

A Miraculous Rescue of Two Siblings from the Earthquake Rubble in Türkiye

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Dear Dr. Tahirović

An earthquake happens when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another (1). They can range in intensity, from those that are so weak that they can hardly be felt, to those violent enough to propel objects and people into the air, damage critical infrastructure, and wreak destruction across entire cities (2). A massive earthquake struck Türkiye with a magnitude of Mw 7.7 on 6 February 2023. More than 50,000 people died in the earthquake and thousands of people were disabled. Tens of thousands of people, some miraculously, survived the earthquake rubble. Herein, we present a short history of two siblings, who were miraculously rescued from the earthquake rubble to attract attention to the importance of spiritual and religious teachings in medical practice.

While the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency team was working on the earthquake rubble in Kahramanmaraş city 4 days after the earthquake, a mother came to the team. She screamed that her two children are behind the wall in the immediate vicinity of the working area, and that the children were alive. The woman begged the rescue team to save her children. The rescuers broke the wall described by the woman and pulled out two children alive. However, it had been established earlier using thermal cameras that there were no living people under the rubble. The rescue team

searched for the mother to deliver the children to her, but she could not be found. The 13-year-old boy who was pulled out of the rubble said his mother died 4 years ago. Hearing this, the people near the rubble knelt down before the greatness and majesty of Allah and began to offer prayers to Allah (3). In previous years, many people were rescued from the rubble days later in earthquakes that occurred in different regions of Türkiye and other countries such as Haiti, Japan, and India (4-7). However, to the best of our knowledge no event similar to the miraculous rescue of these two siblings has been reported in the world. It is impossible to explain some events in this world such as the miraculous rescue of two siblings, with positivism, a philosophy which states that “the only authentic knowledge is scientific knowledge”, or rationalism, the epistemological view that “any view appealing to reason as a source of knowledge or justification.” There are two realms, the material and the spiritual. The material realm includes the world we live in, the sky, stars, galaxies, that is, the entire visible universe. The spiritual realm is a broad concept that encompasses all the unseen and other worldly realms, such as heaven, hell and the realms of grave and spirits (8). Unfortunately, today, modern science examines only the beings and events in the material world, but ignores those in the spiritual realm.

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Based on the Islamic teachings, we know that verily, news of the living comes to the dead. There is no one who has a relative who has died before, so that the news of their relatives left behind does not come to him. If the news is good, he is happy and relieved; if it is bad, then he also gets sad. Additionally, it is possible for people on earth to meet with deceased people both in the waking state and in the dreams. Allah creates this for His servants whom He wills (9). Our Creator and Fashioner, the All-Powerful One of Beauty, the Peerless All-Wise One, the All-Generous Granter of Favors, has power over all things. Nothing at all is impossible for Him. Nothing at all is outside the bounds of His powers. In relation to His power minute particles and stars are equal. A universal is as simple as a particle (10).

In conclusion, we would like to state that although there were live people under earthquake rubble, thermal cameras gave wrong results. Secondly, today, modern science examines only the beings and events in the material world. It is completely blind to those in the spiritual realm and incapable of explaining plausible supernatural phenomena. Lastly, Allah, who owns everything in the heavens and on the earth, has power over everything. If Allah wills, He can bring the dead in the realm of the grave to this world and let them meet with people.

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