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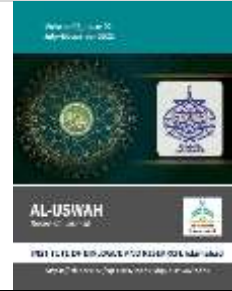
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Basal Repudiating Techniques for Alleged Satanic Verses Story: Narrated in Some Sīrah Literature

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Abstract

This paper intends to adduce the basic and easy tricks to negate the alleged story of Satanic Verses which is also called “*Qiṣṣat Al-Gharānīq*”. In which it’s reported and alleged that Satan interjected some words in the revelation of Sūrah al-Najm. Actually, this study struggles for the easement of the reader, that how easily the matter of this story would be understood and negated. In order to achieve this target, the analytical method of research has been adopted here. The basic and common techniques – which are amazingly ignored by the propagators of this story – are being introduced here in this article for an easy rejection of this story. As we know a number of Qur’ānic verses that prove its Divine protection from falsehood. Being inscribed in a preserved tablet, it can’t be intervened or changed by Satan. According to Allah Almighty, the Prophet of Islam (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) can’t commit any error instead of speaking only the Divine Revelation exactly. So, how couldn’t he recognize the cursed Satan. The alleged satanic words can also not be adjusted in Sūrah al-Najm because the rest of the verses are discrediting instead of praising the pagan deities. On the other hand, chronologically it’s also impossible that the alleged satanic interpolated words may remain un-abrogated for a long period of Nine years because the verses 52 to 54 of Sūrah al-Ḥajj – which are considered as the abrogating verses – revealed after the Hijrah occurred almost nine years later from the revelation of Sūrah al-Najm. So, the article under observation, extensively, represents the basic, common and quite easy methods, through which this story can be repudiated very comfortably.

Keywords: Satanic Verses, Rejection, Qiṣṣat al-Gharānīq, Easy repudiation, Pagan Deities, Surah al-Najm

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ⁵

لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبُطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفَةٍ تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ⁶

“he [Satan] said: **قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لَأَكُونُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ شَاخِطًا**”

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For the preservation of the authenticity of the Qur'ān, Allah (the Exalted) warns even the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) in the following verses as:

تَنْزِيلٍ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَلَوْ تَقَوَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضُ الْأَقَاوِيلِ لَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُ بِالْيَمِينِ ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ فَمَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ عَنْهُ حَاجِزِينَ⁸

“It is the Revelation from the Lord of the worlds and if he (the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him)) had invented false sayings concerning Us, We assuredly had taken him by the right hand and then severed his life-artery and not one of you could have held Us off from him”.

Here the accusation – of the Holy Prophet's (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) compromise on the basic belief of Islam *i.e.* the Unicity of God – has been outrightly refuted. Allah (the Exalted) is straight forwardly warning in case of any fabrication to His message. So, for why, on mixing and entering the Satanic suggested words in the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān, the life-artery of the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him), has not been cut off by God? Why had he not been punished severely (Allah Forbid) according to this injunction of Allah (the Exalted)? The answer is only that this kind of any incident had not been occurred ever.

While taking keen interest in the verses in which this term has been used, it becomes obvious, that the Divine purpose of these verses is to give messages. This purpose has been high-lighted very well. The recipients of these messages have the following classifications: firstly, the Holy Prophet of Islam (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) a paradigmatic recipient of God's messages, other Prophets (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon them), the mother of Moses (A.S), and the disciples of Jesus (A.S), Angels, the bee, and the Heavens. The *Wahy* was not restricted only to the Prophets, but has been descended to several other creatures. By this, the sole purpose of God was to give guidance to his creatures. So, it is unimaginable, that the guidance from Allah (the Exalted) maybe susceptible to any other power like Satan, as in the Qur'ān:

وَمَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ مُّضِلٍّ⁹

“And he whom Allah (the Exalted) guideth, for him there can be no mis leader”.

That is to say, that **whom, guided by Allah (the Exalted) can never be miss-guided by any other**. How the Divine guidance or Revelation may be interrupted by Satanic intervention? Similarly, at another occasion, Allah (the Exalted) clarified the un-susceptibility of the Divine Revelation as stating:

لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفَةٍ تَنْزِيلٍ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ¹⁰

“Falsehood cannot come at it, from before it, or from behind it, It is a Revelation from the Wise the Owner of praise”.

Having this kind of clear injunctions from Allah the Almighty, how can one dare to even imagine the Satanic intervention in the Divine message. So, the adducers of this story seem at odds to a common rational concept of the Divine Revelation, that it cannot be susceptible or affected by any Satanic power.

Thus, it is evidently cleared that the Divine Revelation cannot be affected by any outer intervention. How is it possible that the Revelation – which is **inscribed “in a preserved tablet”**¹¹ **لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍ** – may be intervened by some other power *i.e.* Satan.

As far as the allegation that during all the process of *Wahy*, Satan assumed the form of arch-angel Gabriel (A.S) and interpolated the Holy Prophet’s (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) recitation of *Surah al-Najm* and had not been recognized by him. All these had been nullified by the following verse:

إِلَّا مَن أَرْتَضَىٰ مِن رَّسُولٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا¹²

“Save unto every messenger whom He hath chosen, and the He maketh a guard to go before him and a guard behind him.”

That **the arch-angel is attended from front and back by the guardian angels during the descent of the revelation**. No one can harm this divine process by intervening or by assuming the form of anyone else. And the alleged error in recognition of Satan has also been neglected here very well,

مَا ضَلَّ صَاحِبُكُمْ وَمَا غَوَىٰ. وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ. إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ¹³

“Your companion (Muhammad) has not strayed, **nor has he erred, nor does he speak out of his Desire. This is nothing but a Revelation that is conveyed to him**”.

Because Allah (the Exalted) has ousted here even a single chance of the erring Prophet. The fact is that the infallibility is compulsory for the truthfulness of the Divine message. So, what is abstaining the adducers of this story from positing the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) as infallible? Is this not an inspiration from the outer sources? The answer is left for an intellectual reader.

The control of Satan too may not be exercised on the sincere and devoted men of God. These are the men who cannot be strayed by Satan, who is the biggest hurdle in proclamation of Divine message. So, the protection from the deception of Satan has been granted to the true servants of Allah (the Exalted), as stated in the Holy Qur’ān:

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ إِلَّا مَن اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ¹⁴

“Lo! as for My slaves, thou (you) hast no power over any of them, save (except) such of the froward as follow thee (you)”.

It is explicitly stated that **the cursed Satan has no control over those, who are the true obedient of Allah** (the Exalted). He (Satan) has no power to beguile the sincere servants. In this verse, Allah (the Exalted) accepted Satan's challenge of beguiling his creation, and made him clear that he would have no control over His true servants. On another occasion Satan himself confess that he has nothing to seduce any of those men, who has been chosen by Allah (the Exalted). His statement is quoted in the Qur'ān as:

قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَا أَغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخَلَّصِينَ¹⁵

“He (Satan) said: then by Thy might I surely will beguile them everyone, save (Except) Thy (Your) single-minded slaves (Men) among them”.

The “single minded” or “chosen” indicate, firstly the Prophets and Apostles of God, who have been no doubt chosen by God to convey His message. So, it is quite evident now that the Satan's tricks can't work on the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) and he can't be deceived by Satan because he is the highest ranker in the “chosen slaves”. Thus, it is necessarily compulsory to comprehend that the allegations of the story of *Gharānīq* entirely wrong and have no authenticity. Because as above, the Protector of the Revelation is God Himself, so, no one can ever dare to change its words. The devoted and purified persons are out of control of Satan, and of course, the best of them is the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him), how can he be deceived by Satan? And in case of fabrication into the Qur'ān, Allah (the Exalted) has announced severe punishment, so on this alleged fabrication why the Holy Prophet has not been punished severely? All these indicate the rejection of occurrence of this incident of *Gharānīq*. It should not be named as authentic at any stage.

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF *SURAH AL-NAJM*:

Surah al-Najm is the alleged related Surah to the story of *Gharānīq*. Its internal assessment must be done in order to reveal the truth behind the alleged story. For this internal evidence, let us analyse the accusation that the Satanic interpolation has been occurred in *Surah* no.53 *al-Najm*. This interpolation proved to be a cause of the unbelievers' delight, who were present at Ka'bah. They had a prostration too, following the Holy Prophet as a gesture of friendship and goodwill. For commenting on this story, it is necessarily required that the *Surah* should be read while adding the alleged Satanic words to know what it actually meant to be delivered by this allegation. So the *Surah* with the alleged verses would be as under:

“Have you seen Lāt and ‘Uzzā? And Manāt the third, the other? **[These are high flying cranes whose intercession is to be sought]**. Are yours the males and His the females? That indeed were an unfair division. They are

but names which ye have named, ye and your fathers, for which Allah (the Exalted) Hath revealed no warrant they follow but I guess and that which (they) themselves Desire And Now the guidance from their Lord hath come unto them”¹⁶

By reading the *Surah* including bold parts – which shows the alleged Satanic suggestion – as in above passage, one cannot understand the revealing purpose of this *Surah*. How may it be possible that the pagan deities are being praised on one hand, and in the subsequent verses they are being discredited on the other hand? Because it is narrated that after The Satanic Verses the Holy Prophet recited the rest of the *Surah al-Najm*. So the rest of the *Surah* has obviously discrediting verses regarding these deities. It seems very amazing that while having this type of discrediting and disgusting verses, how the Qurayshites drew the conclusion that the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) has made a move to reconciliation and the policy of give and take? If the alleged incident has some authenticity then it would not have been easy for unbelievers to be glad on such a repulsion of their deities in the remaining verses of *Surah al-Najm*.

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF RELATED VERSES:

Examining the alleged story chronologically, one will must come to the result of rejection of this story. These considerations cast doubts on the story's authenticity, which are enough to repudiate it. The reporters and publicizers of this story, had combined some verses of at least three *Sūrah*s like *al-Najm*, *al-Isrā'*, and *al-Hajj*, and they thought, these verses had been revealed on a single day, to which evidences are not true. Further, it can easily be understood in the sense of determination of period of revelation, this historical criticism will absolutely validate this story or negate it.

As we know that the alleged incident of reciting the Satanic Verses and consequent prostration of disbelievers along with believers in the Ka'bah has been alleged to occur after the Migration of the first group of Muslims to Abyssinia. According to the most of reliable sources that migration occurred in the month of *Rajab* in the 5th year of Prophethood¹⁷. The alleged verses were of *Surah al-Najm* 53:19-20.

Now come to some other alleged and related verses to the story of *Gharānīq* which are verses 73 to 75 of *Surah al-Isrā'*. These verses, according to historical sources, were revealed after the event of *Mi'rāḡe*¹⁸ i.e. Ascent of the Prophet, which has been occurred in the 12th or 13th year¹⁹ after the Prophetic call. So, it implies that the Satanic interpolation was not detected even for a long period of 6 or 7 years. As far as the verse number 52 of *al-hajj* is concerned, it has been narrated to be revealed after the

*Hijrah*²⁰ i.e. Migration of the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) and his companions to *Madinah*. So, the Satanic interpolation was said to be occurred in 5th year of the Prophethood and admonition about it has been revealed after 6 or 7 years. Interestingly, the abrogation of those Satanic words is reported to be done after almost 9 years. Can it make any sense? That means, the Satanic interpolation was not detected by God Himself (God forbid) for nine years or He allowed the Muslims to recite those alleged verses. A sensible and unbiased mind can deem it very easily that these kinds of allegations cannot be supported at any cost.

This chronological analysis implies that deeming the story of *Gharānīq* true, is equal to posit that the Muslims had been asking the pagan idols for intercession for a long period of 9 years, which displays their compromise on the basic monotheistic believes. It is therefore, not acceptable for any rational person.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, this article went for negating the alleged story of Satanic verses in a very easy way. It introduces some universal Qur'ānic manners to counter the narrative of abovementioned story. First of all, going through the several verses, we got a lot of refuting points, as in *Sūrah al-Hijr* Allah Almighty takes the responsibility of the protection of the Divine Revelation Himself and in *Sūrah Fuṣṣilat* and on another occasions, HE declares that the falsehood cannot be mixed in it from any direction because during the descent of the *Wahy*, the arch-angel is attended from front and back by the guardian angels. So, this Revelation is inscribed "in a preserved tablet" which can't be dislocated or intervened. If Allah (the Exalted) Himself declared and Satan also accepted it that he has no control over the God's devoted and purified men, then it would not be possible for Satan to deceive the best purified and devoted person like the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him). We found very strong clue also in the starting verses of *Sūrah al-Najm* itself, that the Holy Prophet (Peace and greetings of Allāh be upon him) is not strayed, not erred and does not utter with his desire but this was only the divine revelation.

The internal assessment of *Sūrah al-Najm* also helped to negate the above-mentioned story. Because the alleged satanic suggested words cannot be fit after the verse 20. This would be quite unfair to adjust these in between verses 20 and 21 of this *Sūrah*, because the rest of the *Sūrah* discredits the pagan deities contrary to these alleged praising words. And also by analyzing the time of revelation of the related *Sūrahs* like *al-Najm*, *al-Isrā'*, and *al-Hajj*, we came to the result that it is not possible to leave these alleged satanic words un-abrogated for such a long period of nine years. So, all about the

story Satanic verses may be considered as fabricated in the light of above easy, general and basic principles and methods.

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