

## Points to Ponder

### Excerpts from Surah Al A'raaf

**Ayah 21-22.** *So he misled them with deception. Then when they tasted of the tree, that which was hidden from them of their shame (private parts) became manifest to them and they began to stick together the leaves of Paradise over themselves (in order to cover their shame). And their Lord called out to them (saying): "Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you: Verily, Shaitan (Satan) is an open enemy unto you?"*

Allah talks about how shaytaan attempted to mislead Nabi Adam alaihis salaam. Interestingly, the verb that Allah uses is فذلّهما which literally refers to the dangling of a bucket in to a well to draw water. Now if we experienced drawing water out of a well, we will know that the bucket has to be drawn , brought up slightly and then released so that it could fall deeper into the water and thus fill up. This is done repeatedly until the bucket fills to the brim and then it is drawn out of the well. This signifies that shaytaan's plans and repeatedly entices and tempts us, continuous, and he is not satisfied until he gets "his full share".

In addition,

*“which was hidden from them of their shame (private parts) became manifest”*

this tells us that one of shaytaans short term goals was to remove their clothes and thus expose their private parts. This is also an objective of shaytaan ... to advance immorality, immodesty, shamelessness, Allah Taalaa says in another verse very explicitly: *“O children of Adam, let not Satan tempt you as he removed your parents from Paradise, stripping them of their clothing to show them their private parts. Indeed, he sees you, he and his tribe, from where you do not see them. Indeed, We have made the devils allies to those who do not believe.”* verse 27

Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam has said :

إن مما أدرك الناس من كلام النبوة الأولى إذا لم تستحي فاصنع ما شئت

It has been found in the rare wisdom of earlier Prophets *“if you are not bashfull, then go ahead and do whatever you wish”*

When shamelessness becomes rampant in a society then such a society falls prey to carnality and hence no matter how outrageous , sick, appalling, deranged nauseating and evil any act would be, it would become acceptable and sometimes even “cool”.

Ayat 156: [ Allah ] said, "My punishment - I afflict with it whom I will, **but My mercy encompasses all things.**"

It is said when this verse was revealed shaytaan claimed that he is also entitled to Allahs mercy, so Allah Taalaa revealed:

***So I will decree it [especially] for those who fear Me and give zakah and those who believe in Our verses***

Shaytaan was excluded. However, the Yahud and Nasaaraa (Jews and Christians) claimed that theres no reason to show that they are excluded from HIS mercy, so Allah revealed the verse:

***Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them.***

So HIS mercy is for those who follow HIS unlettered UMMIY (i.e. who was not taught by any earthly being)

Consider this last portion of the verse **and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them.**

Islam is there to ease our lives, and yes it removes the shackles and burdens of our culture and society's pressure. Think of two important institutes in our life as muslims:

1.Nikah, Marriage and 2. Death , funeral rites

If we consider the simplicity and ease that Islam teaches us in respect of funeral rites we will find that it is possible for any individual or family to carry out in the event of a bereavement, irrespective of their financial stature. However today we are dictated to by unwarranted society pressure that makes life a burden and death equally a burden. If a family do not erect a tombstone it becomes the talk of town, it is

regarded as a lowly insulting demeaning act. Whereas Rasulallah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam discouraged erecting or writing on a grave :

نهى رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم أن يبني على القبر ، ويجصص ، أو يقعد عليه ، ونهى أن يكتب عليه

*Rasulallah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam forbade us from erecting anything on a grave, cementing it, sitting on it and He forbade (us ) to inscribe/write on it*

[Haakim]

If you want to give flowers, give it to a living person. Placing it on their grave would not be as much help to them as would giving it to them when they were alive.

Wish to get away from a sin, bad habit and can't seem to leave it????

Read this verse as often as possible: verse 126

رَبَّنَا أفرغ

عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَتَوَفَّنَا مُسْلِمِينَ ١٢٦

*O our RABB, pour upon us patience and let us die as Muslims [in submission to You].*