

Al-An'am (The Cattle) [6:43]

فَلَوْلَا إِذْ جَاءَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا تَضَرَّعُوا وَلَكِنْ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَزَيَّنَ
لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

When the suffering reached them from us, why then did they not learn humility? On the contrary their hearts became hardened, and Satan made their (sinful) acts seem alluring to them.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

When our torment reached them, why then did they not believe with humility?
The word “Lau La” is to specify or to refute and here it is to refute. The proof is “But their hearts hardened” and this is opposite to softness. It says that the humans should not be affected by the feelings that normally affect them or that he should not be impressed by such words. The verse will mean, they did not lament even after facing hardships and they did not submit to their Lord in humility. Their souls refused to be affected and they remained busy and involved in the sinful ways for they believed their ways to be worthy and better.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

Having inadvertently sinned, if man does not turn repentant to Allah so that he would have been forgiven, but, on the contrary, becomes stubborn and hardhearted, Shaytan gets his opportunity to exploit him by putting forward the alluring pleasures of his vanity fair.

AYATULLAH KAMAL FAQIH IMANI AND SEVERAL SCHOLARS

To be heedless unto divine warnings and not to be regardful, is a sign of hard-heartedness.

It is for this reason that the verse implies why they did not take counsel from these painful and awakening factors, and they did not awaken from the sleep of negligence, and did not return toward Allah. The Qur'an says:

" Why then did they not entreat when Our distress came to them ?..."

In fact, the reason of their unawareness was two things. The first was that, as a result of extra amount of sin and persisting in disbelief, their hearts became dark and hardened, and their souls changed to be inflexible.

"... But their hearts were hard, ..."

The second factor was that (applying their mood of sensuality) Satan made their deeds seem decorous to them. So, they considered right whatever wrong they did, and counted aright and correct every offence they committed. The verse says :

"... and Satan made all that they used to do seem fair unto them."