

### **Al-Isra (The Journey by Night) [17:53]**

وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ  
إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا ﴿٥٣﴾

Say to My servants that they should (only) say those things  
that are best: for Satan sows dissensions among them: For  
Satan is to man an avowed enemy.

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

*And say to my slaves that they should (only) say those words that are the best (because) Satan verily sows disagreements among them. Surely Satan is to man a plain enemy.*

We understand from the literal connotation of the words in the verse that “I’badi” here means the believers and God has directed them to Himself asking the Messenger to order them. This verse together with the next two verses has the same issues. The précis of this order is that the order is given to save oneself through kind and polite words and we should know that this is the will of God. No one has the right to stop another person from doing well. It is the enjoining of the good through which God has given stages of prominence to His Prophets and Messengers. Hazrat Daud was given Zaboora the best of praises for God.

What we discern here is that the Muslims at times used to behave very politely with the idolaters and other times used to damn them to Hell. This used to infuriate them because the Muslims declared themselves to be the people destined for Paradise. This anger led to the idolaters torturing the Messenger and actively denying the truth. So God asked His prophet to command the Muslims to talk decently. This was very appropriate because the retaliation of the idolaters was that they called the Messenger names like sorcerer and used to mock the verses of the Qur’an.

The verse commands “Tell them to talk decently” and the same is found in verse 125 of Surah Nahl that says, “Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair preaching and argue with them in a way that is better.”

God says, “Satan sows disagreements”, so to avoid this, speak decently with others and then says, “He is a declared or open enemy of yours” and this is the reason why he creates mischief within by making them behave rudely. It is also said that kind words will deter the idolaters from war and to behave humanely with them. This is addressed to the believers before the immigration to Madina. It is similar to the words of verse 83 of Surah Baqarah that says, “And speak well to the people”

Majmaul Bayan says that the idolaters in Makkah used to torture the companions of the Messenger and the believers used to ask the Messenger the permission to retaliate and fight. The Messenger used to say, "I have not been commanded so ". It was then that this verse was revealed and this Hadith is recorded through Kalbi I say, that the explanation of the verse in this Hadith does not co-relate with the verse as we have already discerned.

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

Some early Muslims of Makka were losing patience with the mocking behaviour of the Makkan infidels and so they asked the Holy Prophet to retaliate, at the least, verbally. Then came this verse.

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

As the discussion in the foregoing verses centered around the issues of the origin and the resurrection and the proofs regarding these two main ideological beliefs, here the Qur'an instructs the manner of conducting a dialogue and disputation with the dissidents, especially the pagans, for. N matter how elevated in rank the school might be, the powerful logic will also be rendered useless. However, if it is not coupled with correct methods, discussion and disputations, and instead of affection and favour harshness and rudeness prevail, it will be fruitless.

Therefore, the verse proclaims:

*" And say to My servants to speak what is best. ..."*

The best, in here, signifies what is most appropriate from the view point of content, eloquence, and that which is best in terms of ethical virtues and humanitarian methods. If one distances himself from what is best speech, and tends to rudeness and quarrelsomeness in his words, it recalls the Satan's interference and inciting corruption amongst them. The verse says:

*"... Verily, the Satan sows dissensions among them. ..."*

Do not remain heedless of the fact that the Satan does not remain idle. The Satan is always round the corner, for he has always been an open enemy of mankind. The holy verse continues saying:

*"... Verily the Satan unto man is an open enemy. "*

Sometimes, the believers who had recently accepted the faith, following their previous ancient habits, used to provoke aggression against those who opposed them.

Moreover, those humiliating expressions of the dissidents towards the Prophet (S) , some of which were mentioned in the previous verses, such as: sorcerer, insane, soothsayer, poet, etc sometimes caused the believers to lose control of themselves and raise up against the opponents in a verbal attack, saying whatever they wanted. The Qur'an seeks to hinder them from such things, persuading them to call with leniency and selection of softest words so as to prevent the Satan from inciting corruption.