

## A Refutation of The Story of the Cranes Introduction 2

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Before I begin listing the story's narrations, I feel I must make a [brief] remark in order to complete the benefits to be gained from this book, so I say:

This story has been mentioned by the scholars of Tafseer for The Most High's Statement:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ وَلَا نَبِيٍّ إِلَّا إِذَا تَمَنَّى أَلْقَى الشَّيْطَانُ فِي أُمْنِيَّتِهِ فَيَنْسَخُ اللَّهُ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ ثُمَّ يُحْكِمُ اللَّهُ آيَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ ٥٢ لِيَجْعَلَ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ وَالْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَفِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ ٥٣ وَلَيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ فَتُخْبِتَ لَهُ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادٍ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

"And We did not send before you any messenger or prophet except that when he spoke [or recited], Satan threw into it [some misunderstanding]. But Allaah abolishes that which Satan throws in, then Allaah makes precise His verses, and Allaah is Knowing and Wise. [That is] so He may make what Satan throws in [i.e., asserts] a trial for those within whose hearts is a disease and those hard of heart, and indeed, the wrongdoers are in extreme dissension. And so that those who were given knowledge may know that it is the truth from your Lord and [therefore] believe in it, and their hearts humbly submit to it. And indeed is Allaah the Guide of those who have believed to a straight path."<sup>1</sup>

And they have differed concerning the explanation of His Saying, "تَمَنَّى" and "أُمْنِيَّتِهِ", and the best that has been said regarding them is that "تَمَنَّى" is from [the word] "الأمنية" which means recitation, as the poet said about Uthmaan, may Allaah be pleased with him, when he was killed:

تمنى كتاب الله أول ليلة وأخرها لاقى جمام المقادر

He recited the Book of Allaah at the beginning of the night

And at its end did meet the appointed fate of death

<sup>1</sup> [Al-Hajj 22:52-54]

Most of the scholars of Qur'aanic exegesis and verifiers are of this opinion, and Ibn Katheer reported it from most of the scholars of Tafseer. In fact, Ibn al-Qayyim attributed it to the Salaf without exception saying in Ighaathatul-Lahfaan1 (1/93), "And the Salaf, all of them, hold that the meaning is: when he recited, the Devil threw [some misunderstanding/things not from it] into [في] his recitation." And al-Qurtubee explained it in his Tafseer, saying, (12/83), "And Sulaimaan ibn Harb said, 'Indeed [the preposition] 'in/في' means 'at the time of/when,' i.e.: the Devil threw [misunderstanding/things not from it] into the hearts of the disbelievers at the time of the Prophet's recitation ﷺ; this is similar to [the use of the preposition 'in/في'] in His Statement, the Mighty and Majestic:

وَأَلَيْتَ فِيْنَا

"... and you remained among us ..."<sup>2</sup>

i.e., [the preposition 'in/في' in the above verse means] "among' us,' and this is the meaning of what Ibn Atiyyah related from his father from the scholars of the East and al-Qaadi Aboo Bakr ibn al-Arabi indicated it too."

Aboo Bakr's statements shall be mentioned in their due place, if Allaah the Most High wills, and what we have stated in terms of the explanation of the verse is what Imaam Ibn Jareer chose, who said, after what he reported from a group of the Salaf, (17/121), "And this statement is the most correct explanation of the verse, shown by the Most High's Saying:

فَيَنْسَخُ اللَّهُ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ ثُمَّ يُحْكِمُ اللَّهُ آيَاتِهِ

"But Allaah abolishes that which Satan throws in, then Allaah makes precise His verses ..."<sup>3</sup>

because there is no doubt that the verses which Allaah جل ثناؤه makes precise are those of His Revelation, based upon this it is known that what Shaitaan threw into them is what He تعالى ذكره said He abolished and nullified, and by annulling them He made them [i.e., His verses] precise.

So the explanation is:

"And We did not send any messenger or prophet before you except that when he recited and read the Book of Allaah or narrated and spoke, the Devil threw [things not from it in] amongst the Book of Allaah which he [i.e., the Prophet] was reciting and reading, or into his speech which he was narrating and uttering, and so Allaah would, with His Speech, abolish whatever the Devil threw: [i.e.,] Allaah would eliminate whatever it was the Devil threw [doing so] upon the tongue of His Prophet and would nullify it."

<sup>2</sup> [Shu'araa 26:18]

<sup>3</sup> [Al-Hajj 22:52]

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This is the noble verse's intended meaning and it contains, as you can see, nothing except the fact that at the time of the Prophet's recital ﷺ the Devil throws forward that which causes those in whose hearts is a disease to be put to trial.

But nothing satisfies the enemies of the religion who sit in wait at every path and lurk in the shadows at each and every place of ambush against it, except to thrust into it things that aren't from it, and which His Messenger did not say. And as you will soon see in the forthcoming narrations, they mentioned that which is not becoming of the rank of Prophethood and Messengership—and that is their habit of old.

Just as they did with more than one verse concerning other Prophets apart from him ﷺ like Daawood, Sulaimaan and Yusuf عليهم الصلاة والسلام, where when explaining the verses about them they reported Israiliyyaat narrations which it is not even permissible to attribute to a [regular] Muslim let alone a revered Prophet, and this can be seen in the relevant parts in the books of Tafseer and stories.

So beware, O Muslim, of being deceived by any of that and as a result ending up amongst those destroyed, and, "Leave that which causes you to doubt for that which does not cause you to doubt," as your Prophet ﷺ said.

وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

"And indeed is Allaah the Guide of those who have believed to a straight path."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [Al-Hajj 22:53]