

## **An-Nisa (The Women) [4:117]**

﴿١١٧﴾ إِنْ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا إِنْتَنَا وَإِنْ يَدْعُونَ إِلَّا شَيْطَانًا مَرِيدًا

(The Pagans), leaving Him, call but upon female deities:  
They call but upon satan the persistent rebel!

### **MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)**

**QUR'AN: *They do not call besides Him on any thing but females:*** *al-inaath* is plural of *al-unthaa* (female). They say in Arabic, *anatha l-hadid* (= the iron becomes soft). *Anatha l-makaan* (the place brought out its vegetation fast). This word shows the idea of possibility, of being influenced, and that is why a female is called *unthaa*. This verse describes the idols and all those who are worshipped besides Allah as females, because all of them are manipulated and influenced by man; they have no power to affect any thing which their worshippers expect from them. Allah says: *Surely those whom you call besides Allah cannot create a fly, though they should all gather for it, and should the fly snatch away anything from them they could not take it back from it, weak are the invoker and the invoked. They have not estimated Allah with the estimation that is due to Him; most surely Allah is Strong, Mighty (22:73-74).* Also He says: *And they have taken besides Him gods who do not create anything while they are themselves created and they control not for themselves any harm or profit, and they control not death, not life, nor raising (the dead) to life (25:3).*

Apparently, the femininity points to utter passivity which is the characteristic of a created thing *vis-à-vis* the Creator. This interpretation is better than the one which some people have written that the word females refers to Laat, 'Uzza and Manaat, etc. every tribe had its own idol which was called goddess of that tribe; it was said either because their names were of feminine gender or because they were made of inanimate matters, which are given feminine gender. But this interpretation does not conform with the exclusivity which is found in the verse, "they do not call besides Him on anything but females", because among those who are worshipped besides Allah there are some males like the Jesus Christ, Barahma and Buddha. (Barahma is a mythical figure; and Buddha is not worshipped as God because Buddhism doesn't have any concept of Divinity. Rama and Krishna would serve as better example. [tr.]

**QUR'AN: *and they do not call on anything but a rebellious Satan:*** *al-Marid* (stripped of every good; naked). Al-Baydawi has said: "*al-Marid* and *al-marid*: he who is unrelated with any good. The root word denotes touching and that is why they say *sarhun mumarrad* (plastered castle), *ghulamun amrad* (beardless boy), *shajaratun marda'* (leafless tree)."

Apparently, this sentence explains the preceding one; ‘calling’ metaphorically denotes worshipping because worship had spread among people for calling the deity to fulfill their needs. Allah has given to obedience the name of worship as He says: *Did I not charge you, O Children of Adam! That you should not serve the Satan? Surely he is your open enemy, and that you should serve Me! This is the right way* (36:60-61). The sentence denotes that when they say worship any thing other than Allah they actually worship and call the rebellious Satan because it is done in obedience to his suggestion.

**QUR’AN: Allah has cursed him:** *al-La’n* (to keep away from Mercy). It is another adjective for the Satan and describes the reason of the previous adjective, ‘rebellious’.

**QUR’AN: and he said: “Most certainly I will take of Thy servants an appointed portion:** It points to what Allah has quoted from the Satan’s claim: *Then by Thy Might I will surely lead them astray, all except Thy servants from among them, the purified ones* (38:82-83). The phrase “of Thy servants”, confirms that those who go astray are even then Allah’s servants. They cannot discard this servitude; He is their Lord Who will decide about them whatever He pleases.

#### **MIR AHMED ALI (AR)**

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

Inatha (females) refers to the historical motive of idolatry. In primitive ages man could not understand any productive action except the sexual relationship. The pagans thought that their idols were the daughters of God. The cult of goddesses had been almost universal, partly through the association of maternity. The goddess was the fountain and source of human life. Inatha also signifies inanimate things as trees, stones and wood.

Through verse 49 of al-Dhariyat (We created pairs of everything) the Quran guides the idolworshippers to get rid of their stupid delusion.

The idolworshippers, in fact, submit to Shaytan who, devoid of good, invites his followers to lawlessness, anarchy and evil.

**AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS**

The previous verse considered the polytheists being in aberration. The reason of it is referred to in the above verse.

The pagans of Makkah used to worship some angels whom they called the daughters of God. That idea was a wrong and deluded thought. The verse says:

*" They (the pagans ) invoke in His stead but female things (the Idols ) , and they invoke none but Satan, the persistent rebel. "*