

Al-Isra (The Journey by Night) [17:64]

وَأَسْتَفْزِرُ مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتَ مِنْهُمْ بِصَوْتِكَ وَأَجْلِبُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِخَيْلِكَ وَرَجِلِكَ
وَشَارِكُهُمْ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ وَعِدَّهُمْ وَإِنَّمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا



"Lead to destruction those whom you can among them, with your (seductive) voice; make assaults on them with your cavalry and your infantry; mutually share with them wealth and children; and make promises to them." But Satan promises them nothing but deceit.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

(God addresses the Satan) And befoul those whom you can among them with your voice, assault them with you cavalry and your infantry, mutually share with them their wealth and their children and make promises to them - But Satan promises them nothing but deceit.

God tells Satan that he is permitted to misguide the progeny of Adam as much as he can towards sin (these people are those who obey and follow him as has been read in Surah Al Hijr). The words "By your voice" means by whispering to them. "Assault them with your cavalry and infantry" means to misguide them towards sins. It says his followers are very eager in sin just as the cavalry and infantry are eager in battle and among them are those that act as infantry.

God says, "Share with them their wealth and children" normally sharing is done in power, wealth and economy and the result is that each one has a share in the profit as well as loss. Here the same is being said about wealth and children. Wealth is an external resource and children are their own part. Children are begotten with the intention of reaping a better future.

What this means is that Satan is made a partner in man's wealth and children in the sense that he may use them for his own benefit. This is done when the person gains wealth through ill gotten means not permitted by God or when the income gained is through permissible means but is used for things that are not permitted by God and both these instances are beneficial to Satan.

Man begets children through sin or through marriage but then tutors them in an evil way that does not lead to piety and thus he shares a part of them with Satan and another for himself. This is the straight forward meaning of this verse.

Some other commentators have said that the wealth and children in which Satan has a share are those wealth that are gained through sin or have been usurped and each child born out of wedlock as Ibn Abbas said is shared by Satan. Some say that the share of Satan is made through making the wealth Saiba and Bahira and the he shares in the children when they are brought up Jews Christians and Magians.

Some say that Satan shares the Vagina of the woman who resorts to adultery and this is the view of Kulayni too. Some say that the share of Satan in the children comes when they are named as Abd Shams, Abdul Haris that mean the slaves of the Sun and Haris. There is another version that it is like killing the child immediately after birth and Ibn Abbas has said something similar. Another interpretation says that Satan's share in the wealth is by sacrificing animals in the names of idols. Zahak and ancient commentators have also said the same.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

Refer to the commentary of al Baqarah: 30 to 38; Araf: 11 to 18 and Hijr: 28 to 42. Iblis Verse 8

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

With reference to the preceding verse it is implied in this verse that the mischief and deviation of the apostates, after the Holy Prophet, is comparable to the satanic arrogance and disbelief.

Man in his origin is free from all defects as asserted in At Tin :4- "We have created man in the best of moulds". The evil and deviation crept into the children of Adam through satanic agency. Therefore the concept of original sin introduced by the Christian Church is untenable.

Several verses of the Quran assert that those who deviate from the right path in lure of the worldly gains are not human beings at all; they are animals or even worse.

AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS

The Satan, at first, removes man's instinct for monotheism by means of persuasion. Later, he seeks to invade him with his ammunitions and armies.

The Arabic term/ 'istifzaz/ here signifies 'stumbling' or 'slipping' with speed and adeptness as well as by way of pushing.

The Satan does not just select one way for deceiving man. On the contrary, he usually entrenches man from all sides, accompanied by a number of other ways using all forms of persuasions, dissuasions, promises, aspirations, temptations, and enticements, which are as its mounting forces and its foot- soldiers, and in this course some people follow him.

We have it in quotations that he who has no fear of anyone in what he says and in what he does, or what he is said about; committing sins or back-biting openly, is a partner to the Satan. (Tafsir- Nur- uth- Thaqaalayn)

Other cases of forming partnership with the Satan, consist of: having forbidden sources of income, living on illegal money, adultery, raising corrupt and deviant offspring (Bihar, vol. 101, p. 631) . And he who regards the Ahl- ul- Bayt (a.s.) of the Prophet (S) as enemies, has allowed the Satan to enter into partnership with him. (Kafi, vol. 5, p. 205)

Unhealthy production and consumption, hoarding wealth, investment of foreign companies and foreign corporations, creation of scientific, cultural, and artistic centers as well as international games, which are colonial, are kinds of partnership with the Satan.

Anyway, explaining in an interesting and explicit fashion, He exposes the ways and means through which the Satan employs in his temptations. The Qur'an, addressing him, implies: you can provoke them each with your voice, and you can dispatch your mounting and infantry army units against them. The verse says:

" And startle whomever of them you can with your voice, and collect your cavalry and infantry against them; ..."

The Satan possesses numerous aids and assistants who are of his own kind, as well as from among mankind who help the Satan in seducing people. Some who are more powerful and speedier in act just like the mounting army; others are weaker and slower in action and behave just like infantry. The verse, addressing the Satan, continues saying:

"... and share with them in wealth and children and make promises to them; ..."

Then the Qur'an warns that the Satan does not do anything else except deceiving them. The verse says:

"... and the Satan makes no promises to them except delusion. "