

Al-Hijr (The Rocky Tract) [15:17]

وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَجِيمٍ ﴿١٧﴾

And (moreover) We have guarded them from every evil spirit accursed.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

And indeed we have put the big stars in the heavens and we beautified it for the beholders. And we have guarded it from every outcast Satan. Except him that gain hearing by stealing, he is pursued by a flaming fire.

Buruj is the plural of Burj on which is ascertained the orbit of the sun and moon in the sky and has been likened to a palace where the ruler comes. It has been adorned or ornated and we behold it when we look at the night sky. The twinkling stars dazzle the human mind. God has spoken about this adornment many times and this explains His grace. It is said, in verse 12 of Ha Mim Sajdah, “And we adorned the nearest heavens with lamps to be an adornment as well as to guard.” In Surah Saffat verse 6 God says, “Verily We have adorned the nearest heavens with stars ad o guard against every rebellious devil.”

The word “Istaraqa” means to steal or to eves drop on some people talking confidentially. Satan used to sneak up and listen to what the angels talked about as has been said in Surah Saffat. “Istehab” is the flame that comes out of the fire seen blazing forth in the sky. It streaks in the sky before it fizzles out. “And indeed We have put up the big stars in the sky” and this speaks about the orbit of the sun and the moon. Then Go says he has decorated the sky for the beholders to see and guarded it too to prevent Satan from eves dropping on the angels. He tries to sneak his way to listen to them but then a flaming fire chases him out.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

Verse 16

In the countless stars in the universe there is a marvellous order, beauty and harmony, on a scale which man is appreciating more and more as his knowledge is increasing. The first distinct belt is the Zodiac, which marks the position of the sun with reference to the movement of various constellation of stars of the solar system. Its twelve divisions are called the signs of the Zodiac. Through them we can mark off the seasons in our solar year, and express in definite laws the most important facts in meteorology, agriculture, seasonal winds, and tides. All these are vitally important and affect our physical life on the earth. The most important lesson we draw from them is that the author of the wonderful order and beauty is One, and He alone is entitled to our worship.

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

The Zodiac belt is the lowest heaven. The heavens above it are more spiritual than physical. Celestial factors effect the terrestrial events. Some of the determinative occurrences of the celestial realm manifest themselves before they produce an effect upon the terrestrial world. Those who delve in occult sciences rely upon these manifestations to foretell the future. Such attempts are not reliable because the radiating celestial bodies (shihabun mubin or shahab thaqib) prevent them from reading the actual consequences. The shooting star or flaming fire, most probably, is the continuous radiation from the celestial bodies which pierces into the terrestrial hemisphere. It may mean that the conjunctions of radiations from different celestial sources neutralise the effect of each other and it becomes immeasurable and incomprehensible to those who try to foretell the future.

Spiritually speaking, order, beauty, harmony, light and truth are repugnant to evil. Therefore the bliss of the heavens are denied to the forces of evil. It is reserved only for the virtuous. The crooked nature of evil try to gain access by fraud or stealth but a flaming fire stops them from even hearing the sound of harmony ringing in the land of eternal bliss.

Qummi in his commentary says that when the Holy Prophet was born a mass of shooting stars was seen in the sky. A Jew named Joseph came to Makka and asked the Quraysh if a male child was born in their tribe. They did not know, but when he told them that it was written in Pentateuch that when the last prophet of Allah would be born the devilish forces will be driven away from the heaven by the shooting stars and their access to the higher regions would be blocked for ever, they made inquiries and found out that in the night before a son was born to Abdullah bin Abd al Muttalib. In the same night the palace of Kisra in Persia was cracked and the fire burning in the temple for a thousand years was extinguished .

AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS

Verses 17-18

The Arabic word/ 'istiraq/ is derived from/ sirqat/, and thus the Arabic phrase means: 'the stealing of words'. The commentators have raised some issues with regard to this verse; among them one may name Fakhr-i-Razi and 'Alousi who have said in their commentaries that the objective meaning, in talking about the sky, is this same apparent sky, and the objective in mind in talking about the meteor is this same celestial stone- like objects, which are thrown down and are set in flame. However, some other commentators have suggested that here the objective in mind, when referring to the sky, is the 'invisible world', and the world of Truth, into which Satans have no way and permission to enter. Here are the verses:

" And We have guarded them against every accursed Satan. "

"Save him who steals the hearing, so there pursues him a clear flame. "

And, regarding its meaning, perhaps one can say: We have located identification figures and leaders in the spaces of spirituality, thus protecting the truth from the temptations of Satan. And whenever a person who has the qualities of Satan, is acting temptation, We will launch an attack on him, expelling and perishing all sorts of innovation, and eclecticism, as well as other temptations, by sound reasoning and sound logic of the true believers. Thus, one can find the relationship between the birth of Hadrat Isa (a.s.) and further- more, the birth of Hadrat Muhammad (S) and the casting off of such Satans from the skies.

Explanations:

1. The Satan is not only Iblis, but there are Satans.
2. Eavesdropping and spying are both jobs of the Satan.
3. A spy must be dealt with quickly and in a revolutionary manner. " so there pursues him a clear flame. "
4. Wherever a Satan- like individual was to be found, the enlightening people must chase and strike him with the torch of knowledge.
5. The response to the Satanic acts must be provided with utmost explicitness, openness, quickness and with the maximum straight forwardness.