

Is Satan the Author of the Quran?

A friend of mine shared with me an article from the Internet. It was under the title “The Quran is written by Satan.” This made me laugh for indeed every time a Muslim recites the Quran, he is recommended by the Quran itself to say “I seek refuge in God from the cursed Devil.” Also the last chapter of the Quran teaches Muslims how to protect themselves from the Devil-Satan who is described as the sneaking whisperer. If that is the case, how then can Satan be the author of the Quran?

On the other hand, Satan is mentioned several times in the Quran. One may ask: what is the image of Satan in that book? First of all it is an image of scandal, humiliation, arrogance, banishment and eternal curse. Like the Bible, the Quran tells its reader about the story of Satan with Adam and Eve. Basically the report is identical with the following differences:

The Bible puts the blame of instigation on the snake rather than the Devil or Satan. It also makes Eve the encourager of Adam to eat from the tree and the result in the Bible is the original sin i.e. an eternal curse on Adam and his progeny. So the Bible puts Adam in some way in place of the Devil: In other words, Satan is innocent in the Bible of that crime; and all the blame is on Adam and Eve particularly Eve.

In the Quran the story is concluded differently. It was Satan who persuaded Adam to eat from the tree. There is no snake in the Quranic version. Adam fell due to his weakness; Eve followed him; but both discovered their mistakes and repented to God who accepted them and forgave them. So in the Quranic version, Adam and Eve were winners while Satan was the loser. This is one aspect of the image of Satan in the Quran. Can anybody claim after this that Satan is the author? It is ignorance and prejudice that make some people uphold this baseless claim.

Satan, on the other hand, is described in the Quran as the deadliest enemy of man. He refused to prostrate himself to Adam and rejected this command of God who banished and cursed him but gave him respite until the Day of Resurrection. Due to his arrogance and envy he declared that he will do his best to bring about the fall, and the doom of Adam and humanity. Thus in the Quran, Satan is the source of all evils in human life. Man is warned against that greatest foe of his i.e. Satan. This is another aspect of the personality of Satan in the Quran. It also refutes the claim that Satan is the author of this Divine Book.

Let us now review some of the verses that refer to Satan who is also called “Shaytan” i.e. the Devil in the Quran so that we can have a clear image about him. As a matter of fact Satan is given two names in the Quran: one is “Iblis” that is Lucifer which occurs eleven times in the Quran. Iblis was originally honoured by God. He was called the peacock of angels. He however, rebelled and was arrogant. Thus he brought his own downfall.

To come now to the other title given to Satan in the Quran. He is referred to as “Shaytan” meaning the one who rebelled and thus he is cursed and banished. It means the Devil. The word devil occurs 138 times in the Quran. Thus the two titles occur 149 times. They are all references of warning, condemnation and curse. Here are some Quranic quotations that show the role of the Devil:

“And Satan, indeed, proved true his thought about them so they followed him all except a group of true believers. And he had no authority over them.” (v.20-21-34).

“Then they will be hurled therein, they and the seducers and the hosts of Satan together.” (v.94-95-26).

“The angels fell down prostrate, everyone except Iblis (Satan) he was arrogant and became one of the disbelievers.” (v.74-75-38)

The Devil

- “And if the Devil should cause you to forget, sit not after the remembrance, with the congregation of wrong doers.” (v.68-6)
- “O you who believe! Follow not the footsteps of the Devil, for those who follow the footsteps of the Devil, he commands lewdness and evil.” (v.21 -24)
- “The devil promises you poverty and enjoins on you lewdness, but Allah promises you forgiveness from Himself and bounty.” (v.268-2)

- About Virgin Mary and her son Jesus Christ the Quran says: “And I crave your protection for her and for her offspring from the outcast devil.” (v.36-3)
- “Those of you who turned back on the day when the two hosts met, the devil alone was the one who caused them to backslide, because of some of that which they have earned.” (v.155-3)
- It is only the devil who would make his partisans fear (men). Fear them not, but fear Me if you are believers.” (v.175-3)
- “ Those who are pious when a glamour from the Devil troubles them, they do but remember. Thus they become seers.” (v.201-7)
- “Those who believe do fight for the cause of Allah, and those who disbelieve fight for the cause of idols. So fight the partisans of the devil. Lo! The devil’s strategy is ever weak. (v.76-4)
- They pray to none else than a rebellious devil, whom Allah cursed and he said: “Surely I will take of your bondmen an appointed portion and surely I will lead them astray, and surely I will arouse desires in them, and who chooses the Devil for a patron instead of Allah is truly a loser and his loss is manifest.” (v.117-119-4)
- “O you who believe! Intoxicants, games of chance, idols and divining arrows are only an infamy of the Devil’s handiwork. Avoid it so that you may succeed. The devil seeks only to cast among you

enmity and hatred by means of intoxicants and games of chance and to turn you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. Will you then not desist? (v.90-91-5)

- “The Devil was ever man’s deserter.” (v.29-25)
- “And the Devil made their actions fair seeming to them so he debarred them from the way (of truth) so they did not go aright.” (v.24-27)
- “Even though the Devil was inviting them to the doom of flame?” (v.21-31)
- Finally we have the following Quranic image of Satan the Devil on the Day of Judgement: “And the Devil said when the matter has been decided: Lo! Allah promised you the promise of truth, and I promised you and failed you! And I had no power over you save that I called unto you and you obeyed me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves! I cannot help you, nor can you help me. Lo! I disbelieve in that which you before ascribed to me. Lo! For wrong doers is a painful doom.” (v.22-14)

To conclude, the Quran is the divine revelation to man. This is not the first time that God spoke to man. Many scriptures reflected this before the Quran. They were however either lost or changed. The Quran is the only exception because it is the message of God to the worlds. It is not strange that God says in the Quran: “It is We, only We, who have sent down the Remembrance (the Quran), and it is We who will protect it.” (v. 9-15)

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