species of animals, albatrosses perform great acts of self-sacrifice on behalf of their offspring. God teaches these animals to think about the welfare of their young, to feed and protect them. It is He Who looks after and protects every living creature.

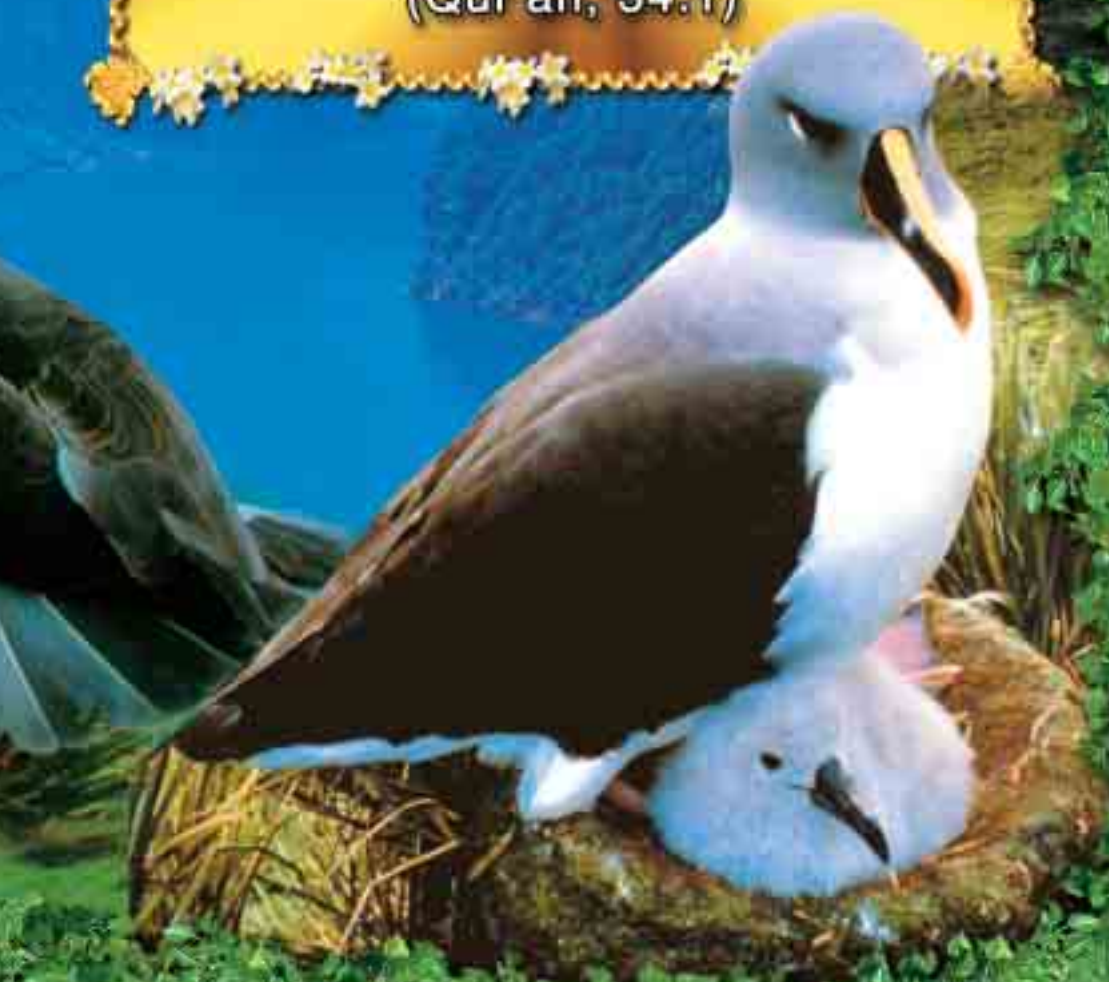


God's Gentle Artistry

The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Praise be to God, to Whom everything in the heavens and everything in the Earth belongs, and praise be to Him in the Hereafter. He is the All-Wise, the All-Aware.

(Qur'an, 34:1)



God's Gentle Artistry

The food and water an embryonic chick needs to develop is present in the egg, whose yoke contains protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. The gelatinous white serves to store a constant supply of water. Besides this, the chick needs to take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide; they also need a source of heat, calcium to develop its bones, and a system to prevent bacterial infection and to protect against physical trauma. The eggshell serves all these purposes.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

The chick absorbs oxygen and releases carbon dioxide through a layer filled with capillaries on the inner surface of the shell membrane. It does not use its lungs to breathe as adult birds do, but exchanges air through small pores in the shell.

But that eggshell nevertheless needs to be strong enough to ensure the proper functioning of gasses, water and heat within it. It needs to be resistant enough to protect the embryo from external trauma and from the weight of the mother as she sits on the nest. But the egg does all these things perfectly. God, Who holds everything in heaven and Earth in His control, gives us such examples to make us aware of His flawless creation.



God's Gentle Artistry

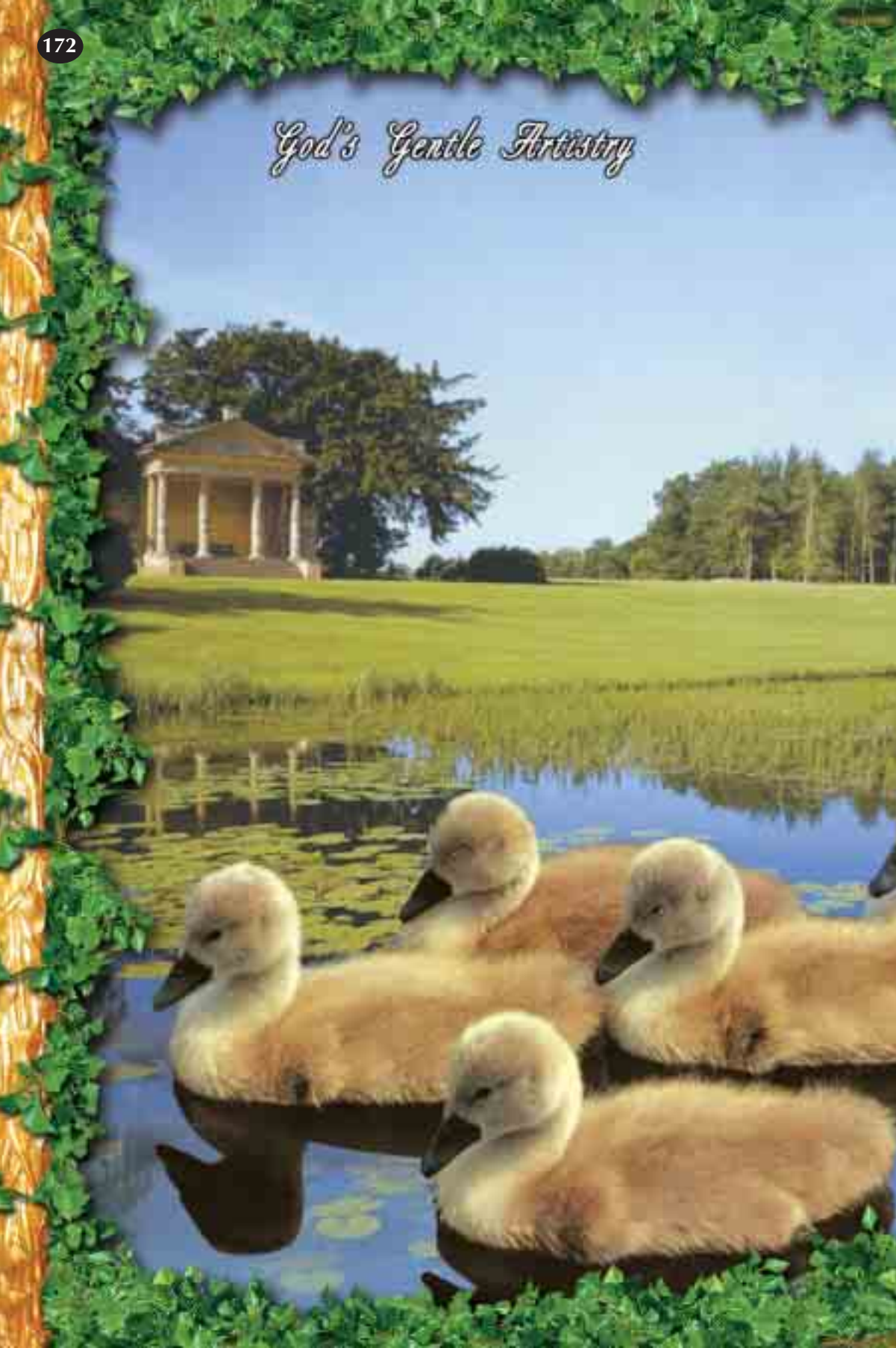


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Have they not seen how We created
for them, by Our own handiwork,
livestock which are under
their control?
(Qur'an, 36:71)



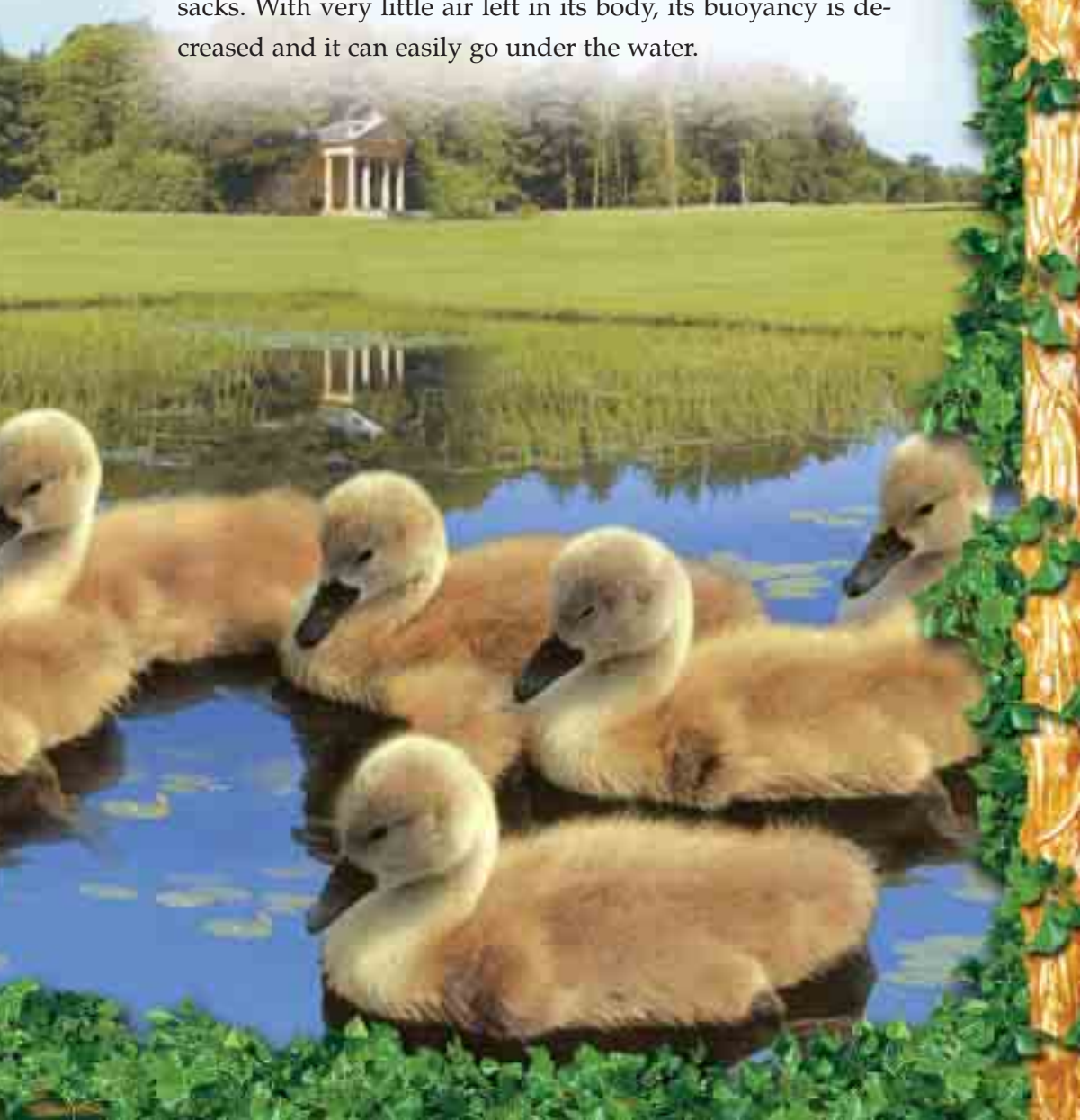
God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Ducks, like all water birds, have hollow bones—one reason why they are able to float on the water. Ducks also have air sacks in their bodies that resemble little balloons. When they fill with air, they help them float on the water.

When a duck wants to dive, it pumps the air out of the sacks. With very little air left in its body, its buoyancy is decreased and it can easily go under the water.



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

Ducks can fly at speeds of more than 50 kilometers (31 miles) an hour. In addition, often they change their direction when flying to avoid falling prey to wild animals. When they want to dive beneath the water, they do it so quickly that they make very difficult targets for hunters.²⁶



God's Gentle Artistry

The babies of diving birds like grebes travel on their mothers' backs when they are swimming on the water's surface. In order to keep them from falling off, the mother spreads her wings out slightly and feeds them by stretching her head back and to one side. When the young are first hatched, the mother and father make them eat feathers they have collected from the water's surface or plucked from their own bodies. Every baby swallows quite a lot of feathers, which are difficult for them to digest, but are not really intended as food.

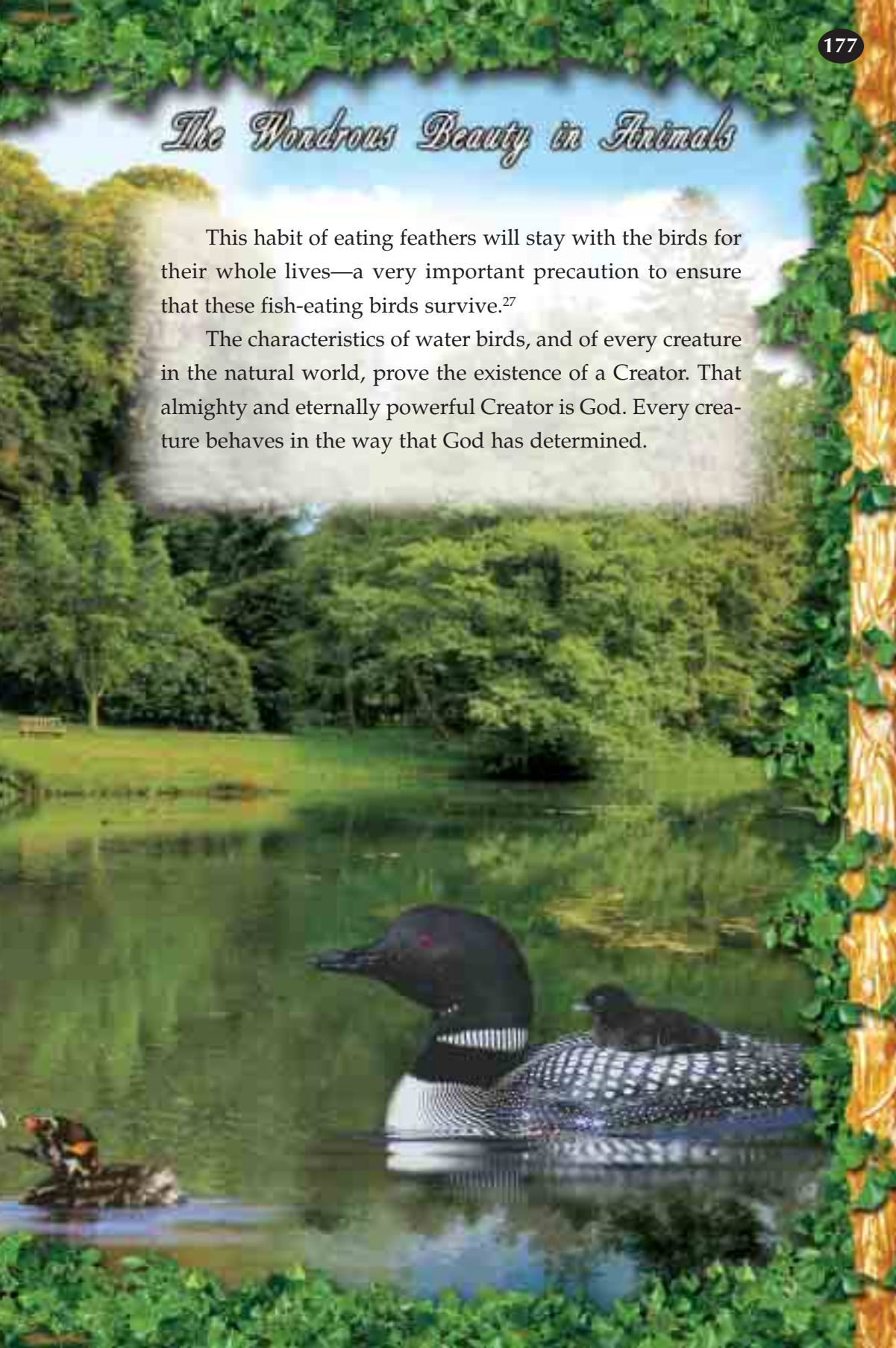
Rather than being digested, these feathers collect in the babies' stomach—for a very important reason. Later on, fish bones and other indigestible bits of food will collect there, and so the feathers prevent injury to the babies' delicate stomachs and digestive systems.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

This habit of eating feathers will stay with the birds for their whole lives—a very important precaution to ensure that these fish-eating birds survive.²⁷

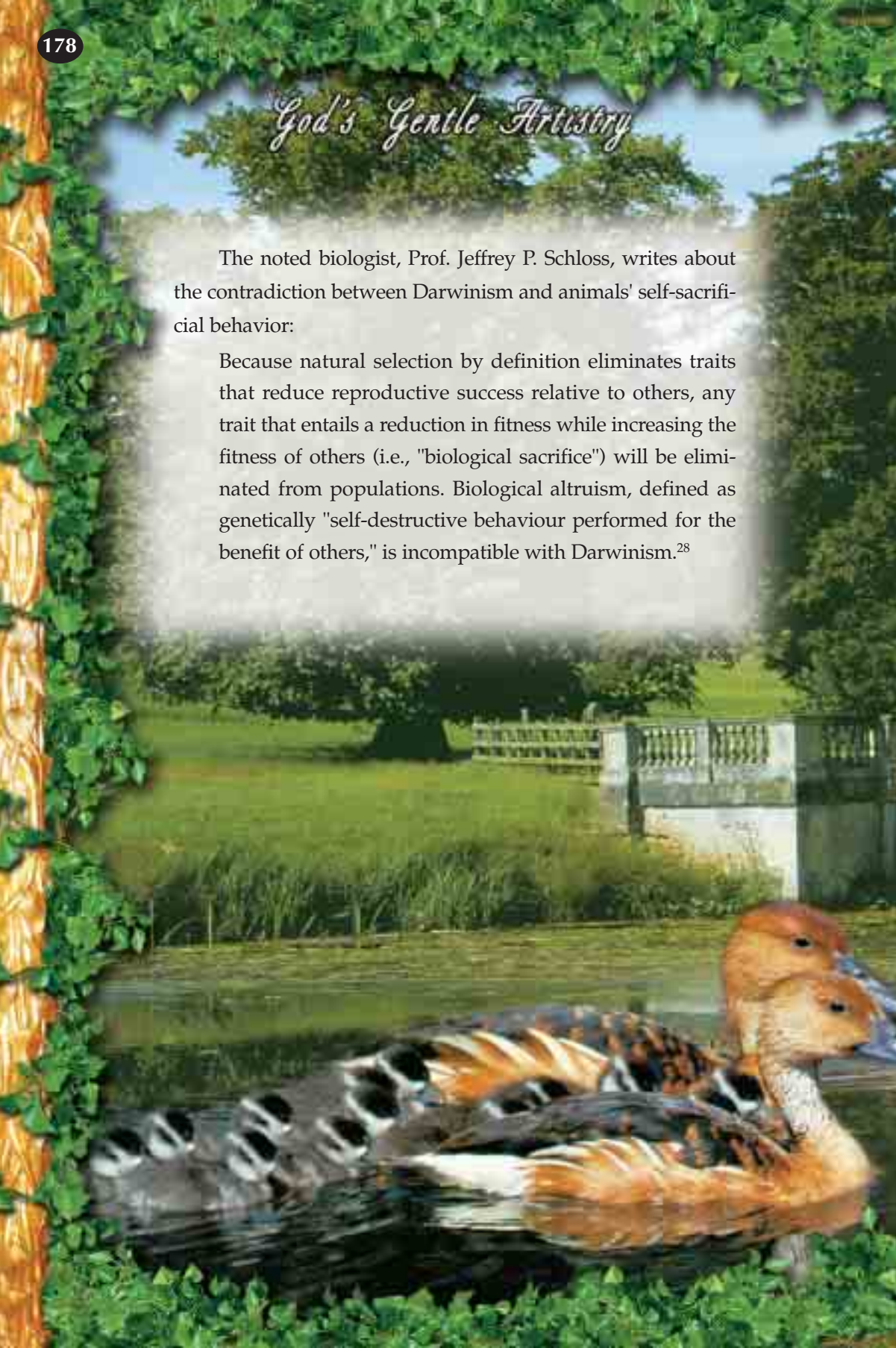
The characteristics of water birds, and of every creature in the natural world, prove the existence of a Creator. That almighty and eternally powerful Creator is God. Every creature behaves in the way that God has determined.



God's Gentle Artistry

The noted biologist, Prof. Jeffrey P. Schloss, writes about the contradiction between Darwinism and animals' self-sacrificial behavior:

Because natural selection by definition eliminates traits that reduce reproductive success relative to others, any trait that entails a reduction in fitness while increasing the fitness of others (i.e., "biological sacrifice") will be eliminated from populations. Biological altruism, defined as genetically "self-destructive behaviour performed for the benefit of others," is incompatible with Darwinism.²⁸



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

God created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. God creates whatever He wills. God has power over all things.

(Qur'an, 24:45)



God's Gentle Artistry

Within hours of their birth, baby cranes can walk well enough, to leave their nest and begin to follow their parents around. Parents and babies use a special sound to communicate with one another. The parents make a soft murmur, but when in danger or trouble, the babies make a more high-pitched sound to which the parents immediately respond.

In the mating season, both parents stay on the ground to guard the spot where they will build their nest. After the female lays her eggs, both parents take turns sitting on the nest throughout the day. But toward the end of the incubation period, this alteration becomes more frequent. In this way, both birds are free to move about and feed themselves.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

The time the eggs hatch corresponds to the time when the insects appear that will be food for the babies. This timing is vitally important for cranes, since they have to migrate before winter comes—and before that time, the young have to grow, develop and gain strength.

These and all other similar features in the life of a crane are the work of God, the All-Powerful Creator.



God's Gentle Artistry

When baby swans are born, they are brown or cream-colored and very ugly. They emerge from their eggs with short necks and covered with thick down, and they can run and swim within a few hours. The mother and father swans look after them for a few months until they finally turn into magnificent adults.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

In order to keep their eggs warm as they develop, Trumpeter swans sit on them. They only get up from time to time to turn the eggs over. In this way, the heat is distributed equally. Surely, it is God Who inspires in swans the kind of care their eggs will need.²⁹



God's Gentle Artistry

Do you not see that everyone in the heavens and Earth glorifies God, as do the birds with their outspread wings? Each one knows its prayer and glorification...

(Qur'an, 24:41)

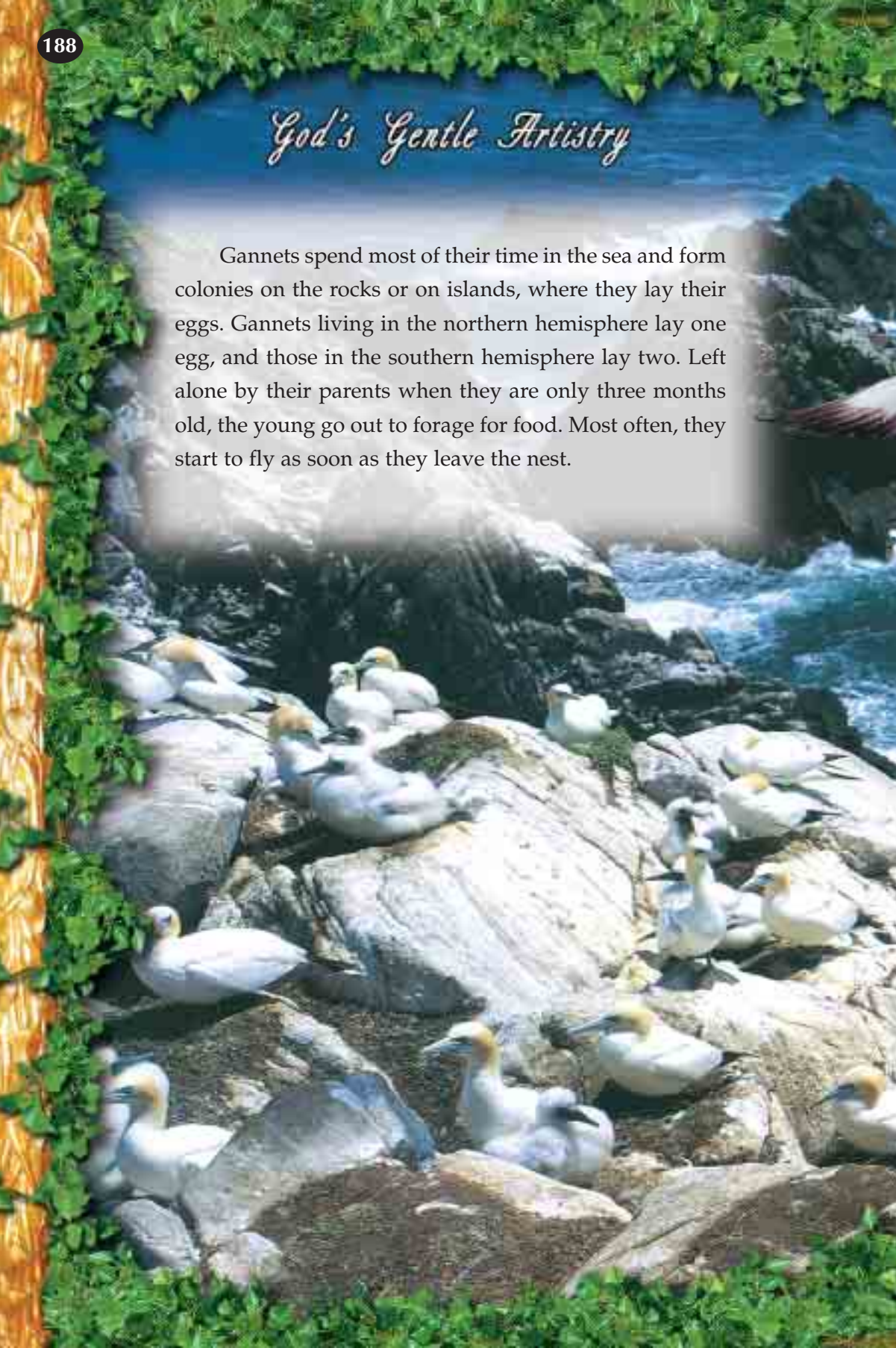


The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

Gannets spend most of their time in the sea and form colonies on the rocks or on islands, where they lay their eggs. Gannets living in the northern hemisphere lay one egg, and those in the southern hemisphere lay two. Left alone by their parents when they are only three months old, the young go out to forage for food. Most often, they start to fly as soon as they leave the nest.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals



God's Gentle Artistry

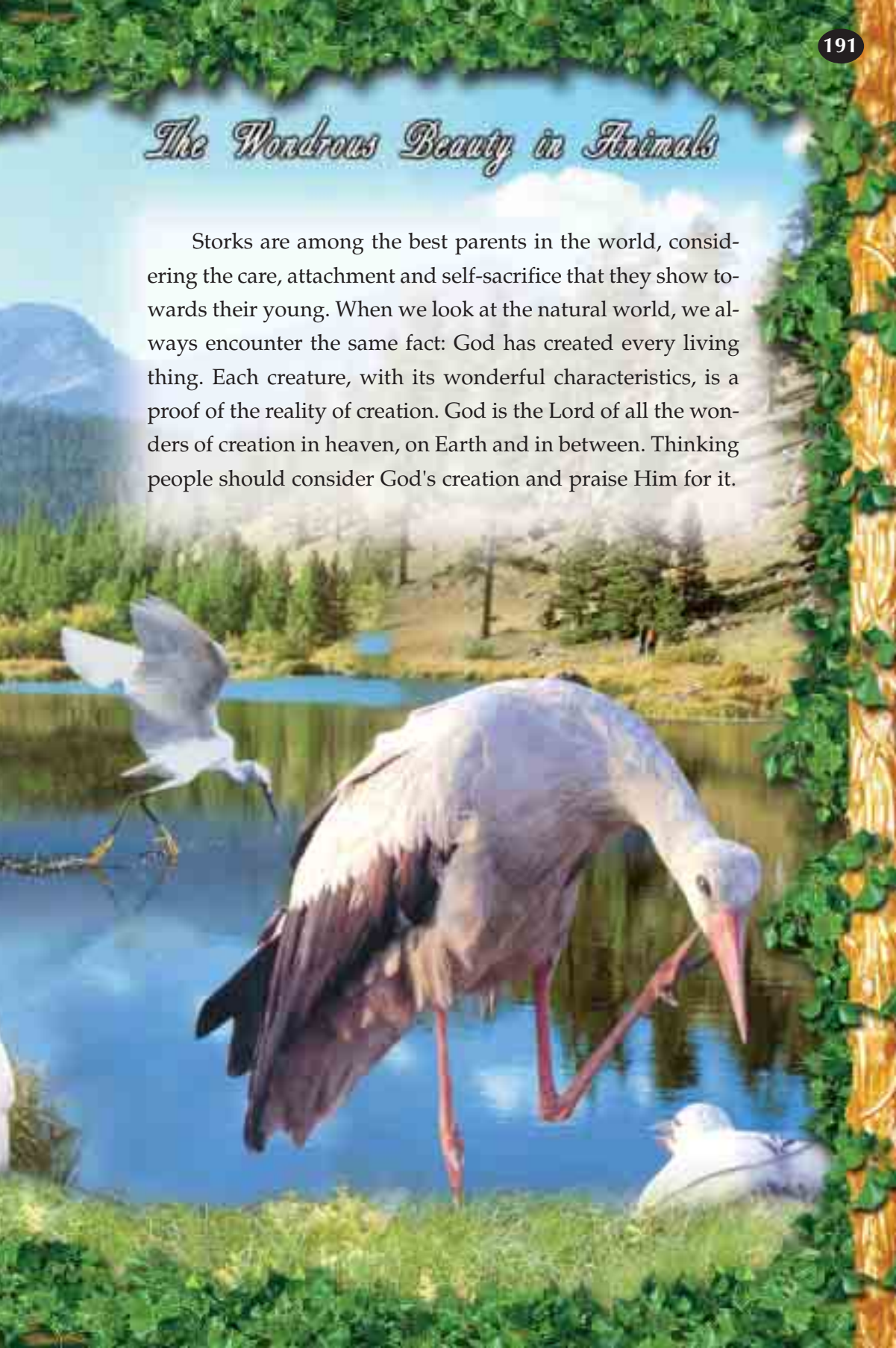
Young storks in the forests of Thailand have a very original way of being protected from the heat. The mother and father bring water in their bills and empty it on the babies whose feathers have not yet grown. This cold shower makes the babies comfortable for a while, but it is not enough. They also need shade.

Again this need is met by the parents' self-sacrifice. They spread open their wings to protect their young against the strong rays of the sun.



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

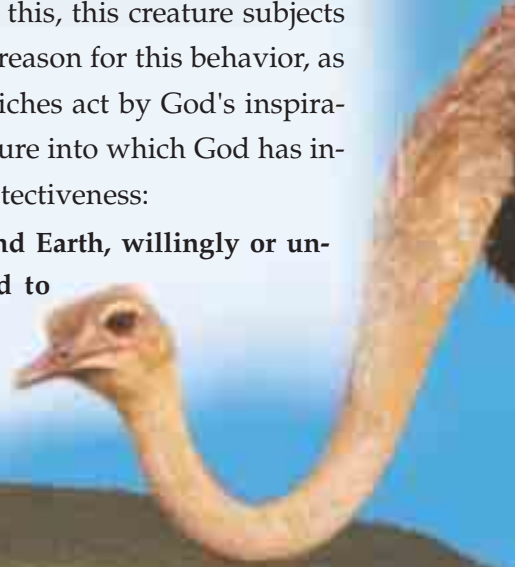
Storks are among the best parents in the world, considering the care, attachment and self-sacrifice that they show towards their young. When we look at the natural world, we always encounter the same fact: God has created every living thing. Each creature, with its wonderful characteristics, is a proof of the reality of creation. God is the Lord of all the wonders of creation in heaven, on Earth and in between. Thinking people should consider God's creation and praise Him for it.



God's Gentle Artistry

For living creatures, Africa's heat can sometimes be fatal. For this reason, many animals look for shady places where they can protect themselves from the direct sun. The ostrich of South Africa thinks about her eggs and her chicks more than herself when she protects them from the heat. She stands over them and often opens her wings so that the sun's heat will not strike her eggs or hatchlings. But in doing this, this creature subjects her own body to the sun's rays. The reason for this behavior, as with other creatures, is because ostriches act by God's inspiration. The ostrich is just another creature into which God has inspired a sense of tenderness and protectiveness:

**... Everything in the heavens and Earth, willingly or unwillingly, submits to Him and to Him you will be returned.
(Qur'an, 3:83)**



The Wondrous Beauty in Animals

