

الله
رسول
محمد

What the Qur'an Says About Liars and Their Methods

Those who do not believe in
Allah's Signs are merely inventing
lies. It is they who are liars.

(Qur'an, 16:105)

HARUN YAHYA

Even though most people know that lying is a bad moral characteristic, some people merely pay lip service to this knowledge because so many people have turned this serious character defect into a habit.

Throughout the world, large numbers of people lie for a variety of reasons: to put on a show for others, out of pride, to make others laugh, to ensure a profit for themselves, to protect themselves, and to slander and harm others. However, they do not consider doing so a sign of serious immorality, even though Allah has forbidden it and states that liars will be recompensated with Hell in the afterlife.

This book warns people against lying, which they regard as innocent or harmless, and points out that Allah forbids lying. In addition, it discusses why people lie, how they can give up lying and what they will gain by being honest, the spiritual state of liars, and tactics for protection against lies. In this way, with their tactics and methods exposed, liars will be forced into honesty.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values

He prescribed for them.



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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Edited by Jay Willoughby

ISBN # 81-7231-481-7

2004

Published by Abdul Naeem for
Islamic Book Service

2241, Kucha Chelan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110 002 (INDIA)

Phone: 3253514, 3265380, 3286551 Fax: 3277913

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Toll Free: # 866-242-4IBS

Al Munna Book Shop Ltd.

P.O. Box-3449, Sharjah (U.A.E.), Telephone: 06-561-5483, 06-561-4650

E-mail: nusrat@emirates.net.ae

Dubai Branch: Telephone: 04-3529294

Printed at

Noida Printing Press

C-31, Sector 7, Noida (U.P.)

Telephone: 91-4528211

All translations from the Qur'an are from *The Noble Qur'an: a New Rendering of its Meaning in English* by Hajj Abdalhaqq and Aisha Bewley.

Published by Bookwork,

Norwich, UK. 1420 CE/1999 AH.

Abbreviations used:

(*saas-sall-Allahu 'alyahi wa sallam*): May Allah bless him and grant him peace (following a reference to the Prophet Muhammad)

(*as-'alayhi's-salam*): Peace be upon him (following a reference to the prophets or angels)

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WHAT THE QUR'AN SAYS ABOUT LIARS AND THEIR METHODS

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(Surat an-Nahl, 16:105)



HARUN YAHYA
February, 2004

TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

**WHAT THE QUR'AN
SAYS ABOUT LIARS
AND THEIR METHODS**

**HARUN YAHYA
2004**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His penname is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's Existence and Unity and the Hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uyghur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in

people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

The works of the author include *The New Masonic Order, Judaism and Freemasonry, Global Freemasonry, The Kabbala and Freemasonry, The Knight Templars, Templars and Freemasonry, Israel's Policy of World Domination, Islam Denounces Terrorism, The Black Clan, Terrorism: The Ritual of the Devil, The Disasters Darwinism Brought to Humanity, Communism in Ambush, Fascism: The Bloody Ideology of Darwinism, The 'Secret Hand' in Bosnia, Holocaust Violence, Behind the Scenes of Terrorism, Israel's Kurdish Card, Communist China's Policy of Oppression in East Turkestan, Palestine, Solution: The Values of the Qur'an, The Winter of Islam and The Spring to Come, Islam and Buddhism, The Philosophy of Zionism, Articles 1-2-3, Romanticism: A Weapon of Satan, The Light of the Qur'an Has Destroyed Satanism, Signs From the Chapter of the Cave in the Qur'an to the Last Times, The End Times and the Mahdi, Signs From the Qur'an, Signs of the Last Day, The Last Times and The Beast of the Earth, Truths 1-2, Idealism The Philosophy of Matrix and the True Nature of Matter, The Western World Turns to God, The Evolution Deceit, The Perfect Design in the Universe Is Not by Chance, Why Darwinism Is Incompatible with the Qur'an, Darwinism Refuted, New Research Demolishes Evolution, A Definitive Reply to Evolutionist Propaganda, The Quandary of Evolution I-II (Encyclopedic), The Error of the Evolution of Species, The Blunders of Evolutionists, The Collapse of the Theory of Evolution in 50 Steps, The Errors of The NAS: A Reply to the National Academy of Sciences Booklet Science and Creationism, Confessions of Evolutionists, Perished Nations, For Men of Understanding, Love of Allah, Allah's Art of Affection, The Glad Tidings of the Messiah, The Prophet Musa (as), The Prophet Yusuf (as), The Prophet Muhammad (saas), The Prophet Sulayman (as), The Prophet Ibrahim (as) and the Prophet Lut (as), Maryam (as) The Exemplary Muslim Woman, The Golden Age, Allah Exists, Allah's Artistry in Colour, Magnificence Everywhere, The Importance of the Evidences of Creation, The Truth of the Life of This World, The Nightmare of Disbelief, Knowing the Truth, Eternity Has Already Begun, Timelessness and the Reality of Fate, Matter: Another Name for Illusion, The Little Man in the Tower, Islam and Karma, The Dark Magic of Darwinism, The Religion of Darwinism, The Collapse of the Theory of Evolution in 20 Questions, Allah is Known Through Reason, The Qur'an Leads the Way to*

Science, Consciousness in the Cell, Biomimetics Technology Imitates Nature, The Engineering in Nature, A String of Miracles, The Creation of the Universe, Miracles of the Qur'an, The Design in Nature, Self-Sacrifice and Intelligent Behaviour Models in Animals, Deep Thinking, Never Plead Ignorance, The Green Miracle: Photosynthesis, The Miracle in the Cell, The Miracle in the Eye, The Miracle in the Spider, The Miracle in the Mosquito, The Miracle in the Ant, The Miracle of the Immune System, The Miracle of Creation in Plants, The Miracle in the Atom, The Miracle in the Honeybee, The Miracle of Seed, The Miracle of Hormones, The Miracle of the Termite, The Miracle of the Human Body, The Miracle of Human Creation, The Miracle of Protein, The Miracle of Smell and Taste, The Miracle of the Microworld, The Secrets of DNA, The Miracle in the Molecule, The Miracle of Creation in DNA, The Miracle of Talking Birds.

The author's childrens books are: *Wonders of Allah's Creation, The World of Animals, The Glory in the Heavens, Wonderful Creatures, Let's Learn Our Islam, The World of Our Little Friends: The Ants, Honeybees That Build Perfect Combs, Skillful Dam Constructors: Beavers, Tell Me About Creation, The Miracle in Our Body, A Day in the Life of a Muslim, Children This is for You I-II*

The author's other works on Quranic topics include: *The Basic Concepts in the Qur'an, The Moral Values of the Qur'an, Quick Grasp of Faith 1-2-3, Ever Thought About the Truth?, Crude Understanding of Disbelief, Devoted to Allah, Abandoning the Society of Ignorance, Paradise: The Believers' Real Home, Learning from the Qur'an, An Index to the Qur'an, Emigrating for the Cause of Allah, The Character of the Hypocrite in the Qur'an, The Secrets of the Hypocrite, Names of Allah, Communicating the Message and Disputing in the Qur'an, Answers from the Qur'an, Death Resurrection Hell, The Struggle of the Messengers, The Avowed Enemy of Man: Satan, The Greatest Slander: Idolatry, The Religion of the Ignorant, The Arrogance of Satan, Prayer in the Qur'an, The Theory of Evolution, The Importance of Conscience in the Qur'an, The Day of Resurrection, Never Forget, Commonly Disregarded Qur'anic Rulings, Human Characters in the Society of Ignorance, The Importance of Patience in the Qur'an, Perfected Faith, Before You Regret, Our Messengers Say, The Mercy of Believers, The Fear of Allah, Jesus Will Return, Beauties for Life in the Qur'an, A Bouquet of the Beauties of Allah 1-2-3-4, The Iniquity Called "Mockery," The Mystery of the Test, Real Wisdom Described in the Qur'an, The Struggle Against the Religion of Irreligion, The School of Yusuf, The Alliance of the Good, Slanders Spread Against Muslims Throughout History, The Importance of Following the Good Word, Why Do You Deceive Yourself?, Islam: The Religion of Ease, Zeal and Enthusiasm Described in the Qur'an, Seeing Good in All, How do the Unwise Interpret the Qur'an?, Some Secrets of the Qur'an, The Courage of Believers, Hopefulness in the Qur'an, Justice and Tolerance in the Qur'an, Basic Tenets of Islam, Those Who do not Heed the Qur'an, Taking the Qur'an as a Guide, A Lurking Threat: Heedlessness, Sincerity Described in the Qur'an, The Happiness of Believers, Those Who Exhaust Their Pleasures During Their Wordly Lives, A Sly Game of Satan, Passivism in Religion, The Religion of Worshipping People, Agonies of a Fake World, How a Muslim Speaks, The Silent Language of Evil, The Ruses of the Liar in the Qur'an, Loyalty in the Qur'an, The Solution to Secret Torments.*

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INTRODUCTION

The great majority of people claim that they are virtuous, have a strong morality, do not harm others, and have no bad characteristics. Unfortunately, the reality is somewhat different, for the vast majority of people have some bad moral aspects that Allah has forbidden because they are displeasing to Him. However, these aspects are not regarded as bad or ugly, because they are widespread in the community and thus considered normal. For example, Allah forbids gossip and even compares it to eating your dead brother's flesh. (Surat al-Hujurat, 49:12) In spite of this, when a group of people come together, they gossip about others. Even television programs and magazines provide space for gossip.

In addition to gossip, Allah warns people against mocking others, miserliness, and arrogance, and also informs us that indulging in them will be compensated with Hell. But a large majority of people have such characteristics and do not regard them as harmful. They think that a murderer, a thief, or a ruthless dictator who carries out massacres is a very bad person, but regard their own moral deficiencies, as described above, as harmless and unimportant. The truth is that all types of immorality will receive their just reward, according to their degree, in Allah's presence.

Lying, which is the subject of this book, is something to

Introduction

which people pay little attention. They feign ignorance when others lie and regard themselves as innocent when they do it. This is a characteristic of a large section of humanity.

Throughout the world, large numbers of people from every social sector lie from their early years onward for a variety of reasons: to put on a show for others, out of pride, to make others laugh, to ensure a profit for themselves, to protect themselves, and to slander and harm others. Many people lie for very simple reasons or because they have gotten used to it. However, they do not consider doing so a sign of serious immorality, even though Allah has forbidden it and states that liars will be compensated with Hell in the afterlife.

This book warns people against lying, which they regard as innocent or harmless, even though it actually represents a very great danger to them, and points out that Allah forbids lying. In addition, it discusses why people lie, how they can give up lying and what they will gain by being honest, the spiritual state of liars, and tactics for protection against lies. In this way, with their tactics and methods exposed, liars will be forced into honesty.

LYING IS FORBIDDEN



One of the greatest errors is for people to act according to their own logic, or to the value judgments widespread in their society, which often is far from Islam, and not to the logic prescribed by Allah in the Qur'an. In other words, they approve of, ignore, or implement, comfortably and without thinking, the very behavior of which Allah disapproves and thus will punish in the Hereafter. Lying is the most prominent behavior of this type. Even though most people know that lying is a bad moral characteristic, some people merely pay lip service to this knowledge because so many people have turned this serious character defect into a habit. Allah points out this fact in the following verse of the Qur'an:

If you obeyed most of those on Earth, they would misguide you from Allah's Way. They follow nothing but conjecture. They are only guessing. (Surat al-An`am, 6:116)

Interestingly, most people who come into contact with a liar know when he or she is lying, but do not bother to expose the lies. In other words, they allow the liar to continue spreading his or her lies. Lying is a secret language among people, one about which everybody remains silent.

When something valuable is broken, for instance, the person who broke it may lie and deny having done so, thereby saving the day according to his own mentality. In fact, he puts

himself in a very bad position, because if it is revealed that he is lying, he will greatly damage the very pride that he is trying to protect. Even more important, he has earned Allah's disapproval. To the same extent that a Muslim avoids eating pork and makes sure to pray five times a day, he is scrupulous about not lying.

However, people who do not consider that lying is forbidden immediately resort to lies to protect themselves whenever they find themselves in a difficult position. Maybe at that moment they rescue themselves from what really is a difficult position, or believe that they have done so, but, as unrepentant and dishonest people, they will be held responsible for their lie in the afterlife.

Allah tells us in the following verse that those who do not believe in the Qur'an's verses are liars:

Those who do not believe in Allah's Signs are merely inventing lies. It is they who are the liars. (Surat an-Nahl, 16:105)

Some people lie with great ease because they do not think about the Hereafter or believe that lying causes any harm. An example of this is the expression "white lies," which signifies small untruths that are believed to be innocent and harmless, or that rescue the person from a particular situation. However, any type of lying indicates insincerity, hypocrisy, and falsity under any circumstances, for those who engage in it are deceiving and disrespecting others. For this reason, "white" lies are the same as "black" lies, and have their own harmful effects.

Allah has forbidden lying, as has our Prophet (saas), as seen below:

*"Shall I not inform you of a great sin? Beware, it is to speak falsehood."*¹

WHAT THE QUR'AN SAYS ABOUT LIARS AND THEIR METHODS

*"False witness has been made equivalent to attributing a partner to Allah. Avoid the abomination of idols and speaking falsehood as people pure of faith to Allah, not associating anything with Him."*²

*"Be careful of falsehood as it is the companion of the sinners and both will be in Hell."*³

WHY PEOPLE LIE

Out of pride and conceit:

Conceit, one of Satan's characteristics, causes people to distance themselves from upright morality and to adopt a morality resembling that of Satan. Due to his arrogance, self-love, and groundless pride, Satan disobeyed Allah and was thrown out of His sight.

Satan, whose pride revealed itself in his clear disobedience and low morality, actually suffered even greater damage to that pride and was cursed, discredited, and dismissed from Allah's presence.

In the following verse, Allah tells us that Satan's disobedience only caused him to abase himself:

He [Allah] said: "Descend from it. It is not for you to be arrogant in it. So get out! You are one of the abased." (Surat al-A`raf, 7:13)

Satan's greatest abasement is that he will live in Hell, where He will be tormented forever, because he set his pride above all else.

Satan decided to guide people away from the true path, just as he himself had deviated from it. For this reason, he uses all of his power to entice people into sin. He encourages pride and conceit, just like his own, so that people will end up harming themselves. Due to this attitude, arrogance, self-love, failure to admit errors or defects, and regarding oneself as

superior and competent at all times are among the greatest potential dangers facing people. These characteristics always direct people toward sin by causing them to be disobedient, rebellious, ill-tempered, aggressive, cynical, and arrogant. Allah tells us about this:

When he is told to heed Allah, he is seized by pride, which drives him to wrongdoing. Hell will be enough for him! What an evil resting-place! (Surat al-Baqara, 2:206)

One of the sins to which pride drives people is lying, for most of the time people do not wish to admit certain truths. For example, a person does not want to admit to making a mistake at work, because she does not want others to consider her to be ignorant, clumsy, or somehow lower than her coworkers. Or when she does not want to admit that she forgot to buy something, she says instead: "I went, but there were none left."

Even though lying is a curse that makes people fall even lower, some people refuse to understand this truth and so lie right away simply to protect themselves at the given moment. Most of their lies are recognized, and so they fall even lower in other people's esteem. In addition, these people need to remember the "reward" that they will receive in the afterlife: an even lower position.

In one verse, Allah warns us against this habit:

Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth. If you twist or turn away, Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:135)

Sincere believers never place their own advantage above Allah's good pleasure and their love of Him. Their love and devotion to Allah prevent them from doing anything that displeases Him. Moreover, if people really want honor and

superiority, they should not copy the unbelievers' methods, for as the Qur'an informs us, real superiority is achieved only by following Allah and the Qur'an:

All might belongs to Allah, to His Messenger, and the believers. But the hypocrites do not know this. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 63:8)

If anyone wants power, all power belongs to Allah. All good words rise to Him, and He raises up all virtuous deeds. But people who plot evil deeds will suffer a harsh punishment. The plotting of such people is profitless. (Surah Fatir, 35:10)

Out of habit:

A significant number of people are habitual liars, having acquired this habit from others while they were still children or teenagers. For example, many young people lie about where they have been. Alternatively, when people are asked why they somehow did not live up to the other person's expectations, they might lie, sometimes without even thinking, in order to escape the blame. If they were to think a little, they would see that being honest with others would not put them at any disadvantage vis-à-vis others.

People also frequently lie when asked for their opinions. Instead of expressing their real ideas, they prefer to say what the other person wants to hear or to give an answer that will suit their personal interests. They do so either out of fear or the desire to win that person's approval.

Giving an answer that suits their own interests is widespread among people who are far from religion. They convince themselves that it is only natural to look after their own interests by adopting a defensive mentality. In such a society, this

idea is regarded as extremely natural. Indeed, when a believer who lives by the Qur'an's values insists upon observing justice even at the expense of his own interests, unbelievers consider him to be either naive or unsophisticated rather than an exemplar of superior morality.

People may classify lies as harmless when they are told to protect their own interests. For instance, when a friend asks for a loan, many people who could provide the loan find ways to avoid doing so by claiming that they are looking for a loan themselves or that business is going badly. This tactic is used to block the other person's request from the outset. Among people who are far from the Qur'an's morality, such behavior is not considered immoral.

In addition, it is possible to encounter people who lie out of habit, even if they have no definite aim in mind. Such lies are based mostly on a person's having nothing to talk about or a desire to attract attention. For example, when nobody is paying any attention to them, such people may say that they did not sleep at all, even though they had a perfectly good night's sleep. Or, they might say that they have not eaten all day, instead of only a few hours, or that they have a terrible headache about which they can do nothing, even though the headache is only minor. Even though these lies might be seen as "minor" and "harmless," Allah has told us that all lies, without exception, displease Him.

To mock or make other people angry:

One reason for lying is to annoy the person addressed or to show him that he is not respected or valued. For example, when asked: "Where have you been?" a person who is late for an appointment may tell a very obvious lie to the person who

has been kept waiting. Here, the basic aim is to let the other person know that his having waited is not important, that his wishes have no meaning, and to make him angry by suggesting that he is credulous.

Lying in order to mock others is also a widespread form of immorality. For instance, a person who wants to mock one of his friends might convince him that a fictitious event really took place. Believing his lying friend's words, he passes on the "news" to others and, when the truth comes out, is regarded as credulous or stupid. This entertains people who enjoy lying and mocking others. By mocking their friends' credulity and belief in them, such liars consider themselves to be very cunning and intelligent. In reality, however, Allah does not approve of this and the mocker eventually is exposed as a manipulative person who is disliked. He has, therefore, fallen into his own trap, for while trying to demean others he has only demeaned himself.

In the following verse, Allah announces that He forbids lying and mocking others:

O you who believe! People should not ridicule others who may be better than themselves, nor should any women ridicule other women who may be better than themselves... (Surat al-Hujurat, 49:11)

While some people thoughtlessly mock others and lie to entertain themselves for a few minutes, they are really engaging in unacceptable and immoral behavior. When informed of this fact, people who do not adhere to the Qur'an's morality may reply: "So what? We're just enjoying ourselves," thereby refusing to see mocking others and lying as bad characteristics.

That these two characteristics are so widespread and are almost habitual to many people does not alter the fact that they

violate Islamic morality and that, consequently, such behavior is never permissible. In addition, if such people would just once listen to their consciences and answer honestly if they really want to live surrounded by people just like themselves, they would see the truth. Nobody wants his own bad behavior to be visited upon himself. And, if he is asked whether or not he wants it, he emphatically rejects it.

To avoid carrying out a difficult task:

People often lie to avoid a difficult task or one that they simply do not want to do. For example, when somebody asks them for help, instead of admitting that they are too lazy or that they do not want to help, they make such untruthful claims as: "I have a lot of work at the moment," "I have a terrible headache," or "I've got a bad back."

In contrast, sincere Muslims do not offer such lies and never refuse any request for help or any job because of unwillingness or laziness. Knowing that in the Hereafter they will have to account for each moment of life in this world, sincere Muslims carry out even the most difficult tasks with greater pleasure and zeal. Sometimes, they may really feel tired or unwilling to do certain things. In such circumstances, they need to exercise their willpower and perform these tasks to the best of their ability, instead of lying. For example, if somebody seeks their help when they are engaged in something that they enjoy, they should think of the rewards in the Hereafter and hasten to provide whatever help they can. Those who do not do so, but lie so that they can stay and enjoy the movie, demonstrate their own weak morality. They neither heed their consciences or performing a more useful task. While they may persuade the person seeking help that they are not well and are

not in a position to help, and thus cannot sacrifice their own comfort, Allah sees and knows everything. People forget tomorrow much of what they have done today, but Allah forgets nothing and will ask everyone about their deeds and thoughts in the Hereafter.

Everything in the heavens and everything in the earth belongs to Allah. Whether you divulge what is in yourselves or keep it hidden, Allah will still call you to account for it. He forgives whoever He wills and He punishes whoever He wills. Allah has power over all things. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:284)

To avoid saying: "I don't know":

Some people, due to their high self-esteem and belief in their own superiority, try to prove to those around them that they have no faults. They want to show off their knowledge on every subject. For this reason, they will usually provide an answer even if they know nothing about the subject being discussed.

Admitting their lack of knowledge is difficult, and they just cannot bring themselves to say: "I don't know. I have no information about that." Most of the time they put themselves in an even more demeaning position, because other people recognize these lies for what they are and know that this lying comes from self-conceit.

In one verse, Allah mentions such behavior in clear terms: **You are people arguing about something of which you have no knowledge. Why do you argue about something of which you have no knowledge? Allah knows; you do not know. (Surah Al `Imran, 3:66)**

Such behavior is the result of the "morality" of those peo-

ple who do not heed the Qur'an. In order to have themselves accepted, respected, and listened to, they resort to methods that the Qur'an declares to be immoral. This practice only engenders trouble, tension, and discomfort in this world, and places their eternal life in great danger. Seeking respect and success in this way is a great error and an act of great ignorance, because the only way to achieve what they want in this world and the next is to conform to the Qur'an's morality.

To exaggerate experienced or witnessed events:

Some people exaggerate events and describe things they have not seen as though they had witnessed them. While some do so in order to entertain those around them, others have made it a habit. Without even thinking about why they are doing it, they describe every event differently from the way it happened, add details, and exaggerate it.

For example, when a car injures somebody slightly, they describe it as an accident that caused a major disaster. When they see a large ship, they describe it as being three or four times as large as it really is. Such exaggeration causes others to discount their words. When people want to obtain opinions on any subject, they go only to those who provide accurate information.

Even if such exaggerations are meant to entertain people or as a joke, such behavior is not correct. Those who make such jokes should tell the audience right away, or even at the same time, that they were only telling jokes.

Our Prophet (saas) told his Companions not to tell lies, even if they were only meant to be jokes:

*"Woe be on one who speaks and lies in order to make people laugh. Woe be on him [her]."*⁴

*"I make jokes, but I say only the truth."*⁵

To do wrong and deceive others:

People who do not live out the Qur'an's morality may dislike or envy another person—sometimes even a friend—for very petty reasons. As a result of these illogical and self-generated feelings, they want to take their revenge, to a greater or lesser degree, on such a person, even though they might be friends.

For instance, when a liar is going somewhere with his friend, he might not want to tell his friend that his clothing is unsuitable, for that way all of the attention will be on him. In other words, the liar does not want to tell the truth and make his friend look better.

Or perhaps when two friends are working on the same task, one does not pass on useful information or even withholds important information on the excuse that: "That's all there is." In this way, her friend's work is slowed down so that she will look better and win the competition.

On the other hand, because the believers have great respect and affection for one another, they are invariably helpful and supportive. In fact, they want the better and finer things both for themselves and also for their fellow believers. As a result, they never lie to one another, but always offer help and support from the heart. They try to make their friends' appearance as attractive as possible and do whatever they can to help them in their work. This indicates the believers' sincerity and their close relationship with each other.

In a verse, Allah tells us that:

... [Those who] do not find in their hearts any need for what they [their brothers and sisters] have been given and prefer them to themselves, even if they themselves are needy. It is the people who are safe-

guarded from the avarice of their own selves who are successful. (Surat al-Hashr, 59:9)

To show off:

One of the most common reasons for lying is to show off to one another. As Allah tells us in the Qur'an, these people are very prone to boasting and showing off:

Know that the life of this world is merely a game and a diversion, ostentation, and a cause of boasting among yourselves, and trying to outdo one another in wealth and children: like the plant-growth after rain that delights the cultivators, but then it withers and you see it turning yellow, and then it becomes broken stubble. In the Hereafter there is terrible punishment but also forgiveness from Allah and His good pleasure. The life of this world is nothing but the enjoyment of delusion. (Surat al-Hadid, 57:20)

You are obsessed by greed for more and more until you go down to your graves... (Surat at-Takathur, 102:1-2)

When people who are so given to boasting think that they do not have enough to boast about, they resort to lying right away by pointing to things they do not really own. For example, in order to suggest that a perfectly ordinary item is more valuable than it really is, they boast that they paid quite a bit more for it than they actually did. They also exaggerate their position at work by implying that they hold a higher post, one with greater responsibility, than they actually do.

They do this in the mistaken belief that they will thereby convince others that they possess the same material or moral characteristics as those people who are respected. And so they

present themselves as hardworking, philanthropic, and talented people who care about everything and are ready to take on any responsibility. In the Qur'an, Allah has this to say about such people:

Those who exult in what they have done and love to be praised for what they have not done should not suppose that they have escaped the punishment. They will have a painful punishment. (Surah Al `Imran, 3:188)

They speak in an exaggerated manner about other people's interest in, or affection for, them. For instance, they claim that their partners have bought them presents, that their coworkers or bosses have taken a special interest in them, and that they have received a salary increase because no one else can do what they do. Young people often say that they are well-known at school and that they are the most popular people in the school or in their class. Some people lie by claiming that on their birthday or a special occasion that their friends or relatives bought them very expensive presents. All of these lies have the same goal: to show off and to convince others that they are highly valued by those close to them. In other words, they want those people who have not received such valuable presents to envy them and covet their possessions. In fact, these are all worldly values that have absolutely no benefit in the Hereafter. Even though people receive the most valuable gifts in this world, their persistence in such unacceptable behavior will cause them to be deprived of all of their possessions in the afterlife.

A hadith concerning our Prophet (saas) informs us that a woman exhibited behavior similar to that described above. In order to make someone else unhappy and jealous, she claimed

that her husband had done things that he had not done and had bought her presents that he had not bought. When our Prophet (saas) heard of this, he said:

*"The one who creates a false impression of receiving what one has not been given is like one who wears a garment of falsehood."*⁶

There are countless examples of lies told by people who want to show off to others. Many people exaggerate the truth about their house, car, office, their children's successes, their holiday, and their origins. Since they have made a habit of lying, they lie as a reflex in every conversation. However, because their brains cannot keep track of all of their lies, these change according to subject and place until they finally give themselves away and thus betray and demean themselves.

Always seeking the approval of anyone other than Allah, they do their best to present a likeable image of themselves to others. They believe that they must promote themselves at all times—a belief that requires a great deal of lying. They feel obliged to adapt everything, from their taste in music to their status at work, to impress other people. But such an attempt ultimately fails, with the result that their lies are exposed; they demean themselves, and they live in a state of constant stress, disappointment, and tension. As a result, they derive no pleasure from what they are saying and find no beauty in it. In addition, since their lies cannot satisfy everyone, they try to appeal to the others and attract their attention as well. This resembles a vicious circle from which nothing emerges and which prevents a sincere, comfortable, and tranquil life. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us about those who take deities other than Himself in the following terms:

Allah has made a metaphor for them of a man owned

by several partners in dispute with one another and another man wholly owned by a single man. Are they the same? Praise be to Allah! The fact is that most of them do not know. (Surat az-Zumar, 39:29)

To ensure advantage and profit:

Many people commit sins and behave badly in their quest for profit. Such immoral characteristics as disloyalty, selfishness, aggressiveness, jealousy, hypocrisy, and slyness mostly result from a desire for personal gain. One of the most important reasons why people lie is their ambition for personal advantage and profit.

Especially in business, some people believe that lying is absolutely necessary to make a profit. They present their goods as being more valuable than their real worth by lying about the correct price, measure, and amount. In the Qur'an, Allah tells those engaged in business to behave justly and honestly:

**Give just weight—do not skimp in the balance.
(Surat ar-Rahman, 55:9)**

In another verse, Allah reminds dishonest merchants about the Day of Judgment:

Woe to those who defraud [when measuring]! Those who, when they take a measure from people, exact full measure, but when they give them a measure or weight, hand over less than is due. Do such people not realize that they will be raised up on a Terrible Day, the Day mankind will stand before the Lord of all the worlds? (Surat al-Mutaffifin, 83:1-6)

People who do not stand in awe of Allah, believe in the afterlife, and doubt its existence and the accounting after death always regard worldly benefits as being the most important

and so can easily fall into sin. They do things that may bring them the punishment of Hell just to secure a momentary or minor gain.

But those who fear Allah out of their awe for Him and are aware that He is watching and listening to them at all times, always remember that they will have to account for every word and deed in the afterlife. They do not lie, regardless of the consequences; rather, they rely on Allah, and trust Him. Even if they suffer as a result, they know that Allah will help them and ease their lot in unexpected ways. In one verse, Allah promises to send ease after difficulties:

Allah does not demand from any self more than He has given it. Allah will appoint, after difficulty, ease. (Surat at-Talaq, 65:7)

In this verse, Allah reveals the good news that He will aid those who follow His words and that difficulties will definitely be followed by ease. Those who try to lie their way out of such difficulties, and thus embark upon the path of falsehood, will meet with far greater difficulties and a harsh punishment in the afterlife.

Those who follow this path should worry about paying hospital charges for an illness that Allah send to them because of the gains they earned and preserved through indulging in lying and low morality. Or, they should worry that everything they have obtained through lying and deceit will be destroyed by a fire or some other natural catastrophe sent their way by Allah. They should not forget that Allah may test people in this world and direct them toward the Qur'an's morality by means of such tests.

As our Prophet (saas) has wisely said: "*Falsehood reduces provision.*"⁷ In other words, Allah will not bless those who lie

and strive for personal gain by cheating others. Rather, He will prevent the comfortable use of what they have gained by sending spiritual and material trials and tribulations.

For those who follow His commands, are patient in the face of difficulties, and never deviate from truthfulness and honesty, Allah provides comfort, beauty, and sustenance beyond their hopes, as stated in the following verses:

... [T]hey should carry out the witnessing for Allah. This is admonishment for all who believe in Allah and the Last Day. Whoever stands in awe of Allah—He will give him a way out and provide for him from where he does not expect. Whoever puts his trust in Allah—He will be enough for him. Allah always achieves His aim. Allah has appointed a measure for all things. (Surat at-Talaq, 65:2-3)

Whoever stands in awe of Allah—He will make matters easy for him. (Surat at-Talaq, 65:4)

To win an argument:

As Allah tells us, "**more than anything else, man is argumentative!**" (Surat al-Kahf, 18:54). When a few people come together, usually they compete in making claims about a particular subject, put forward different ideas, and try to make each other accept these ideas. In these arguments, the aim is usually not to learn the truth and reach the best conclusion, but rather to win the argument by convincing others of one's own ideas and ignoring anything that is wrong with them. Even if one of the parties realizes that he is wrong and is thinking incorrectly, he usually will continue arguing out of arrogance, even though his claims bear no relation to the truth. At this point, most people resort to lying. In order to come out on top,

they will begin to talk with "certainty" about an event of which they have no certain knowledge and which they have not witnessed or experienced, produce obviously imaginary scenarios to support their claims, or even resort to slander.

All of these methods are due to the person's arrogance and concern that people might not see them as they wish to be seen. As stated above, arrogance usually drives people into sin, whereas the best and most noble thing for a person to do is to admit that he is wrong as soon as he realizes it. This is the sign of superior morality, because a person who behaves like this first and foremost accepts what his conscience tells him and behaves in a way of which Allah approves while ignoring other people's ideas and reproaches. Contrary to common belief, such people are valued and exalted by people of intelligence and by Allah.

In the Qur'an, Allah advises us as follows:

[Believers are] those who, when they act indecently or wrong themselves, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their bad actions—and who can forgive bad actions except Allah?—and do not knowingly persist in what they were doing. (Surah Al `Imran, 3:135)

To deceive through "white lies:"

Perhaps you have heard people reply, when asked if they ever lie, that they certainly do not lie, but that they see nothing wrong with telling "white lies" when necessary.

People who do not follow the Qur'an's morality apply rules according to their own opinion and those of the people around them, and in such a way that their own interests are met in all matters. For example, they admit that theft is sinful

but say that it is not sinful if the thief steals out of necessity. Some people who know that gambling is forbidden go ahead and gamble anyway, but believe that it is acceptable because they give their winnings to the poor. However, those who heed Allah and guard against evil do nothing that displeases Him or that He has forbidden. The same is true of lying. Those who try to call lying by another name to soften its meaning may convince other people, but Allah has forbidden people to lie, and that includes white lies.

The Qur'an does not accept any of the above rationales for white lies. In addition, those who tell them shape them according to their own opinions about what does and does not constitute a white lie. Of course, their definitions are designed to suit their own advantage. One result of this is that society begins to accept lying as normal, because it gradually begins to count all lies as white lies.

For example, a merchant who tries to sell something to a female customer plies her with false courtesy, tells her that she is beautiful when she is not, that she is well dressed when she is not, and that she is talented and intelligent when she really has no talent or intelligence at all. A man who comes home late uses a variety of excuses to avoid annoying his wife. He says that telling his wife the truth would only make her angry, but that when he tells these white lies, he does not make her uncomfortable and creates no trouble between them. People who tell such lies have no love, respect, or devotion for the person to whom they are told. Furthermore, it is obvious that such people are not honest or trustworthy.

In conclusion, all lying, no matter what it may be called, has been forbidden by Allah, for it destroys trust and loyalty between people and causes people to live insincere lives.

Promising something that the liar knows cannot be performed:

The failure to keep one's word is a common occurrence. Of course, when circumstances change, people might be unable to keep their word even though they very much want to do so and had made their promise in all sincerity. However, Allah warns people against making a promise, while knowing that it cannot be kept, to gain another person's fleeting attention or for any other reason, as follows:

O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do? It is deeply abhorrent to Allah that you should say that which you do not do. (Surat as-Saff, 61:2-3)

Be true to Allah's contract when you have agreed to it, and do not break your oaths once they are confirmed and you have made Allah your guarantee. Allah knows what you do. (Surat an-Nahl, 16:91)

Fulfill your contracts. Contracts will be asked about. (Surat al-Isra', 17:34)

Mehmed Zahid Kotku, one of the twentieth century's leading Islamic scholars, said the following about making such false promises:

*"Failure to keep one's word or promise or to carry out a promised act is falsehood. If a person promises to do something and then does not do it, he is considered a liar. If he makes a promise knowing that he will never attempt to fulfill it, his falsehood is doubled. If he wants to keep his promise, but for some legitimate reason is unable to do so and apologizes, he might be forgiven by the other party. Therefore, when people promise to do something, they should always say: 'If Allah wills.' "*⁸

As Kotku points out, making a promise that cannot be

kept is falsehood. On the Day of Judgment, every person will be responsible for each of his or her words and acts. Although they may have forgotten such things, Allah does not forget and, on the Day of Judgment, will confront all people with everything that they did while in this world. Believers who are aware of this truth do their best to behave according to the Qur'an's morality. They do not say whatever comes into their heads. When making a promise, they calculate whether or not they can really fulfill it. If there is a possibility that they cannot, they state this openly, explain their reasoning, and take steps to ensure that the person to whom they made the promise will not be placed in a difficult position. When they believe that they can fulfill their promise, and so say "if Allah wills," they keep their word even if doing so harms their own interests. Allah informs us of this particular characteristic of the believers, as follows:

It is not devoutness to turn your faces to the East or to the West. Rather, those with true devoutness are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the Prophets; and who, despite their love for it, give away their wealth to their relatives, to orphans and the very poor, to travelers and beggars, and to set slaves free; and who perform prayer and give the alms; those who honor their contracts when they make them, and are steadfast in poverty and illness and in battle. Those are the people who are true. They are the people who guard against evil. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:177)

[Believers are] those who honor their trusts and their contracts. (Surat al-Mu'minun, 23:8)

Out of fear of other people:

People also lie when they are nervous about those around them. For example, a child who breaks a vase lies because he is afraid of his mother. A secretary who mixes up files in the office is afraid of her boss and lies to protect herself. On the other hand, believers only fear Allah and think only about whether they will or will not gain His good pleasure. As a result, they tell the truth whatever the circumstances and put their faith in Allah.

When, for example, they break a valuable object, those who are nervous about other people shy away from being called clumsy or careless. Since they make the great error of setting other people's ideas about them above Allah's approval, they base their decisions upon acquiring other people's approval and so usually lie to cover up their mistakes.

In the Qur'an, Allah warns us that Satan wants people to fear each other and so commands the believers to fear Him alone, as follows:

**That was only Satan who intimidated his adherents.
But do not fear them—fear Me if you are believers.
(Surah Al `Imran. 3:175)**

Is Allah not enough for His servant? Yet they try to scare you with others apart from Him. If Allah does not guide someone, he has no guide. (Surat az-Zumar, 39:36)

In another verse, Allah refers to the believers as those who "**do not fear the blame of any censurer**" (Surat al-Ma'ida, 5:54). In all circumstances, the believers rely on and trust Allah and behave according to His will, not according to the opinions of other people.

Fearing other people and not doing what is right is a kind

of idolatry, for this involves regarding another person or creature as Allah's equal or superior (Allah is surely beyond that), and thus, in effect, granting this creature the status of a deity. Those who are nervous of others and behave according to that person's wishes fall into the trap of idolatry. The believers are aware of this truth and so worship only Allah. The Qur'an relates the words of one believer, as follows:

Am I to take as deities instead of Him those whose intercession, if the All-Merciful desires harm for me, will not help me at all and cannot save me? In that case, I would clearly be misguided. (Surah Ya Sin, 36:23-24)

As we can see, nobody can harm anybody else or say even one word to another person without Allah's permission. For this reason, fearing other people and lying is idolatry, a sin Allah will not forgive (Surat an-Nisa', 4:48). Given this, people who lie because they are nervous of others should repent and take refuge in Allah, because they have sinned and fallen into idolatry.

ALLAH SEES, KNOWS, AND HEARS EVERYTHING

All liars have two things in common: They do not know Allah and they deny that He sees and hears everything. While they may deceive those around them, conceal certain things or gain a personal advantage, they cannot deceive Allah, Who sees, hears, and knows everything, and Who is the only Reckoner of what is true and correct. Allah tells us about this in the following verse:

They try to conceal themselves from people, but they cannot conceal themselves from Allah. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:108)

However, liars cannot achieve their aims, because their intelligence and faith are inadequate, and because they believe that they have protected themselves when they deceive other people. In fact, such people can neither harm nor benefit themselves.

Believers who are aware of this truth should not forget that every word, every thought, and every concealed thing is known to Allah, and that they have to behave at every moment with the awareness of this fact. Certain verses, some of which are mentioned below, state this truth:

Do you not see that Allah knows what is in the heavens and on Earth? Three men cannot confer together secretly without Him being the fourth of them, or

five without Him being the sixth of them, or fewer than that or more without Him being with them wherever they are. Then He will inform them on the Day of Rising of what they did. Allah has knowledge of all things. (Surat al-Mujadala, 58:7)

He knows the eyes' deceit and what people's breasts conceal. (Surah Ghafir, 40:19)

Do they not know that Allah knows what they keep secret and what they make public? (Surat al-Baqara, 2:77)

Allah—Him from Whom nothing is hidden, either on Earth or in Heaven. (Surah Al 'Imran, 3:5)

He is Allah in the heavens and in the earth. He knows what you keep secret and what you make public, and He knows what you earn. (Surat al-An`am, 6:3)

LYING IS COOPERATION WITH SATAN

Satan: The first liar

In the Qur'an, Allah informs us about some of Satan's characteristics:

He only commands you to do evil and indecent acts and to say about Allah what you do not know. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:169)

Lying is one of the bad effects that Satan has on people. Satan convinces people that lying is an easy way out of their problems and so inspires them to adopt that forbidden habit. People with weak faith listen to his whispers. Abdul Qadir al-Jaylani, the eleventh century Muslim thinker, drew attention to Satan's ability to make lies attractive with these words: *"What has Satan not done to you? He has made you love lies. He has made evil acts seem attractive to you."*⁹

Another of Satan's characteristics is that he was the first liar. After Allah created Adam (as), the first man, He commanded all of the angels to prostrate to him. All of the angels obeyed Allah's command, but out of arrogance and jealousy, Satan (Iblis) did not obey. And so Allah dismissed him from His presence and told him that he would be one of those who earned the eternal torment of Hell in the Hereafter. Satan swore to divert people from Allah's path, and started by trying to deceive Adam (as) and Eve, his wife, by lying to them. Allah

informs us of these lies in the following verses:

Then Satan whispered to them, disclosing to them their private parts, which had been concealed from them. He said: "Your Lord has only forbidden you this tree, lest you become angels or among those who live forever." He swore to them: "I am one of those who give you good advice." (Surat al-A`raf, 7:20-21)

Satan deceived Adam (as) and Eve by lying. In addition, he presented himself as extremely well-intentioned and said that he had done them a favor by giving advice, a "fact" upon which he swore an oath. As we have seen, swearing oaths and claiming to be well-intentioned would later come to be among all liars' most defining characteristics.

In another verse, Allah informs us that Satan makes many promises to people, even though he cannot fulfill them:

When the affair is decided, Satan will say: "Allah made you a promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me but blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid nor you to mine. I reject the way you associated me with Allah before." The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment. (Surah Ibrahim, 14:22)

Satan lies all the time

While deciding or thinking about something, people listen to both the voice of their conscience and the whispers of Satan. Believers who possess wisdom and a conscience, who believe in Allah and the Hereafter, listen to the voice of their conscience. Most others listen to the voice of Satan, even

though everything he says is a lie. For example, by telling a person who wants to help the poor: "If you give this money to them, your own cash will be reduced and you will have no security if something goes wrong in the future," Satan tries to prevent them from performing good deeds. Satan lies because whenever people do good deeds, Allah is their helper and friend. Moreover, Allah is the One Who provides their sustenance. People can try as much as they like to protect their money by being as miserly as they wish, but they can obtain a profit only if Allah wills it.

Satan tells those who intend to begin establishing prayers in accordance with their conscience such things as: "Whatever happens, you can establish prayer in the future when you get old. It doesn't matter if you don't establish prayer now." This is a blatant lie, because nobody knows how long they will live or when and where they will die. Therefore, instead of postponing a good act, a person should perform it right away.

Satan also deceives a wrongdoer with empty promises and lies. He says to a thief, for instance, things like: "You're in need. What's wrong with your stealing this? Nobody is watching you anyway. This can't be counted as theft, because it's something trivial." In reality, even if nobody sees and notices, Allah is watching and listening at all times. In the Qur'an, Allah warns people against Satan and tells us that he deceives people and that those who are deceived will wind up in Hell:

He makes promises to them and fills them with false hopes. But what Satan promises them is nothing but delusion. The shelter of such people will be Hell. They will find no way to escape from it. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:120-21)

Another one of Satan's lies is that they can sin now and re-

pent later. A lot of people fall into this trap. In reality, however, this is just another lie, because Allah informs us that He does not accept the repentance of those who only repent when death comes to them. Committing any sin with the intention to postpone one's repentance is a great insincerity, and a path fraught with peril, for who knows when death will come? Allah informs us of this in the following Qur'anic verse:

There is no repentance for people who persist in doing evil until death comes to them and who then say: "Now I repent," nor for people who die as unbelievers. We have prepared for them a painful punishment. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:18)

For those who can see Satan's lies and avoid them, the only solution is to know and live the Qur'an's morality. Doing so will allow them to clearly see Satan's lies and insincerities, as well as those of their own selves and of other people, and so they will be able to avoid these. In the Qur'an, Allah informs us that, for believers, Satan's scheming is very feeble:

Those who believe fight in the Way of Allah. Those who disbelieve fight in the way of false gods. So fight the friends of Satan! Satan's scheming is always feeble. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:76)

Lying demonstrates devotion to Satan

Lies and empty promises are among Satan's most defining traits. Given that he is the source of all lying in people, any person who lies is listening to Satan at that moment and showing his or her devotion to him. The reason for this devotion is explained in the following verses:

What they call on apart from Him [Allah] are female idols. What they call on is an arrogant Satan whom

Allah has cursed. He [Satan] said: "I will take a certain fixed proportion of Your servants." (Surat an-Nisa', 4:117-18)

Nobody wants to admit that he or she serves Satan or shows devotion to him. However, those who spend their lives ignoring their conscience and heeding the voice of Satan, which is always within them, are always true to Satan. In the Qur'an, Allah gives us the following information about such people:

If someone shuts his eyes to the remembrance of the All-Merciful, We assign him a devil who becomes his bosom friend—they debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided—so that, when he reaches Us, he says: "If only there was the distance of the two Easts between you and me!" What an evil companion! It will not benefit you today, since you did wrong, that you share equally in the punishment. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 43:36-39)

One of Satan's most telling characteristics is his constant belief that he is always right. Therefore, he incites those people to whom he speaks to believe that they are always right as well. As we can see in the verses above, Satan's friends believe that they are guided.

People who lie always see justice and truth in themselves. They believe that their lies are told for a very good reason. When such people say that they are admitting their lies, they are serious only on a few minor points and insist on not admitting any others, for they have not abandoned their devotion to Satan.

Many people who read these lines may be unable to properly imagine what devotion to Satan is. Those who are loyal to

Satan are bound to their ego, pride, personal interests, and wishes. Thus, they evade justice and truth. Satan deceives people through such weaknesses, and uses various methods to divert them from Allah's path. Given this, those who do not behave honestly and confess their lies are serving Satan and displaying their attachment to him. This means that Satan can deceive such people on matters other than lying, thereby binding them to himself because their self is not strong enough to make them abandon their lies and adopt the Qur'anic morality. After a while, Satan can prevent them from getting up for morning prayers, behaving in a self-sacrificing way, and performing those tasks of which Allah approves.

Consequently, people need to sever all ties with Satan. A lot of people think that heeding Satan from time to time is harmless. In fact, this is one of Satan's methods. He accepts those who follow him on one point, even though they conform to Allah's will on every other matter. For example, if such people cannot exercise their willpower in order to stop lying, this is a gain for Satan.

Those who obey Allah and show their devotion to Him at every moment hope that He will be pleased with them. If they perform all types of worship, sacrifice themselves, and show steadfast morality while still being capable of lying, they are nevertheless showing their devotion to Satan in at least one area of life.

Allah informs people of an important truth in the following verse:

They assign to Allah a share of the crops and livestock He has created, saying: "This is for Allah,"—as they allege—"and this is for our idols." Their idols' share does not reach Allah, whereas Allah's share

reaches their idols! What an evil judgment they make! (Surat al-An`am, 6:136)

Allah informs people who assign a share of their possessions to Him and a share to their idols that they have made an evil judgment. People who adhere to the morality and faith of which Allah approves can never give any of their devotion or obedience to Satan, for such sincere believers conform to His will at all times. They place Allah's will and mercy, as well as Paradise, above any advantage that they might obtain by lying. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us that religion belongs only to Him:

Indeed is the sincere religion not Allah's alone? People who take protectors besides Him [say]: "We only worship them so that they may bring us nearer to Allah." Allah will judge between them regarding the things about which they differed. Allah does not guide anyone who is an ungrateful liar. (Surat az-Zumar, 39:3)

In addition, sincere and obedient believers never engage in behavior that would justify Satan, because Satan has said that a great majority of people will follow him. Thus, he has started a war against the path of Allah, and the more people who follow him, the greater he believes his victory to be. Allah tells us about this satanic logic in the following verses:

Iblis was correct in his assessment of them and they followed him, except for a group of the believers. He had no authority over them, except to enable Us to know those who believe in the Hereafter from those who are in doubt about it. Your Lord is the Preserver of all things. (Surah Saba', 34:20-21)

As can be seen in Allah's verses, Satan is greatly deceived.

He believes that he gains by drawing people to his side. In fact, he can divert as many people as he likes, but he will never gain anything from doing so. He will live in the torment of Hell for eternity, along with those whom he deceived. In addition, he plans his activities without realizing that he has already fallen into a very big plan devised by Allah. As Allah informs us in the verses above, He allows Satan to separate good people from bad people. In other words, Satan is only a tool for testing people in this worldly life, a means of revealing people's true faces, and thus has no authority over people. However, he will not benefit in any way even if he leads countless people away from Allah's path. On the contrary, he will only ensure that more people are driven into Hell along with him.

Regardless of how deft Satan's methods are, the believers never engage in any behavior that would justify them. They behave and speak in such a way that they always show clearly and definitely that they are on Allah's side.

According to their lives and their speech, as described in the Qur'an, the Prophets are the best example of this. They always made Allah their Friend and Protector, and were Satan's greatest enemies. Allah states the difference between those who believe and those who do not in the following terms:

Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out of the darkness into the light. But those who do not believe have false deities as protectors. They take them from the light into the darkness. Those are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, forever. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:257)

THE LIAR'S DARK SPIRITUAL STATE

The spiritual state of liars is extremely confused, for their minds and consciences are not clean and healthy. Habitual liars make countless calculations in their minds, and are far from thinking and behaving sincerely and honestly. In the coming pages, we will discuss their spiritual state.

Liars try to persuade themselves that their lies are true

One of the liars' strangest aspects is their attempt to persuade themselves, even while they are lying, to believe their own lies. For instance, a person who tells a pack of lies about his family, his job, and his social life is gradually affected by these lies and starts living in a world of his own invention. He behaves as if the lies told are true, thinking that doing so will make them more persuasive.

When a person tries her hardest to persuade others that she is telling the truth, it means that she is trying to cover up certain deficiencies or a bad conscience. For example, a person who says that she cannot do something persuades herself that her lie is true. Although she can do it, she gives many reasons why she cannot. Or, if a friend wants to borrow an article of clothing from her, she lies about why she cannot lend it and

tries to convince herself that she is telling the truth. No matter how insistent the request may be, she continues to assert the truth of her words, even though she is well aware that she is lying. All liars, regardless of their level of self-persuasion, know that they are lying. The Qur'an confirms this fact in the verses given below:

In fact, man will be clear proof against himself in spite of any excuses he might offer. (Surat al-Qiyama, 75:14-15)

**Despite all of his stupidity,
a liar believes himself to be clever**

All liars consider themselves to be very clever, for they believe that they have deceived others and, as a result, have gained some benefit. Satan continually incites them to lie and to take pride in their lies, even though doing so will deprive them of other people's affection and respect. By exalting themselves, they are in reality only demeaning themselves, for they are gradually revealing themselves as the liars that they really are.

Habitual liars seek to benefit from the fact that others do not know what they are thinking. However, they soon begin to experience great problems, among them having to live in fear that their lies will be discovered and that people will no longer pay any attention to them. They can never achieve the internal tranquility of an honest person. In addition, they will feel great regret in the afterlife, just as they do in this worldly life, for each one of their lies. At that time, they will understand better who is intelligent and who is not, and they will see that their lies have brought them no benefit.

In one verse, Allah tells us about the deception in which

such people find themselves, as follows:

Do you not see those who claim to be purified? No, Allah purifies whoever He wills. They will not be wronged by so much as the smallest speck. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:49)

Habitual liars feel no shame

When some of their lies are uncovered, habitual liars feel no shame. On such occasions, they actually tell even more lies to save face. However, believers have a feeling of decency. They feel ashamed of following Satan and lying even if they have done so by mistake, blush, repent immediately, ask Allah for forgiveness, and tell the truth.

Liars feel no trust, affection, or respect for others

People do not lie to those whom they trust, love, and respect, whatever the circumstances may be. In true sincerity, believers share their opinions in the most open fashion by expressing only their true thoughts. For example, sincere people are not afraid to say that they dislike something if that is their true opinion, because even the slightest lie or insincere behavior makes their conscience uncomfortable. If they find themselves in this situation, they immediately try to compensate for it.

In contrast, those who do not follow the Qur'anic morality frequently lie to their spouses, children, friends, relatives, partners, and each other. They even lie to those people whom they consider to be the closest to them. This is one indication that people who do not conform to the Qur'an's morality do not feel genuine affection and sincerity.

Liars think only of this moment

The most important thing that prevents believers from lying to others is what will happen to them after they die, when they have to face their eternal life. To lie one's way out of a difficult position may be seen as the most simple and beneficial solution at that moment. However, no situation in this world can compare to the situation waiting for liars in the Hereafter. Given this, those who have wisdom and a conscience should think about the reward that they will receive in the Hereafter whenever they find themselves in difficult situations and behave accordingly. They should always remember that they may be disgraced and live in torment in this world and the next for the sake of a momentary comfort or benefit. In one verse, Allah states those who abandon the Hereafter for the sake of this worldly life will face a severe punishment:

Those are the people who trade the Hereafter for this world. The punishment will not be lightened for them. They will not be helped. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:86)

HOW LIARS DECEIVE THEMSELVES



Everybody knows that lying is immoral. For this reason, when people lie they try to ease their conscience and find excuses. In fact, what they should do is confess their lies and tell the truth.

In addition, people need to know and recognize the camouflage used by liars so that in the event that they lie, they will be unable to deceive themselves.

Those who claim to lie with good intentions

The best known method people use to deceive themselves is the claim that they have good intentions. For example, everyone criticizes and condemns those who gossip. But those who gossip claim that they do so only with the best of intentions, and so such talk is harmless. A large proportion of liars make the same claim: They have no evil purpose in mind, but are merely lying to defend themselves or to comfort another person. For example, a child who skips school claims that he lies to his mother so that she will not get angry.

Some people say that they lie because they are afraid of losing the love and trust of those close to them. For instance, people who are unsuccessful at work lie to hide their failure in a self-proclaimed attempt to avoid losing other people's respect. Such people try to persuade themselves and those around them that such lies are harmless, since they have good intentions. In fact, in the Qur'an Allah points to those who display a low morality while

claiming to have good intentions:

How will it be when a disaster strikes them because of what they have done, and then they come to you swearing by Allah: "We desired nothing but good and reconciliation"? Allah knows what is in such people's hearts. So turn away from them, warn them, and speak to them with words that have effect. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:62-63)

Such people make the same claim even as the angels come to take them in death and even though they are bound for Hell. In short, they continue to pose as good people.

As for those the angels take in death while they are wronging themselves, they will offer their submission: "We did not do any evil." Oh yes you did! Allah knows what you were doing. (Surat an-Nahl, 16:28)

Those who claim that their lies are innocent and minor

Another method of self-deception is the attempt to compare themselves favorably with great frauds and liars in order to convince themselves that their own lies are minor and harmless. Or, they try to diminish their lies by considering them to be innocent and harmless. For example, a child buys something with her mother's money and does not give her the change, claiming that she received none. While the child might think that this is a harmless lie, in reality there are no "minor" and "major" lies, for in the Qur'an Allah orders people to **"have done with telling lies"** (Surat al-Hajj, 22:30).

Believing they will not be responsible for lies so long as no oath is sworn

A major and quite frequent mistake made by people who do not follow the Qur'anic morality is the belief that they are not re- 51

sponsible for their lies if no oath was made. In addition, when some people are lying, their strange and superstitious actions (e.g., lifting one foot or crossing their fingers) are a sign that such people are truly "ignorant," in the sense that they have no understanding of true morality. To believe that these and other such simple games protect them against sinful acts and absolves them from responsibility in the afterlife makes it clear for all to see that such people do not appreciate Allah as they should. Like a number of false beliefs, such deceitful rationales have no basis in reason or religion. Allah explains it in the Qur'an, as follows:

What is the matter with you? On what basis do you judge? Or do you have a Book that you study so that you may have anything in it you choose? Or do you have oaths that bind Us, extending to the Day of Rising, that you will have whatever you decide? (Surat al-Qalam, 68:36-39)

Trying to cover up one lie with another

Liars are usually caught in their lies. However, because they do not behave according to their conscience, they usually tell another lie to protect themselves from a previous one. Thus, they gradually create a chain of lies. For instance, in order to protest against a friend who has warned him to act in a better way, a person remains silent. When his friend asks why he does not answer, instead of saying that it was a protest, for which he apologizes and regrets, he replies: "I was thinking of something else, and so I didn't reply." When asked what he was thinking about, he lies yet again, for he had stayed quiet only to protest against his friend's words and to annoy him.

All liars continually plan and calculate, and so none of their behavior or speech is natural, straightforward, sincere, or honest.

Claiming that lying is necessary to defend one's self against other people

Sometimes, liars blame the people to whom they are talking for their lies, claiming that they were afraid that these people might harm them in some way. They do this in order to arouse people's pity so that they can justify their lies. For example, when she loses money that has been entrusted to her, she claims that she neither saw nor received it. Or, when he cannot perform an assigned task, he just tells a string of lies about it, such as he had a number of problems and therefore could not do the job and then goes on to describe a number of imaginary events. When his lies are revealed, he says that he lied in order to protect himself.

In contrast, believers fear only Allah and so always tell the truth. Those who fear other people more than they fear Allah do not stay within the boundaries established by Him, and so are able to lie with ease. Even when, as often happens, they are not going to be harmed by other people, their own arrogance encourages them to deny what they have failed or forgotten to do by making excuses. Liars think only about their image in the eyes of others, all the while forgetting that what should really matter to them is Allah's will and mercy, as well as Paradise.

Those who trust in their innocent and childlike appearances

One's physical appearance also can be quite deceiving. Even though some people outwardly appear to be innocent and childlike, this is no indication that they really are so. The truly innocent are those who conform to the Qur'an, hold Allah in awe, and take refuge in Him. Some people believe that an innocent and childlike appearance will protect them in the Hereafter, for if they can deceive people here, why not in the Hereafter? This delusion

causes them to believe that they can present themselves as well-meaning people in the Hereafter.

In reality, these people might convince a number of others of their innocence in this worldly life. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, a lot of people will accept them as honest people, even when they actually are lying. But Allah knows every person's heart and innermost thoughts. People can hide whatever they like from others, but can keep no secrets from Allah. All of their secrets will be exposed in the Hereafter.

There, no trace will remain of their innocent and childlike worldly appearance, for their faces will clearly display their immorality. Thus, such people should not be deceived by the simple, innocent faces that they see in the mirror; rather, they should avoid immorality and all behavior that is contrary to the Qur'an. In one verse, Allah tells us this:

But as for those who have earned bad actions—a bad action will be repaid with one the like of it. Debasement will darken them. They will have no one to protect them from Allah. It is as if their faces were covered by dark patches of the night. Those are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, forever. (Surah Yunus, 10:27)

Those who believe they will be excused if they tell a lie and repent later

Yet another method of self-deception is that liars' claim that they can save themselves by repenting at some point in the future. Of course Allah accepts repentance and forgives sins. However, one's repentance must be the result of a feeling of regret and the decision to avoid committing that particular sin in the future. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us that:

Allah only accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and then quickly repent after doing it. Allah turns toward such people. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise. There is no repentance for people who persist in doing evil until death comes to them and who then say: "Now I repent," nor for people who die as unbelievers. We have prepared for them a painful punishment. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:17-18)

As Allah tells us in these verses, lying with the self-deluding claim of repentance at some unspecified point in the future is no more than a clear manifestation of great insincerity.

Conclusion

As Allah tells us in the Qur'an, **"in fact, man will be clear proof against himself in spite of any excuses he might offer"** (Surat al-Qiyama, 75:14-15). Whatever excuses people put forward, they know very well that lying is dishonest and immoral. They might convince others that they are justified or innocent, but Allah sees everything and, most importantly, knows all that they have said and their true reasons for saying it, as well as what is going on within them and their hidden thoughts.

Though you speak out loud, He knows your secrets and what is even more concealed. Allah, there is no god but Him. The Most Beautiful Names are His. (Surah Ta Ha, 20:7-8)

HOW LIARS SPEAK AND BEHAVE

L liars may regard themselves as very clever; however, their behavior, way of speaking, voice, looks, and even the words that they use give them away at once. In fact, there are great differences between how liars and honest people behave and speak.

Liars try to persuade others by continually swearing oaths

Insincere people frequently swear oaths in order to make others believe them. Allah points out this striking characteristic in several verses of the Qur'an. For example, He tells us that individual hypocrites swore an oath that they believed our Prophet (saas) to be a true Prophet, when in fact they did not accept him as a Prophet at all. Thus, Allah informs us that they were liars:

When the hypocrites come to you, they say: "We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allah." Allah knows that you are indeed His Messenger, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are certainly liars. They have made their oaths into a cloak and barred the Way of Allah. What they have done is truly evil. That is because they have believed and then returned to unbelief. So their hearts have been sealed

up, and they cannot understand. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 63:1-3)

Hypocrites use their oaths as a shield against their own lying, falsehood, and trickery. Allah also reveals this characteristic in another verse:

They swear by Allah that they are of your number, but they are not of your number. Rather, they are people who are scared. (Surat at-Tawba, 9:56)

In another verse, Allah draws our attention to people who continually swear oaths:

But do not obey any vile swearer of oaths. (Surat al-Qalam, 68:10)

Apart from swearing oaths, liars often use words that refer to their being religious. For example, when they are told that their lies are not believed or that people doubt what they say, they use expressions such as "Allah knows my heart," "Allah is my witness," or "If I am not telling the truth, let Allah accuse me." In fact, many insincere people use just such expressions to conceal their true nature.

In the following verse, Allah mentions such people who, despite the insincerity in their hearts, call upon Him to witness their words:

Among the people there is someone whose words about the life of this world excite your admiration, and he calls Allah to witness what is in his heart, while he is in fact the most hostile of adversaries. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:204)

The believers' sincerity and honesty is reflected in their condition and behavior. Those who always behave sincerely do not need to proclaim their sincerity and honesty, because those around them have already noticed these characteristics.

However, those who are insincere continually try to show their sincerity through their words and actions.

Liars use introductory phrases to prepare the ground for a lie

In addition to using oaths and religious expressions, liars prepare the ground for their lies and try to make them persuasive right from the start. Phrases like "I am speaking very sincerely," "You can believe me," "I say this with all my heart," and "I am really telling the truth" are mostly used for this purpose.

As we saw earlier, when the hypocrites said that our Prophet (saas) was Allah's Messenger, they began by saying: "We bear witness that..." Since they were not sincere, they used this phrase as a prop to make themselves appear more convincing. In fact, the believers already know that our Prophet (saas) was Allah's messenger, and thus there is no need for such introductory phrases. Those who believe this truth sincerely feel no need to use such expressions. To put it another way, believers regard such statements as unnecessary, because their words are always heartfelt and sincere. Knowing that Allah is always watching and listening, they avoid all forms of insincerity and hypocrisy.

Of course, using such phrases does not mean that those who use them are automatically liars, for sincere people may use them if the situation calls for such phrases. But among liars, using expressions that introduce or support their lies is very widespread.

The liars' physical appearance and certain aspects of their behavior

The liars' behavior, facial expressions, voice, and methods mark them out as two-faced and dishonest people, for they in no way resemble those who are honest and sincere. In fact,

these negative characteristics can actually give liars away. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us how to recognize two-faced people from their words and facial expressions:

**If We wished, We would show them to you and you would know them by their mark and know them by their ambivalent speech. Allah knows your actions.
(Surah Muhammad, 47:30)**

Liars do not trust those around them, which means that they do not regard them as their true friends and associates. Since they live among people from whom they feel alienated and toward whom they feel no attachment, and because they fear that their lies will be exposed, they do not act comfortably and naturally. Their speech, voice, and posture are carefully controlled. Due to their state of continual tension, their voices are weak and their eyes are narrow. They regard the people around them with nervousness. And, their facial expressions and body language clearly reveal their insincerity, untrustworthiness, and discontent.

While habitual liars may sometimes appear extremely calm, many people become nervous when they lie. For example, their hands sweat, they display uncomfortable behavior, and they are not calm and tranquil like the believers. When they are lying, their eyes are shifty and they cannot look into your eyes. In crowded places, they try to hide behind others. They are nervous because their eyes will give them away and their lies will be discovered.

In the Qur'an, Allah states that insincere people try to conceal themselves in this way:

See how they wrap themselves around, trying to conceal their feelings from Him! No, indeed! When they wrap their garments around themselves, He knows

what they keep secret and what they make public. He knows what their hearts contain. (Surah Hud, 11:5)

Many liars give themselves away by particular actions, such as wandering eyes, staring at the ground, and continually shuffling one's feet or shaking one's head while speaking. At the bottom of such mannerisms is the tension and lack of calm that they feel due to their awareness of their own insincerity and duplicity.

THE LOSSES OF LIARS

In general, liars seek to deceive others and procure some personal advantage, all the while believing that they are being smart. In fact, they are always the losers, regardless of how many people they deceive. But they cannot see this truth, for all of their energy is devoted to acquiring a temporary gain by lying, the accomplishment of which convinces them that they actually have profited by lying. When looked at from a distance, they may really have obtained an advantage. As we said above, liars may feign illness to avoid a task. For example, by saying: "I have backache," they can make someone else carry a heavy object.

They may have protected themselves from physical exhaustion with this lie, but this momentary benefit, when considered in terms of a person's eternal life, is really harmful. A few minutes of rest or an escape from work secured by lying causes the loss of an advantageous reward in the afterlife; in fact, it brings about eternal harm. Given that liars cannot understand and calculate such things due to their lack of true intelligence, they will suffer great losses in this world and the next. In the Qur'an, Allah addresses them in the following terms:

Shown by their arrogance in the land and evil plotting. But evil plotting envelops only those who do it. Do they expect anything but the pattern of previous peoples? You will not find any changing in the pat-

tern of Allah. You will not find any alteration in the pattern of Allah. (Surah Fatir, 35:43)

Liars devise plots in order to deceive others, to justify themselves, or to protect their advantages. And yet they always end up falling into their own traps and losing a great deal. Some of these losses are as follows:

The trust of others: Since all liars give themselves away sooner or later, they lose other people's trust and respect. Even when they are telling the truth, they are regarded with suspicion. They are entrusted with nothing, and nobody wants to do business with them. Unable to make sincere and honest friends, people act carefully around them. Imam al-Ghazali calls lying "the mother of all great sins" and continues:

"If a person is known as a liar, no trust in him remains, he is disgraced and is regarded as of no value. If you want to understand the ugliness of lying, look at the ugliness of the lies of other people, see what hatred is felt for them and how much a liar is scorned, and be aware of how ugly you will find your own lie..."¹⁰

Self-affection and self-trust: Liars, all of whom are aware of their own immorality, regard themselves as wicked and worthless, and so neither respect nor trust themselves. They behave in a crushed and complex-ridden way, because they know how others see them. In addition, they try to hide their cunning by behaving in a self-assured and pushy manner.

Whenever their lies come to light, the liars are belittled: While liars strive to exalt themselves and protect their pride, they show to everybody their extremely low character.

Imam Rabbani explains the situation in which liars find themselves, as follows:

"In Surat al-Isra' 17:84, we are told that each man acts according to his nature. That is, a person's deeds and words are the mirror of himself. It is better not to return either a good or a bad answer to the debased. There is no end to their lying. Their words, none of which are compatible with each other, suffice to make them contemptible..."¹¹

Their consciences are always uneasy: Lying causes great discomfort to one's conscience, and so liars are always worried. Indulging in what Allah has forbidden causes them to live in a permanent state of internal discomfort.

The thoughtlessness of liars is revealed in their inability to foresee the potential results of their lying:

1. By lying, they fail the test that Allah sent them.
2. They lag behind in good tasks which will probably earn them a reward.
3. They eventually bring harm to whatever they pursue, such as rank, position, and superiority.
4. Most importantly, they endanger their eternal life in the Hereafter.

If they tell the truth, regardless of the possible negative consequences, they show their lack of desire to achieve a particular position or superiority. Indeed, admitting their mistake and confessing their impotence will attract the compassion and trust of others.

In addition, by listening to their conscience because of their fear and awe of Allah, they will defeat Satan and rescue themselves from the troubled and confused conscience that comes from lying.

Definitely, their largest gain will be their earning of Allah's good pleasure and of approaching Paradise's great salvation.

The fundamental loss of people who persist in lying will occur in the Hereafter. People who do not recognize the boundaries established by Allah and lie in order to obtain a small gain or a momentary pleasure in this life, and who regard doing so as unimportant, should be aware that such an attitude will earn them the punishment of Hell in the afterlife. Ultimately, everyone who engages in evil deeds only harms himself or herself, for as the Qur'an states:

If anyone commits an evil action, the responsibility for it is his alone. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:111)

They think they deceive Allah and those who believe. They deceive no one but themselves, but they are not aware of it. There is a sickness in their hearts, and Allah has increased their sickness. They will have a painful punishment on account of their denial. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:9-10)

Whoever acts rightly, it is to his own good. Whoever does evil, it is to his detriment. Your Lord does not wrong His servants. (Surah Fussilat, 41:46)

THE SLYNESS OF LIARS

L liars, who are inherently insincere, use indirect means and slyness to obtain whatever they desire. While from the outside their every act might be seen as harmless or even beneficial, in fact each one is calculated and planned to benefit the liar based upon an internal bargain. Thus, their acts and their words are never sincere and do not reflect their real feelings.

The Qur'an presents Pharaoh as one such liar. When Musa (as) and his brother Harun (as) conveyed Allah's message to the Egyptian people, Pharaoh opposed them, threatened them and the believers, and oppressed the believers. Pharaoh tried to cover his cruelty in what was, to him, a cloak of innocence and said that he was doing all of this for the people's benefit, a claim revealed in the following verse:

Pharaoh said: "Let me kill Musa and let him call upon his Lord! I am afraid that he may change your religion and bring about corruption in the land." (Surah Ghafir, 40:26)

Thus, he tried to justify murdering a Prophet by claiming that he was protecting people from corruption or the loss of their religion. In truth, however, he had no such intention, for he was the actual source of corruption and the enemy of religion.

Just like Pharaoh, sly people try to present themselves to others as different from what they really are: people who are

devoted to wickedness and treachery. Slyness colors even their everyday behavior. For example, they have secretive methods of making others angry. Under a mask of benevolence and innocence, they take pains to avoid giving themselves away. However, others detect their immorality right away, because their superficial cleverness contains no real wisdom. And so they lose other people's affection and respect and are gradually shunned.

For instance, seeking to reduce their own workloads, they sometimes take some of their paperwork and leave it on their coworkers' desks. They make it seem as if this job was specially given to them or they were doing some kind of favor by transferring an important job to them, when, in fact, their only intention is to get rid of the work that they do not want to do. If their coworkers object, these insincere people try to forestall any protest by saying: "But I thought that you would like to do it."

However, liars do not undertake such "kindness" without prior planning and calculation. For instance, they refuse their coworkers' request for help by claiming: "I can't help you. I have my own work to do." But when they begin to see that their coworkers are becoming tired and are facing great difficulties, while they themselves have nothing to do, they only "listen to their conscience" when the job is nearly finished so that the boss or other people will not ask why they did not help out. Or, they might be looking for a way to prevent a possible complaint from their coworkers by going to the boss and saying: "My colleague has too much work to do by himself. I don't want things to get delayed, so please let me help him out." Thus, if the people actually doing the work complain, the liars can claim that they offered to help out, thereby "protecting"

themselves. In fact, liars may manage to avoid detection even when they are being watched closely. However, their lack of true morality, general behavior, words, and facial expressions eventually will reveal them for what they are: liars who are pushy, insincere, and rude.

Liars also scheme to have their own wishes met by others. For instance, they convince their friends to go where they want to go by lying effortlessly and speaking badly of the places where their friends want to go.

Or, they present a dish of food that they do not want or like to somebody else while praising it. Thus, they appear to be engaging in polite behavior and offering something to eat while their true intention is to get rid of the food.

When the team's work is shared out, they agree to do those tasks that superficially appear arduous but are really much easier, so that they will appear to be self-sacrificing. But in reality, the work has not been divided fairly and they have behaved selfishly.

They are on a constant quest for personal advantage, both large and small. Maybe they can rest for a few hours while everybody else is working, and have other people do their work, or carry out their demands. Although they seem to be gaining some benefit, in reality they are losing those things that are far more important: Allah, Who deprives such people of their intelligence, causes them to lose their lovable, attractive, and warm characteristics; and makes them become very cold, pushy and unlikable. Allah places a blight on such people, as stated in the following verse:

**No self can believe except with Allah's permission.
He places a blight on those who do not use their intellect. (Surah Yunus, 10:100)**

In addition, liars are unaware of the danger in which they find themselves. More importantly, they may lose Allah's approval and mercy, as well as Paradise. They overlook such facts for the sake of very small and temporary gains in this life, and thereby forsake eternal happiness, ease, peace, and unimaginably magnificent blessings in the afterlife. In the Qur'an, Allah informs us of those who will obtain no benefit from the Hereafter:

There are some people who say: "Our Lord, give us good in this world." They will have no share in the Hereafter. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:200)

THE QUR'AN DESCRIBES LIARS

Two-Faced Liars: Hypocrites

Allah defines hypocrites as a community of two-faced people, for one of their major characteristics is that they are liars. Although they do not believe, they claim belief in Allah and His Prophet (saas). Although they hate the believers, they proclaim their eternal love and loyalty toward the believers. And, while knowing that they will abandon the believers the moment that their own interests are threatened, they take an oath to remain with the believers under any circumstances. Our Prophet (saas) pointed out such facts by saying, *"Falsehood is a door of hypocrisy."*¹²

Hassan al-Basri, the great *Tabii* (student of the Companion), says this about hypocrisy and lying:

*"The people say that there is a difference between open and secret words and actions, and between entry into and going out of hypocrisy, but the sin on which hypocrisy is built is falsehood."*¹³

For example, Allah states in the Qur'an that hypocrites promise to help the believers but warns that they are lying:

Did you not see the hypocrites saying to their brothers, those among the People of the Book who do not believe: "If you are driven out, we will leave with you. We will never obey anyone to your detriment.

And if you are fought against, we will help you."? Allah bears witness that they are truly liars. If they are driven out, they will not leave with them. If they are fought against, they will not help them. And if they did help them, they would turn their backs and then they would not be helped. (Surat al-Hashr, 59:11-12)

Hypocrites also lie by giving false excuses for their treachery. In another verse, Allah informs us about such people:

Those Arabs who remained behind will say to you: "Our wealth and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us." They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say: "Who can control Allah for you in any way, whether He wants harm for you or wants benefit for you?" Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Fath, 48:11)

Another one of their characteristics is listening to lies. They pay attention to lies and try to provoke others by using lying words and imaginary events. Allah points out this characteristic as well:

O Messenger! Do not be grieved by those who rush headlong into unbelief among those who say "We believe" with their tongues when their hearts contain no faith. And among the Jews are those who listen to lies, listening to other people who have not come to you, distorting words from their proper meanings, saying: "If you are given this, then take it. If you are not given it, then beware!" If Allah wills not to guide someone, you cannot help him against Allah in any way. Those are the people whose hearts Allah does not will to purify. They will have disgrace in this

world, and in the Hereafter they will have a terrible punishment. They are people who listen to lies and consume ill-gotten gains. If they come to you, you can either judge between them or turn away from them. If you turn away from them, they cannot harm you in any way. But if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves the just. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 5:41-42)

Hypocrites consider themselves superior and are happy in the belief that they are deceiving the believers. In fact, this is a proof of how unwise and lacking in insight they really are, because even if they can conceal their hypocrisy, they cannot hide it from Allah. This lack of religious faith and hypocrisy will cause the hypocrites to receive the "reward" of eternal punishment of Hell. Allah points out their lack of wisdom in the following verses:

When they meet those who believe, they say: "We believe." But then when they go apart with their devils, they say: "We are really with you. We were only mocking." But Allah is mocking them, and drawing them on, as they wander blindly in their excessive insolence. Those are the people who have sold guidance for misguidance. Their trade has brought no profit; they are not guided. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:14-16)

The brothers of Prophet Yusuf (as)

Among the liars in the Qur'an are the brothers of Prophet Yusuf (as). Not only did they lie, but they slandered and swore false oaths.

Out of their jealousy of Yusuf (as), they planned to kill him. When it was time to implement their plan, they asked their father Ya`qub (as) to send him with them. To overcome

their father's initial hesitation, they swore an oath that they would protect Yusuf (as). However, from the very beginning their true intention was to kill him.

First they told their father that Yusuf (as) wanted to come with them and promised to look after him very well. This was all a part of their ploy, as the Qur'an reveals:

When they declared: "Why Yusuf and his brother [Benjamin] are dearer to our father than we are, although we constitute a powerful group. Our father is clearly making a mistake." (Surah Yusuf, 12:8)

Saying that Ya`qub's (as) great love for Yusuf (as) had caused him to make a mistake was a lie, because they were aware that Yusuf's (as) morality was far superior to their own and that therefore he was more deserving of his father's love.

"Kill Yusuf or expel him to some land so that your father will look to you alone, and then you can be people who do right." (Surah Yusuf, 12:9)

They all knew that they could not form a community who do right after killing their brother, but even after telling such a lie they still presented themselves as innocent of their planned immorality and cruelty, and as doing this out of their love for Ya`qub (as). This was also a lie, because people capable of killing their brother do not understand real love and cannot claim to do so. In fact, they wanted to kill their brother solely because of jealousy and rivalry.

They said: "Our Father, what is wrong with you that you refuse to trust us with Yusuf, when in truth we only wish him well? Why don't you send him out with us tomorrow so he can enjoy himself and play about? All of us will make sure that he is safe." (Surah Yusuf, 12:11-12)

They said: "If a wolf comes and eats him up when together we make up a powerful group, in that case we would truly be in loss!" (Surah Yusuf, 12:14)

As we can see, they took great pains to present themselves as very well-meaning and innocent brothers who only wished to serve their brother's well-being. They even guaranteed his safety. Despite all of their claims to the contrary, they took Yusuf (as) with them and threw him down a well. In order to present themselves as innocent, they resorted to more lies and false scenarios designed to hide the truth from their father. As the Qur'an relates:

That night they came back to their father in tears, saying: "Father, we went out to run a race and left Yusuf together with our things. A wolf appeared and ate him up. But you are never going to believe us now, even though we really tell the truth." They then produced his shirt with false blood on it. He said: "It is merely that your lower selves have suggested something to you which you did. But beauty lies in showing steadfastness. It is Allah alone Who is my Help in face of the event that you describe." (Surah Yusuf, 12:16-18)

Yusuf's (as) brothers wept in order to make their lies more persuasive. Weeping, making a show of emotion, blaming themselves, and presenting an innocent appearance are some of the liars' most common tactics, because they believe that such methods will make it easy for them to convince others. In addition, by saying that "you are never going to believe us now, even though we really tell the truth," they strengthen their show of emotion and try to suggest that their father is treating them unjustly. This is another common tactic.

Liars also manufacture false evidence to support their lies. Thus, the believers need to examine carefully all of the evidence presented to them by people of questionable faith so that they can avoid making decisions on the basis of first appearances. Indeed, Ya`qub (as) knew his sons very well because of the wisdom, insight, and intuition arising from his faith, and so he was not deceived by their false evidence. He realized that they had done something wicked, despite their weeping and their self-justifications.

The Qur'an mentions slanderers

One characteristic of liars is engaging in slander. In the Qur'an, Allah defines slanderers in the following terms:

Anyone who commits an error or an evil action, and then ascribes it to someone innocent, bears the weight of slander and clear wrongdoing. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:112)

Our Prophet (saas) also had words about people who slander others:

*"If a man uses a word in order to disgrace an innocent man [Muslim] in this world, Allah will burn him in Hell-fire on the Day of Resurrection."*¹⁴

The Qur'an gives a number of examples concerning slanderers, as follows:

The woman who slandered Yusuf (as)

Yusuf (as) was a believer who was fully devoted to Allah from an early age, and respected the boundaries set by Him. He was separated from his parents while still young, due to his brothers' plot, and so grew up in the household of an Egyptian governor.

Yusuf (as) was an unusually handsome man, a reality that caused the governor's wife to fall in love with him and desire an intimate relationship. However, because of his piety and awe of Allah, Yusuf (as) rejected her advances. When the governor came home, she slandered Yusuf (as) and said that he had tried to seduce her. As a result, the governor threw Yusuf (as) into prison. Allah describes this event in the Qur'an:

The woman whose house it was solicited him [Yusuf]. She barred the doors and said: "Come over here." He exclaimed: "Allah is my refuge! He is My Lord and has been good to me with where I live. Those who do wrong will surely not succeed." She wanted him, and he would have wanted her had he not seen the Clear Proof of his Lord. That happened so that We might avert from him all evil and lust. He was Our chosen servant. They raced to the door. She tore the back of his shirt. They met her husband by the door. She asked: "How should a man whose intention was to harm your family be punished for what he did, except with prison or a painful punishment?" He [Yusuf] said: "It was she who tried to seduce me." A witness from her family then declared: "If his shirt is torn in the front, she speaks the truth and he has clearly told a shameless lie. If his shirt is torn in the back, then she has lied and he has clearly told the simple truth." He [the governor] saw that the shirt torn in the back and said: "The source of this is women's deviousness. Without a doubt your guile is very great." (Surah Yusuf, 12:23-28)

Yusuf (as) was sent to prison, even though the governor knew she had committed slander. She freely confessed her slander to other women in the city, all of whom thereby be-

came her accomplices and did nothing to rescue Yusuf (as). Allah reveals this situation in the following verses:

Some city women said: "The governor's wife solicited her slave. He's fired her heart with love. We see that she's the one to blame." But when she heard of their malicious talk, she sent for them, made a sumptuous meal, and then gave a knife to each of them. She said [to Yusuf]: "Go out to them." When they saw him, they were amazed by him and cut their hands. They exclaimed: "Allah preserve us! This is no man. What can this be but a noble angel here!" She said, "You see! It's him you blamed me for. I tried seducing him, but he refused. If he does not do what I order him [to do], he will be put in prison and brought low." (Surah Yusuf, 12:30-32)

In societies that do not follow the Qur'an's morality, people who know that slanders, lies, and gossip are untrue remain silent to avoid harming their own interests. Following the idea of "a thousand blessings on a lie that does not harm me," they do nothing at all in the name of justice. The verses above are a clear example of this.

However, never forget that Allah is always on the side of honest and truthful people. Yusuf (as) was thrown to prison as a result of slander, but later on his truthfulness was realized and Allah blessed him by "**setting him over the treasuries of the land**" (Surah Yusuf, 12:55).

Yusuf's (as) brothers slander him

Yusuf's (as) brothers also slandered him. When they met him many years later, they did not recognize him and so described their "deceased" brother Yusuf (as) as a thief behind his

back. Even though they believed that Yusuf (as) was dead, their continued hatred for him caused them to lie about him. Allah describes this episode in the Qur'an:

They said: "If he [Benjamin] steals now, his brother [Yusuf] stole before." But Yusuf kept it to himself and still did not disclose it to them, saying: "The plight that you are in is worse than that. Allah knows best the matter you describe." (Surah Yusuf, 12:77)

Slandering believing women

The Qur'an also discusses slander directed against believing women, and informs the believers of how they should behave when confronted with such abuse. For example:

There is a group of you who propagated the lie. Do not suppose it to be bad for you; rather, it is good for you. Every one of them will incur the evil he has earned, and the one who took it on himself to amplify it will receive a terrible punishment. (Surat an-Nur, 24:11)

Those who [falsely] accuse chaste, unaware and believing women are cursed both in this world the Hereafter, and they will have a terrible punishment on the Day when their tongues, hands, and feet will testify against them about what they were doing. On that Day, Allah will pay them in full what is due to them, and they will know that Allah is the Clear Truth. (Surat an-Nur, 24:23-25)

Allah tells the believers that they should not condone slander; rather, they should protest it by identifying it for what it is. Many people love to listen to and pass on sensational news, even when they know it is gossip and lies. Allah informs us of such

people in the following terms:

They are people who listen to lies and consume ill-gotten gains. If they come to you, you can either judge between them or turn away from them. If you turn away from them, they cannot harm you in any way. But if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves the just. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 5:42)

Allah mentions those believers who heed Him in this matter in the following terms:

Why, when you heard it, did you not, as male and female believers, instinctively think good thoughts and say: "This is obviously a lie?" Why did they not produce four witnesses to it? Since they did not bring four witnesses, in Allah's sight they are liars. Were it not for Allah's favor to you and His mercy, both in this world and the Hereafter, a terrible punishment would have afflicted you for your plunging headlong into it [slander]. You were bandying it about on your tongues, your mouths uttering something about which you had no knowledge. You considered it to be a trivial matter, but in Allah's sight it is immense. Why, when you heard it, did you not say: "We have no business speaking about this. Glory be to You! This is a terrible slander!"? (Surat an-Nur, 24:12-16)

In addition, Allah orders the believers to scrutinize carefully each report they receive from a person of doubtful faith or an unbeliever. Otherwise, a lie or a slanderous accusation may damage an innocent person. With the mercy of Allah, such a risk is removed.

O you who believe! If a deviator brings you a report, scrutinize it carefully in case you attack people in ig-

norance and so come to greatly regret what you have done. (Surat al-Hujurat, 49:6)

Distorting that which is lawful or forbidden

Among the biggest lies told against Allah is the distortion of what He permits and forbids. In one verse, Allah states:

Do not say about what your lying tongues describe: "This is lawful and this is forbidden," inventing lies against Allah. Those who invent lies against Allah are not successful. (Surat an-Nahl, 16:116)

In order to make religion look more difficult than it is, or to make themselves look more pious than they are, some people forbid for themselves and others things that are lawful. In fact, Allah makes it clear in the Qur'an exactly what is lawful and what is not.

For various twisted reasons, some people try to present unlawful things as lawful. They take on a great responsibility and attempt things that they will not be able to account for in the Hereafter and for which they will be punished. Allah warns them with the following words:

Say: "What do you think about the things Allah has sent down to you as provision, which you have then designated as lawful and forbidden?" Say: "Has Allah given you authority to do this, or are you inventing lies against Allah?" (Surah Yunus, 10:59)

In fact, the source of what is right and wrong is the Qur'an and the Sunnah of our Prophet (saas), as his life was, in fact, a living explanation of the Qur'an.

Telling lies against Allah

Some people lie in the name of religion. As explained above, they allow the forbidden and forbid the allowed, or try 79

to show that religion contains things that it does not. Likewise, they present as non-existent some things that are contained in religion. In the Qur'an, Allah warns these people that He will punish them in Hell:

Who could do greater wrong than those who lie about Allah and deny the truth when it comes to them? Do the unbelievers not have a dwelling place in Hell? (Surat az-Zumar, 39:32)

On the Day of Rising you will see those who lied against Allah with their faces blackened. Do not the arrogant have a dwelling place in Hell? (Surat az-Zumar, 39:60)

Who could do greater wrong than those who invent lies against Allah? Such people will be arrayed before their Lord and the witnesses will say: "Those are the ones who lied against their Lord." Yes indeed! Allah's curse is on the wrongdoers, those who bar access to the way of Allah and seek in it something crooked and reject the Hereafter. They were not able to thwart Allah on Earth, and had no protectors besides Allah. The punishment will be doubled for them. They were unable to hear and could not see. (Surah Hud, 11:18-20)

Allah gives some examples of the imaginary things that people say are part of religion:

Those of you who divorce your wives by equating them with your mothers—they are not your mothers. Your mothers are only those who gave birth to you. What you are saying is wrong and a slanderous lie. But Allah is Ever-Pardoning, Ever-Forgiving. (Surat al-Mujadala, 58:2)

Is it falsehood—deities besides Allah—that you desire? (Surat as-Saffat, 37:86)

No indeed, it is one of their blatant lies to say: "Allah has given birth." They are truly liars. (Surat as-Saffat, 37:151-52)

And [He has sent down the Book] to warn those who say: "Allah has a son." They have no knowledge of this, neither they nor their fathers. It is a monstrous utterance that has issued from their mouths. What they say is nothing but a lie. (Surat al-Kahf, 18:4-5)

Among the People of the Book there are some who, if you entrust them with a pile of gold, will return it to you. But there are others among them who, if you entrust them with just a single dinar, will not return it to you unless you stay standing over them. That is because they say: "We are under no obligation where the Gentiles are concerned." They tell a lie against Allah, and they know it. (Surah Al `Imran, 3:75)

Among them is a group who distort the Book with their tongues so that you think it is from the Book when it is not from the Book. They say: "It is from Allah," but it is not from Allah. They tell a lie against Allah, and they know it. (Surah Al `Imran, 3:78)

Some people make up lies in order not to join the true religion or follow Allah's path. Allah addresses these people with the following words:

Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents a lie against Allah when he has been called to Islam? Allah does not guide wrongdoing people. (Surat as-Saff, 61:7)

Some people tell lies about Allah and try to present Him

to others as different from what He is. While some of these people may say that they believe in Allah, their behavior, beliefs, and lifestyles clearly show that they do not. For example, when faced with difficulties, they immediately lose hope in Allah's help. Or, when they think that they have been the victim of injustice, they protest. In contrast, those who know Allah never have any wrong ideas about Him. Allah informs us of people who make up lies about Him in these verses:

Say: "People who invent lies against Allah will not be successful." (Surah Yunus, 10:69)

Look how they invent lies against Allah. That suffices as an outright sin. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:50)

SINCERELY CONFESSING LIES SHOWS FAITH IN ALLAH

Just as lying reveals devotion to Satan, honestly confessing lies reveals faith in Allah. People can make mistakes, listen to Satan, and say something wrong at any moment. But when they realize and confess their error right away, Satan's influence over them is destroyed. Moreover, such sincere repentance also shows that they are devoted to and heed Allah.

Believers should always be honest and, if they say something wrong in an unguarded moment, should confess the truth immediately, regardless of the consequences to themselves. In one verse, Allah instructs the believers to do exactly that:

O you who believe! Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for Allah alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, Allah is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth. If you twist or turn away, Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:135)

Confessing a lie or another evil act, requesting Allah's forgiveness, repenting sincerely, and finally vowing to abandon such a forbidden practice bring great benefits and blessings. Above everything else, believers must do this only to gain

Allah's love and mercy. In addition, following this procedure also destroys any potential arrogance on their part and makes them humble.

In several verses, Allah gives examples of people who realized their errors, repented, and turned toward Him. All of these are fine examples for believers, and following their example is one way of gaining Allah's mercy and approval, and Paradise. Here are some of these verses:

But others have acknowledged their wrong actions and mixed a right action with another, which is wrong. It may well be that Allah will turn toward them. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat at-Tawba, 9:102)

Anyone who does evil or wrongs himself and then asks Allah's forgiveness will find Allah Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat an-Nisa', 4:110)

But if anyone repents after his wrongdoing and puts things right, Allah will turn toward him. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 5:39)
[People who guard against evil are] those who, when they act indecently or wrong themselves, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their bad actions—and who can forgive bad actions except Allah?—and do not knowingly persist in what they were doing. Their recompense is forgiveness from their Lord, and Gardens with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, forever. How excellent is the reward of those who act! (Surah Al `Imran, 3:135-36)

Those who confess their evil and repent are no longer under Satan's influence, for their sincere confession and repentance mean that they are following the path of Allah. In the

Qur'an, Allah states that some people serve Him while others serve Satan:

Did I not make a contract with you, tribe of Adam, not to worship Satan, who truly is an outright enemy to you, but to worship Me? That is a straight path. (Surah Ya Sin, 36: 60-61)

In fact, Satan has only a very weak influence over people. While he tells lies and fills people with false hopes, at no time does he have the power to coerce them. In spite of this, arrogant people who are devoted to their own benefits and this temporary worldly life are influenced by his blandishments right away. The believers, because of their love of Allah and devotion to Him, do not come within Satan's sphere of influence. Even if Satan does influence them briefly, they immediately think of Allah and see the truth. As Allah states in the Qur'an:

He [Satan] has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord. He only has authority over those who take him as a friend and associate others with Allah. (Surat an-Nahl, 16:99-100)

Those who heed Allah will never do anything of which He disapproves, no matter how much their own advantage may be harmed. In every act, their sole aim is to earn His approval and mercy, and Paradise. Arrogant people devoted to themselves always pursue their own desires, and so may fall into evil at any time.

In the Qur'an, Allah compares these two different types of people:

When he is told to stand in awe of Allah, he is seized by pride, which drives him to wrongdoing. Hell will be enough for him! What an evil resting-place! And among the people there are some who give up every-

thing, desiring the good pleasure of Allah. Allah is Ever-Gentle with His servants. (Surat al-Baqara, 2:206-7)

As these verses state, arrogant people find it easy to lie on their own behalf. Those who do everything for Allah's approval, however, never lie, no matter how much their own interests may be damaged.

Islamic scholar Mehmed Zahid Kotku explains why this is so and points out what happens to those who lie, as follows:

"A person who tells lies against the society to guard his personal interests must be one of those thoughtless fools, or even someone who is an atheist or ignorant of the faith and has lost his reason. A conscious person does not stoop to lying or take notice of it, for he knows that lying is shameful and will sooner or later be exposed. In contrast, a Muslim is very pure in character and courteous, for he does not want his character to be blemished. For this reason, he avoids lying at all costs, for he knows that lies are the mark of a hypocrite. Allah does not like liars at all. Our Prophet (saas) does not like what Allah does not like. Of course, it is impossible for people and angels to like those whom Allah and the Prophet (saas) do not like.

This being the case, to be a liar is to be a disgraced, immoral, low grade, and valueless person who is despised by everybody. The liar is disgraced in this world and the next. Lying is not the business of noble people, but of vulgar or, more correctly, despicable ones. It is out of the question for a noble person, if he is a Muslim, to lie when getting down to business. Because of this, a Muslim is always noble and honest. He never stoops to lying."¹⁵

Kotku advises the believers to adhere to honesty with

these words:

*"Seek honesty. No matter how much danger there may be in it, certain salvation lies in honesty. There is glory in honesty, so do not deviate from it. Lying is debased morality, so avoid it. There is nothing so fine as honesty in the life of this world. In the sight of Allah and of people, there is nothing as bad as lying."*¹⁶

THE SOLUTION TO LYING— NOT WISHING TO DISPLEASE ALLAH

People lie because they do not know and heed Allah as they should. Those who are aware that Allah sees and hears them at all times, knows their heart and innermost thoughts, and knows all of their thoughts, and who understand this reality, never lie. They strive to avoid incurring Allah's punishment and take refuge in Him, and do their best not to utter a single word that will earn them His displeasure in the Hereafter. If they do utter such a word, through thoughtlessness or error, they correct it immediately and ask Allah to forgive them.

The main characteristic of liars is that they either do not believe in the afterlife or that they doubt their faith and therefore do not think very much about the afterlife. As Allah tells us in the Qur'an, **"those who do not believe in Allah's Signs are merely inventing lies..."** (Surat an-Nahl, 16:105).

Those who have some degree of belief in Allah fear the recompense that their lies will bring them in the Hereafter and so avoid lying. In several verses, one of which is related below, Allah informs us that the traps of those engaged in evil plotting are broken:

Shown by their arrogance in the land and evil plot-

ting. But evil plotting envelops only those who do it. Do they expect anything but the pattern of previous peoples? You will not find any changing in the pattern of Allah. You will not find any alteration in the pattern of Allah. (Surah Fatir, 35:43)

There is only one way for a person to abandon lying and all forms of immorality: heeding Allah, believing in the Hereafter, and fearing the punishment of Hell. Allah tells us about this truth: "... **You can only warn those who fear their Lord in the Unseen and perform prayer. Whoever is purified, is purified for himself alone. Allah is your final destination.**" (Surah Fatir, 35:18)

In addition, people should expose lies on every occasion and avoid any silent complicity with those who lie by pretending to believe them. Rather, they should make the people admit their lies by not remaining silent, for if they do not so, the liars will take pride in the "fact" that he has "deceived" them and will not abandon his bad behavior.

In order to truly abandon lying, people should consider the real state of those to whom they are talking, for lies are told to earn respect or personal advantage. When people understand that everyone is a powerless servant of Allah and that only gaining His good pleasure—as opposed to that of others—is important, there is no longer any reason to lie.

NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO LIE IN THE HEREAFTER

Those who lie and act deceitfully in this world, while forgetting that they will be called to account in the Hereafter for all that they have done and said, will not be able to find the strength to lie in the Hereafter. Even if they want to lie, Allah will give them no chance to do so, will seal up their mouths, and will enable their bodily parts to declare, against their owner's will, the truth of that which they were made to do.

Allah tells us, in several verses, that all liars will betray themselves:

Today We seal up their mouths, and their hands speak to us and their feet bear witness to what they have earned. (Surah Ya Sin, 36:65)

When they reach it [the Fire], their hearing, sight, and skin will testify against them concerning what they did. They will ask their skins: "Why did you testify against us?" and they will reply: "Allah gave us speech, as He has given speech to everything. He created you in the first place, and you will be returned to Him. You did not think to shield yourselves from your hearing, sight, and skin testifying against you, and you thought that Allah would never know much of what you did. It is that thought you had about your

Lord that has destroyed you, so now you find yourselves among the lost." If they are steadfast, the Fire will still be their residence! If they ask for favor, no favor will be given. (Surah Fussilat, 41:20-24)

Allah also informs us of how "a lying sinner" will be punished on the Day of Judgment and of how he or she will reveal what they have concealed within themselves, even though they may have concealed it many years ago:

No indeed! If he does not desist, We will grab him by the forelock, a lying, sinful forelock. Let him call his attendants; We will call the Guards of Hell! No indeed! Do not obey him, but prostrate and draw near. (Surat al-`Alaq, 96:15-19)

Truly man is ungrateful to his Lord, and indeed he bears witness to that. Truly he is fierce in his love of wealth. Does he not know that when the graves are emptied out, and the heart's contents are brought into the open? (Surat al-`Adiyat, 100:6-10)

Liars might not be confronted with their lies in this world, for sometimes people do not notice them or, if they do, they might tolerate them. But in the Hereafter, each individual will receive the just reward for all of his or her wrongdoing. In one verse, Allah mentions that those who lie to the angels sent to take their souls at the moment of death, will find their lies rejected, and that they will receive their final "reward":

The angels ask those they take while they are wronging themselves: "What were your circumstances?" They reply; "We were oppressed on Earth." They [angels] say: "Was Allah's Earth not wide enough for you to have migrated elsewhere in it?" The shelter of such people will be Hell. What an evil destination! (Surat

an-Nisa', 4:97)

In another verse, Allah describes the liars' last moments of life in this world and their ultimate end, as follows:

Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents lies against Allah or denies His Signs, or who says: "It has been revealed to me," when nothing has been revealed to him, or someone who says: "I will send down the same as Allah has sent down."? If you could only see the wrongdoers in the throes of death, when the angels are stretching out their hands, saying: "Disgorge your own selves! Today you will be repaid with the punishment of humiliation for saying something other than the truth about Allah..." (Surat al-An`am, 6:93)

Those who do not respect the limits set by Allah and make a habit of lying will feel great regret in the Hereafter. Those who have wisdom and a conscience should consider this end, stay away from all lies, both great and small, and always tell the truth.

SAYINGS OF OUR PROPHET (saas) ON AVOIDING LIES

*"On the Resurrection Day, the worst men in Allah's sight will be the liars, the proud, and those who entertained hatred in the mind of their friends."*¹⁷

*"You will see on the Resurrection Day the worst man near Allah with two faces."*¹⁸

*"If you narrate to your brother a narration that he believes for you but that you do not believe for him, it will be a breach of trust."*¹⁹

*"A man is enrolled near Allah as a liar if he is accustomed to false speaking and false discussions."*²⁰

*"I advise you to fear Allah, to speak the truth, to fulfill a trust, to fulfill a promise, to greet each other with "peace" [salam], and to be humble."*²¹

*"If any man takes an oath in the name of Allah and admits therein any falsehood, even though it be as minute as a fly's wing, he will find a spot remaining in his soul up to the Day of Resurrection."*²²

*"O Allah, purify my heart from hypocrisy, my private parts from fornication, and my tongue from falsehood."*²³

*"He who narrates a dream that he has not seen will be put to trouble."*²⁴

*"The worst of lies is to pretend to have seen something that one has not seen."*²⁵

*"Treat well my Companions and then those who will come after them. Thereafter falsehood will spread, so much so that a man will take oath and then say 'I have not taken oath,' and he will bear witness and then say 'I have not witnessed.'"*²⁶

*"He who attributes to me a hadith, while knowing it to be false, is one of the liars."*²⁷

*"The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was asked, 'Can a believer be a liar?' He said: 'No.'"*²⁸

*"A most serious form of betrayal of faith is that you tell a lie to a brother while he believes that you are truthful in what you say."*²⁹

*"If anyone is pleased to love Allah and His Messenger, or rather to have Allah and His Messenger love him, he should speak the truth when he tells anything, fulfil his trust when he is put in a position of trust, and be a good neighbor."*³⁰

*"He in whom there are three matters is a hypocrite: (1) when he speaks, he speaks falsehood, (2) when he promises, he breaks it, and (3) when he is entrusted with something, he does not fulfill the trust."*³¹

*"Speak the truth even though it might be bitter."*³²

*"The honest trader will be with the Prophets, the Truthful, and the Martyrs."*³³

*"Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the greatest falsehood."*³⁴

*"I warn you against making a false statement and giving a false testimony."*³⁵

*"Shall I not inform you of a great sin? Beware, it is to speak falsehood."*³⁶

"Both parties in a business transaction have a right to annul it so long as they have not separated. If they tell the truth and make everything clear to each other, they will be blessed in

their transaction. But if they conceal anything and lie, the blessing on their transaction will be blotted out."³⁷

*Abdullah ibn Amr reported that the Messenger of Allah was asked: "Who among men is the best?" He replied: "Everyone who is pure of heart and truthful of tongue." They enquired: "Truthful of tongue"—we know it. But what is "pure of heart"? He said: He is pure and pious upon whom there is no sin, transgression, deceit, or malice.*³⁸

*The Holy Prophet was asked about the means of attaining perfection. He replied: Truthfulness in talk and action with sincerity.*³⁹

*"Give up what is doubtful to you for that which is not doubtful, for truth is peace of mind and falsehood is doubt."*⁴⁰

HOW SOME ISLAMIC SCHOLARS VIEW LYING

Al- Ghazali: "Lying is the mother of all great sins. If a person is known as a liar, no trust in his words remains, he loses prestige, and his opinions become worthless. If you want to understand the ugliness of lying, look at the ugliness of the lies of others and see the extent to which your soul feels hatred. Note how much the liar is held in contempt and how ugly you will find the lie that is told..."⁴¹

Al-Munawi: "The ugliness of lying is the cause of bringing about all other forms of ugliness. With the abandonment of lying, ugliness is abandoned too."⁴²

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi: "... Honesty is the real, solid foundation of the Islamic religion, the tie that binds people of superior morality together and the most exalted state of mind. This is so true that we have to encourage truth and honesty, the basis of community life, inside ourselves and use it to treat our spiritual ills.

Yes, truth and honesty are the vital forces of Islamic communal life. Hypocrisy is actually a form of lying. Sycophancy and pretence are abject lying. Causing discord and hypocrisy are damaging forms of lying. Lying means to slander the omnipotence of Allah, the Creator. Disbelief is deception about

everything; it is lying. Faith is truth and honesty. Because of this secret, there is a boundless difference between deceit and honesty. They are as far apart as east and west. It is necessary to avoid confusing the fire and the light.

Honesty and deceit are as far apart from one another as faith and unbelief. In his time, Muhammad (saas) stated that the level of humanity could be achieved only by impartial honesty, and that with the key of honesty, the secret of opening the truths of faith and the treasury of the signs of Allah in the universe, humanity will obtain truth, the most sought-after item in the marketplace and the most valuable merchandise."⁴³

"The absolute majority of the Companions of the Prophet were lovers of the truth, truthfulness, and justice. For in that age, the ugliness of lies and falsehood was shown in all its ugliness and the beauty of light and truthfulness was shown in all its beauty in such a way that the distance between them stretched from the ground to the Divine Throne. There was a clear separation between them, from the depths of Musaylima the Liar at the lowest of the low to the degree of truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings be upon him) at the highest of the high...

Thus, the Companions, who held elevated sentiments and worshipped good morals and were illuminated with the light of the conversation of the Sun of Prophethood, did not stretch out their hands to the buffoonery and filth of the lying in Musaylima's shop, which was so ugly and the cause of descent, and they shrank from unbelief. So too they shrank from lying, the companion of unbelief..."⁴⁴

Falsehoods are Blasphemies

One grain of truth wipes out a million lies. One grain of

reality razes a castle of dreams. Honesty is a grand principle, a lustruous jewel.

If for the truth to be uttered it is damaging, it resigns its place to silence; lies have no place, even if they have some use.

Everything you say should be true, all your pronouncements right, but you have no right to say all that is true.

. . . See the good side of things; you will have good thoughts. Know things to be good and think of them as good; you will find the pleasure in life.

In life, hope and thinking favorably of things are life itself. While to think the worst is despair, the destroyer of happiness and slayer of life."⁴⁵

Mehmed Zahid Kotku: "There are three signs of a hypocrite: When he speaks, he lies, does not keep his word, and is treacherous with what is entrusted to him." If these three easily recognizable ugly forms of behavior are to be found in the same person, we do not hesitate to brand him a hypocrite right away.

There are two aspects of hypocrisy. One relates to one's acts, the other to one's belief, which is the most serious one. The sign of both is the three types of behavior mentioned above.

Lying is strongly condemned by every society, every people, and every individual. In Turkish, we say: 'The liar's candle burns until evening prayers.' Light is a night-time need for people. If you lie, this means you are deprived of the light that you need at night and remain all night in darkness, and that when you need a light, you will be unable to find one. Lying is shameful. Everywhere, people do not listen to the words or the conversation of anybody who is known to be a liar. Later on,

your children will learn lying from you and become liars themselves. Later on, too, nobody will trust you, and there is no way of imagining a situation as dangerous as not being trusted by others. A person's word is his essence. What his essence is, so are his words. The words of a person whose essence is corrupt are full of lies. The words of a person whose essence is really pure are as valuable as gold. He knows that honesty suits a person. The One Who helps the honest person is Allah. Never doubt this. The Qur'an always directs us towards what is right.

'Guide us on the Straight Path.' (Surat al-Fatiha, 1:5)

Never forget! All salvation, prosperity, success, and benefit is in honesty. Paradise is the place of the honest. The good pleasure of Allah is in honesty.

A lie slithers like a snake. It cannot go straight. Because of this, it is feared by all and loved by nobody.

Amongst the people of the world today there are atheists and people of other religions. None of these like lies. Even though they are atheists or do not believe in the Hereafter, remember that there are also unbelievers who do not tell lies."⁴⁶

"The companions of Paradise tell the truth at all times; the companions of Hell lie. May Allah protect us from lies and lying. A lie makes a small black mark, a trace in the heart; later on, this invades the whole heart and turns it completely black. After that, no good can come from that person. He will not be a man of good, but may be a man of wickedness. Of course, those whose beliefs are good are in Heaven, while, in contrast, those whose beliefs are wicked are in Hell."⁴⁷

`Abd al Qadir Jilani: "What has Satan not done to you? ... He made you love lies. He wreathed you evil deeds."⁴⁸

"Shame on you. You speak to the people of honesty, but

your business is lying... "49

"Honesty is the earthly sword of Allah. It cuts whatever it touches."50

"Allah requires honesty in His servants. Those wishing to attain it require the light of skill. The sun of skill rises in the hearts of the men of understanding. That sun sinks neither by day nor by night. Those who possess that sun are honest."51

`Abdullah ibn `Abbas: "The one who profits who bears the four moral qualities: Honesty, modesty, superior morality, and gratitude."52

`Ali ibn Abi Talib: "The greatest error in the sight of Allah is a lying tongue. The most heart-felt regret is the regret felt on the Day of Judgment."53

`Umar ibn al-Khattab: "The best loved ones in our sight are not those of you with [fine] reputations or the finest appearances, but rather those who please us the most in what we see inside of them, the ones with the finest characters. When we test you, the ones we like the most are those who are the most truthful and show the maximum care for what has been entrusted to them."54

"I have not lied since realizing that doing so demeans a person."55

`A'isha: "The immorality that most offended the Companions of the Prophet (saas) was lying."56

Maymun ibn Abi Shabib: "One day I sat down to write a letter. At that time, I came face to face with the possibility of

adding another word. If I had added that word, the letter would have been more beautiful but I would have been lying. Finally, I decided not to write it. The words of Surah Ibrahim 14:27 came to my mind: "Allah makes those who believe firm with the Firm Word in the life of this world and the Hereafter. But Allah leads the wrongdoers astray. Allah does whatever He wills."⁵⁷

Malik ibn Dinar: "I read this in a book: The words of every clerk are compared with what he does. If his words conform to his actions, he is regarded as an honest man. If they do not conform, he is considered to be a liar..."⁵⁸

"Truth and lies are at war within the heart. This war continues until one drives out the other."⁵⁹

Abu Hurayra: "It is not possible for a hypocrite to be a trusted person in the sight of Allah."⁶⁰

CONCLUSION: THE HONEST PERSON ALWAYS GAINS

The majority of people do not think they deserve to be called liars just because they tell small or "white" lies. This may arise from their failure to consider what a lie actually is. Although people might not consider such lies important, based upon their attitude of "What's wrong with this?" or some other justification, each lie may place the liar's eternal Hereafter in great danger. Social norms or people's opinions, whether positive or negative, cannot change this fact.

At first glance, it may seem that people who are hypocritical, sly liars obtain certain advantages and benefits in this world's temporary life. But this is deceptive, for such people always forfeit all of their respect, both in their own eyes and in those of others, in the end. In this world, they cannot experience true friendship, love, trust, sincerity, brotherhood, peace, or comfort; in the Hereafter, they may be punished very severely. Allah informs us of the situation of liars in the following verse:

**Damned will be the conjecturers, those who flounder
in a glut of ignorance. (Surat adh-Dhariyat, 51:10-11)**

Sometimes, honest people may find themselves in a position of difficulty. But because they are honest and sincere, they

always gain in the end. In this life and in the afterlife, Allah offers them His blessing, mercy, love, and approval. Moreover, He rewards their steadfast morality by willing them to enter Paradise. Allah informs us in the Qur'an of the splendid end that awaits each honest and sincere individual:

Allah will say: "This is the Day when the truthfulness of the truthful will benefit them. They will have Gardens with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, forever and ever. Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. That is the Great Victory." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 5:119)

Our Prophet (saas) also advises people to adhere to honesty and to avoid lying with these wise words:

*"Avoid falsehood, for falsehood leads to wickedness and wickedness to Hell. If a man continues to speak falsehood and makes falsehood his object, he will be recorded in Allah's presence as a great liar. Adhere to the truth, for truth leads to good deeds, and good deeds lead to Paradise. If a man continues to speak the truth and makes truth his object, he will be recorded in Allah's presence as eminently truthful."*⁶¹

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

Darwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of clear "design" in the universe and in living things. In this way, science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it. The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the United States in particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the concept of intelligent design to account for the origin of life. This "intelligent design" is a scientific expression of the fact that Allah created all living things.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

THE SCIENTIFIC COLLAPSE OF DARWINISM

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

- 1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.
- 2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.
- 3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the

theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

THE FIRST INSURMOUNTABLE STEP: THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"LIFE COMES FROM LIFE"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from

wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."⁶²

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

INCONCLUSIVE EFFORTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had

to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.⁶³

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.⁶⁴

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.⁶⁵

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?⁶⁶

THE COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF LIFE

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly com-

plex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.⁶⁷

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from

natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

IMAGINARY MECHANISM OF EVOLUTION

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection...*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species*:

Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.⁶⁸

LAMARCK'S IMPACT

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin

tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.⁶⁹

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

NEO-DARWINISM AND MUTATIONS

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex

organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B.G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.⁷⁰

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

THE FOSSIL RECORD: NO SIGN OF INTERMEDIATE FORMS

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.⁷¹

DARWIN'S HOPES SHATTERED

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find—over and over again—not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.⁷²

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.⁷³

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the Earth. That means that "the origin of

species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.

THE TALE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. *Australopithecus*
2. *Homo habilis*
3. *Homo erectus*
4. *Homo sapiens*

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus*, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.⁷⁴

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "homo," that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus*. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there

is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo sapiens*, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."⁷⁵

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus* > *Homo habilis* > *Homo erectus* > *Homo sapiens*, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.⁷⁶

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.⁷⁷

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the robust australopithecines, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.⁷⁸

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected

scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible—and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.⁷⁹

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

DARWINIAN FORMULA!

Besides all the technical evidence we have dealt with so far, let us now for once, examine what kind of a superstition the evolutionists have with an example so simple as to be understood even by children:

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name "Darwinian formula":

Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids—which have no possibility of forming under natural conditions—and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 10^{-950} —as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope. They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches,

peafowls, pheasants, multicoloured butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.

Briefly, unconscious atoms cannot form the cell by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with Allah's superior creation.

The theory of evolution, which claims the opposite, is a total fallacy completely contrary to reason. Thinking even a little bit on the claims of tevolutionists discloses this reality, just as in the above example.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE EYE AND THE EAR

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to at-

tain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the

human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospheric sounds as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

TO WHOM DOES THE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT SEES AND HEARS WITHIN THE BRAIN BELONG?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A MATERIALIST FAITH

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal

world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.⁸⁰

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is Allah, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS THE MOST POTENT SPELL IN THE WORLD

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of sci-

ence or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Musa (pbuh) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 2: 6-7)

... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cat-

tle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr, 15: 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Musa and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Musa to meet with his own magicians. When Musa did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Musa and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

We revealed to Musa, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 117-118)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge also stated this:

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.⁸¹

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

They said, "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

(Surat al-Baqara, 2: 32)

NOTES

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