

WHAT DOES SATAN PROMISE, OTHER THAN DECEIT?**Dear Mumins!**

The devil who tries to hinder, in every occasion, human's servitude to Allah (s.w.t.) and the good deeds that s/he would fulfil, acts in an exceedingly sly way.¹ People do not generally notice this state of being deceived. For those people, all behaviors are rational and rely on quite right reasons. Likewise, this state has been expressed in the Qur'ân, in such a manner that the deeds done by the people are illustrated as being embellished and beautiful for them.

² Again, it has been decreed in the Surat al-A'râf that: "**Verily, he and his tribe see you from where you cannot see them.**"

³ Yet, only Allah's pious slaves are conscious of the tension of the khayr and the shar (goodness-badness) that originated from the Shaitan.⁴ In other words, even if they don't see the Shaitan, they hear the whisperings of the devil.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Everybody may sometimes be exposed to the well-rounded attacks of the devil. Most people are, at one point in time, invaded by devilish desires.⁵ Hence s/he starts to believe that the sins are innocuous. On the contrary, s/he would get many benefits and taste various pleasures from these acts. In this case, the human regards batil (false) as haq (true), wrong as right, and ugly as beautiful. In this situation, s/he hears the whisper that worship doesn't cause a person to gain anything; it only causes burden and tiredness. S/he doubts that all of these thoughts are meaningless and ridiculous, and Mumins bear these in vain. Again, in this period, man constantly evaluates their worldly desires and tastes. Thus, all opportunities on hand must be used,

regardless of halal and haram. Furthermore, the devil reveals to people that while so many desires and tastes to be experienced are available right now, pursuing the boons promised in the hereafter by depriving himself/herself of all of these is meaningless.

Dear Mumins!

One of the most crucial deceptive ways of the Shaitan is to have a person trust that Allah (s.w.t.) is going to forgive them unconditionally anyway.⁶ The devil virtually says: "Live a bohemian life right now, you are young yet, there is long time to worship in the future, get the utmost enjoyment out of the life. Besides, Allah's mercy and pardon is vast."

Admittedly, what could be more natural than the fact that a Mumin expects Allah's mercy and compassion?

However, as it can be seen, this situation is presented, from time to time, to the person in different ways, that s/he doesn't admit any objection to commit sin. This kind of approach is the most effective method that the Shaitan attempts towards those to whom it has difficulty to seduce.

Let us endeavor to strengthen our spiritual and mental equipment to fend off the tricks of the devil. Do not forget that we will meet the justification of the Shaitan, who will say: "**Blame me not, but blame yourselves.**"⁷

I am finishing my khutba with a verse related to our topic: "**Lead to destruction those whom you can among them, with your (seductive) voice; make assaults on them with your cavalry and your infantry; mutually share with them wealth and children; and make promises to them. But Satan promises them nothing but deceit.**"⁸



¹ An-Nâs, 4.

² An-Naml, 24.

³ Al-A'râf, 27.

⁴ Refer to: Al-A'râf, 201.

⁵ Al-Mujadalah, 19.

⁶ Fâtir, 5.

⁷ Ibrâhîm, 22.

⁸ Al-Isrâ, 64.