

The Quran on Spider Webs (part 2 of 2)

Description: Another example of social chaos in a spider web " matriphagy. The living oehell" of a spider's home is a reminder of the consequences of polytheism.

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Matriphagy

Yet the most bizarre part of a spider household is what happens when the female spider has reached unprecedented levels of desperation and anxiety and can no longer keep her young alive. Having lost perhaps hundreds of her young and still stuck with several more hundred spiderlings; the mother, astonishingly, sacrifices her own body as food for her young by unleashing their killer instinct that makes them attack and eat her alive! This cruel process is known as matriphagy or "mother eating".[\[1\]](#)



Female Stegodyphus lineatus Spider being eaten alive by her own young " Credit: Jorge Almeida

What is known, so far, is that matriphagy is a process initiated by the female spider and that its methods vary from one species to another. Venomous spiderlings even poison their own mother to death; but in all cases matriphagy is a slow and painful process that takes weeks before the mother spider actually dies as her body fluids are eventually consumed by her own young.[\[2\]](#)

Such a process has been observed and documented in ground spiders, the Stegodyphus lineatus spider