

الله
رسول
محمد

SATAN

The Sworn Enemy of Mankind

Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy. He summons his followers that they will be among the people of the Searing Blaze.
(Qur'an, 35: 6)

HARUN YAHYA

Whoever you may be, there is an enemy who is a devoted threat to you who wishes for your eternal torment, having dedicated his whole existence to that end. That enemy is Satan. That is, Satan whom Allah cursed and expelled from His presence. He is your greatest foe. Nor is he a mere myth or legend, but a real being.

He has been in existence throughout human history. Millions who lived and died have succumbed to his wiles and been thrown into the flames, and continue to do so. He makes no distinctions among his victims: young or old, male or female, a head of state or beggar... He is against all human beings.

For him to succeed in his aim, it is not necessary that he succeed in tempting people to worship him, or to engage in outrageous acts of perversions. Neither does he necessarily wish to lead people to deny Allah. He himself has not done so. His only wish is to keep human beings away from the truth of the religion of Allah, as espoused in the Qur'an; to prevent them from worshipping Allah sincerely; and, as a result, to ensure they will ultimately have been doomed to eternal torment.

And keep in mind that Satan has no influence over those devout servants of Allah.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values He prescribed for them.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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Abbreviations used:

(saas-sall-Allahu 'alyahi wa sallam): May Allah bless him and grant him peace
(following a reference to the Prophet Muhammad)
(as- 'alayhi 's-salam): Peace be upon him (following a reference to the prophets or
angels)

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SATAN:

The Sworn Enemy of Mankind

*Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy.
He summons his followers that they will be
among the people of the Searing Blaze.
(Surah Fatir, 6)*

HARUN YAHYA
May, 2004

TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

SATAN: **The Sworn Enemy** **of Mankind**

*Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy.
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(Surah Fatir, 6)

HARUN YAHYA
May, 2004

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His penname is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's Existence and Unity and the Hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise

effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

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THE SWORN ENEMY OF MANKIND

Whoever you may be, there is an enemy who is a devoted threat to you, who wishes for you eternal torment, having dedicated his whole existence to that end. That enemy is Satan. That is, Satan whom Allah cursed and expelled from His presence. He is your greatest foe. Nor is he a mere myth or legend, but a real being.

He has been in existence throughout human history. Millions who lived and died have succumbed to his wiles and been thrown into the flames, and continue to do so. He makes no distinctions among his victims: young or old, male or female, a head of state or beggar... He is against all human beings.

He is watching from afar and hatching his plots, even as you are reading this text. He has but one desire: to lure you, and as many people as possible, to Hell.

For him to succeed in his aim, it is not necessary that he succeed in tempting people to worship him, or to engage in outrageous acts of perversions. Neither does he necessarily wish to lead people to deny Allah. He himself has not done so. His only wish is to keep

human beings away from the truth of the religion of Allah, as espoused in the Qur'an; to prevent them from worshipping Allah sincerely; and, as a result, to ensure they will ultimately have been doomed to eternal torment. Even, at times, by employing the guise of piety, he will make reference to the name of Allah, that he may lead people astray from the truth of the religion. That ruse alone is sufficient for him to drag people with him into the pit of Hell. And, no matter what means he employs, that is the inevitable end for those who choose to follow him:

It is written of him that if anyone takes him as a confidant, he will mislead him and guide him to the punishment of the Searing Blaze. (Surat al-Hajj, 4)

Iblis' Rebellion Against Allah

In the Qur'an, "Satan" is the term applied to those beings who will strive until the Last Day to divert mankind from the path of Allah. The ancestor of all these satans is Iblis, the one who originally rebelled against Allah, at the time of the creation of the Prophet Adam (as).

According to the Qur'an, when Allah had created the Prophet Adam (as), he commanded the angels to prostrate themselves before him. Iblis, though, who was one of the jinn, refused to bow before Adam (as). Rather, he insisted that he was superior to this human being, a disobedience and great insolence for which he was finally expelled from the presence of Allah.*

(* It is stated in the account that angels and jinn were created before man. There are two important details here which are usually misunderstood. The first is

However, before departing from Allah's presence, he requested a respite, a period of time in which he could lead human beings astray, into error as he was himself. Thus, Allah allotted him the time until the Day of Judgment to pursue his plot. It was then that his war against mankind began. Allah related these developments in the Qur'an as follows:

We created you and then formed you and then We said to the angels, "Prostrate before Adam," and they prostrated—except for Iblis. He was not among those who prostrated. [Allah] said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you to?" He [Iblis] replied, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and You created him from clay." He [Allah] said, "Descend from Heaven. It is not for you to be arrogant in it. So get out! You are one of the abased." He [Iblis] said, "Grant me a reprieve until the day they are raised up." He [Allah] said, "You are one of the re-

that the Prophet Adam (as), the first human being, was formed in a single act of creation, which was witnessed by the angels and Iblis. This is an important point to consider, because, certain circles, who concede to the theory of evolution, originally put forward in opposition to the idea of creation, make the mistake of maintaining that the Prophet Adam (as) emerged as the result of an evolutionary process.

The second is that, contrary to what some people would have us believe, Iblis was not an angel, but a jinn, abiding in the same realm as the angels. That Iblis was a jinn was revealed in the 50th verse of Surat al-Kahf.

Some have claimed that the jinns are actually angels. The fact is, however, as we learn from the Qur'an, that there is a distinction between the angels and the jinn. This distinction was referred to by angels themselves, as related in the Qur'an, in the 40th and 41st verse of Surah Saba'. There, it is stated that the father of the jinn was created from "smokeless fire." For that reason, Iblis is evidently a jinn, not an angel.

prieved." He [Iblis] said, "By Your misguidance of me, I will lie in ambush for them on your straight path." [Iblis said,] "Then I will come at them, from in front of them and behind them, from their right and from their left. You will not find most of them thankful." He [Allah] said, "Get out of it, reviled and driven out. As for those of them who follow you, I will fill up Hell with every one of you." (Surat al-A`raf, 11-18)

Therefore, after having been expelled from Allah's presence, Iblis entered upon his struggle. He insinuated himself among humanity that he might deceive them and cause them to go astray. His first ruse was to mislead the Prophet Adam (as) and his wife, then abiding in Paradise, succeeding in tempting them to rebel against Allah. This occurrence, at the dawn of human history, is here described in the Qur'an:

[Allah said,] "Adam, live in the Garden, you and your wife, and eat of it wherever you like. But do not go near this tree lest you become wrongdoers." Then Satan whispered to them, disclosing to them their private parts that had been concealed from them. He said, "Your Lord has only forbidden you this tree that you not become like the angels or achieve immortality." He [Satan] swore to them, "I am a sincere counselor to you." So he enticed them to commit the act by means of deception. Then, when they tasted of the tree, their private parts were disclosed to them, and they began to stitch together leaves of the Garden that they may cover themselves. Their Lord called out to them, "Did I not forbid you this tree and say to you, 'Satan is an avowed enemy to you?' " They said, "Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves. If you do not forgive us and have mercy on us, we will be

among the deceived." He said, "Go out from here as enemies to each other! You will live on Earth and have enjoyment for a time." He said, "On it you will live, and on it die, and from it you will be brought forth." (Surat al-A`raf, 19-25)

The Prophet Adam (as) had repented to Allah and was forgiven by Him. Nevertheless, Iblis continued with his war on humanity. As is revealed in the Qur'an, in Surat al-Ma`ida, Satan also deceived one of the Prophet Adam's (as) two sons, causing him to kill his brother. (Surat al-Ma`ida, 27)

From that time onward, Iblis has deceived a great many people, luring them into his ranks. He has also many supporters from among jinn. The jinn who followed him have also set out, as he, to insinuate themselves among humans, in order to lead them astray and to cause doubt in their hearts (Surat an-Nas, 4). These jinns, as well as the human beings who also follow Iblis, have given him the title "Satan." (The root of the Arabic word "Shaytan" means, "to be far removed," and is a title for every impetuous and rebellious creature who has been expelled from the presence of Allah.)

For that reason, "Satan," mankind's worst enemy, is rather a legion of jinns and human beings, under the leadership of Iblis. These jinns and human beings seek to cause humanity to stray onto that path they themselves have strayed onto, the path of Iblis. Because the jinns among the satans are invisible, they can approach humans without their being aware of it, and place thoughts in their minds that may cause them to turn from the path of truth. Human satans, on the other hand, move about openly among the people, fomenting suggestions with the intent of leading them into error. Moreover, as such a person may be one regarded as a close personal friend, he may also be a "man of ideas," widely respected in society. Believers are taught the following prayer in the Qur'an, to protect them from

this danger:

Say: "I seek refuge with the Lord of mankind, the King of mankind, the God of mankind, from the evil of the insidious whisperer who whispers in people's breasts, from among the jinn and mankind." (Surat an-Nas, 1-6)

Because Satan is a foe with the ability to approach man so deceptively, all need to take especial care in order to avoid him. The first precondition in this regard is to acknowledge Satan's existence. Once this point is recognized, we can then consider Satan's purpose to be founded on the most peculiar and incongruent form of logic. At the root of his logic, subsequently employed by all those who follow in his footsteps, is pride and arrogance.

Satan's Peculiar Logic

The reason for Iblis' rebellion against Allah is set out in the Qur'an with the following account:

He said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you to?" He [Iblis] replied, "I am better than him. You created me from fire, and You created him from clay." (Surat al-A`raf, 12)

Iblis refused to bow before a human being because he regarded himself as superior. However, the premise on which he bases that rejection is unfounded, and refers to superficial criteria. He maintains that he was created from fire, while man is from clay, implying that the former is superior in substance to the latter. In other words, the entire basis of his arrogance is founded on the supposed physical difference in composition between the two substances. The fact is, however, that Allah created both man and Iblis, whatever the material. It is completely irrational, and astounding impudence, that a

created being would rebel against the command of its Creator, by claiming the substance from which it was created to be superior to another, though also created by the same Creator. However, the extreme envy Iblis felt towards man, as well as the false sense of his own superiority, prevented him from perceiving that fact, causing him to rebel against Allah's command, for having insisted on a mere physical difference. Iblis' errant notions can be further discerned from other portions of the Qur'an, where he is referred to as regarding himself special and superior:

He said, "I will not bow before a human being whom You have created out of dried clay formed from putrid black mud." (Surat al-Hijr, 33)

Iblis does not deny that Allah created him. That is not the cause of his rebellion. On the contrary, he himself admits that it was Allah Who had created him. However, by insisting instead, "I am imbued with greater potential than a human being; you created me from fire and him from mud," he is afflicted, clearly, with pride. There is absolutely nothing logical in his rebellious stance before Allah.

Another verse which reveals Iblis' defective logic reads as follows:

When We said to the angels, "Bow before Adam!" they all bowed, except Iblis. He said "What! Am I to prostrate to one You have created out of clay?" (Surat al-Isra', 61)

The last verse clearly shows Iblis' impudence and delusion. The elevation of the Prophet Adam (as)'s status, by which Iblis considered himself slighted, because of not wanting to humble himself before any other, led him to this terrible jealousy. Thus he became disobedient towards Allah:

He said, "Iblis, what prevented you prostrating to what I created with My own Hands? Were you overcome by arro-

gance or are you one of the exalted?" He [Satan] said, "I am better than he. You created me from fire, but You created him from clay." (Surah Sad, 75-76)

The evil considerations behind Iblis' refusal to bow before the Prophet Adam (as) is also observable among all those who refuse to accept the word of Allah, in other words, among the human satans. These are people who have rejected the prophets, humans just like themselves, though messengers of Allah. They insisted instead that there ought to be some superiority evident in anyone they should receive as a messenger of Allah, claiming such superiority needed to be based on political or material power. An example of such demands can be found among the unbelievers from the time of the Prophet Muhammad (saas). According to the Qur'an:

They say, "Why was this Qur'an not sent down to one of the more powerful men from the two cities?" (Surat az-Zukhruf, 31)

Alternatively, unbelievers also demanded to witness proof of supernatural power through some miracle in order to believe in the messenger. Several examples of such demands are related in the Qur'an:

They say, "We will not believe you until you make a spring gush out from the earth for us; or have a garden of dates and grapes which you make rivers come pouring through. Or make the sky, as you claim, fall down on us in lumps; or bring Allah and the angels here as a guarantee; or possess a house built out of gleaming gold; or ascend up into heaven—and even then we will not believe in your ascent unless you bring us down a book to read!" Say: "Glory be to my Lord! Am I anything but a human messenger?" (Surat al-Isra', 90-93)

This is a point those who opposed the messengers and waged war against them were unable to accept. Unbelievers are unable to accept a normal human being like themselves as having been imparted the role of messenger. This envy and haughty rebellion is founded on the same perverted belief as Iblis' when he refused to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as). The following verse refers to the way in which most people have been unable to find the path to salvation, for just that reason:

Nothing prevents people from believing when guidance comes to them but the fact that they say, "Has Allah sent a human being as Messenger?" (Surat al-Isra', 94)

A curious enigma governs Iblis' rebellion. Iblis is an entity possessed of knowledge, having himself witnessed to the existence of Allah. He has knowledge of the angels, and is cognizant of man's creation. He is also aware of Allah's greatness and might, as well as of the torment of Hell.

The mystery of the illogic of Iblis, and of all those who follow him, is in their propensity to oppose the commandments of Allah, thereby becoming unbelievers, despite first-hand knowledge of the existence and oneness of Allah. This is a most puzzling phenomenon. With such knowledge available, Iblis should have been of the most profound faith. His degree of awareness should lead him to be eternally obedient and reverent to Allah. Yet, Iblis embarked on a course of action that not even the person least aware of such facts would have been courageous enough to do.

The mystery of Iblis' irrationality does not end there. Despite committing a sin so great as to incite others to deny Allah, he nevertheless admits to fearing Him. This indicates a particularly diseased pattern of thought:

They are like Satan when he says to a human being,

"Disbelieve," and then when he disbelieves, says, "I wash my hands of you. Truly I fear Allah, the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat al-Hashr, 16)

Another verse reveals that, after Satan had incited the unbelievers against the believers, he then abandoned them, then confessing to his fear of Allah:

When Satan made their actions appear good to them, saying, "No one will overcome you today for I am at your side." But when the two parties came in sight of one another, he turned right round on his heels saying, "I wash my hands of you. I see what you do not see. I fear Allah. Allah is severe in retribution." (Surat al-Anfal, 48)

On the one hand, Iblis admits to the existence of Allah, and to His infinite might and wisdom, yet, on the other, knowingly rebels against Him, being an extreme contradiction.

Similarly, all who reject the commandments of Allah, as revealed in the Qur'an, interpreting His commands according to his personal desires, or seeks to demonstrate that the divine law is invalid, is guilty of the same error as Iblis. Like Iblis, they are aware of the existence of Allah, but fall into exactly the same failure of logic as he.

Due to his disobedience, Iblis was disgraced and ultimately expelled from his place in the presence of Allah. Iblis, who rebelled out of pride and arrogance, was humiliated in a way so distasteful to his character. Therefore, before leaving Allah's presence, he requests Allah to be allotted a specific period of time. He does not demand such a period that he may seek Allah's forgiveness, to turn back towards Him and express his repentance. Rather, his aim is to ignorantly seek retribution by dragging as many as he can into the same humiliation.

Thus it was that Satan's animosity and war against mankind

was incepted. However, it must not be forgotten that Allah created Satan, with all these propensities, and that he is a factor under our Lord's command. In other words, Satan has no power independent from Allah. Nevertheless, according to the deviant belief, widespread due the ignorance of today's societies, a power struggle exists between Satan and Allah. Therefore, according to this opinion, when Satan manages to turn people away from the true path, he will have gained the victory over Allah (Allah is surely beyond that).

The truth is, however, that Satan is only able to carry out all that he does by the permission of Allah. Due this same fact, though, Satan is at times able to influence a great majority of human beings. Yet, he can do nothing without Allah's leave. The period of time requested by Satan, that is, the respite granted by Allah, is related as follows in the Qur'an:

"He [Satan] said, "My Lord, grant me a reprieve until the Day they are raised again." He [Allah] said, "You are among the reprieved." (Surat al-Hijr, 36-37)

In another verse, the respite accorded to Satan is described as follows:

He [Satan] said, "Do you see this creature you have honored over me? If You reprieve me till the Day of Rising, I will be the master of his descendants except for a very few." He [Allah] said, "Go! And as for any who follow you, your repayment is Hell, repayment in full!" (Surat al-Isra', 62-63)

As can be discerned from these verses, Satan acts under within the confines of the will of Allah. He is aware that Allah is the Lord of the Worlds. Indeed, while declaring that he will insinuate suggestions into human beings, Satan swears on the greatness of Allah:

He [Satan] said, "By Your might, I will mislead all of them." (Surah Sad, 82)

Before expelling Satan from His presence, Allah announced the following:

"Stir up any of them you can with your voice and rally against them your cavalry and your infantry and share with them in their children and their wealth and make them promises! The promise of Satan is nothing but delusion."

(Surat al-Isra', 64)

In the pages that follow, we shall examine the tactics which, by Allah's permission, Satan employs. However, there is one key point which ought not to be forgotten:

Satan has no power beyond that granted to him by Allah. Satan's function is to be a means whereby human beings destined for Hell end up in the place appointed for them. Those who follow Satan are unworthy of Allah's Paradise, being morally lower even than animals. Allah reveals this truth in the verses of His Book:

We created many of the jinn and mankind for Hell. They have hearts they do not understand with. They have eyes they do not see with. They have ears they do not hear with. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A`raf, 179)

In addition, Satan has no influence over those devout servants of Allah. Because Allah prevents it, Satan's influence is incapable of diverting believers from the true path. Allah protects those of His servants who devote themselves to Him, and who do not deify others besides Him, from the perverting effects of Satan.

He [Satan] has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord. (Surat an-Nahl, 99)

The Prophet Muhammad (saas) stated the same, and further warned the Muslims, in his Last Sermon, of the insidious snares of Satan:

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Beware of Satan, for the sake of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in grave issues, so beware of following him in minor aspects. (Sahih Bukhari)

In conclusion, like all other beings, Satan has been charged with a role by Allah. That role is to be a means by which the believers, whom Allah has created for His Paradise, and others, created for Hell, may be distinguished from each another. Therefore, this means serves as a purging. Those with diseased or corrupt hearts are kept from or separated from the believers, by means of Satan. A verse of the Qur'an has revealed that Satan's influence will effect only the following sort of people:

[It is] so that He can make what Satan insinuates a trial for those with sickness in their hearts and for those whose hearts are hard—the wrongdoers are entrenched in hostility. (Surat al-Hajj, 53)

Furthermore, the difficulties which Satan seeks to inflict upon believers also offer an opportunity by which they may draw closer to Allah in this world, and increase their faith:

And [it is] so that those who have been given knowledge will know it is the truth from their Lord and believe in it and their hearts will be humbled to Him. Allah guides those who believe to a straight path. (Surat al-Hajj, 54)

THE CHARACTER OF SATAN

Satan is man's greatest foe, to be encountered by every person, thousands of times during his or her lifetime. He is man's enemy because, according to him, it was due to man that he lost his status in the presence of Allah. The only reason for his time on Earth is the permission he has been granted by from Allah within which he is to ensnare humans. During that time allotted, he will use every means at his disposal, and until the Last Day, to lure people into the fires of Hell. To that end, he is ever keeping his watch over mankind, (Surat al-A`raf, 27) preparing the plots and ruses by which to assault them.

Many are not even aware at all that Satan poses them danger. According to them, Satan is an obscure, or even imaginary notion. In their view, only those who commit really terrible acts, that is, savage or even monstrous people, follow Satan. They regard themselves and others like them as pure of heart, and over whom Satan has no influence. They do, however, occasionally acknowledge being "tempted by the Satan," though only with regards to the most minor errors.

Falling into such ignorance, however, is one of the gravest errors one can commit. Because, with a small number of believers being the exception, Satan has brought the great majority of humanity completely under his control. Without even realizing it, they are leading just the sort of lives Satan wishes them to, thus following him to Hell. What such people ought to do, however, is inform themselves appropriately of Satan, and regard him as their enemy. Allah has commanded this in Surah Fatir:

Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy. He summons his followers that they will be among the people of the Searing Blaze. (Surah Fatir, 6)

Being cognizant of Satan, and understanding the nature of his animosity, is part of the first steps towards salvation. That being the case, one must first come to know Satan's characteristics, and the tactics he employs. These traits, referred to in some detail throughout the many verses of the Qur'an, are developed under the several following headings:

He Is Devious and a Liar

First and foremost, Satan conceals the truth in order to lead people away from the path of salvation. The best way of doing so is by imparting devious falsehoods to people. He attempts to attract them to his ranks by means of lies and empty promises. For example, he will promise heightened prestige, increased wealth, more sex, a life of ease, or even higher status in the Hereafter. However, as he himself will admit in the Hereafter, he has lied and made false promises:

When the affair is decided Satan will say, "Allah made you a promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I

called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me but blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid nor you to mine. I reject the way you associated me with Allah before." The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment. (Surah Ibrahim, 22)

However, his admission will only be made known beyond the life of this world, when he and his followers will be called forward on the Day of Judgment. Then learning the truth of this matter will, of course, ultimately avail Satan's followers of nothing. They will all be cast into Hell, with all those who, throughout the course of history, have followed in the footsteps of Satan.

He Is Defiant, Impudent and Ungrateful

Satan is terribly ungrateful towards Allah, Who created him from nothing, and imparted him all of the traits he possesses. (Surat al-Isra', 27) It was due to this ingratitude and lack of awareness that he rebelled and defied Allah.

He Is Rebellious

Another feature of Satan, as mentioned in the Qur'an, is that he is rebellious (Surat al-Hajj, 3; Surat an-Nisa', 117).

His Influence Is Without Effect Upon the Believers

At first glance, Satan's snares and other deceptive measures, which he prepares for the believers, may seem powerful. But that is not necessarily the case. Because, Satan's deceptive wiles are, in actual fact, quite feeble, and ultimately doomed to failure.

Those who believe fight in the Way of Allah. Those who disbelieve fight in the way of false gods. So fight the friends of Satan! Satan's scheming is always feeble. (Surat an-Nisa', 76)

His Power Is Only Sufficient to Tempt

Satan has no power to compel human beings. All he is able to do is impart insinuations. It is the individual himself who chooses to obey or not. In other words, when one is guilty of doing something wrong, he cannot blame Satan. What is to be condemned is the decision to comply with his insinuations. Satan will make this fact evident to the unbelievers in the Hereafter, who would seek to blame him for their short-comings.

... I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me but blame yourselves... (Surah Ibrahim, 22)

He Is Man's Enemy

The fact that Satan is mankind's worst enemy is revealed in a number of verses (Surah al-An'am, 142; Surat al-Kahf; 50, Surah Ya Sin, 60). The reason for this emphasis is because the harm which Satan seeks to inflict on man is far more of a concern than any other threat to man in this world. Satan wishes men to suffer in Hell for all eternity. That is why he is to be considered mankind's greatest foe. This matter is discussed in the following verses:

Mankind! Eat what is good and lawful on the Earth. And do not follow in the footsteps of Satan. He truly is an outright enemy to you. (Surat al-Baqara, 168)

... Satan is a clear-cut enemy to man. (Surah Yusuf, 5)

He Is Stain on Human Beings

Satan's effect on mankind is described as "taint" in the Qur'an: **And when He overcame you with sleep, making you feel secure, and sent you down water from heaven to purify you and remove the taint of Satan from you, and to fortify your hearts and make your feet firm. (Surat al-Anfal, 11)**

He Has Been Expelled from the Presence of Allah

Satan was humiliatingly driven from the presence of Allah, because of his disobedience and ingratitude. The very word "Satan" confers the meaning of expulsion. This facet of Satan's history is revealed in the 25th verse of Surat at-Takwir and 17th verse of Surat al-Hijr.

SATAN'S TACTICS

As a result of his war against mankind, to last until the Day of Judgment, Satan will drag myriads of people along with him into the fires of Hell. However, there is one group over which Satan cannot prevail: the believers. The reason being, that believers fear Allah, and are His representatives on Earth and are under His protection. Therefore, the temptations of Satan exercise no effect upon them. This fact, as admitted even by Satan himself, is revealed as follows in the Qur'an:

He [Satan] said, "My Lord, because You misled me, I will make things on the Earth seem good to them and I will mislead them all, every one of them, except Your servants among them who are sincere." (Surat al-Hijr, 39-40)

As can be discerned from this verse, Satan's power is impotent to sway the believers. However, none can regard himself "predestined" for Paradise. In order to protect his faith—for, as outlined in the 28th verse of Surat al-Ma`arij, "**no one is safe from the punishment of his Lord**"—a believer must continually "**hold fast to the**

rope of Allah" (Surah Al`Imran, 103). Because Satan "**will lie in ambush for them on their straight path**" (Surat al-A`raf, 16) and "**cause them to slip**" (Surah Al`Imran, 155), the believer must be always on his guard against his tricks and ploys. Otherwise, he risks falling into his snares, though unaware of it, with the eventuality of falling astray from the true religion. With regard to this, our Prophet (saas) said:

Verily Satan is a wolf to man as the wolf is (the enemy) of a flock. He seizes the lone sheep straying from the flock, or turning away from the flock. So avoid the factious paths; it is essential that you remain with the community. (Tirmidhi)

Let us now examine, item by item, the tactics employed by Satan in order to cause people to be destined for Hell.

He Foments Doubt

The struggle the believers wage against their greatest of foes is to endure a lifetime. Throughout this war, Satan employs cunning ruses. He never reveals his true aim. He does not come forward declaring straight out, "I am Satan and I want you to burn in Hell." Instead, he subtly conceals his presence, whispering stealthily into people's hearts (Surat an-Nas, 4-5). As Allah's messenger (saas) said, "*Satan runs in the body of Adam's son (i.e., man) as his blood that circulates through it.*" (Sahih Bukhari) One who fails to be cognizant of Satan imagines that the temptations issuing from him are merely the products of his own mind. Though, Satan also brings that person to believe those false ideas to be true. In this manner, Satan brings a great many under his complete control without their knowing.

The faithful, however, by way of the Qur'an, are able to neutralize this enemy, who has the ability to whisper into their inner-selves.

Essentially, the believer possesses a light with which to identify whether this voice be from his heart or from Satan. After perceiving that approach of Satan, he follows what has been commanded in the Qur'an, by seeking shelter in Allah. As we are told in the Qur'an, the temptations of Satan exercise no effect upon a believer when he remembers Allah. Allah reveals this important secret as follows:

If an evil impulse from Satan provokes you, seek refuge in Allah. He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. As for those who guard against evil, when they are bothered by visitors from Satan, they remember and immediately see clearly. (Surat al-A`raf, 200-201)

Because this world is a stage of trial, one may encounter a great number of varying situations and circumstances. No matter what the conditions may be though, Satan is always waiting in ambush. The slightest weakness shown on the part of a believer is an opportunity for Satan. And, Satan exploits every opportunity.

If a believer harbors thoughts he considers disturbing, or is bothered by the situation he finds himself in,—such perceptions usually representing the warnings of his conscience—he must desist immediately and reconsider his predicament. The simplest way to do so is for him or her to try to analyze the situation objectively. In this manner, he may assess it according the following criteria:

- Is what he is thinking at that moment compatible with the teachings of the Qur'an?
- Is he being lax in remembering Allah?
- Is he being too flexible when it comes to keeping within the bounds of the Qur'an and observing its stipulations?
- Do his plans have any other aim than Allah's good pleasure?
- Are his personal interests at that moment more important than those of other believers?

- Does he have any doubts or concerns regarding himself or another believer?
- Is he failing to put his trust in Allah due to some perceived injustice?
- Does he wish his personal sacrifice to be recognized by others?
- Is he merely offering up excuses so as not to give up something dear to him?
- Does he have an inordinate passion for anything of this world?
- Does he fear for the future?
- Is he unable to bear a warning pronounced to him in the light of the Qur'an?
- Has he developed a love for or bond with an enemy of Allah?
- Has he put off reading the Qur'an, praying or performing good deeds for some invalid excuse?

If the problem he faces derives from any such or similar conditions, then he is being assailed by Satan. All of such thoughts, which he otherwise believes to issue from his own self, are actually words whispered into his heart by Satan.

Satan, though, employs different tactics when dealing with different people. Against one who lives in a manner far removed from the teachings of the Qur'an, for instance, he will employ tactics designed to entrench that person further into that particular lifestyle. He will tempt such people to become immersed in the life of this world, distract them with its temporal adornments, and, thus, keep them from the truth of the religion.

Imam Ghazali offered the following, in his book titled *Ihya' `Ulum al-Din* (The Revival of the Religious Sciences):

The mutual repelling of the soldiers of the angels and the devils is constant

in the battle over the heart, until the heart is conquered by one of the two sides which sets up its nation and settles there... And most hearts have been seized by the soldiers of shaytan (Satan), who fill them with the whispers that call one to love this passing world and disregard the next.

When it comes to one who has only newly entered into the religion, he will try to divert him away from it, by causing him to become concerned with shallow and baseless worries, such as being excluded from those around him, the supposed restrictiveness of religion, and being unable to maintain the demands of the religion having once embarked upon it.

Satan is also active against the believers. For example, a believer, who may become angry with another believer, or who finds some trivial excuse to not read the Qur'an, though it had occurred to him he ought to, does so because of the evil influence of Satan. However, Satan is not so overt as to whisper things such as, "do not read the Qur'an," or simply, "do not remember Allah," to the believer. This he knows to be ineffective. Instead, he aims to distract the person through involved and meaningless tasks. If the person falls under the influence of such suggestions being whispered to him, forgets the Hereafter and becomes consumed with the life of this world, then he will, inevitably, by way of such lack of conscientiousness, turn away from that commanded by Allah in the Qur'an. The only way to avoid falling into this trap is to identify the whisperings of Satan in time, and to then seek refuge in Allah.

An accurate recognition of these insinuations can be made if one is well aware of Satan's characteristics, tactics and snares. The only source in which to seek guidance in these matters is the Qur'an. In the pages that follow, we shall examine the methods of deception Satan employs to lead people away from the path of Allah, as they are outlined in the verses of the Qur'an.

He Causes People to Deify Others Besides Allah

This matter is described in the Qur'an as ascribing divinity to anything besides Allah. However, billions of people who may be destined for Hell for committing this are unaware of even the concept at all. They imagine that the words "Associating partners with Allah and ascribing divinity to something other than Allah" refer to regarding anything else other than Allah, the Creator, as possessing the ability to create, worshipping idols or adhering to the polytheism of the past. Members of societies where ignorance of religion prevails, being limited by such a perception, are therefore faulted with an erroneous view of reality, a logic contrary to the Qur'an, according to which they excuse themselves by saying, "I believe in Allah, I do nobody any harm, I am useful to other people, I do not think that I will go to Hell."

The fact is, however, that regarding anything other than Allah as a protective force, fearing anything other than He, and feeling a particular love for anything other than Allah, is tantamount of associating equals and partners as divine besides Him.

Adopting guidance other than that of Allah is one of the most common forms of deifying others besides Him. By accepting and following guidance from others than Allah, present-day societies, which are mired in ignorance, are reviving the idol-worship of bygone centuries. Polytheistic religions have been replaced by atheistic ideologies, and the idols once worshiped have been replaced by statues of the founders of these ideologies. In this way, myriads of people, irrespective of race or nationality, have been prevented from living truly according to the religion of Allah.

Satan, of course, is the worst instigator of this perversion. Because, every step by which a person strays further from Allah represents an advance in which Satan has secured his victory over man.

For that reason, Satan dulls the minds of those who ascribe equals to Allah. Ascribing divinity to others besides Allah, an error that comes to pervade the whole of their lives, prevents such people from reasoning properly. They conduct themselves not in the manner commanded by Allah, that is, according to the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (saas), but by the temptations of Satan.

A life lived deifying others besides Allah is so cunning a snare by Satan that those caught in it are unable even to realize the situation they foundered in. Most regard themselves as being on the true path, or, still, as more worthy of Paradise than others. The suffering to be endured by those who deceived themselves, being unaware that they had been deifying others besides Allah, when they learn on the Day of Judgment that they had actually been among the unbelievers is described in verses of the Qur'an as follows:

On the Day We gather them all together, We will say to those who associated others with Allah, "Where are the partner-gods, for whom you made such claims?" Then they will have no recourse except to say, "By Allah, our Lord, We were not idolaters." See how they lie against themselves and how what they invented has forsaken them! (Surat al-An`am, 22-24)

One of the factors that lead to falsely ascribing equals to Allah is the misdirection of love, a sentiment which mankind has possessed since its creation. This emotion, which is a means to draw closer to Allah, becomes an evil passion in societies where ignorance is prevalent, turning people instead away from Allah. Believers direct the love within themselves towards Allah. This form of love is superior to all others. They love other people and things as recogni-

tion of their love for Allah. According to the Qur'an, it is impossible for them to feel such love for a human being, or, for instance, one who rebels against or denies Allah. Believers love for the good pleasure of Allah, and love those who act according to His will, disliking those who do not. As a result of their love of human beings representing their love for Allah, it is profound and enduring. In contrast, the so-called love of the idolaters is superficial and fleeting.

For idolaters, love is expressed for the numerous false-deities they idolize. Though, they claim to love Allah. And yet, that love is merely verbal. Rather, they devote their energies towards these idols on which they expend their misdirected love. They love, for example, their fathers, sons, spouses, money, position and rank, far more than they do Allah. The love felt by the unbelievers is discussed in the following verse:

Some people set up equals to Allah, loving them as they should love Allah. But those who believe have greater love for Allah. If only you could see those who do wrong at the time when they see the punishment, and that truly all strength belongs to Allah, and that Allah is severe in punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 165)

Another of the more common manifestations of the idolization of others besides Allah, so prevalent in those societies ignorant of the true religion, is inordinate love of women. If the love felt for a woman surpasses that felt for Allah, then that passion is tantamount of deifying another besides Him. More correctly, love felt for another human is only justified if he or she reflects divine qualities. Since there is no limit of the love that can be felt for the divine, that is, Allah, that love, by one who loves for the sake of Allah, is powerful and lasting.

Allah has revealed that this passion for womankind is another among Satan's snares:

What they call on apart from Him are female idols. What they call on is an arrogant Satan. (Surat an-Nisa', 117)

Ascribing partners to Allah is a grave sin, and severe ingratitude towards Him. That is why Allah has revealed that, although He forgives all sins, only He will never forgive deifying others besides Him:

Allah does not forgive anything being associated with Him but He forgives whoever He wills for anything other than that. Anyone who associates something with Allah has committed a terrible crime. (Surat an-Nisa', 48)

Deifying equals to Allah is so subtle a threat that it can even menace those who spend their lives in careful worship to Him. Because, good deeds are nullified for ascribing equals to Allah. For that reason, Satan prepares traps of various kinds to cause believers who have dedicated their lives to Allah to attribute equals to Him. At times he may use women, at others money, or other means. For example, following a victory, Satan will lure the person by suggesting to him, "this was your achievement." In this way, Satan seeks to make the person believe that he somehow possesses power independent from Allah.

Believers must be on their guard against any incitement that will ultimately make all their efforts nil. It is for this reason that a very clear warning has been announced to believers in the Qur'an:

It has been revealed to you and those before you: "If you associate others with Allah, your actions will come to nothing and you will be among the losers." No! Worship Allah and be among the thankful. (Surat az-Zumar, 65-66)

He Hinders Gratitude

Before Satan was expelled from the presence of Allah, he made himself an important promise, one which reveals one of the most insidious tactics employed by Satan against man:

[Satan said,] "Then I will come at them, from in front of them and behind them, from their right and from their left. You will not find most of them thankful." (Surat al-A`raf, 17)

Satan wishes to prevent people from being grateful to Allah. The reason for this is that gratitude is one of the matters most emphasized in the Qur'an. Around 60 verses refer to the importance of gratitude. One of Satan's primary aims is therefore to cause people to neglect this virtue, the importance of which is so repeatedly mentioned by Allah.

In order to render thanks one must first recognize the importance of gratitude itself. One who thanks Allah knows that He is the sole Lord over that which he enjoys, and that it was He Who had bestowed them upon him. He also knows his powerlessness before Allah. The level of awareness of one who ignores the greatness and majesty of Allah, refusing to accept these realities in his heart, will be limited accordingly.

The societies foundering in ignorance, which Satan seeks to further corrupt, are far from the recognition of the virtue of being grateful. They only consider gratitude after they have suffered a disaster, but soon forget once the situation has been rectified. They then return to their lives of impiety. In the Qur'an, the example is given of those who pray during some tragedy, but who return to deifying idols once their difficulties have passed:

Say: "Who rescues you from the darkness of the land and

sea? You call on Him humbly and secretly: 'If you rescue us from this, we will truly be among the thankful.'" Say: "Allah rescues you from it, and from every plight. Then you associate others with Him." (Surat al-An`am, 63-64)

The fact is, however, that rendering thanks to Allah is one of the human being's most important responsibilities. Because, everyone's life is replete with countless blessings for which thanks ought to be given. So extensive are these blessings, in fact, as is revealed in the 18th verse of Surat an-Nahl, that any attempt to number them would be futile. In fact, one can give thanks for all one receives. For instance, one who, like the Prophet Ibrahim (as), knows that it is Allah Who provides for him what he eats and drinks (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 79), knows whenever he eats or drinks that it is to Allah that he must give thanks.

Giving thanks must not, however, be restricted to what one receives for eating and drinking. All through the day one benefits from numberless blessings, which he may not always be cognizant of or remember to give thanks for, and the value of which he only realizes when he they are no longer available to him. The blessings of "seeing" and "hearing," frequently mentioned in the Qur'an, and described as means of giving thanks, are examples of these.

Sight and hearing are not faculties that came about by chance. Allah's creation of people's eyes and ears was intended as a means for them to give thanks to Him, and in order that they may serve Him, as outlined in the following verse:

Allah brought you out of your mothers' wombs knowing nothing at all, and gave you hearing, sight and hearts so that perhaps you would show thanks. (Surat an-Nahl, 78)

Similarly, ships and other forms of transport, even the wind,

and the seas, which make up three-quarters of the Earth's surface, are also means for people by which to give thanks. Allah reveals this truth as follows:

It is He Who made the sea subservient to you so that you can eat fresh flesh from it and bring out from it ornaments to wear. And you see the ships cleaving through it so that you can seek His bounty, and so that hopefully you will show thanks. (Surat an-Nahl, 14)

Among His Signs is that He sends the winds bearing good news, to give you a taste of His mercy, and to make the ships run by His command, and to enable you to seek His bounty so that hopefully you will be thankful. (Surat ar-Rum, 46)

It is Allah Who has made the sea subservient to you so that the ships sail on it at His command, enabling you to seek His bounty, so that hopefully you will be thankful. (Surat al-Jathiya, 12)

A believer's gratitude towards Allah, for the blessings conferred upon him, is a sign showing he is worthy of such blessings. In this way, not only is the blessing appreciated by the believer, but he opens opportunities for him to receive further blessings. In revealing that He will increase the blessings of those of His servants who give Him thanks, Allah threatens the ungrateful, conversely, with suffering:

[Musa said to his people,] "And when your Lord announced: 'If you are grateful, I will certainly give you increase, but if you are ungrateful, My punishment is severe.'" (Surah Ibrahim, 7)

The way the Prophet Sulayman (as), a man endowed with the

rank of prophethood, had asked Allah to inspire him to give thanks (Surat an-Naml, 19), serves as an example for all believers. Because, Satan ambushes people from in front, back, and from the right and the left, and seeks to prevent them giving thanks to Allah, by such means as deceptive as inspiring in them to take things for granted or preventing them from recognizing the value of the blessings conferred on them.

He Inspires Fear

Believers' nearness to Allah is like a spiritual shield against Satan. Surrender to Allah, calling on Him by His beautiful names, knowing that everything in the world is under His control, and turning wholeheartedly towards Him, instills believers with spiritual fortitude. Satan tries, by all means, and at all times, to destruct that spiritual strength. One such method is to inspire "fear" other than the fear of Allah.

There is a specific reason why Satan employs this weapon. Fear can limit the expansion of one's awareness, the weakening of conviction in Allah, and the interruption of one's submission to Him. Such a condition is impossible for a true believer. Satan can only influence those who are weak of conscience, who are heedless, and whose minds are for the time being, or totally, shut off from reality. A verse of the Qur'an recalls that Allah is the only power that ought to be feared:

That was only Satan who intimidated his adherents. But do not fear them—fear Me if you are believers. (Surah Al `Imran, 175)

For the believers, the world is a temporary place, the experience through which is governed according to a specific destiny. That only which they must fear is Allah, the Sole Commander of fate and of this world.

Those who are not believers, however, assume that the world is an uncontrolled, a haphazard series of events and convergence of people. Satan easily inspires fear into these hearts. For them, everything they encounter is indecipherable, and all outcomes unclear. They adore many idols, instead of Allah, out of their fear of death, of poverty, or of the future.

Satan's inciting "fear" affects those who live amongst the believers, but who are sick at heart. This fear, which completely consumes them whenever they are confronted with some difficulty on the path of Allah, develops in them a lack of conscientiousness. For example, the mental condition of a people taken with fear, during a battle, is described in the Qur'an:

**Those who believe say, "If only a sura could be sent down."
But when a straightforward sura is sent down and fighting
is mentioned in it, you see those with sickness in their
hearts looking at you with the look of someone about to
faint from fear of death... (Surah Muhammad, 20)**

One who has submitted to Allah surrenders to his destiny and fully entrusting himself to Him. He is completely free of fear, and by the awe in him inspired by submission to Allah, he fears no other power but Him.

What must not be forgotten here, however, is that the courage of the believers is different from the unconscious and irrational courage of unbelievers. This disposition is one which derives from complete trust in the reality of fate, and the confidence which comes from submission to Allah. It cannot be imitated by those who do not truly believe. There are several examples in the Qur'an of this courage of the believers.

For instance, when the Prophet Musa (as), and those who followed him, were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the sea,

those among them of weak faith were taken with the fear that they were doomed. However, the Prophet Musa (as) advised them **"Never! My Lord is with me..."** (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 62), thus expressing his submission to and faith in Allah. The sorcerers who were threatened by Pharaoh with having their arms and legs cut off, because they believed in Allah, exhibited the same fearlessness. The Prophet Ibrahim (as), who was thrown into the fire, felt no fear either. The faith and submission of the believers, referred to in Surat al-Ahzab, increased when they encountered the enemy forces. The reason for this is that Satan's incitement of fear is ineffective against a person who has submitted to Allah. As Allah has revealed in the Qur'an, **"He [Satan] has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord."** (Surat an-Nahl, 99)

He Seeks to Damage Relations between Believers

In the Qur'an, believers are commanded to support and help one another, in a spirit of unity, and to watch over one each other. The requisite unison to be fostered among believers is revealed in the following verse:

Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in ranks like well-built walls. (Surat as-Saff, 4)

Thus, Satan seeks to cause believers to ignore this important stipulation, to impede their unity. In this regard, he expends his greatest efforts towards adversely affecting the speech of the believers. By encouraging such disdainful behavior, belonging more properly to members of the societies of the ignorant*, such as speaking

(*) The Arabic original of this expression is *jahiliyyah*, which refers to the "time of ignorance" before the coming of Islam. The word *jahiliyyah* also refers to the state of affairs characterized by a lack of moral perception.

harsh words, and making barbed and veiled comments, he seeks to divide the believers. A person of faith may be confronted with this danger at any time, if he drops his guard against Satan. For, as our Prophet (saas) has also said, "anger comes from the devil" (*Abu Dawud*). For that reason, believers are warned of this menace in the Qur'an, and are commanded to say what is best to one another, as well as being reminded that Satan is their enemy:

Say to My servants that they should only say that which is best. Satan wants to stir conflict among them. Satan is an outright enemy to man. (Surat al-Isra', 53)

Satan wants to stir enmity and hatred among you by means of wine and gambling, and to debar you from remembrance of Allah and from prayer. Will you not then give them up? (Surat al-Ma'ida, 91)

He Makes People Believe He Is Sincere Counsel to Them

Satan wishes to wreak destruction continuously upon man, whom he considers his principal enemy, while never disclosing his enmity towards him. On the contrary, he approaches him in the guise of a helper, who wishes to offer advice. After having made a person believe his intentions are good, he then brings him under his control. And, recognizing a person's weaknesses, he presents temptations to exploit those vulnerabilities.

That same cunning led the Prophet Adam (as) to commit the mistake that caused him to be expelled from Paradise. Satan approached the Prophet Adam (as) and his wife in the guise of a friend, and swore to them that he was offering them sound advice:

Then Satan whispered to them, disclosing to them their pri-

vate parts that had been concealed from them. He said, "Your Lord has only forbidden you this tree lest you become angels or among those who live for ever." He swore to them, "I am one of those who give you good advice." (Surat al-A`raf, 20-21)

Satan brought about the expulsion of the Prophet Adam (as) and his wife from Paradise by deception. The Prophet Adam (as) was able only to return to the true path by repentance, and seeking forgiveness from Allah.

The way the Prophet Adam (as), who had been warned by Allah that Satan was his enemy, but was nevertheless deceived by Satan, demonstrates to what extent Satan is deceptive and cunning.

That suggested to the Prophet Adam (as) by Iblis, chief among all the satans, that he was one giving sincere advice, is repeated to others by the other deceptive satans. Pharaoh, who had told his own people "I only show you what I see myself and I only guide you to the path of rectitude." (Surah Ghafir, 29) in an attempt to prevent them from following the path of Allah, is one such example.

Similar insinuations can be encountered frequently in societies of the present-day that have veered from the true faith. The suggestion made to one who wishes to live according to the religion, such as, "you are still young, enjoy life, you can perform your religious observances when you are older," is one such example. And, the one offering such a suggestion maintains that he is doing so for the person's own good. The fact is, though, that the road he is calling him to is the one that leads to Hell.

In order to follow through with his strategy of "giving good advice," Satan will employ others already under his control. The Qur'an refers, for example, to those who are marked out by Satan,

who, after having turned to faith, strayed from the true path, due to the negative influence of Satan. The verse in which this tactic is mentioned is as follows:

Say: "Are we to call on something besides Allah which can neither help nor harm us, and to turn on our heels after Allah has guided us, like someone the satans have lured away in the Earth, leaving him confused and stupefied, despite the fact that he has companions calling him to guidance, saying, 'Come with us!'" Say: "Allah's guidance, that is true guidance. We are commanded to submit as Muslims to the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat al-An`am, 71)

All must take extreme caution with regard to this foe. But, only he who has wholly submitted himself to Allah, and frequently praises His name, is aware to do so. Such a person will easily identify Satan as the source of perverse suggestions, to then suppress them. One not so disposed, however, will imagine these to be from himself, and be influenced by them.

He Leads People Astray from the True Path by Employing the Name of Allah

One of the most cunning and deceptive tactics exploited by Satan is for him to approach people while making reference to Allah. In this way, he seeks to encourage, under the pretence of being in the name of Allah and His religion, acts actually disapproved by Allah. These acts he wishes to be conducted under the guise of religious observance. One taken in by such a ruse uses the blessings given to him by Allah to fight in His cause only to satisfy his own personal desires.

For example, when such a person finds himself somewhere where there are a lot of unbelievers, and where there is plenty in the way of material benefits, though he attempts to fulfill his obligation of relating the morality of the true religion, he interprets the manner in which he ought to do so according to his own desires. While it may be perfectly legitimate at times to enjoy certain material blessings, his manner of doing so is improper. In his case, an action he had initiated for the benefit of Islam, deviates from its original aim, and instead it is these material blessings that become the objects of his desires.

He may appear outwardly to be acting within the bounds set by Allah, but in his heart is a desire to satisfy his base passions, not pleasing Allah. In this case, not only will he receive no reward for his deeds, but his faith will weaken (Allah knows best). In our example, Satan has approached the person by making reference to Allah, and caused him to lose the Hereafter by tempting him instead with the deceptive allurements of this world:

Mankind! Allah's promise is true. Do not let the life of this world delude you and do not let the Deluder delude you about Allah. Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy. He summons his party so they will be among the people of the Searing Blaze. (Surah Fatir, 5-6)

Such people, whose faith is weakened by their seeking after the mundane and transient pleasures of this world, and who, in addition, hide behind the name of Allah, that they may disguise their deviant intentions, fall into the category of hypocrites, as mentioned in the Qur'an:

They [hypocrites] will call out to them [believers], "Were we not with you?" They will reply, "Indeed you were. But you made trouble for yourselves and lagged behind the

others and doubted; false hopes deluded you until Allah's command arrived. The Deluder deluded you about Allah." (Surat al-Hadid, 14)

This tactic is both subtle and very deceptive. Because, on this occasion Satan has prepared a snare by laying himself directly across the person's straight path (Surat al-A`raf, 16). However, people who fear Allah as required will not fall into Satan's trap. Allah gives people who fear Him the clarity of understanding to allow them to reach the true path and to distinguish between good and evil:

You who believe! If you fear Allah, He will impart you with the faculty of discernment, and erase your bad actions from you and forgive you. Allah's favor is indeed immense. (Surat al-Anfal, 29)

Another method by which Satan deceives people, by employing the name of Allah, is to encourage them to sin while referring to Allah's capacity to forgive. Of course, Allah is great in compassion, and will forgive the sins of any of His servants who repent sincerely. However, if one excuses himself by saying, "anyway, Allah will forgive me," only then to commit a sin, he is headed on a most perilous path. Due to this rationalization, his heart may harden, and he may become insensitive, and ultimately lose his fear of Allah. Referring to those who sin knowingly, saying, "**We will soon be forgiven,**" (Surat al-A`raf, 169) the Qur'an reveals an example of Satan deception by way of the name of Allah.

He Seeks to Demoralize the Believers

Satan hopes that, in time, the believer will weaken, waiting patiently for him to drop his guard. Minor concessions, which gradually lead the person away from higher spirituality, soon results in a

shell developing around his heart, his reason to become clouded, thus allowing him to be further enticed by other temptations and doubts inspired by Satan. In a verse of the Qur'an, a group of believers, whom Satan had sought to lead astray, because of some blame they had earned, are referred to as follows:

Those of you who turned their backs on the day the two armies clashed—it was Satan who made them slip for what they had done. But Allah has pardoned them. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, All-Forbearing. (Surah Al `Imran, 155)

He Makes False Promises

Satan resorts to another tactic which is common to all frauds. He makes false promises. Unbelievers are often duped by these promises. However, they are but a ruse, and one which can cause a person to lose the Hereafter.

Common to these promises is that they make reference to that which is transient in this life. At times, Satan promises amusement, sex, prosperity, or prestige. He whispers to people "**specious words**" (Surat al-An`am, 112). Whatever the object, however, the fate of those who are deceived by Satan is always the same: Hell, an eternal torment. This truth is revealed in the Qur'an as follows:

He [Satan] makes promises to them and fills them with false hopes. But what Satan promises them is nothing but delusion. (Surat an-Nisa', 120)

When the affair is decided Satan will say, "Allah made you a promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore,

blame me but blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid nor you to mine. I reject the way you associated me with Allah before." The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment. (Surah Ibrahim, 22)

A believer, who seeks to gain the pleasure, love, mercy and Paradise of Allah, will not, of course, be deluded by any promise with regards to the transient things of this world. Because, no degree of repute he may attain in this world, property he may acquire, or any blessing he might enjoy, are to him of any true importance. These, he knows, will exist but only for a brief time, and no longer be of any significance beyond his death.

He Inspires People to Harbor False Hopes and Unfounded Concerns

Another method employed by Satan is to inspire people with unsound concerns. He over exaggerates for them the significance of unimportant events. Those who suffer from a sickness in their hearts, and are weak in character, are easily influenced by these insinuations. They regard every adverse outcome as part of a plot designed against them. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 4) They will go as far as to imagine that they were deceived even by the messenger. They are habitually restless, anxious and indecisive. They are consumed with concerns that would never even occur to a conscientious person:

[Satan said,] "I will lead them astray and fill them with false hopes. I will command them and they will cut off cattle's ears. I will command them and they will change Allah's creation." Anyone who takes Satan as his confidant in place of Allah has clearly lost all. He [Satan] makes

promises to them and fills them with false hopes. But what Satan promises them is delusion. (Surat an-Nisa', 119-120)

Since a believer is Satan's greatest enemy, he cannot consider himself immune from him as a danger. Because, the slightest concession he may make will create an opportunity for Satan to make an attack, by way of such tactics as fomenting doubts. However, a believer who has absolute faith in the Hereafter, who turns wholeheartedly to Allah, will remain uninfected by such false concerns.

He Portrays Deviance As Attractive

For those people who have succumbed to his influence, Satan creates the impression that the perversion in which they engage is acceptable behavior. Such people thus become entrenched even further into their perversity:

... Satan has made their actions seem good to them and debarred them from the Way so they are not guided. (Surat an-Naml, 24)

... However, their hearts were hard and Satan made what they were doing seem attractive to them. (Surat al-An'am, 43)

Those whose hearts have grown hard lose the ability to distinguish between good and evil, Satan having portrayed to them their evil as being proper. Those who fall under Satan's influence, on account of this hardening of their hearts, become obstinately devoted to their perversions, which they have falsely deemed wholesome. This type of devotion can at times be discerned among adherents of false religions, which have become corrupted over time, referred to as "the religion of the forefathers" in the Qur'an, and among hypocrites and unbelievers, who rebelled against the messengers of

Allah and fought against them. Satan's influence over these people is described in a verse of the Qur'an as follows:

When Satan made their actions appear good to them, saying, "No one will overcome you today for I am at your side."... (Surat al-Anfal, 48)

He Instigates Fear of Poverty

Satan offers the life of this world at the expense of that of the Hereafter. For that reason, those who fall under his influence strive for that which is of this world, as if they were never to die, failing to make an effort to attain the Hereafter. Satan has been exploiting this same trap for thousands of years. Up to the present day, billions have worked so hard, acquired property and wealth, only to die in the end, leaving all they strove for behind them. Those now living have learned nothing from the example of those who came before them, who ignorantly stored up goods and wealth as if they would never die.

Satan also seeks to corrupt believers by portraying to them the life of this world as something of greater value than it is and as being enduring. In non-believers, and those weak in faith, he instills fear of poverty. He inspires in them miserliness, thus wallowing in a shallow existence. Satan's endeavors are described as follows in one verse of the Qur'an:

**Satan promises you poverty and commands you to avarice.
Allah promises you forgiveness from Him and abundance.
Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing. (Surat al-Baqara, 268)**

Setting for humanity traps by inspiring in them the desire for wealth and property, is a very ancient method of Satan. In fact, as re-

vealed in a verse of the Qur'an, Satan told the Prophet Adam (as) the lie that, **"shall I show you the way to the Tree of Everlasting Life and to an imperishable kingdom?"** (Surah Ta Ha, 120), promising him material property. For that reason, Allah issued several warnings to the believers, against the inordinate love of material wealth. This is revealed as follows in a verse of the Qur'an:

Here you are then: people who are called upon to spend in the Way of Allah and then some of you are tight-fisted! But whoever is tight-fisted is only tight-fisted to himself. Allah is Rich and you are poor. If you turn away, He will replace you with a people other than yourselves and they will not be like you. (Surah Muhammad, 38)

Whoever he or she may be, whether a rich businessman or a beggar, every penny a person fails to spend in a manner compatible with Allah's good pleasure has, though he be unaware of it, one with whom he shares the ownership of his property. Allah has made Satan the co-owner of the property of the unbelievers. This shared-ownership is referred to in the Qur'an in the following way:

"Stir up any of them you can with your voice and rally against them your cavalry and your infantry, and share with them in their children and their wealth, and make them promises! The promise of Satan is nothing but delusion." (Surat al-Isra', 64)

The Prophet Muhammad (saas) warned the believers against such deception on the part of Satan:

"There are two impulses in the soul, one from an angel which calls towards good and confirms truth; whoever finds this let him know it is from Allah and praise Him. Another impulse comes from the enemy which leads to doubt and denies truth and forbids good; whoever finds this, let him seek

refuge in Allah from the accursed devil." Then he recited the verse: "The devil shows you fear of poverty and enjoins evil upon you." (Tirmidhi)

He Fosters Pride

Pride is Satan's primary vice. It was for his pride and disobedience that he was expelled from the presence of Allah:

Except for Iblis who was arrogant and was one of the unbelievers. He said, "Iblis, what prevented you prostrating to what I created with My own Hands? Were you overcome by arrogance or are you one of the exalted?" (Surah Sad, 74-75)

This ailment in Satan also poses a serious threat to human beings. Because, Satan's primary purpose is to infect this same ailment on others, to render them the more like him. For anyone who contracts this sickness, his reason will become clouded, and his conscience thwarted. It is on account of this menace that believers are warned in the Qur'an to remain humble:

Do not strut arrogantly about the Earth. You will certainly never split the Earth apart nor will you ever rival the mountains in height. (Surat al-Isra', 37)

Do not avert your face from people out of haughtiness, and do not strut about arrogantly on the Earth. Allah does not love anyone who is vain or boastful. [Luqman said to his son,] "Be moderate in your tread and lower your voice. The most hateful of voices is the donkey's bray." (Surah Luqman, 18-19)

The believer must expend the greatest care to avoid pride, Satan's ultimate vice. Otherwise, he will lose the reward for his deeds, and incur a grave affliction on his faith.

Satan's influence can take many forms. For example, one may have performed extraordinary service for the sake of Islam. This service is a blessing granted him by Allah, for it is He Who makes it possible. Since one cannot act outside the control of Allah, there is no question of who should be praised for this service. Accordingly, a sincere believer devotes his service to Allah, not expecting anything in return, except His good pleasure. The Qur'an severely threatens those who expect praise for the service they render. In one verse it is revealed that:

Those who exult in what they have done and love to be praised for what they have not done should not suppose that they have escaped the punishment. They will have a painful punishment. (Surah Al `Imran, 188)

Indeed, Allah inflicted severe punishment on Qarun, a man who had regarded his wealth as a product of some personal quality, saying, **"I have only been given it because of knowledge I have."** (Surat al-Qasas, 78)

Satan also seeks to disrupt the peace that exists between believers by inciting in them pride. Because, pride in believers is a vice, and one fraught with such a failing makes other believers exceedingly uncomfortable.

It must also be kept in mind that Satan ambushes people very cunningly, and without making his influence known. Satan is in no hurry. He inspires people to regard themselves superior to others, but can effect this idea slowly, and over time. Unless one is on his or her guard against this form of deception, its influence gathers strength. For instance, Satan will inevitably seize the opportunity to make such a suggestion following some minor success. If a person fails to recognize in his heart that this success was achieved by him,

solely according to the will of Allah, then he will be deluded by the suggestions made by Satan effecting in him pride.

Satan will also employ other tactics to this end. For instance, when a believer commits a mistake, then, the task of other believers is to reproach the believer in question sympathetically, not forgetting that the offender is merely a powerless servant like themselves, because Satan will encourage feelings of anger or contempt towards him. Anyone who despises a believer for having committed an error, or for any other reason, is beginning to fall under the influence of Satan's desire to make him think himself superior.

If that errant perception persists, the person will eventually become arrogant, while any feelings of affection and compassion towards other believers will diminish. The end result is one who is unto himself, refuses to accept others' advice before acting, and who regards himself as superior in intelligence to other believers. Then, the insinuations that he ought to regard himself as superior increase, further confirming for him his false sense of superiority. Severe detriment can be caused to the faith of one who succumbs to such a state of mind. At some later time, as revealed in the Qur'an, his heart will shut itself off to the signs of Allah:

The people who truly do believe in Our Signs are those who fall to the ground prostrating when they are reminded of them, and glorify their Lord with praise, and are not arrogant. (Surat as-Sajda, 15)

As we should learn from this verse, only those who are humble can acknowledge the signs of Allah. It is impossible for one who is arrogant, presuming himself superior to others, to grasp the significance of these signs.

He Encourages Religious Observance Merely for Show

One of the most subtle vices in this world is people's desire for recognition from others.

The manner of seeking recognition usually depends on the circumstances of the person. Where money is valued, then it is wealth that will be boasted of; where prestige is esteemed, then social status will be most prized. Satan seeks to exploit this desire when believers set out to fulfill their religious obligations. For those without true faith in their hearts, religious duties are things performed, not to gain the good pleasure of Allah, but to acquire prestige in the religious community. Such people are referred to in the Qur'an in the following terms:

So woe to those who perform prayer, and are forgetful of their prayer, those who show off... (Surat al-Ma`un, 4-6)

A very important religious observance that Satan will divert from its true intent, and misuse as a means of showing off is "giving," the spending of one's wealth in the cause of Allah. Those who look for acclaim from others, rather than the good pleasure of Allah in fulfilling this obligation, have instead become the friends of Satan:

And [We have prepared a humiliating punishment] also for those who spend their wealth to show off to people, not believing in Allah and the Last Day. Anyone who has made Satan his comrade, what an evil comrade he is! (Surat an-Nisa', 38)

Giving in the cause of Allah is one of the most important opportunities by which a believer may purify himself and seek to attain the Hereafter. If showing off, one of Satan's more vile habits, is confused with such an important observance, then this purification

fails to develop, and a major opportunity to attain the Hereafter is wasted. For that reason, a believer must be on his guard against Satan as he spends in the cause of Allah, and, as with every other religious observance, perform it with pure intent, and seek only the good pleasure of Allah. Believers are warned of this pitfall in the Qur'an:

You who believe! Do not nullify your charity by demands for gratitude or insulting words, like him who spends his wealth, showing off to people and not believing in Allah and the Last Day. His likeness is that of a smooth rock coated with soil, which, when heavy rain falls on it, is left stripped bare. They have no power over anything they have earned. Allah does not guide disbelieving people. (Surat al-Baqara, 264)

He Seeks to Turn People Away from the Verses of Allah

Being committed to conforming to Allah's book is a significant undertaking. The penalty for ignoring this responsibility is commensurately severe. As we know, Satan's foremost aim is that man suffer such a punishment.

One who turns away from the Qur'an, under the influence of Satan, also turns away from Allah. Because, the Qur'an is the word of Allah, and a source of light for the believer, throughout the course of his life.

Withdrawing from the teachings of the Qur'an is a grave pitfall to be avoided by believers. Because idolaters and unbelievers are already neglectful of the Qur'an, as they are blind to its truths, it is impossible for them to draw any further away from it. However, if believers, that is, those who have faith in the verses of the Qur'an, live in the manner set out according to them, distance themselves

from the teachings of the Qur'an, they are then vulnerable to a terrible menace, Satan.

Though, because they will remain unaware of this impending threat, they will continue to believe themselves to be on the true path, and thereby fall completely under Satan's control. This condition is described in the Qur'an as Satan becoming the bosom friend of his victim:

If someone shuts his eyes to the remembrance of the All-Merciful, We assign him a Satan who becomes his bosom friend. They [satans] debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 36-37)

Such carelessness can only affect one who has abandoned hope in the Hereafter, turns to worldly aspirations, and follows his own base desires. Such a person, by following in Satan's footsteps, in seeking after his own pleasure instead of that of Allah, has degraded himself to the level of an animal. Because, animals also subsist merely on the pursuit of basic physical needs (such as eating and drinking). What should make man superior, though, is his conscience in serving to his Creator, Allah. It is for that reason that the Qur'an offers the following analogy, to describe those who pursue their desires, while distancing themselves from its verses, which they had once believed in:

Recite to them the tale of him to whom We gave Our Signs [i.e., verses], but who then cast them to one side and Satan caught up with him. He was one of those lured into error. If We had wanted to, We would have raised him up by them. But he gravitated towards the Earth and pursued his whims and base desires. His metaphor is that of a dog: if you chase it away, it lolls out its tongue and pants, and if you leave it

alone, it lolls out its tongue and pants. That is the metaphor of those who deny Our Signs. So tell the story so that hopefully they will reflect. (Surat al-A`raf, 175-176)

Though a believer may have read the Qur'an many times over, it will not make him immune from the ploys of Satan. Indeed, Satan adopts numerous approaches by which to assault the believer. Since Satan knows that a believer will never deny the truth of the Qur'an outright, he employs various strategies to distance him from the way of life commanded in it.

It is revealed in the Qur'an, for instance, that every moment of time falls within a fate preordained. Becoming troubled and angered under adverse circumstances, despite knowledge of this fate, is tantamount to ignoring the verses of Allah. The heart of the one who has succumbed for too long to such a state of mind, corrupts the purity fostered by the Qur'an, and instead becomes darkened. Eventually, he will become completely insensitive, and unmoved by the message of the Qur'an.

All who seek to lead a life as commanded in the Qur'an is vulnerable to this danger. Whoever he may be, one who fails to properly fulfill his responsibilities, after having read the content of the book, is prone to having his heart grow hardened. The state of such people who had previously been observant, but who then failed to live up to their responsibilities, is described in the Qur'an as follows:

Has the time not arrived for the hearts of those who believe to yield to the remembrance Allah and to the truth He has sent down, so they are not like those who were given the Book before for whom the time seemed over long so that their hearts became hard? Many of them are deviators. (Surat al-Hadid, 16)

Allah commands the faithful to cling firmly to the Qur'an, in order not to fall into Satan's snares. Because, the Qur'an is to be a guide for the believer throughout his life. Furthermore, believers are charged not just with reading the verses on a regular basis, but also with bearing them in mind at all times, reflecting upon them, and apprehending every situation according to the dictate of the Qur'an:

And remember the Signs of Allah and the wise words which are recited in your rooms. Allah is All-Pervading, All-Aware. (Surat al-Ahzab, 34)

Those to whom We have given the Book, who recite it in the way it should be recited, such people believe in it. As for those who reject it, they are the losers. (Surat al-Baqara, 121)

He Causes Forgetfulness and Absent-Mindedness

Causing forgetfulness in people is a method which Satan frequently employs, though most people fail to realize it. Satan employs this trick on people in varying situations, and according to different tactics.

For example, the forgetfulness and absent-mindedness he inspires in those who live a life far removed from the teachings of the true religion is not like forgetfulness, in the common sense of the term, or a momentary lapse in concentration. Those in whom Satan inspires forgetfulness in the sense meant here are those who spend the 60 to 70 years of their lives in shallow and pointless pursuits, totally disregarding Allah and the truth of the Hereafter. They are unable to comprehend the wisdom and warnings submitted by Allah to remind them of the Hereafter. The question of how and why they were created is of no relevance to them. Satan causes them to be neg-

lectful of Allah, He Who created them, to call upon Him, and to acknowledge that everything is under our Lord's dominion. He ever inhibits them from considering the inevitability of death, or the verity of fate and the Hereafter.

Similarly, because the hypocrites are continually surrounded by Satan, they also forget the existence of Allah, and therefore to call upon Him. This state of neglect they find themselves in is described here in the Qur'an:

Satan has gained mastery over them and made them forget the remembrance of Allah. Such people are the party of Satan. No indeed! It is the party of Satan who are the losers. (Surat al-Mujadala, 19)

Another group in whom Satan seeks to inspire forgetfulness is the believers. However, this type of forgetfulness is different from that which he inspires in the idolaters and hypocrites. Satan seeks to make believers forgetful with regards to every aspect in which they have a responsibility. Because, everyone is being tested, throughout every moment of his life, with regards to his devotion to the commandments of the Qur'an. For that reason, one must remain continually vigilant, always seeking the good pleasure of Allah, at every moment of his life.

Examples are provided in the Qur'an of the types of forgetfulness which Satan seeks to inspire in believers. Among these examples are instances of remaining in the company of those who ridicule the verses of the Qur'an. Allah advises the believers to avoid such discussions, and warns them of Satan's propensity to inspire forgetfulness:

When you see people engrossed in mockery of Our Signs, turn from them until they start to talk of other things. And if

Satan should ever cause you to forget, once you remember, do not stay sitting with the wrongdoers. (Surat al-An`am, 68)

Another stipulation recalls that it is only possible to do something if Allah has so ordained it:

Never say about anything, "I am doing that tomorrow," without adding "If Allah wills." Remember your Lord when you forget, and say, "Hopefully my Lord will guide me to something closer to right guidance than this." (Surat al-Kahf, 23-24)

Another example is provided with the story of the Prophet Musa (as). The verse describes that Satan had been the instigator when a young assistant who traveled with the Prophet Musa (as) forgot a fish they were supposed to bring along with them:

He [Musa's servant] said, "Do you see what has happened? When we went to find shelter at the rock, I forgot the fish. No one made me forget to remember it except Satan. It found its way into the sea in an amazing way." (Surat al-Kahf, 63)

Believers must be on their guard against forgetfulness and the factors which give rise to it. There is no place in the thought of a believer for absent-mindedness, hypothetical scenarios that distract needlessly, or daydreaming of trivialities. Because, one distracted by these tendencies cannot then expend the appropriate effort in the cause of Allah. Caught up in the distractions of his day-to-day existence, such a person forgets his ultimate duty, and the only true reason for his existence, that is, to serve Allah:

You who believe! Fear Allah and let each self look to what it has sent forward for Tomorrow. Fear Allah. Allah is aware of what you do. Do not be like those who forgot Allah so He made them forget themselves. Such people are

the deviators. (Surat al-Hashr, 18-19)

As a precaution against a forgetfulness and absent-mindedness, believers must never forget to have Allah in mind, fear Him and aim for His good pleasure, and not be deluded by the transient allurements of this world. Unless a person constantly bears these truths in mind, he will become defenseless against Satan.

He Encourages Sentimentality

Sentimentality is the instance of a person's emotions becoming carried to a level beyond that prescribed in the Qur'an, to the point of being ruled by one's emotions instead of his reason.

One who behaves emotionally is not rational. All that he does results from his particular state of mind at that moment. His level of patience, or fairness, the decisions he takes, and the responses he has, are all entirely dictated by his emotions. Ill-conceived and conflicting decisions invariably result when Satan intervenes. The taking of such decisions are then followed by regret. The lives of those who tend to act emotionally are full of regret.

The mind of a believer, however, is balanced and his reason unclouded. His every action is governed by Allah's commands. One who behaves rationally makes his choices keeping in mind that he will be called to account in the presence of Allah on the Day of Judgment. Whatever the situation, he acts in light of the Qur'an, with no compromise.

Satan will at times seek to tempt the believers by encouraging sentimentality. Every action contrary to the Qur'an, such as harboring love for unbelievers, or allowing oneself to become upset under adverse circumstances, are indications of Satan's attempt to inspire sentimentality subconsciously. These sentiments can be neutralized only through wholehearted commitment to implementing the stipu-

lations outlined in the Qur'an, and seeking the good pleasure of Allah.

It has been revealed in several verses of the Qur'an that there is no place for sentimentality in the mindset of the believers. No believer, for instance, ought to feel love for the enemies of Allah:

You will not find people who believe in Allah and the Last Day having love for anyone who opposes Allah and His Messenger, though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their clan... (Surat al-Mujadala, 22)

In another verse, it has been revealed that if a believer loves an enemy of Allah it will divert him from the true path:

You who believe! Do not take My enemy and your enemy as friends, showing love for them when they have rejected the truth that has come to you, driving out the Messenger and yourselves simply because you believe in Allah your Lord. If you go out to strive in My Way and seeking My pleasure, keeping secret the love you have for them, I know best what you conceal and what you make known. Any of you who do that have strayed from the right way. (Surat al-Mumtahana, 1)

As can be gleaned from these verses, for any believer, faith is the sole criterion in love. Outside of that, neither family ties, nor community, are of any consequence. As long as he refuses to believe, an enemy of Allah cannot be the friend of or close to a believer. This distinction is referred to in the Qur'an through the words of the Prophet Ibrahim (as):

You have an excellent example in Ibrahim and those with him, when they said to their people, "We wash our hands of you and all that you worship apart from Allah, and we reject you. Between us and you there will be enmity and ha-

**ted for ever unless and until you believe in Allah alone."...
(Surat al-Mumtahana, 4)**

This matter is again referred to in other stories of the prophets. For example, the way in which the Prophet Ibrahim (as) absolved himself from his father, when he learned that he had chosen to become an enemy of Allah, is described as exemplary behavior (Surat at-Tawba, 114). Another example is found in the story of the Prophet Nuh (as). Due to the fact that his son was an unbeliever, Allah called to him, "... **Nuh, he is definitely not of your family...**" (Surah Hud, 46). Because, the true family of a believer is other believers. Those who seek friends elsewhere eventually find that their only friend is Satan.

He Influences People to Fixate on Details

A believer must select the most proper and correct means to earn the good pleasure of Allah. He must not waste time in trivialities. In accordance to the verse, "**So when you have finished, work on...**" (Surat al-Inshirah, 7), when he has fulfilled a good action, immediately he undertakes the next.

However, if he performs his actions without seeking the good pleasure of Allah, then he may become vulnerable to another little recognized ploy of Satan. One who falls into this trap becomes confused, fixated on thousands of details, totally removed from what ought to be his true aim, and, even, unable to remember what that aim is.

Allah provides an example of this condition in a story about the Prophet Musa (as). The Prophet Musa (as) told his people, that is, the Children of Israel, that Allah commanded them to sacrifice a cow. In response, his people asked a great many unnecessary ques-

tions about the details of the sacrifice to be performed. And, when they were informed of these details, they answered "... **Now you have brought the truth...** " However, the extent to which that ritual had been distanced from its true aim, or that the Israelites had nearly failed to comply by Allah's command, is referred to in the following verse "... **So they sacrificed it—but they almost did not do it.**" (Surat al-Baqara, 71)

The insolence of their words, "... **Are you making a mockery of us?...**" (Surat al-Baqara, 67), which the Children of Israel addressed to the Prophet Musa (as) reveal how in that instance they had been closer to denial, in other words, to Satan, than to faith.

Underlying their errant logic was a deception provided by Satan. Satan, who made such a simple task as the sacrificing of a cow seem difficult, by burdening it with details, nearly succeeded in preventing the rite from being performed. The way certain societies have come to understand the meaning of religion has been shaped according to this same influence of Satan's. Many are suffocated by details, under the guise of piety to Allah, though, in truth, representing a manner of a religion far removed from the true teachings of the Qur'an.

He Encourages Extravagance

Extravagance is a characteristic of the societies where ignorance of religion prevails. Unrestricted spending, and the boasting of it, is regarded as a means to prestige by an unbeliever:

He says, "I have consumed vast quantities of wealth." Does he imagine that no one has seen him? (Surat al-Balad, 6-7)

The fact is, however, that wasteful spending is despicable, and categorically prohibited by Allah. In a verse of the Qur'an, those re-

sponsible of such deviance are actually described as "the brothers of Satan." That being the case, believers, who are Satan's principal enemy, need to be very especially careful in this matter. In the following verses, Allah has revealed:

Give your relatives their due, and the very poor and travelers but do not squander what you have. Squanderers are brothers to the satans, and Satan was ungrateful to his Lord. (Surat al-Isra', 26-27)

There is a point which believers must pay particular attention to, in order to protect themselves from this danger. A believer must never forget that he is selling both his self and his wealth, in return for Paradise (Surat at-Tawba, 111). After having accepted such a trade, he must not squander any portion of his assets on an aim not within the cause of Allah.

The believer must work for the Hereafter with all he possesses. Everything he owns offers an opportunity to acquire further reward. Rejecting that opportunity is equal to opting for the life of this world, at the sake of the Hereafter. While He encourages believers to enjoy the blessings conferred upon them that are lawful, Allah also warns them against extravagance:

It is He Who produces gardens, both cultivated and wild, and palm-trees and crops of diverse kinds, and olives and pomegranates, both similar and dissimilar. Eat of their fruits when they bear fruit and pay their due on the day of their harvest, and do not be profligate. He does not love the profligate. (Surat al-An'am, 141)

Children of Adam! Wear fine clothing in every mosque and eat and drink but do not be profligate. He does not love the profligate. (Surat al-A'raf, 31)

The Means Employed by Satan to Turn People from the True Path

The Qur'an warns believers against certain bad habits specifically employed by Satan. Wine, gambling and fortune-telling are all vehicles by which Satan seeks to distract people:

You who believe! Wine and gambling, stone altars and divining arrows are filth from the handiwork of Satan. Avoid them completely so that hopefully you will be successful. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 90)

The important point here, however, is the end sought by Satan through these means. That aim is referred to in the following verse—it is, to prevent people from remembering Allah and observing their five daily prayers:

Satan wants to stir up enmity and hatred between you by means of wine and gambling, and to debar you from remembrance of Allah and from prayer. Will you not then give them up? (Surat al-Ma'ida, 91)

THOSE UNAWARE OF THE INFLUENCE OF SATAN: SOCIETIES OF THE IGNORANT

Societies founded on ignorance of the true faith do not recognize the power of Satan nor his influence over them. According to them, Satan is merely a symbol of evil, with no actual consequence for their day to day lives. They believe he only encourages the great crimes. Monstrous men who commit atrocities under the influence of Satan are the only ones "doomed to Hell." In their view, others, such as, for example a housewife, or a student not overtly harming anyone else, are not under the influence of Satan. Even if they do not fully observe their religious obligations, such people regard themselves as being of "pure heart." They are people who have no ambitions over others' money or property, and cause no one any visible "wrong" or "harm." Because they do not kill or spend illicit wealth, they believe, they will ultimately be allowed to enter Paradise. Again, according to the ignorant outlook, Satan's legions are composed merely of those who drink blood and sacrifice

human beings, devious perverts like those seen only in horror films. These people, who are "bound for Hell," are those who have sold their souls to the Satan. Hell, they believe, exists only for these "evil" people.

This deceptive outlook, so prevalent in societies where ignorance prevails, renders Satan's task a great deal easier. Because they regard themselves as destined for Paradise, because they are not actually harming anyone, such people constitute the largest segment of humanity among which Satan can easily rule by and control. Until the day they will die, and be confined to Hell, they continue to deceive themselves, misled by the suggestions of Satan (Allah knows best). As revealed in the verses of the Qur'an, these people will be faced with their final outcome on the Day of Judgment, though they will be unable to believe it:

Then they will have no recourse except to say, "By Allah, our Lord, We were not idolaters." (Surat al-An`am, 23)

Satan's true aim is to prevent people from living according to what is pleasing to Allah, to keep them from the commands of the Qur'an, and to lead them to overstep the bounds set by Him. It is not necessary that a person to commit murder, drink blood or practice Satan-worship to be among the dupes of Satan. One who fails to perform the observances clearly imposed by Allah, but who still regards himself as being of "clean heart," or who thinks he renders service to others though his professional life, and has therefore fulfilled his requirements, has, nonetheless, fallen into Satan's snare.

According to that revealed in the Qur'an, those duped according to the desires of Satan are in the majority. People of faith, however, are very few in number, though preserved from the influence of Satan:

Iblis was correct in his assessment of them, and they fol-

lowed him, except for a group of the believers. (Surah Saba', 20)

With a little careful attention, one will recognize even within his own community he is surrounded by this secret army of Satan. These unadmitted, but nevertheless obedient troops, will show themselves forth through different types of characters. They may include a person's mother, father, brother, spouse, friend, or even oneself. The only way of determining so is to refer to the Qur'an, revealed by Allah, the Creator of both man and Satan. Philosophical arguments based on such premises as, "In my view," "In my opinion" and "The way I see it" are of no weight. The sole criterion is the Qur'an. If one person does not live according to that shown by the Qur'an, in other words, in the manner demanded by Allah, then he lives in the manner desired by Satan. Even if he is unaware of it, or refuses to accept it, the end-result is nevertheless the same; one who does not live in the way stipulated in the Qur'an, that is, in a way commanded by Allah, will be cast into the flames of Hell together with Satan. Those who will be thrown into Hell on the Day of Judgment are described in the Qur'an as follows:

They will be bundled into it head first, they and the misled, and every one of Iblis's regiments. (Surat ash-Shu'ara', 94-95)

Since such people are unaware that they are Satan's prisoners, they are easily misled by him. Acquiescing to, without question, the life desired for them by Satan, they waste the 60 to 70 years of life for naught. Even though the details of their lives may vary depending on their social status, the essential principle remains the same: they work solely for the life of this world, never thinking of Allah and the Hereafter, as if they were never to die.

Many devote years towards attaining an academic degree or professional designation, working day in and day out for a better

life, or greater prosperity, only then to one day die, as if none of it had ever been. They are soon forgotten, and are succeeded by others. From the moment of their death, neither the money they had acquired, their social status, the standard of living they achieved, nor the family they left behind, are any longer of any value: the time granted them in this world has come to an end. Still, though, some never think of death, an ultimate truth they will nevertheless have to face. They waste the span of their life without making any preparation for it.

These people literally serve Satan, and Satan uses them to further spread his "religion" (in other words, his philosophy and system). Such people's mouths, eyes and skin all serve Satan. As a consequence, Satan is able to look not merely through one, but through millions of eyes, and hears through millions of ears. When they speak, no manner of reasoning in conformity with the Qur'an is to be detected, but the words of Satan. Satan will use anyone to spread the message of his religion, making no distinction between language, race or nation.

In short, Satan exploits the selfishness of people towards his own ends. To do so, he does not need to enter into their dreams with terrifying visions, as is otherwise believed, or, as depicted in horror films, by managing to make them perform a deed they would otherwise never do. All that is required is that he become for them a bosom friend. In other words, his victim complies of his own volition. That is the reason for the great similarity between them and Satan, a relationship described in the Qur'an as one of "brotherhood":

But as for their brothers [i.e., those among mankind who listen to the devils and obey their orders], the visitors lead them further into error. And they do not stop at that! (Surat al-A`raf, 202)

Satan enters his victim's subconscious, and rules every part of his body. For example, he inhibits the formulation of a sound thought. Satan is now so disposed to offer continual negative inspiration.

Those of his victims, whose souls Satan enters and whose bodies he rules, employ the same methods as their fiendish partner to turn others from the path of Allah, and to prevent them from behaving rightly. Like Satan, they spread the message of his religion by laying a thousand and one traps by which to combat Allah's influence on people, and to cause them to forget that which will aid them to act in a conscientious manner. In this case, it is no longer necessary to refer to Satan himself, and those under his control, as separate entities, because they themselves have become satans. They are then satans in physical form.

In several verses of the Qur'an, believers are warned against the friends of Satan. These issue from differing segments of society. Some may be industrialists, teachers or doctors, while others workers or students. These people, who live according to the religion designed by Satan, may have little in common socially. Yet, they all share one characteristic; they are all far removed from the true religion, the true religion of the Qur'an. We can organize those who are members of the society of ignorance, each of different characteristics but under the control of Satan, under several headings.

Enemies of the Prophets

It has been revealed in the Qur'an that every messenger, sent with the divine religion to guide to the true path, was confronted with the enmity of a group of satans, comprising of humans and jinn. Satans among the jinn whispered into the hearts of men to mis-

direct their steps. The human component among these satans revealed themselves through their hostility towards the Prophet (saas) and the believers who followed him. By fighting against the Prophet (saas), they joined with others like them, at times engaging in joint action. By such joint action, they incited one another against the believers with high-sounding but deceptive speech. This cooperation is described in the Qur'an as follows:

In this way, We have appointed as enemies to every Prophet satans, from both mankind and from the jinn, who inspire each other with delusions by means of specious words—if your Lord had willed, they would not have done it, so abandon them and all they fabricate—so that the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter incline towards them and are pleased with them and perpetrate whatever they perpetrate. (Surat al-An`am, 112-113)

As stated in these verses, had Allah so willed, these satans would not have been hostile to the Prophet (saas), and would not have inflicted any difficulty or sought to oppress the believers, nor wage war against them. Only according to the will of Allah can these creatures compose the circumstances by which to test the friends of Allah, by which they may be raised in rank in the Hereafter. By means of these situations, the believers are put to the test, their patience tested, and hearts cleansed. Satan, who cannot act outside the will of Allah, merely complies with the task set out for him by Allah, to help distinguish the believers from the unbelievers.

Unbelievers Incited by Satan

The incitement of Satan is the most important factor behind the excesses of the unbelievers, and their hostility towards the believers. Allah revealed, in the Qur'an:

Do you not see that We send the satans against those who disbelieve to goad them on? (Surah Maryam, 83)

The satans inspire their friends to dispute with you. If you obeyed them you would then be idolaters. (Surat al-An`am, 121)

Sometimes, Satan encourages idolaters and unbelievers to attack the believers in the cause of "the religion of their ancestors"; other times, out of racism; otherwise still, for worldly benefit. The characteristic common to every unbeliever who has ever opposed the true religion throughout history, is that they acted through the influence of Satan.

Just as these attacks can be verbal, they can also be physical, with the intent to kill. A verse describes the action taken by the unbelievers against Allah's Prophet (saas):

When those who disbelieve were plotting against you to imprison you or kill you or expel you: they were planning and Allah was planning, but Allah is the Best of Planners. (Surat al-Anfal, 30)

So effective are suggestions insinuated by Satan into the minds of the unbelievers that they pursue their rebellion against the messenger and the believers, even at the risk of their own lives. A telling example of this is referred to in those verses which describe the wars waged against the believers. Prior to the war, Satan incited the unbelievers against the believers, and portrayed the idea of fighting against them as fair-seeming. Indeed, he so rouses the unbelievers that he makes them believe that there exists no army able to defeat them. When the two armies met, however, Satan abandoned those who believed in him:

When Satan made their actions appear good to them, saying, "No one will overcome you today for I am at your side." But

when the two parties came in sight of one another, he turned right round on his heels saying, "I wash my hands of you. I see what you do not see. I fear Allah. Allah is severe in retribution." (Surat al-Anfal, 48)

Satan does not in truth seek what is best for those who believe in him. Thus, he tries to ensure that all, believer or unbeliever, go to Hell. Presenting himself as a trusted friend is a tactic by which he can incite one people against another, and generally cause strife and evil. After achieving his objective, though, he abandons those, whoever they may be, who took him as their friend.

Racists are another example of a type of unbeliever influenced by Satan. Wherever you will find them in the world, racist individuals or societies regard themselves superior to others, for no valid reason at all. A rage has been fomented in them. Generally, through the effectiveness of Satan's inducements, they devote their lives for the sake of something they do not even fully understand. Attention is drawn in the Qur'an to the anger incited in racists:

Those who disbelieve filled their hearts with fanatical rage—the fanatical rage of the Time of Ignorance—and Allah sent down serenity to His Messenger and to the believers, and bound them to the expression of heedfulness which they had most right to and were most entitled to. Allah has knowledge of all things. (Surat al-Fath, 26)

The way racists harbor a hatred for others, by regarding themselves superior, brings to mind another feature of Satan which we have already mentioned. Here, the mentality of Satan, who hated the Prophet Adam (as) because he regarded himself superior to him, can be recognized as the essential philosophy of the racists. At the source of the perverted basis by which racist societies regard them-

selves as superior, lies the delusion of the superiority of their physical attributes, history, ancestry and lineage. Upon more careful examination, we may note that claiming one is superior to others on the basis of one's lineage is parallel to the errant logic of Satan according to which fire is superior to clay.

Those to Whom Satan Portrays Their Perversions As Attractive

Unbelievers and idolaters become passionately devoted to the superstitions they prefer over the true religion. Whatever the ideology or idea, those who believe in these superstitions have actually embarked on the road to Hell, which Satan had embellished for them.

This embellishment made by Satan has become so attractive to the unbelievers that, when duped by it, they come to believe themselves on the true path, and become obstinately committed to their perversions. The influence on people of the attractiveness effected by Satan for a particular religion, in the time of the Prophet Sulayman (as), has been revealed as follows in the Qur'an:

[The hoopoe said,] "I found both her [Queen of Sheba] and her people prostrating to the sun instead of Allah. Satan has made their actions seem good to them and debarred them from the Way so they are not guided." (Surat an-Naml, 24)

This verse refers to a community of Sun-worshippers, and it has been revealed that it was Satan who had made this perversion appear attractive to them. Even if some in the modern world do not worship the Sun, they nevertheless are still followers of whichever false system or ideology they are blindly devoted to. The similarity between the Sun-worshippers of the time of the Prophet Sulayman (as), and those who abandon Islam in the present time and turn towards man-made

ideologies, is the fact that it was Satan who portrayed these choices as attractive to them.

Those Who Ignorantly Debate Over Allah

There is a technique often employed by prominent members of the society of the ignorant. They make unfounded comments about the true religion, to justify their own corruption and win supporters. One such group, who frequently resort to this tactic, regard themselves as "elites."

They consider themselves superior to common people. So high is their regard for themselves that they are entirely unable to believe that Allah will ever punish them. Not only do they flee from the religion of Allah, they prevent others from adhering to it (Surat al-An`am, 26). They esteem those who are religious as ignorant, naïve and contemptible. They interpret the religion according to their own inclinations. Among these interpretations we can list the following:

- How can Allah inflict suffering on one who does no one else any harm, who keeps to himself, and who, on the contrary, is helpful towards other people? (A person who thinks along those lines is actually attempting to justify himself.)

- Islam is a religion of love. As long as you love people and do things for others, you have loved and worshiped Allah.

- Working, being productive, and creating employment opportunities for others are the greatest forms of worship.

- I love Allah and what He has created. I also know that He loves me. There is no need to pray and fast. I do not believe that Allah will send me to Hell when I do no harm to anyone.

With these interpretations they propagandize their false religion. They are ungrateful to Allah, the Lord of all, Who created

human beings to serve Him, and rebel against Him in a way that is grossly ignorant. Reference is made to such people in the Qur'an, in the following example:

Among people there is one who argues about Allah without knowledge or guidance or any light-giving Book, turning away arrogantly, to misguide people from the Way of Allah. He will be disgraced in this world and on the Day of Rising We will make him taste the punishment of the Burning. (Surat al-Hajj, 8-9)

Whether a wealthy industrialist, politician or ordinary citizen, these people have fallen into the grasp of Satan, one as unscrupulous and untrustworthy as they are. Such people, who use the religion as a tool with which to justify their own belief-systems or ideologies in no way compatible with the Qur'an, and who have appeared in every period of history, all follow in the footsteps of Satan. They are described in the following terms in the Qur'an:

Among people there is one who argues about Allah without knowledge, and follows every rebellious Satan. It is written of him that if anyone takes him as a friend, he will mislead him and guide him to the punishment of the Searing Blaze. (Surat al-Hajj, 3-4)

Those Who Imagine Satan Interfered with the Revelation of the Qur'an

Although very few in number, these corrupt individuals have suggested, in order to spread confusion and turn the ignorant away from Islam, that the words of jinn and Satan became mixed up in the revelation of the Qur'an. Best known among such writers is Salman Rushdie, author of the book *The Satanic Verses*.

The same perverse suggestion is to be found in the society of the ignorant at the time of our Prophet (saas). Indeed, idolaters of the time accused even our Prophet (saas) of soothsaying and madness (Surat at-Tur, 29). Because, it was believed that soothsayers received information from jinn and Satan, and that they were under their influence. Others, of similar mentality, accused the Prophet Muhammad (saas) of madness (possession by jinns). The best way to answer all such perverted insinuations is provided in the Qur'an:

Nor is it [the Qur'an] the word of an accursed Satan. (Surat at-Takwir, 25)

The satans did not bring it [the Qur'an] down. It does not befit them and they are not capable of it. (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 210-211)

In that which follows these verses, it has been revealed that the satans have been prohibited and prevented from listening to the revelation of Allah:

They are debarred from hearing it. (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 212)

The limits of the sky is protected from the satans, those who try to listen stealthily are punished by flame at that moment. (Surat al-Hijr, 17-18)

As we know, Satan is a jinn, and strict precautions have been implemented to prevent jinn from listening to the divine revelation. These measures were referred by the mouths of the jinns themselves in Surat al-Jinn:

"We tried, as usual, to travel to heaven in search of news but found it filled with fierce guards and meteors. We used to sit there on special seats to listen in. But anyone listening now finds a fiery meteor in wait for him." (Surat al-Jinn, 8-9)

Satan Descends on Every Evil Liar

"Satan" refers to all those on whom Satan descends and who he brings under his influence. The defining characteristic of such people has been revealed to be their propensity towards sin and deceit. Whether consciously or not, they hearken to Satan, and act in compliance to his commands. The Qur'an conveys the following on the subject:

Shall I tell you upon whom the satans descend? They descend on every evil liar. They give them a hearing and most of them are liars. (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 221-223)

It is important to note that, immediately after these verses, reference was made to the poets from the period of the revelation of the Qur'an:

And as for poets, it is the misled who follow them. Do you not see how they ramble on in every style and say things which they do not do. (Surat ash-Shu`ara', 224-226)

In Mecca, during the period of our Prophet (saas), poets were those charged with the task of directing and influencing society, as well as formulating agendas. Since the verses they wrote were passed on orally, they served as a kind of source of traditional lore. Most of these poets, however, employed their talents against Islam, and sought to turn people from the true path.

It would appear from these verses that one of the methods they used to deceive the public was to make empty promises. Remembering that making empty promises is one of the primary methods employed by Satan (Surat an-Nisa', 120, Surah Ibrahim, 22), the link between these poets and Satan is again elucidated.

Despite the passage of years, there has been no change in this situation, apart from a few minor details. The poets have been replaced by centers of power against religion. Methods such as empty

promises, distracting the public, deception, and portraying the facts as other than they actually are the means most frequently employed by these circles. The facts are completely misrepresented by mendacious reports, and propaganda in the promotion of all manner of sin is being widely disseminated, to an extent never before seen in the history of the world. Efforts to slander and blacken the good name of Muslims, and to ultimately defeat Islam, are all undertaken under the influence of Satan.

The Religion of Their Ancestors

The Qur'an is the primary source for learning about Islam. For that reason, Satan keeps as many away from it as he can, directing them instead towards traditional beliefs and superstition inherited from past generations.

Those who fall into this trap, abide not by Allah's revelation, but according to superstitions that have been accreted to one another over the centuries. Worst of all, these people become obstinately devoted to their superstitions. Satan has so closed their minds that they persist in their ignorance even when called to the true religion revealed by Allah:

When they are told: "Follow what Allah has sent down," they say, "No, we will follow what we found our fathers doing." What! Even if Satan is calling them to the punishment of the Blazing Fire? (Surah Luqman, 21)

For instance, in this religion, based on tradition and superstition, women are regarded as second-class citizens. Their adherents insist on the supremacy of men, and debase women. However, there is no gender-based supremacy in the Qur'an. It has been revealed in the Qur'an that those who are superior are those who are foremost

in godliness. The persistence of such superstitions is among the most definite proofs that, though coming under the name of Islam, certain circles are still living by the traditions handed down from their ancestors.

Those who abide by the religion of their ancestors are stubborn and closed-minded. No amount of reasoning can lead them abandon the religion they have inherited by way of their ancestors. According to the Qur'an, these people cannot be brought to their senses. The following verse reveals:

When they are told, "Follow what Allah has sent down to you," They say, "We are following what we found our fathers doing." What, even though their fathers did not understand a thing and were not guided! The likeness of those who disbelieve is that of the beast which, call out to it as one may, can hear nothing but a shout and a cry. Deaf–dumb–blind. They do not use their intellect. (Surat al-Baqara, 170-171)

SATAN'S FACTION: THE HYPOCRITES

The Arabic word *munafiq* refers to a person who is "two-faced, always trying to find an easy way out of commitments, either spiritual or social, by adapting to a course of action which will bring him or her an advantage." Although they are not believers, hypocrites are people who nevertheless strive to give the impression that they are, in order to take advantage of the believers' strength and seek shelter among them.

When these people, who have a sickness in their hearts, fail to find what they had hoped, or when some conflict or difficulty afflicts the believers, they depart immediately from them, only then showing what they had hidden in their hearts. Whether during or after their departure from the believers, they then strive to harm them and to impede the unity among them. Moreover, to this end, they will even cooperate with unbelievers.

The character and behavior of the hypocrites is described in some detail in several verses of the Qur'an, believers being warned

repeatedly against such people. One of the points these verses emphasize particularly is the nearness between the hypocrites and Satan. Therefore, many features of Satan, including his mysterious thought patterns, are also manifested in the hypocrites. A verse of the Qur'an refers to the way the hypocrites are completely within the fold of Satan and join his legions:

Satan has gained mastery over them and made them forget the remembrance of Allah. Such people are the party of Satan. No indeed! It is the party of Satan who are the losers. (Surat al-Mujadala, 19)

It is for this reason that, when we look at Satan's character, we can also recognize several features also common to the hypocrites. Like Satan, the hypocrites utter inconsistent and contradictory statements, as well as behave strangely. The most significant feature they share in common is a superiority-complex. As we know, Satan refused to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as), because of his errant tendency to regard himself as superior. This insolence of his is referred to in Surah Sad:

So the angels prostrated, all of them together. Except for Iblis who was arrogant and was one of the unbelievers. He said, "Iblis, what prevented you prostrating to what I created with My own Hands? Were you overcome by arrogance or are you one of the exalted?" He [Satan] said, "I am better than him. You created me from fire but You created him from clay." (Surah Sad, 73-76)

This arrogance is also referred to in other verses. For instance, from Satan's response we can discern that he did not think it fitting for him to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as) (Surat al-Isra', 61). The words, "... I will not prostrate to a human being whom You have created out of dried clay formed from fetid black

mud..." (Surat al-Hijr, 33), which are repeated in another verse, demonstrate this arrogance of Satan's even more clearly.

This response was the fruit of Satan's inexplicable form of logic. Interestingly enough, careful examination of his statements, as referred to in these verses, shows that he was certain of Allah's existence, and that He is his Creator. He fears Allah, but, out pride, refuses to obey him.

As has already been made clear, despite being cognizant of these truths, his desire for self-aggrandizement, that is, the way he regarded himself superior to man on the basis of a mere difference in physical make-up, his envy of the status afforded to man, his unwillingness to prostrate himself before him, because of that deviance, and thus, his opposition to the command of Allah, all place him in the worst ranks of created entities.

His response is impudent and a show of gross ingratitude. That same false logic can be discerned in the hypocrites. Like Satan, the hypocrites regard themselves to be "superior," "different," and "chosen." For example, when the hypocrites, according to the 13th verse of Surat al-Baqara, were called upon to have faith as other people had, they described the believers as "fools," and refused to be ranked among them. The verse in question reads:

When they are told, "Believe in the way that the people believe," they say, "What! Are we to believe in the way that fools believe?" No indeed! They are the fools, but they do not know it. (Surat al-Baqara, 13)

The hypocrites seek to ease their consciences in this manner because they have no faith. Maintaining, or more correctly, trying to convince themselves, that they are superior while believers are inferior, they refuse to follow the path taken by believers. The real reason why they described the believers as "fools" was their desire not

to believe as they had, in other words, not to follow the messenger.

The fact is, though, that in the Hereafter superiority will belong only to Allah, His Prophet (saas), and the believers. This certainty is revealed in the Qur'an as follows:

They say, "If we return to Madina, the mightier will drive out the inferior." But all might belongs to Allah and to His Messenger and the believers. But the hypocrites do not know this. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 8)

They Oppose the Messenger

Obedience to the prophets of Allah is one of the foremost stipulations demanded in the Qur'an. Among the worst traits of the hypocrites is their violation of this provision, and their rebellion against the messengers. Because, rebellion against the messenger is rebellion against Allah.

Iblis also opposed Allah by refusing to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as)—or to accept his superior rank. Both the hypocrites and Satan are to be punished because they refuse to cooperate with another being they had been commanded by Allah to obey.

Actually, the hypocrites are unable to even comprehend that obedience to the messenger is obedience to Allah (Surat an-Nisa', 80). The envy they hide prevents them from following another human being. The fact is, however, that obedience to the messenger is one of the most insisted upon commandments in the Qur'an. Because, though the messenger is a human being, he has been specifically chosen to communicate the message of Allah's true religion. The responsibility of others towards him is unquestioning obedience. This Allah has revealed in the following manner:

We sent no Messenger except to be obeyed by Allah's permission. If only when they wronged themselves they had come to you and asked Allah's forgiveness and the

Messenger had asked forgiveness for them they would have found Allah Ever-Returning, Most Merciful. (Surat an-Nisa', 64)

It is revealed in the subsequent verse that those who found resistance within themselves to what the messenger had decided cannot be regarded as having faith:

No, by your Lord, they are not believers until they make you their judge in the disputes that break out between them, and then find no resistance within themselves to what you decide and submit themselves completely. (Surat an-Nisa', 65)

We have already referred to a similarity that exists between the manner of rebellion of Satan and the hypocrites. Likewise, there is a similarity between the sincere believers and angels. Because, when the angels received the command to prostrate themselves before the Prophet Adam (as), they did so in full submission. This obedience on the part of the angels, in contradistinction to the disobedience of Satan, is referred to here in the Qur'an:

We said to the angels, "Prostrate to Adam!" and they prostrated, with the exception of Iblis. He refused and was arrogant and was one of the disbelievers. (Surat al-Baqara, 34)

Similarly, true believers obey the messenger of Allah unquestioningly. The words of believers in this regard are reported in Surat al-Baqara:

... "We do not differentiate between any of His Messengers." And they say, "We hear and we obey." (Surat al-Baqara, 285)

Their Irrational Rebellion

We have already seen how Satan was surprisingly illogical

when he chose to rebel. Recognizing the existence and might of Allah, though still rebelling against Him is, as we have already made clear, a most irrational act.

However, this inexplicable reasoning is not peculiar to Satan alone. Satan's legions, the hypocrites, also engage in behavior that is inexplicable. As Satan rebelled knowingly, had the impudence to question the command of Allah, refused to beg forgiveness, persisted in his sin despite knowing it to be an offence, thinking nevertheless he had suffered an injustice, regarding himself as being in the right, seeking to mislead others into the same destitution... in these the hypocrites follow Satan in every regard:

They are like Satan when he says to a human being, "Disbelieve," and then when he disbelieves, says, "I wash my hands of you. Truly I fear Allah, the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat al-Hashr, 16)

The hypocrites possess the same knowledge as Satan. Satan knows of the might of Allah, and of Paradise and Hell. Like Satan, the hypocrites are also aware of Allah's existence, His book, His commandments, and even His messenger. There may even be those among the hypocrites who have memorized the Qur'an by heart. Nevertheless, all fall into the worst rank among all created beings in opposing the will of Allah. Indeed, the punishment they will eventually receive is even worse, for having turned away knowingly from the true path.

Another extraordinary perversion found in the hypocrites is that, after recognizing Allah and His messenger, they then accuse them of deception. When the hypocrites, as described in Surat al-Ahzab, encountered the enemy, it was this sort of deviance that could be discerned among them. It must also not be forgotten that, in all other circumstances, these people behave like believers, ap-

pear on the surface to be obeying the messenger along with the other believers, and are able to conceal the sickness in their hearts, though only as long as there is opportunity to excite their base desires. As has been revealed in a verse of the Qur'an, during the period of the Prophet (saas), in the event of war, the wickedness of the hypocrites then became evident:

When the hypocrites and people with sickness in their hearts said, "What Allah and His Messenger promised us was mere delusion." (Surat al-Ahzab, 12)

Satan's obstinacy in his rebellion, present despite his knowledge of the existence of Allah, can also be discovered in other actions of the hypocrites. For example, there were hypocrites who, in addition to accepting the messenger of Allah, also witnessed Allah's revelation to him. These hypocrites were certain of the truth of that revelation. Indeed, so certain of that truth were they, that they feared that the messenger would be informed of the sickness in their hearts, again by means of revelation:

The hypocrites are afraid that a sura may be sent down about them, informing them of what is in their hearts. Say: "Go on mocking! Allah will expose everything you are afraid of." (Surat at-Tawba, 64)

Another example of the sickness of the hypocrites is given in Surat al-Ma'ida. The hypocrites among the people of the Prophet Musa (as) were so corrupt as to tell him "... **So you and your Lord go and fight. We will stay sitting here...**" (Surat al-Ma'ida, 24) when they received the command to go to war. Although they recognized Allah and His Prophet (saas), these people, too, shamelessly rebelled against His commandments. Similarly, another group of hypocrites, from the time of our Prophet (saas), are referred to as having been terrified by and resisting the call to wage holy war against the unbelievers:

... Then when fighting is prescribed for them, a group of them fear people as Allah should be feared, or even more than that. They say, "Our Lord, why have you prescribed fighting for us? If only You would give us just a little more time!" Say, "The enjoyment of this world is very brief. The Hereafter is better for those who guard against evil. You will not be wronged by so much as the smallest speck." (Surat an-Nisa', 77)

Clearly, their reactions were improper, in questioning the commandments of Allah.

The truly significant point here though is, that the hypocrites, who did not wish to go to war alongside the Prophet (saas), did not deny the existence of Allah, neither were some opposed to waging war in His cause. Outwardly, one would presume that all they wanted was for the war to be postponed. For example, in saying "... **Do not go out to fight in the heat...**" (Surat at-Tawba, 81) they might appear to want to wage war in more suitable circumstances. That wish, however, which would otherwise appear perfectly reasonable, actually revealed the sickness they concealed in their hearts. Allah revealed His judgment on these people:

... **"The Fire of Hell is much hotter, if they only understood."** (Surat at-Tawba, 81)

These may be able to gain adherents. Yet, no matter how many supporters they attract through their false-pretexts, they only convince others like themselves, who also harbor a sickness in their hearts. This group, which opposed the command of Allah's Prophet (saas), were mired in confusion. Because, irrespective of conditions, the commands of His Prophet (saas) were to be obeyed.

Another group of hypocrites, also during the time of our Prophet (saas), was those who claimed their homes were not secure,

as an excuse for not going to war:

And a group of them said, "People of Yathrib, Your position is untenable so return!" some of them asked the Prophet to excuse them, saying, "Our houses are exposed," when they were not exposed; it was merely that they wanted to run away. (Surat al-Ahzab, 13)

One who has sincerely submitted himself to Allah will certainly not seek an excuse by which to not join in striving in the way of Allah. Only one who has not fully submitted to Allah, and has not fully comprehended His might, will seek such a discharge. The reluctance displayed by the hypocrites in the time of our Prophet (saas), when the call to war was made, clearly demonstrated the cunning effects of Iblis upon their hearts.

They Deceive Themselves

Another action impossible to understand from among the hypocrites, who are Satan's minions, is their tendency to imagine they have deceived Allah. This self-delusion of theirs is described as follows in the Qur'an:

They think they deceive Allah and those who believe. They deceive no one but themselves but they are not aware of it. (Surat al-Baqara, 9)

Here we encounter a rather astonishing truth. It is hugely irrational for one to imagine he has deceived Allah, He Who created him. Because, Allah is He Who knows "**what the heart contains**" (Surah Fatir, 38) and "**your secrets and what is even more concealed**" (Surah Ta Ha, 7). This sort of thinking on the part of the hypocrites, though quite inexplicable, is nothing but self-deception.

Hypocrites often claim to have fear of Allah. Yet, none among them exhibits harboring such fear in their actions. This is yet another feature which hypocrites share with Satan. Despite declaring that he fears Allah, Satan nevertheless commits terrible crimes, such as encouraging people to rebel. Instead of begging for Allah's forgiveness, he seeks to turn people from His path. Here is a further similarity he shares with the hypocrites: having no fear of Allah, nor showing that fear in their behavior, despite being aware of Allah's might.

This irrational lack of fear at times prompts the hypocrites to try to deceive Allah. The case of the mindset of the hypocrites referred to in Surat at-Tawba is one instance of this. Under the pretense of giving to charity and spending of their wealth in His cause, it is increase in property which they seek from Allah. When Allah increases their wealth, they become miserly, thus failing in their promise to Him.

Among them there were some who made an agreement with Allah: "If He gives us of His bounty we will definitely give charity and be among the righteous." But when He does give them of His bounty they are tight-fisted with it and turn away. (Surat at-Tawba, 75-76)

They imagine they have deceived Allah. The fact is, however, that, in return for their misdeeds, Allah will punish severely those who seek to sow discord by making them victims themselves of that which they seek to foment. These people, while pursuing the fulfillment of their own base desires, are unaware that they are jeopardizing the life they will live in eternity, being like other hypocrites, in merely deceiving themselves. Their condition is revealed in the Qur'an:

So He has punished them by putting hypocrisy in their hearts until the day they meet Him because they failed Allah in what they promised Him and because they lied. (Surat at-Tawba, 77)

They Form False Interpretations

The Arabic word *tawil* means "explanation," "interpretation." A second meaning is a person's refusal to admit to an error out of a lack of sincerity, and then offering unfounded excuses to justify their mendacity. Careful consideration of the matter, though, will reveal that the first being ever to commit such falsehood was Satan. As we already reviewed, Satan opposed Allah's command to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as). Then, when he was warned by Allah, he utterly refused to admit to his error, but attempted instead to portray his action as correct. In accordance to his deviant logic, he attempted to show that he was in the right by maintaining that fire is superior to clay.

This tendency in Satan is also to be discovered in the hypocrites. They also engage in illogical arguments and inexplicable behavior. In order to protect their own interests, and portray themselves as being in the right, they pour forth Satanic type responses from the minute they open their mouths.

Their efforts to defend and justify themselves are consumed with a rage. And, by way of that sentiment, they are prone to all kinds of despicable behavior, like lies and slander. They contrive responses completely removed from the truth of the situation.

The constriction of the conscience of those who knowingly formulate false interpretations is easily discerned in their faces and the words they utter. They attempt to show themselves as being in the right by making use of unsound and ludicrous logic. Ultimately, no part of their utterances are valid. And, by the will of Allah, these will be identified by sincere believers for what they truly are.

The insincerity of the hypocrites is referred to in several verses

of the Qur'an. The hypocrites at the time of our Prophet (saas), who had claimed in time of war that their houses were exposed (Surat al-Ahzab, 13), who cited the condition of the weather as an excuse (Surat at-Tawba, 81), who wanted to postpone the war (Surat an-Nisa', 77), and who said they would have joined in the expedition if they had been sufficiently prepared (Surat at-Tawba, 42), are just a few of the examples mentioned.

No matter what the excuses, however, those who avoid embarking on the path of Allah have no faith in their hearts. Allah reveals this fact in the Qur'an as follows:

Those who believe in Allah and the Last Day do not ask you to excuse them from striving with their wealth and themselves. Allah knows the people who guard against evil. Only those who do not believe in Allah and the Last Day ask you to excuse them. Their hearts are full of doubt and in their doubt they waver to and fro. (Surat at-Tawba, 44-45)

The situation mentioned in this verse is yet another indication of the manner in which the hypocrites are deficient in their understanding. Because, one who formulates false interpretations of the religion only deceives himself and others, even though he seeks through various methods to portray himself as being in the right. In truth, however, they can never deceive Allah, Who knows what the heart contains (Surat al-Ma'ida, 7). Allah revealed the following on that subject:

Do you not see those who claim to be purified? No, Allah purifies whoever He wills. They will not be wronged by so much as the smallest speck. (Surat an-Nisa', 49)

They Imagine Themselves to Have Suffered an Injustice

The reason why Satan refused to prostrate himself before the Prophet Adam (as) is that he thinks it an injustice done to him. Hypocrites offer the same claim. It is a show of exceeding ingratitude to suppose what they have of Allah, their Creator, Who has sent His messenger to lead them to the true path. This condition of theirs is revealed in Surat an-Nur:

Is there a sickness in their hearts or do they have misgivings or do they fear that Allah and His Messenger will be unjust to them? No, it is simply that they are wrongdoers. (Surat an-Nur, 50)

They Suffer Physically

Satan inflicts severe physical harm on the hypocrites. Because they are psychologically imbalanced, they are easily demoralized. The resulting symptoms can be seen in their eye, giving them the appearance of suffering from some sort of mental illness.

Intense over-excitement, or fear, anxiety and restlessness are all conflicting feelings which then show themselves in their faces and physical selves. They will often squint, their mouths may be dry, and their cheek or lips twitch uncontrollably. Heightened wear of their skin tissue gives them an unhealthy appearance. Their mental state, resulting from the corruptive suggestions insinuated to them by Satan, weakens their bodies' immune system. The result is feeble and weary body. Their faces are sallow and unhealthy. When sometimes, they are miserable and depressed, at other times they are out of control and practically insane with exuberance.

Their facial expressions vary significantly. Some wear a sly

smile, while others may appear neurotic. Each is more repulsive and unpleasant than the last. Combining their distorted facial expressions with their bodily dysfunction, they can easily be recognized. This is indicated in the Qur'an:

If We wished, We would show them to you and you would know them by their mark and know them by their ambivalent speech. Allah knows your actions. (Surah Muhammad, 30)

They Believe They Are on the True Path

In addition to their corrupt thinking, as well as doubts and unsound logic, the hypocrites share still another characteristic in common, being again an incomprehensible self-delusion. Hypocrites actually believe themselves to be on the true path.

The reason why hypocrites believe this of themselves is revealed in the Qur'an. Hypocrites, in actuality, are under the sway of Satan, having become his friends. One so close to Satan as to be his friend will, evidently, behave much under his influence. So effective is this influence that it makes hypocrites falsely believe that they are on the true path. This Allah has revealed in the Qur'an:

If someone shuts his eyes to the remembrance of the All-Merciful, We assign him a Satan who becomes his bosom friend. They debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 36-37)

One group He guided; but another group got the misguidance they deserved. They took the satans as friends instead of Allah and thought that they were guided. (Surat al-A`raf, 30)

As we may observe from these verses, no hypocrite will ever ac-

cept that he has committed a mistake. On the contrary, he will claim that he has acted in the name of Allah and His religion, to the point of even swearing to it by Allah. They are essentially not cognizant of their condition. Their reasoning powers are so confounded that, when they will be seized to be cast into Hell on the Day of Judgment, they will again swear by Allah in defense of themselves:

On the Day Allah raises up all of them together they will swear to Him just as they have sworn to you and imagine they have something to stand upon. No indeed! It is they who are the liars. (Surat al-Mujadala, 18)

Hypocrites are unaware that Satan deceived them by making use of Allah's name. They will only realize this truth in the Hereafter. The exchange that will take place between the believers and the hypocrites on the Day of Judgment has been revealed in the Qur'an:

That Day the men and women of the hypocrites will say to those who believe, "Wait for us so that we can borrow some of your light." They will be told, "Go back and look for light!" And a wall will be erected between them with a gate in it, on the inside of which there will be mercy but before whose exterior lies the punishment.

They [the hypocrites] will call out to them [the believers], "Were we not with you?" They will reply, "Indeed you were. But you made trouble for yourselves and hung back and doubted and false hopes deluded you until Allah's command arrived. The Deluder deluded you about Allah." (Surat al-Hadid, 13-14)

SATAN'S POWER IS WEAK

There is one truly important fact about Satan that must here be considered. Satan has no power independent from Allah. Allah created him, and holds him under His control. Satan's enmity is destined to test human beings.

Those who imagine that Satan possesses some power independently from Allah are mistaken. They think that Satan is engaged in a struggle against Allah. Yet, the reason why Satan is unwilling that people live according to the religion of Allah is that he knows that it is in this way that he will wreak destruction upon them. There is no question, however, of whether or not Satan is hostile towards Allah. Ultimately, though, he is merely a being created by Allah, and pursues his objective only by His leave. When the time allotted him expires, Satan will be cast into Hell to suffer punishment, together with all those people he caused to stray from the true path.

[Allah said,] "I will fill up Hell with you and every one of

them who follows you." (Surah Sad, 85)

What must also not be forgotten is that Satan can exercise no power over believers. He only exercises power over those designated by Allah, in other words, those especially created by Him to be destined for Hell.

Satan cannot cause any servant whom Allah has created to be a believer to go astray. All he can do is to be a means whereby a believer commits small errors during this trail that is his life in this world. Satan only has the power to cause those with sickness in their hearts to go astray. This fact is revealed in the Qur'an:

He [Satan] has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord. He only has authority over those who take him as a friend and associate others with Allah. (Surat an-Nahl, 99-100)

In another verse, it has been revealed that the believers cannot be led astray by Satan:

[Allah said to Satan,] "But as for My servants, you will not have any authority over them." Your Lord suffices as a guardian. (Surat al-Isra', 65)

Because Satan is also, like man, a created being, infinite wisdom went into his creation, as in all things.

For instance, the fact that a great segment of humanity will be cast into Hell, together with Satan, will heighten the gratitude of the believers on the Day of Judgment, and increase their appreciation for the Paradise prepared for them.

At the same time, however, Satan brings it about that the hypocrites hidden among the believers be made known. By tempting such diseased hearts under his influence, he causes them to strive against the believers. Unable any longer to conceal themselves among the believers, they are thus discovered for who they are.

Believers are also able to more easily identify this group they have been harboring within their midst. Moreover, the faith and nearness to Allah felt by the believers, who were on their guard for Satan's activities, and knew of his influence over the hypocrites, increases when they witness the realization of what had been revealed in the Qur'an:

[It is] so that He can make what Satan insinuates a trial for those with sickness in their hearts and for those whose hearts are hard—the wrongdoers are entrenched in hostility. And [it is] so that those who have been given knowledge will know it is the truth from their Lord and believe in it and their hearts will be humbled to Him. Allah guides those who believe to a straight path. (Surat al-Hajj, 53-54)

Thus the hypocrites act as a means to cleanse the community of the believers. It represents part of the wisdom in Allah allotting a period of time to Satan. Allah sets forth this truth in the Qur'an:

Iblis was correct in his assessment of them and they followed him, except for a group of the believers. He had no authority over them except to enable Us to know those who believe in the Hereafter from those who are in doubt about it. Your Lord is the Preserver of all things. (Surah Saba', 20-21)

Another point on which the society of the ignorant are unaware is that Satan has no power to compel them. He can only make suggestions. If a person has a sickness in his heart then he is vulnerable to these insinuations. Other than that, Satan has no other power by which to coerce people to do anything. He knows that those who obey him, or even worship him, are actually faltering in complete ignorance. The ultimate avowal on the Day of Judgment that Satan will render onto those who followed him is revealed in the Qur'an:

When the affair is decided Satan will say, "Allah made you a

promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me but blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid nor you to mine. I reject the way you associated me with Allah before." The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment. (Surah Ibrahim, 22)

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

Darwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of clear "design" in the universe and in living things. In this way, science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it. The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the United States in

particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the concept of intelligent design to account for the origin of life. This "intelligent design" is a scientific expression of the fact that Allah created all living things.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

- 1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.
- 2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms"

proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes From Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted.

It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."¹

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

Inconclusive Efforts of the Twentieth Century

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the follow-

ing confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.²

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.³

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.⁴

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?⁵

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living or-

ganisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to con-

clude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.⁶

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

Imaginary Mechanism of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection...*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species*:

Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.⁷

Lamarck's Impact

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.⁸

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B. G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.⁹

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mecha-

nism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.¹⁰

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find—over and over again—not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.¹¹

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.¹²

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the Earth. That means that "the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. *Australopithecus*
2. *Homo habilis*
3. *Homo erectus*
4. *Homo sapiens*

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus*, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.¹³

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "homo," that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus*. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo*

sapiens, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."¹⁴

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus* > *Homo habilis* > *Homo erectus* > *Homo sapiens*, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.¹⁵

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.¹⁶

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the robust australopithecines, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.¹⁷

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible—and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.¹⁸

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

Darwinian Formula!

Besides all the technical evidence we have dealt with so far, let us now for once, examine what kind of a superstition the evolutionists have with an example so simple as to be understood even by children:

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus,

nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name "Darwinian formula":

Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids—which have no possibility of forming under natural conditions—and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 10^{-950} —as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope. They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches, peafowls, pheasants, multicoloured butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.

Briefly, unconscious atoms cannot form the cell by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron

microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with Allah's superior creation.

The theory of evolution, which claims the opposite, is a total fallacy completely contrary to reason. Thinking even a little bit on the claims of tevolutionists discloses this reality, just as in the above example.

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp

image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner

ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness That Sees and Hears Within the Brain Belong?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evo-

lutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.¹⁹

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers,

whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is Allah, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution: The Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and

logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Ibrahim (as) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Musa (as) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 6-7)

... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A`raf: 179) Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr, 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that un-

conscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Musa and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Musa to meet with his own magicians. When Musa did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A`raf, 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Musa and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

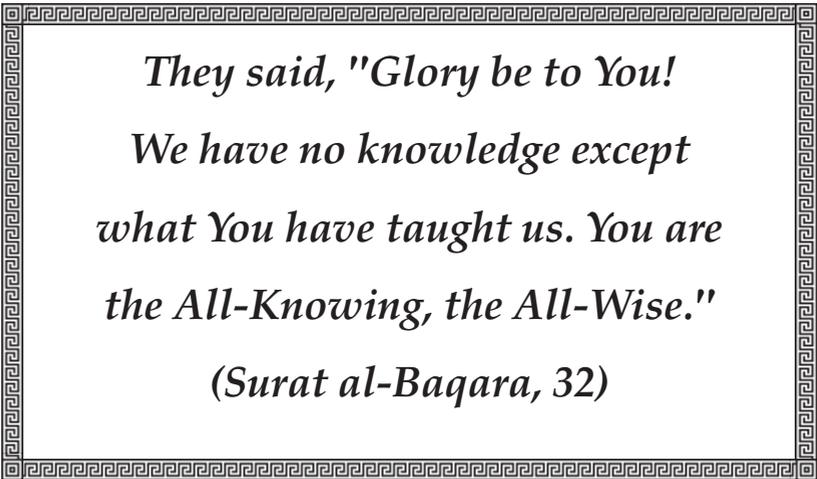
We revealed to Musa, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A`raf, 117-118)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In

fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge also stated this:

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.²⁰

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.



*They said, "Glory be to You!
We have no knowledge except
what You have taught us. You are
the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."
(Surat al-Baqara, 32)*

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