



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 33: The Story of the Cranes (أسطورة الغرائق)

Related verse: Hajj: 52:

«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»

We did not send any apostle or prophet before you but that when he recited [the scripture] Satan interjected [something] in his recitation. Thereat Allah nullifies whatever Satan has interjected, and then Allah confirms His signs, and Allah is All-knowing, All-wise.

«لِيَجْعَلَ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ وَالْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَفِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ»

That He may make what Satan has thrown in a test for those in whose hearts is a sickness and those whose hearts have hardened. Indeed, the wrongdoers are steeped in extreme defiance. (22:53)

«وَلِيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ فَتُخْبِتَ لَهُ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ»

[And also for the reason] that those who have been given knowledge may know that it is the truth from your Lord, and so they may have faith in it, and their hearts may be humbled before Him. Indeed, Allah guides those who have faith to a straight path. (22:54)

Zamakhshari: Once, the Prophet was upset with the people. A verse was revealed to him, but he made a mistake and received a Satanic whisper within



his longings, thinking it was a revelation. After naming an idol, he added that they were high cranes, and their intercession was expected!

Among other Sunnis who narrated the story of cranes in their books were Tabari, Bazzaz, Tabarani, Ibn Marduyah, etc. Some orientalists and Westerners have included the story in their books and take it for granted. All Shia scholars reject the Story of Cranes, and some Sunnis also reject it.

The two narratives of the Story of Cranes are as follows:

1. The Prophet deliberately altered the revelation to appeal to the polytheists.

Objection: This contradicts the verses of the Quran.

2. Satan deceived the Prophet and spoke through him, and this is compatible with 22:52-54.

Objections:

1. Satan does not have control over ordinary people, let alone the prophets.

2. These verses suggest that this mode of constant domination by Satan over the prophets is perpetual, which is irrational, especially considering their responsibilities.

3. Although تمنى has different meanings, here it can only imply desiring something or stimulating the occurrence of the desired outcome. So, Satan put barriers between them and their wish to reform and guide people.

4. It all depends on the authenticity of the Story of Cranes, which has been rejected. The story was fabricated by oppressors.

The story is also rejected by other hadiths.