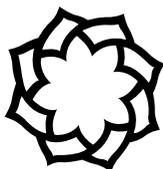


QURANIC
DESCRIPTION
OF THE *Satan*

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P R O J E C T

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Quranic Description of Satan

The term Iblis is derived from the Arabic verbal root bls ب-ل-س (with the broad meaning of "remain in grief") or بَلَسَ (balasa, "he despaired"). Furthermore, the name is related to talbis as well which means confusion. Thus his nature is enshrined in his name i.e. he will remain in grief forever, he despaired of the mercy of God and he causes confusion and doubt in people's minds!

Iblis is mentioned 11 times in the Quran by name, nine times related to his refusal against God's command to prostrate himself before Adam. The term Shaitan is more prevalent (appears 88 times in the Quran), although Iblis is sometimes referred to as Shaitan (Satan).

The Quran describes Shaitan as the Jinn created from a smokeless fire:

*"And (remember) when We said to the angels:
"Prostrate yourselves unto Adam." So they prostrated*

themselves except Iblis (Satan). He was one of the jinn; he disobeyed the command of his Lord. Will you then take him (Iblis) and his offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me while they are enemies to you? What an evil is the exchange for the Zalimoon”
[18:50]

The ahadith and some scholarly works including that of Ibn Katheer mention that before humans, the creations by the names of Hinn, Binn and Jinn roamed the earth. According to Ibn Katheer, the Hinn belongs together with the jinn to those creatures who shed blood on earth before humankind, causing the angels to question God's command to place Adam as a vicegerent. In his work *Al-Bidāya wa-n-Nihāya*, he relates that the Hinn and Binn were exterminated by the jinn so that they could dwell on the earth. It was in this battle that the Jinns took over however the Jinn then started mischief on earth and the angels had to destroy them as well.

When the angels took prisoners, Iblis was one of them and carried to heaven. Since he, unlike the other jinn, was pious, the angels were impressed

by his nobility and Iblis was allowed to join the company of angels and elevated to their rank. However, although he got the outer appearance of an angel, he was still a jinn in essence, thus he was able to choose when the angels and Iblis were commanded to prostrate themselves before Adam. Iblis, abusing his free-will, disobeyed the command of God. Iblis considered himself superior because of his physical nature constituted of fire and not of clay. God sentenced Iblis to hell forever, but granted him a favour for his former worship, that is to take revenge on humans by attempting to mislead them until the Day of Judgment.

This background in mind let us now look at the verses of the Quran that have mentioned Shaitan and Iblis to find out what capabilities they possess and how they interact and affect us humans!

(2:36) But Satan caused both of them to deflect from obeying Our command by tempting them to the tree and brought them out of the state they

were in, and We said: "Get down all of you; henceforth, each of you is an enemy of the other. and on earth you shall have your abode and your livelihood for an appointed time."

This verse explains that the Shaitan deflects our thoughts by Tempting us and causes us a change of state (mental and physical-consequences).

(2:268) Satan frightens you with poverty and bids you to commit indecency whereas God promises you His forgiveness and bounty. God is Munificent, All-Knowing.

His main weapon is to whisper and Put negative thoughts in our mind and cause us to fear and worry about things either in our present situation or future. He tries to make us weak, indecisive and dent our confidence and trust in our own strengths and in our creator. He then encourages us to indulge in vain and indecent behaviours so that we seek refuge and solace in cheap entertainment as a means of escape from reality and our aims and objectives.

(2:275) As for those who devour interest, they behave as the one whom Satan has confounded with his touch. Seized in this state they say: "Buying and selling is but a kind of interest," even though God has made buying and selling lawful, and interest unlawful. Hence, he who receives this admonition from his Lord, and then gives up (dealing in interest), may keep his previous gains, and it will be for God to judge him. As for those who revert to it, they are the people of the Fire, and in it shall they abide.

He can cause confusion by trying to whisper seemingly rational ideas and by intellectualization of wrong deeds and thoughts. This is a very important aspect to be aware of as we as humans are attracted by rational and intellectual arguments. However, a thorough understanding and long term consequences of seemingly innocent ideas is what is required in order not to fall a prey to such half-baked and ill-conceived notions.

(3:155) Surely those of them who turned their backs on the day when the two armies met (at

Uhad) did so because Satan made them slip because of some of their lapses. But God has pardoned them; He is All-Forgiving, All-Forbearing.

This is another important aspect highlighted by the Quran on the interface of our own lapses and desires and the influence of the Shaitan. Here it is clarified that we as humans are more vulnerable to the attacks and suggestion from Satan if we have an inclination towards committing sins and breaking the laws. In the above mentioned battle of Uhad the companions were inclined towards gathering the war booty and ignored the command of their Prophet pbuh. It was during this very charged atmosphere of seeing their fellow companions gathering their spoils that Shaitan whispered in their minds that the command was only for the beginning of the battle so why should we be deprived of the spoils of war whilst our brothers are reaping it!

(3:175) It was Satan who suggested to you the fear of his allies. Do not fear them; fear Me, if you truly believe.

Suggestions come from Satan through thoughts of worry and fear, treatment of such thoughts is to be aware of God and not fear others. Most people make decisions based on the epithet “what will the others say” or “others won’t like it” this is a means by which the Shaitan impacts on and dents our self-confidence making us weak and unable to show initiative. God wants us to fight this thought process by trusting in God and not letting any fear other than that of displeasing God take hold of us.

(4:38) God does not love those who spend out of their wealth to make a show of it to people when they believe neither in God nor in the Last Day. And he who has taken Satan for a companion has indeed taken for himself a very bad companion.

Show off and pretentiousness is a satanic virtue and one who engages in this is very close like a friend of Satan. Sincerity is the cure for this disease. If we fall in this trap of self-praise or doing things only to receive praise and become popular and famous then we have lost the very purpose of righteousness and good conduct. This

is a very powerful tool of Shaitan, especially against capable and talented individuals of the society.

(4:60) (O Messenger!) Have you not seen those who claim to believe in the Book which has been revealed to you and in the Books revealed before you, and yet desire to submit their disputes to the judgement of taghut (the Satanic authorities who decide independently of the Law of God), whereas they had been asked to reject it. And Satan seeks to make them drift far away from the right way.

Whole way of life is to be governed by our creator, a claim by mere acts of worship and rituals is a hollow one if we decide our legislation by any other law. Satan encourages people to make this distinction in their lives- (his rationalizing motto is to try and deviate people completely away from the message of their creator or to at least confine the message of the creator to a personal tiny corner of their lives!).

(4:76) Those who have faith fight in the way of God, while those who disbelieve fight in the way of taghut (Satan). Fight, then, against the fellows of Satan. Surely Satan's strategy is weak.

To battle against the satanic way of thinking is obligatory upon the believers, people who uphold such thoughts are companions of Satan and represent Satan. Despite the pomp and show of these strategies they are inherently weak on account of their nature-of being inherently against the human nature! This is a lifelong battle of ideas, thoughts, approaches, methods and behaviours so we need to be well prepared for all these aspects of the battle against the Shaitan and his followers.

(4:117) Rather than call upon Him, they call upon goddesses, and call upon a rebellious Satan.

People upholding such ideas are actually worshipping Satan in practical terms! When a person deviates from the path of God and follows the whispers and directions of those guided by the encouragement of Shaitan he or she is

actually attaching himself or herself to the very rebellious nature of Shaitan!

(4:119) And I shall lead them astray, and shall engross them in vain desires, and I shall command them and they will cut off the ears of the cattle, and I shall command them and they will disfigure God's creation.' He who took Satan rather than God for his guardian has indeed suffered a manifest loss.

Highlighting and encouraging thoughts for vain desires, lust and weird rituals in relation to animals, worship and understanding of what is virtue and piety comes from Satan. Making disfigurement of your own body as well as the true nature of yourself whether in appearance or behaviour and attitude all comes under disfiguring God's creation/nature. All this happens when satan has taken complete control of a person and the person has willingly given Shaitan the control of his reigns in life.

(4:120) Satan makes promises to them and fills them with vain hopes, but whatever he promises them is merely delusion.

Desires and lusts are just temporary illusions and Satan tries to make it appear as great and appealing to our eyes-we lose our mind and do not give a deeper thought! It is these very vain desires and insatiable hunger for more that Shaitan preys upon and causes us to lose sight of what is really important, long lasting and useful in life. Gaining the ability to see beyond the superficial glamour and not to get dazzled by the temporary pomp and show of things is what makes us a strong, genuine, sensible and a comprehensive human being.

(5:90) Believers! Intoxicants, games of chance, idolatrous sacrifices at altars, and divining arrows are all abominations, the handiwork of Satan. So turn wholly away from it that you may attain to true success.

This verse informs us that the Satan has his actual Amal-deeds, works or material things as well not just thoughts! Intoxicants, gambling, rituals,

sorcery, magic etc. We are instructed to completely abstain from them if we want to achieve true success. Shaitan is going to utilize all of his weapons and the choice of them is going to be different for each individual based on the weakness of the individual!

(5:91) By intoxicants and games of chance Satan only desires to create enmity and hatred between you, and to turn you away from the remembrance of God and from Prayer. Will you, then, desist?

Satan's works or deeds cause hate and jealousy which then destroys brotherhood and humanity thus turning us away from our primary goal of serving our creator- we start serving our own egos and desires instead! These acts of satanic nature take us away from the realities and necessary requirements of our social fabric. Instead of being kind, generous, philanthropic and compassionate we turn into self-loving, narcissistic opportunists who prey on each other's vulnerabilities. This is what takes us away from remembering God and His guidance on

fulfilling the rights and obligations towards the creator and the creation!

(6:43) But when misfortune befell them from Us why did they not humble themselves? Their hearts had hardened and Satan had made their deeds seem fair to them.

When the consequences of ignoring the guidance of our creator begins to unfold and appear in our societal set ups the satan once again tries to lull us into the deep slumber of ignorance by whispering into our minds the delusional thought that this is not a punishment for our misdeeds and instead it's just a "natural process and nothing to do with God and goodness". This approach and attitude has been described by the Quran as our hearts having become hardened. This means we no longer pay heed to any advice or occurring! It is a stage that once you reach it the come back to the guidance and the straight path becomes extremely difficult. Such a person has deluded himself/herself into thinking that no consequence is related to the conduct and lifestyle of an individual or the society hence no

change is required-such a person refuses to wake up from the deep slumber of his/her ignorance!

(6:68) When you see those who are engaged in blasphemy against Our signs, turn away from them until they begin to talk of other things; and should Satan ever cause you to forget, then do not remain, after recollection, in the company of those wrong-doing people.

Satan encourages people to talk nonsense especially against God. Even a true believer can be influenced by Satan to forget in such situations but we must show our discontent by removing ourselves from such idle talk, if people refuse to be civil and make it impossible to refute their nonsense in a decent manner. Either refuting the ideological pitfalls of those who reject faith or to turn away from them if they refuse to listen- this is the approach that a believer must take in the wake of dealing with nonsense.

(7:20) But Satan made an evil suggestion to both of them that he might reveal to them their shame

that had remained hidden from them. He said: 'Your Lord has forbidden you to approach this tree only to prevent you from becoming angels or immortals.'

(7:22) Thus Satan brought about their fall by deceit. And when they tasted of the tree, their shame became visible to them, and both began to cover themselves with leaves from the Garden. Then their Lord called out to them: 'Did I not forbid you from that tree, and did I not warn you that Satan 'is your declared enemy?'

The suggestions of Satan are not just a thought but a well presented seemingly harmless and 'sensible' suggestion. It's a cleverly crafted disguise which we must be able to recognise. Haya and decency is what Satan attacks especially to make us weak- He knows this is a human weakness so he targeted it the first and is exploiting it to the maximum! This can happen even with believers and even after understanding that the Satan is trying to tempt us- Tauba/repentance is our treatment for this problem. In our day and age the Shaitan has tried to beautify shamelessness and it has now become a big industry which exploits the flesh of women

and makes them a cheap commodity to make money by selling their nakedness to the ever lustful eyes of the world. Dignity, respect and honour is not gained by selling your body- Shaitan has misled our current world into believing that money is what matters more than dignity and honour- keeping away from such illusions and delusions is a massive challenge of our present day world.

(7:27) Children of Adam! Let not Satan deceive you in the manner he deceived your parents out of Paradise, pulling off from them their clothing to reveal to them their shame. He and his host surely see you from whence you do not see them. We have made Satans the guardians of those who do not believe.

Satan has his own team-from Jins-and they have the advantage of seeing us and accessing our thoughts but we can't see or access their thoughts! However, they can only whisper and tempt us we have the final control to either choose or refuse! Shaitan or his army has control over our decision making ability-although it tries

to influence us by so many tactics to try and tempt us into accepting his invitation towards destruction and harm.

(7:175) And recite to them [O Muhammed] the story of the man to whom We gave Our signs and who turned away from them; then ultimately Satan caught up with him and he was led astray.

A person after having come to accept Islam may still return back to his old ways and if he/she decides to ignore the signs made clear to him/her by God in various ways then the Satan makes him/her go further away from the path by grabbing a tight hold of him/her and leading him/her in the wrong direction.

(8:11) And recall when God brought on you drowsiness, giving you a feeling of peace and security from Him, and He sent down rain upon you from the sky that He might cleanse you through it and take away from you the pollution of Satan and strengthen your hearts, and steady your feet through it.

Satanic pollution is thoughts, fears and worries which can be removed by feelings of peace, contentment and stability, even natural things like rain can become a source of such comfort at times! Only if we are prepared to connect with our creator in a sincere manner can we feel such blessings of inner peace, tranquillity and contentment- this is hard to describe because it is a feeling that you experience only once you gain that nearness to your creator!

(8:48) And recall when Satan made their works seem fair to them and said: 'None shall overcome you today. and I am your supporter.' But when the two armies faced each other, he turned on his heels, and said: 'Surely I am quit of you for I behold that which you do not. Indeed I fear God, and God is stern in punishment.

Most people trust in material because they believe it is the material in principle that has the power and strength. Material is important but the true power is from God almighty. Material becomes useful or useless in the presence and absence, respectively, of faith in God. Satan is

obviously aware of the strength and power of God but his job is to deceive humans and humans have a duty to avoid becoming a victim of his! This verse once again highlights how Shaitan gives false hopes and makes hollow promises to those who choose to ignore the guidance of our creator and follow their own whims and wishes, which in reality are inspirations of Shaitan, which they failed to recognise!

(12:42) And Joseph said to the one of the two prisoners who he knew would be set free: "Mention me in your lord's presence." But Satan caused him to forget mentioning this to his lord (the ruler of Egypt) and so Joseph languished in prison for several years.

Satan can make things difficult by causing people who are more vulnerable on account of lack of or weak faith to forget important and great issues. However, the ultimate authority and power lies with our creator. Forgetfulness is treated by the reminder, this is one of the reasons why the last guidance of our creator-The Quran is named as a

reminder! If we sense ourselves losing control or deviating from the path or no longer sensing that peace, contentment and tranquillity it is time to reconnect with the reminder-The Quran.

(12:100) And after they had entered the city, Joseph raised his parents to the throne beside himself, and they (involuntarily) bowed in prostration before him. Joseph said: "Father! This is the fulfilment of the vision I had before - one that My Lord has caused to come true. He was kind to me when He rescued me from the prison, and brought you from the desert after Satan had stirred discord between me and my brothers. Certainly my Lord is Subtle in the fulfilment of His will; He is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Satan has been linked in this verse to how he can, by virtue of his whispers, stir hate and jealousy amongst brothers and can destroy family relationships or brotherhood. The solutions to this has been identified as well in the form of-patience, gratitude and repentance which will change the game plan of the Shaitan and put out the fire of hate, greed and jealousy!

(14:22) After the matter has been finally decided Satan will say: "Surely whatever God promised you was true; as for me, I went back on the promise I made to you. I had no power over you except that I called you to my way and you responded to me. So, do not blame me but blame yourselves. Here, neither I can come to your rescue, nor can you come to mine. I disavow your former act of associating me in the past with God. A grievous chastisement inevitably lies ahead for such wrong-doers."

Desires are just illusions, Satan does not have the power to force anyone to accept his suggestions- he only makes the suggestion and makes it appear beautiful and good- we have the choice to accept or reject such whispers and temptations. We cannot put all blame on him on judgement day and the punishment would be equally severe for both-the Satan and the followers of his whispers!

(16:63) By God, (O Muhammed), We sent Messengers to other communities before you but

Satan made their evil deeds attractive to them (so they paid no heed to the call of the Messengers). The same Satan is their patron today and they are heading towards a painful chastisement.

Satan is especially an enemy of those who do dawah (Prophets/messengers/followers) He tries to let communities revel in and bask in their ignorance and make culture and tradition seem more important and more appealing than the true message which may be against their societal set up. It is the cunning method of the Shaitan to make all such acts appealing and attractive to his followers so that they never see the futile nature of such cultural, traditional, societal or local norms and rituals adopted by the societies! This verse informs us that Shaitan has used this strategy throughout human history and will continue to make use of this tool till the day of judgement.

(17:27) Those who squander wastefully are Satan's brothers, and Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord.

Wastefulness signifies two important qualities- carelessness and ingratitude- people who have no understanding of the value of wealth cause chaos by squandering the money on useless and usually immoral acts. This destroys the wealth and prevents it being used for positive and constructive aspects for the greater good of humanity. The ingratitude part of wastefulness comes from the fact that the person ignores the fact that all the bounties and blessings ultimately originate from our creator, by wasting those resources we show the worst kind of ingratitude. We neither acknowledge the right of our provider to guide us in our utilization of these resources nor do we show thankfulness by sharing it with those less fortunate as a means of good practise. This is what makes such wasteful people brothers of the Satan, for this is what he did by disobeying God's command- by not recognising God's right to favour whom He wished (Adam) and showing thanklessness for him being allowed to be in the company of the angels despite being a Jinn!

(17:53) Tell My servants, (O Muhummed), to say always that which is best. Verily it is Satan who sows discord among people. Satan indeed is an open enemy to mankind.

The believers have been enjoined to say only the best things even in their discussion with the disbelievers and other opponents of their faith. They should neither use harsh words nor make exaggerated statements. They should be cool in their conversation and say only what is true and dignified in spite of the provocative behaviour of the opponents.

While discussing, debating or even if your normal routine dealings with family, friends and members of the public, if you feel that you are being aroused to anger, you should at once understand that it is Satan who is exciting you in order to do harm to your dispute, in which he wants to engage human beings for sowing discord between them. We should immediately calm ourselves down and try and change the subject, and only return to it in a calm and composed manner.

(17:61) And recall when We asked the angels to prostrate themselves before Adam; all prostrated themselves except Iblis, who said: "Shall I prostrate myself before him whom You created of clay?"

This verse highlights the very core of the problem that is the cause of Shaitan becoming the accursed and despaired of God's mercy - Arrogance and Racist thought pattern.

Incidentally the first racist was the Satan! Anyone who believes he or she is somehow superior to others by virtue of their lineage or family background must ponder on the fact that all humans came from a single father and mother and being born in a particular family is just an accidental thing. Ibraheem was born to Azar - Prophet Ibraheem can do nothing to save his father, similarly Prophet Noah can do nothing to save his son nor can Prophet Lot save his wife! Some people have this self-deluding notion of belonging to a particular lineage especially linked to Prophets or Kings and Queens that somehow they are important and that they would be given preference in any manner or way! Islam rejects all

such notions and in fact it is a satanic way of thinking.

(17:64) Tempt with your call all whom you wish. Muster against them all your forces - your cavalry and your foot soldiers; share with them riches and offspring, and seduce them with rosy promises - and Satan's promise is nothing but a deception

Satan has been likened to that robber who assaults a habitation with cavalry and infantry and orders them to rob. The cavalry and the infantry of Satan are those Jinns and human beings who are engaged in numerous forms and positions in carrying out his mission.

This depicts a true and perfect picture of the relationship between Satan and his followers. On the one hand, Satan becomes a partner with the one who follows him in the earning and spending of his money without putting in any labour in it. On the other hand, he does not become a partner in bearing the consequences of his error, crime and sin. But his foolish dupe

follows his instructions as if he were a stronger party. Again in regard to the children of such a man, the father himself bears the whole burden of bringing them up, but under the misguidance of Satan he trains them in wrong and immoral ways as if he alone was not their father but Satan as well was a partner in it.

(18:63) The servant said: "Did you see what happened? When we betook ourselves to the rock to take rest, I forgot the fish and it is only Satan who caused me to forget to mention it to you so that it made its way into the sea in a strange manner."

Once again as discussed within surah Yousef, Satan makes people forget important things in life especially if your faith is not that strong!

(19:44) Father, do not serve Satan, for Satan has indeed been a persistent rebel against the Most Compassionate Lord.

This verse mentions what Prophet Ibraheem said to his father. He said to him do not do Ibadah of Shaitan. Although Ibraheem's father and the other people did not worship Satan in the same sense as they worshiped idols. But as they followed and obeyed Satan, he accused them of worshipping Satan. Thus it is clear that if somebody follows and obeys Satan, he virtually worships him. For Satan has never been a deity in the sense that people have made him an object of worship; they have always been cursing him and following him at the same time.

Ibadah is serving not just worshipping in a minute sense-but in a much more comprehensive sense of the word!

(19:45) Father, I fear that a punishment from the Most Compassionate Lord might strike you and you may end up as one of Satan's companions?"

If a person continues to pursue in the path of satanic ways then they become one of him and become deserving of the punishment that awaits Shaitan!

(20:120) But Satan seduced him, saying: "Adam! Shall I direct you to a tree of eternal life and an abiding kingdom?"

As described in the earlier part of this book seduction with charming and appealing thoughts and desires, which are untrue and hollow, are Shaitan's weapons!

(22:52) Never did We send a Messenger or a Prophet before you (O Muhammed), but that whenever he had a desire, Satan interfered with that desire. God eradicates the interference of Satan and strengthens His Signs. God is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

(22:53) (He does this) in order that He may make the evil caused by Satan a trial for those in whose hearts there is sickness (of hypocrisy), whose hearts are hard (and vitiated). Surely these wrong-doers have gone too far in their dissension.

The Arabic word *tamanna* has two meanings: "desire" and "to recite" something. If the first

meaning is taken, it will imply: Satan tried to prevent the fulfilment of his desire. If the second meaning is taken, it will imply: When the Prophet recited the Revelations, Satan created different sorts of doubts about its truth and meanings in the minds of the people.

If the first meaning is adopted, it will imply: God fulfils the Prophet's desire and makes his mission successful in spite of the obstacles of Satan and confirms the truth of His revelations by fulfilling His promises to the Prophet. In case of the second meaning, it will imply: God eradicates all the doubts and objections inspired by Satan in the hearts of the people and clarifies the confusion created about any verse of the Quran in subsequent revelations.

However, once again it is the individual that has to make the right choice to lend a listening ear to and heed the message and advice of the creator.

(24:21) Believers! Do not follow in Satan's footsteps. Let him who follows in Satan's footsteps (remember that) Satan bids people to indecency and evil. Were it not for God's Bounty and His Mercy unto you, not one of you would have ever attained purity. But God enables whomsoever He wills to attain purity. God is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

Satan is bent upon involving you in all kinds of pollutions and indecencies. Had it not been for the mercy and kindness of God, Who enables us to differentiate between good and evil and helps us to educate and reform ourselves, we would not have been able to lead a pure and virtuous life on the strength of our own abilities, faculties and initiative alone.

It is God's will alone which decides whom to make pious and virtuous. His decisions are not arbitrary but based on knowledge. It is on the basis of this direct knowledge that God decides whom to bless with piety and virtue and whom to ignore. We must always connect ourselves with our creator in order to seek His mercy and blessings to enable us to continue on the path of righteousness.

(27:24) I found that she and her people prostrate themselves before the sun rather than God." Satan has made their deeds appear attractive to them and has, thus, debarred them from the Right Path so they do not find true guidance

Discussed already- attractiveness a means to keep them away from true guidance.

(29:38) And We destroyed Aad and Thamud, whose dwellings you have observed. Satan had embellished their deeds for them and had turned them away from the Right Path although they were a people of clear perception.

They were not ignorant and foolish people, but were the most civilized people of their own times. They performed and carried out their worldly duties and chores very carefully and intelligently. Therefore, it cannot be said that Satan deluded them and pulled them on to his way by artifice and deception. Instead, they adopted the way shown by Satan with open eyes and with full understanding because it promised great pleasures and advantages; and they abandoned the way presented by the prophets

because it appeared to be colourless, tasteless and troublesome due to moral restrictions.

This is what we see prevalent today as well, people refuse to accept the path and guidance of the creator not just because the Shaitan makes it appear attractive but because the people themselves lust for the superficial glamour and temporary pleasures. In order to safeguard ourselves from the ways of Shaitan we have to be able to sacrifice the superficial and temporary gains in favour of the everlasting pleasures of the next life and the peace and tranquillity providing ways and means of the guidance from God.

(31:21) When they are told: "Follow what God has revealed," they say: "We will rather follow that which we have found our forefathers following." (Will they follow that) even though Satan might invite them to the chastisement of the Blazing Fire?

Ignorance can make one so blindfolded that we are no longer prepared to listen or see the reality- satan plays a big part in making culture bigger in people's eyes! The mere argument that a

particular way of life had been bequeathed by the elders cannot be a proof of its being right also. No sane person can commit the folly that he should blindly go on following the way of his forefathers even if they were not rightly guided, and should never bother to find out where the way is leading him. Stubbornness is a trait of Shaitan and the blindfolded adherence to the cultural and traditional way of life goes against the Islamic principles!

(35:6) Surely Satan is an enemy to you. Therefore, do take him as an enemy. He calls his followers to his way so that they may be among the inmates of the Fire.

(36:60) Children of Adam, did I not command you not to serve Satan he is to you an open enemy

Understanding the suggestions and thoughts provoked in our minds as being satanic and his ways and deeds of immorality is a great task to undertake! Understanding the enemy is half job done! The ability to recognise our true enemy no matter how well-disguised he may present

himself to us is what constitutes maturity and true understanding. The ability to discern the obvious by seeing through all façade is what makes us capable and visionary humans.

(38:41) And remember Our servant Job: when he cried to his Lord: “Behold, Satan has afflicted me with much hardship and suffering.”

This does not mean that Satan has afflicted me with illness and brought distress upon me, but it means: The affliction of the severities of illness, the loss of property and wealth, and the desertion of the near and dear ones is not so great a torment and trouble for me as the temptation of Satan, who is exploiting my condition to despair me of my Lord and wants that I should turn ungrateful to Him and become desperate and impatient.

This meaning of the lamentation of the Prophet Job (peace be upon him) is preferable for two reasons: (1) According to the Quran, God has granted Satan only the power of temptation. He has not given him the power to afflict with illness the worshipers of God and compel them to

deviate from the way of service and obedience by causing them physical ailments. (2) In Surah Al-Anbiya when the Prophet Job (peace be upon him) puts before God his complaint about illness and disease, he does not mention Satan at all, but says only: I have been afflicted with the disease and You are most Merciful.

Being patient is a great tool against the Shaitan's designs and plots. He wishes to make us impatient and lose hope so that he can go to work by making us feel hopeless and despaired as he himself is.

(41:36) And if you are prompted by a provocation from Satan, seek refuge with God. He, and He alone, is All-Hearing, All- Knowing

This is a solution once we identify and recognise the temptations/fear/worry. Being connected to the all power and all-knowing creator and seeking His help and refuge from the Shaitan is what is the real solution to safeguard against Shaitan's temptations and whispers.

(43:62) Let not Satan hinder you (from believing in the Hour), for surely he is your open enemy.

One of the most important of beliefs to safeguard against the plots and traps of Shaitan is the belief in the day of judgement. This belief basically means the accountability of all actions, behaviours, attitudes and interactions that we engage in in our lifetime. The lifestyle choices we make and the decisions we make each and every one of them has consequences for us and for others. A person with a deep conviction about the day when all of his deeds will be judged and he will be rewarded or punished accordingly will lead a completely different life to a person who has no such belief.

Shaitan wants us to question the day of judgement for if we no longer believe in it then following the path of Shaitan becomes a logical thing! This is why he attacks this belief more than any other belief and this verse reminds us with special stress on not letting the Shaitan hinder us from this most important belief to keep a person on track.

(47:25) Certainly those who have turned their backs on the True Guidance after it became manifest to them, Satan has SAWALA their ways for them and has buoyed them up with false hopes.

“Sawala” means to make something so attractive (usually a bad thing) that one gets hooked up to it and to make something bad to appear as good! Imla means to raise false hopes so high that they see nothing else, thus clouding the truth and reality and making them turn away from even clear signs! This verse informs us that Addiction of any kind and especially of our wrong ways as well as living in utopia of false hopes is a method of Shaitan to deviate people from the right path. This way he keeps them hooked up and engaged and engrossed in false hopes and useless activities which take the form of an addiction.

(58:10) Whispering is an act of Satan, one that aims at causing grief to the believers; yet without God's leave no harm can be caused to them. So in God should the believers put all their trust!

Once again the solution for waswasa (whispers of Shaitan) has been enumerated here. All ill thoughts come from satan this is why a human is not accountable for his thoughts, its only if he utters them and or actions them he becomes liable for them. Complete Trust and tawakal (reliance on God) are our weapons against his whispers.

(58:19) Satan has gained mastery over them and has made them neglect remembering God. They are the party of Satan. Behold, the party of Satan will be the losers.

This verse gives great hope to those who choose to reject the path and whispers of Shaitan. God informs us that despite all the pomp and show of Shaitan's designs the satan and his party will be the losers ultimately.

(59:16) Their parable is that of Satan when he says to man: "Disbelieve," but when he disbelieves, he says: "I am quit of you. Verily I fear God, the Lord of the Universe."

Described earlier in this book- here in relation to hypocrites that they are like a Satan. Another aspect is to highlight how hypocrisy is a fundamental trait of Shaitan. He knowingly misguides others-this is the essence of hypocrisy and also of the satanic attitude.

(26:94-95) Then the idols and those who strayed will be hurled into the Fire headlong, one upon another. and so too the hosts of Iblis, all of them.

This is in relation to those who worship idols and as a means of humiliation their very idols will be hurled into hellfire along with the Shaitan and the idol worshippers!

(34:20) Iblis found his estimate of them to be true, and they followed him, except a party of the believers

In relation to the people of Yeman the Sabaeans, Queen of Sheba nation!

“And (remember) when We said to the angels:

“Prostrate yourselves unto Adam.” So they

prostrated themselves except Iblis (Satan). **He was**

one of the jinn; he disobeyed the command of his

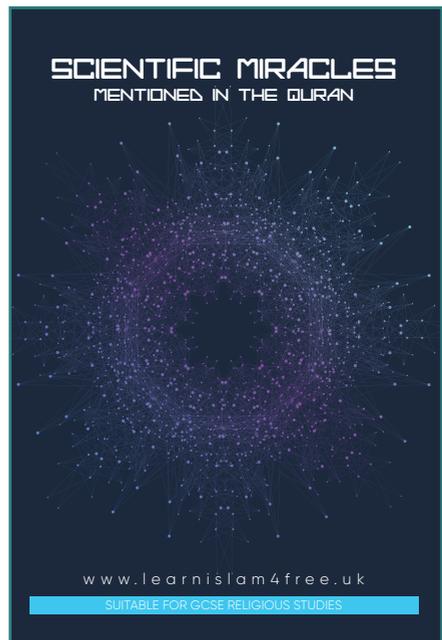
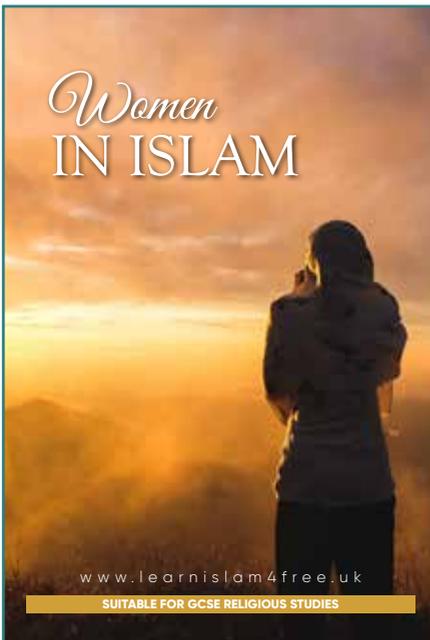
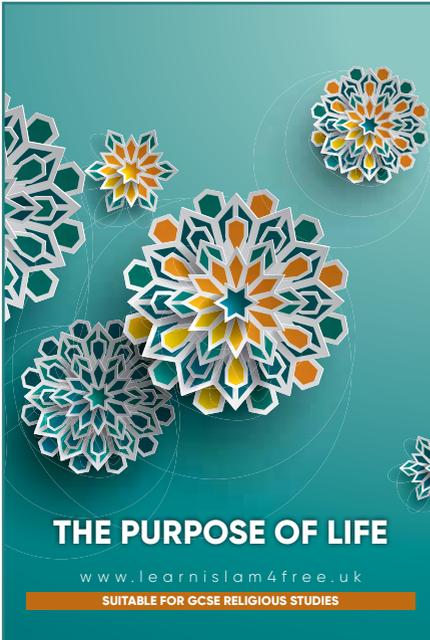
Lord. Will you then take him (Iblis) and his

offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me

while they are enemies to you? What an evil is the

exchange for the Zalimoon” [18:50]

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