

Deception
The Cause of Original and Continued Sin



Prepared for:
Quran Study Group
3 Safar, 1443 / September 11, 2021

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Surely all praise is due to Allah the Omniscient, the Wise; Sustainer of All that Exists. He taught the Quran and created the human one and He is the Omniscient, the Wise and, He is compassionately responsive to His servants. We glorify Him with praise and we seek forgiveness from Him. We ask him for all good and we seek refuge with Him from every evil. Then, we bear witness that there is no god except Allah and we bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger.

About the Quran

الرَّتِّكَ ءَايَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَقُرْءَانٍ مُّبِينٍ ۝
رُبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوِ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ ۝
ذَرَّهُمْ يَأْكُلُوا وَيَتَمَتَّعُوا وَيُلْهِمِ الْأُمَلُّ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ ۝

رأل. *These are the signs of The Book and a clear Noble Recitation. Again and again those who denied (the Truth) will wish they were of those who submitted their wills. Leave them to eat and enjoy (themselves) and be distracted by hopes, for soon they will know.* (interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 15: ayaat 1 – 3)

This Surah is the final of a series beginning with the letters الر, which begins with Surah 10 (Yunus) and has one that is dissimilar due to the addition of the م, which appears in Surah tul Ra'd (Surah 13). Each of these suwar opens by speaking of different aspects of the Revelation. One should note that all of these use the word kitab – written document or book – but only this Surah has the word قرآن. As we know, every word in the Quran is intentional, purposeful and wise, then we know there is Divine purpose for this. If you have comments as to the adding of the word Quran, please bring them to the discussion to share.

All of these suwar are Makkan and “seek to address” the negative reaction of the polytheists of Makkah to the message brought by Muhammad (saw). Here in the first ayah the Quran is given the attribute of “Mubeen” – endowed with clarity and bestowing clarity, dispelling misconceptions and making things easy to understand – whether concepts, thoughts, or spoken and written words.

Commentaries

Abdullah Yusuf Ali: The time must inevitably come when those who allow themselves to be deceived by falsehood or deliberately break God's Law will find themselves in a terrible plight. They will then wish ardently and again and again that they had sought God's will and walked in

the Light of Truth. That time may be early or late – in this life or at death, or at the Day of Judgement, but it must come.

(ayah 3) The foolish and the wicked set great store by the pleasures of this world. In their great pride, they think they have all knowledge.

The Study Quran: *A “clear Quran” denotes the Quran’s ability to make known with clarity what is true and distinct from what is false. The injunction to leave the disbelievers in their state of rebellion is a recurring theme in the Quran (see Surah 6:91, 112, 137; Surah 23: 34; Surah 43: 83 ...) Here they are to be left to eat and enjoy themselves – that is to be immersed in this worldly life – and be beguiled by hopes, preoccupied with the thought that they will live long lives, while failing to prepare for their final return to God Being beguiled by one’s own false hope is known in Islamic spiritual psychology as the malady of “extended hope” (tul ul amal), which can also be thought of as “overconfidence” and which ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib says is what causes one to forget about the Hereafter.*

Deception: Cause of Original and Continued Sins

وَيَتَادَمُ أُسْكُنُ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجَكَ الْجَنَّةَ فَكُلَا مِنْ حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ

الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿١٩﴾

فَوَسَّوَسَ لَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ لِيُبْدِيَ لَهُمَا مَا وُورِيَ عَنْهُمَا مِنْ سَوْءِ تَيْهَمَا
وَقَالَ مَا نَهَاكُمَا رَبُّكُمَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَا مَلَكَيْنِ أَوْ تَكُونَا مِنَ

الْخَالِدِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

﴿٢١﴾

وَقَاسَمَهُمَا إِنِّي لَكُمَا لَمِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ
فَدَلَّهُمَا بِغُرُورٍ فَلَمَّا ذَاقَا الشَّجَرَةَ بَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوْءَاتُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا

يَخْصِفَانِ عَلَيْهِمَا مِنْ وَرَقِ الْجَنَّةِ وَنَادَاهُمَا رَبُّهُمَا أَلَمْ أَنْهَكُمَا عَنْ

تِلْكَ الشَّجَرَةِ وَأَقُلَّ لَكُمَا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمَا عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ ﴿٢٢﴾

Oh Adam, dwell you and your wife in the Garden and eat from whatever you will, but do not go near this tree or you will be of those who do wrong.

Then the Expelled One whispered to them both to expose to them what had been hidden from them of their nakedness and shame. And, he said, “Your Lord has only forbidden this tree to you lest you become Angels or become of those who live forever.” And, he swore to them, “Surely, I am a sincere advisor to you.

So, he brought them down by deception. Then when they tasted the tree, their nakedness became apparent to them and they began to piece together leaves from the garden and cover themselves. And their Lord called out to them both, “Didn’t I prohibit you from this tree and say to you (both) that Shaitan is definitely a clear enemy to you?” (interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 7: ayaat 19 – 22)

Commentaries

Abdullah Yusuf Ali: *The original humans were placed in a spiritual garden of innocence and bliss, but it was God’s plan to give them a limited faculty of choice ... they succumbed to Satan’s suggestions.*

Our first parents (and this applies to all of us) were innocent in matters material as well as spiritual. They knew no evil. But the faculty of choice, which was given to them and which

raised them above the Angels, also implied that they had the capacity of evil, which by the training of their own will, they were to reject. They were warned of the danger. ... They were (and we all are) still given the chance, in this life on a lower plane, to make good and recover the lost status of innocence and bliss.

Study Quran: *Although it is clear in the Quran that Adam also represents all of humanity – male and female – in the accounts of the original creation, the vice-gerency, the Divinely granted knowledge and the prostration of the Angels before Him (Surah 2: 30 – 34), the Quran does not explicitly discuss the process by which the primordial Adam is differentiated into the male and female who dwell in the Garden after Iblis’ expulsion from it.*

Iblis whispered to them, meaning he spoke to them openly in a low voice or that he spoke subtly to their hearts in order to tempt them toward disobeying Allah. ... By suggesting the possibility of becoming Angels or immortal, Satan (Shaitan) raises in them false hopes and desires, a satanic tactic.

Prior to this, Iblis, and note the transition in this Surah from the title of **Iblis** - the one in complete despair - to **Shaitan** - the one who is far removed from the mercy of Allah, has expressed his intentions regarding human beings (see ayaat 16 – 17) and Allah had already warned Adam and Hawwa that Shaitan was their clear enemy. So, he (Shaitan) caused them to slip from a higher place to a lower one by deception.

يَبْنِيءَ آدَمَ لَا يَفْنِنَنَّكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ آبَايَكُمْ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ
يَنْزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْءَ تَهُمَا إِنَّهُ يَدْرِكُكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ
حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا الشَّيْطَانَ أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

Oh children of Adam, don't let the Shaitan put you into confusion in the way he caused your parents to come out of the Garden, stripping their coverings from them in order to show them their nakedness. Surely he see you – he and those who accept him as their leader – from where you don't see them. Truly We have made the evil beings friends of those who lack faith.
(interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 7: ayah 27)

The caution given to the children of Adam is for all human beings for all time. *“That human beings do not see Satan and his tribe also indicates the latter’s subtle and deceptive tactics, as they tempt human beings in ways that they neither anticipate nor immediately recognize.”*

The ability to see us as humans from places or positions where we cannot see them is referring to those of the Jinn race, as their substance is not perceptible to us. However, there are shayateen, followers of Shaitan amongst the humans also. (See Surah 6: 112)

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيْطِينِ الْإِنْسِ وَالْجِنِّ يُوحِي
بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرُفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ مَا فَعَلُوهُ
فَذَرَّهُمْ وَمَا يُفْتَرُونَ ﴿١١٢﴾

And, in this manner We made for every Prophet enemies of the humans and Jinn, inspiring each other with enticing words that are deceptive. And, if Allah had willed, they would not have done it. So, let them be with what they invent. Let the sentiments of those who have no faith in the hereafter be inclined to it. Let them take pleasure in it and earn from it whatever they can earn. (interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 6: ayaat 112 – 113)

There are many areas of our lives where the deception of shaitan and the shayateen are occurring – in our deen, in our food sources, in the advice being given to us, in the medical practice and the medicines being offered to us, etc. We must pray for clarity, pray to recognize when we succumb to the deception and always turn to Allah when clarity is given to us. Look at the times and circumstances when Allah says “*do not follow the footsteps of Shaitan*” – Surah 2: 168, 208; Surah 6: 142 and Surah 24: 21 – and pay particular attention to these.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا
تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿٢٠٨﴾

Oh you who are secure in belief, enter into submission completely and do not follow the footsteps of Shaitan. Surely, he is a clear enemy to you. (interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 2: ayah 208)

Du'ah

قَالَ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Both of them said, “Our Lord, we have wronged our souls and, if you do not forgive us and have mercy on us, we will surely be of those who are lost.” (interpretation of the meaning of Quran Surah 7: ayah 23)