

### **An-Nahl (The Bee) [16:63]**

تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمَمٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ  
فَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمْ الْيَوْمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿٦٣﴾

By Allah, We (also) sent (Our apostles) to Peoples before thee; but Satan made, (to the wicked), their own acts seem alluring: He is also their patron today, but they shall have a most grievous penalty.

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

*By god! Indeed, We sent messengers to the people before you, but Satan made their deeds fair seeming to them, so he is their guardian today, and for them there shall be a grievous chastisement.*

The verse says, the day when the verse was revealed Satan became their protector for they were united in their sins. The chastisement mentioned here is the chastisement on the Day of Judgment and it is the same in other verses that speak of the punishment. “ We sent Messenger before you” refers to the Jews, Christian, etc. people who were not destroyed like the people of Aad and Thamud. So God let their sins be adorned and they denied our Messenger. Today Satan is their protector and they are united in their sin. The painful chastisement is for them on the Judgment Day.

Zamakhshari has accepted the possibility of the word “ Waliyuhum” to mean the Quraysh. The verse will now mean, “ Satan has adorned the evil deeds of the previous nations and today he is the Lord and Protector of the Quraysh. This in his eyes is a great possibility. By the previous nations it may be referring to those nations that had been annihilated. Today Satan is their protector in purgatory where they will face the severe chastisement.

The Day being referred to is the worldly day or the day of protectorship and they will be punished on the Day of Judgment. It is also said that the day here is the Day of Judgment where Satan will be their protector and they will be subjected to severe punishment. The day when Satan adorned their deeds refers to the previous ages on this world. The closest explanation is the first one and then in serial order.

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

Ma-ayish means the means for the fulfilment of life. In addition to all the material things necessary to sustain life, it also refers to all those powers and faculties which help man to rise to a higher plane to prepare for his spiritual destiny, on account of which the angels were asked to prostrate themselves before Adam. Iblis refused to be of those who bowed down, because he arrogantly despised the angels who bowed down as well as man to whom they bowed down. Arrogance, envy and rebellion were his crimes .

As said above the spiritual destiny of man puts him above the angels and jinn, so the refusal of Shaytan (Iblis) to accept man's superiority was unreasonable. It was egotism which prompted him to impertinent rebellion.

Allah created man with His own hands from clay and gave him His own spirit (ruh). The essential quality of clay is softness which makes it adaptable to any form or shape-obedience and submission, and total submission to Allah's will is Islam-the spiritual destiny of man. So Shaytan, a product of fire, not having the qualities of adaptability, nor blessed with the holy spirit, was the first creature of Allah who resorted to conjecture, therefore was thrown out, eternally accursed. On his request Allah gave him respite (by saying): Be you among those who have respite. It implies that there are others, like him, under respite.

Shaytan has a large army of wicked seducers, and those who are their associates, helpers and deputies. The assault of Shaytan's evil is from all sides, and as said in verse 17; most men are led astray by him, while verse 18 says that Allah will fill hell with all of them.

For verses 19 to 25 see commentary of al Baqarah: 21 to 38.

### **AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS**

The objective of this holy verse is to console the Prophet of Islam (S) as not to be worried for the sake of the people's remaining heedless and being negligent, since all prophets used to confront such individuals. In view of the fact that those people who may raise this question after listening to the stories of the pre-Islamic Arabs how one can be so cruel as to bury alive his own daughter and how can such a thing be practical, the Qur'an apparently seems to be providing an answer to the question, saying:

*" By Allah, We verily sent (messengers) unto the nations before you, but the Satan made their (abominable) acts fair- seeming to them. ..."*

Certainly, the Satan is so advert in his own whimsical acts that he makes the worst and the most abominable acts as nice that even one imagines such acts as a source of pride for himself. Just in the same way that the 'pre- Islamic Arab' was proud of burying alive his own daughter, and praised that as protecting his chastity and saving the prestige of his own tribe. He would proudly say: " I buried my daughter with my own hands so as not to let the enemy capture her in a battle later. "

While the most shameful behavior is made possible under the guise of the most favored masks owing to the Satan's temptations, the rest of the matter is clearly evident. We nowadays witness such seemingly good- looking acts in many cases of theft, robberies, and crimes which are provided with proper justifications and under enticing pretexts.

Then the Qur'an adds that the present-day pagans follow the same deviant programs of the previous nations to whom the Satan presented their acts as nice, and the present-day Satan is their guardian, and they are being inspired by him. The verse says:

*"... Then he (the Satan) is their guardian today, ..."*

It is for this very reason that the painful Divine punishment is awaiting them.

*"... and they will have a painful punishment. "*