

# Proverbs 30:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

## Analysis

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**The spider taketh hold with her hands** (שְׁמָמִית בְּיָדִים תְּמַפֵּשׁ, semamit beyadayim tetappes)—(semamit, 'spider' or possibly 'lizard') (tafas, 'grasps, seizes, takes hold') with יָדִים (yadayim, 'hands'). The creature uses its 'hands' (legs) skillfully to weave or climb.

**And is in kings' palaces** (וְהִיא בַּהֲיכָל מֶלֶךְ) (vehi beheikhlei melekh)—yet she is found in **hekhel**, 'palace, temple' of **melekh**, 'king'). Despite being catchable by hand, small and vulnerable, the spider (or lizard) inhabits the highest places. The lesson: persistence and skill, not size or strength, open doors. Spiritually, diligent use of what God has given, however small, grants access to His presence. 'His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things' (Matthew 25:23).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern palaces, despite their grandeur, could not exclude small creatures. The proverb's irony: the lowliest creature inhabits the loftiest residence. This democratization of wisdom—that small, weak creatures teach profound lessons—characterizes biblical wisdom literature and contrasts with ancient Near Eastern texts that celebrated only the mighty.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What small gifts or limited resources has God given you that, used faithfully, could grant access to greater influence?
2. How does the spider's presence in palaces encourage you about God's ability to bring you into places beyond your natural reach?
3. Where are you despising 'the day of small things' (Zechariah 4:10) rather than using what's in your hand?

## Interlinear Text

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מֶלֶךְ: בָּהּ יַכְלֵי בְּ יָא תַּתְפֵּשׁ שְׁמָמִית  
The spider with her hands taketh hold      H1931      palaces      and is in kings  
H8079      H3027      H8610      H1964      H4428

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