



On the surface, all they saw was a footprint. However, to the trained eye, it represented far more. The tracker squatted next to the footprint and began his deductions, “This is the spoor (trail) of a kudu. These prints are quite fresh – not even two hours old. It will be at least three years old and its front right leg is injured.”

What seemed to be ‘magic’ was actually the art of deduction. Scrutinizing the depth of the footprints and hardness and moisture of the soil, the distance between the prints, the size of the prints and other similar factors, the tracker was able to deduce the information that he required.

Likewise, an archaeologist finds a fossilized animal skull. While the layman sees nothing more than a lump of bone, the archaeologist employs his skills of deduction and extracts the information that he seeks. The age of the animal, its diet, intelligence, etc., are all pieces of information that he is able to accurately deduce.

While the work of a tracker and an archaeologist is an example of advanced deduction which requires extensive training and practise, each and every person also employs his power of deduction in other more common situations, e.g. grey clouds indicating imminent rainfall.

Allah Ta’ala repeatedly exhorts us in the Quraan Majeed to ponder over His creation in order to recognize Him and discover His greatness through ‘deduction’. For this, a person does not require advanced education or training. Rather, simple common sense and intelligence is sufficient.

A bedouin once recited the following couplet:



*May Allah Ta'ala grant us all the 'eyes' to behold His signs in everything around and within us, aameen.*