



# Devil's Strategies: Four Devil's Impulses to Mislead People in Tafseer

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## Abstract

This research aims to find out the steps used by devil to mislead people in the Quran. This research refers to devil's efforts to tempt, divert, and mislead humans from the right path, and provides guidelines and strategies for humans to face devil's temptations and misdirection in everyday life. This type of research uses qualitative methods with a thematic analysis approach, the data source is taken from eighty-three words that refer to the meaning of devil in the Quran. The eighty-three devil words were then analyzed thematically based on ten books of interpretation. Furthermore, to strengthen the analysis and discussion the author also refers to books, expert opinions, and various findings from previous researchers related to this issue and topic. Analysis findings This reveals how devil's strategy is to mislead humans according to some *mufassir*, there are four steps of devil in the Quran which explain how devil misleads humans from several *mufassir* reveal what human nature is like i) inciting people to enmity, ii) wastefulness, iii) whispering evil thoughts, iv) making people forget to remember Allah. Based on these findings it could be the basis for further research and understanding of devil strategies in misleading people as well as a basis for future researchers to discuss this problem in different contexts and problems.

## INTRODUCTION

In the book *al-Mu'jam al-Mufabbras Li Alfaẓ Alquran al-Karim* say the *devil* is mentioned seventy-eight times. But not everything that means the devil leads people astray, out of seventy-eight verses that discuss the tricks of the devil as many as thirty-eight verses. the devil is taken from the word شيطان which means far away because شطن keeps him away from the truth and away from God's grace. It can also be taken from words شاط in the sense of doing wrong or burning. In terms of meaning, linguist al-Jauhari (d. 105) explained that all who oppose both jinn and humans are called devils (Baqi, tt).

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devil is not only attached to the devil but also to humans who try to tempt and keep humans away from the truth (Rumbay & Parengkuan, 2021). Devil is a title given by God to rational beings (jinns and humans) who develop against God's commands and tempt and mislead people. Therefore the mention of devil can be attributed to Jinn and humans. The Quran has said that one of the characteristics of devout people is people who believe in things unseen, and one of the creatures unseen is the devil (Sakat et al., 2015). Therefore, a Muslim must know about this the goal is for the Quran to be truly realized as this *is buda li al- nas* (hint for humans). Allah SWT. Devil has the special characteristic of being able to see humans, but humans cannot see him, so he can easily monitor all human movements and actions while they are not aware of it. Devil's main target and clearer goal is to accompany humans to hell jahannam to come with them (Achmad, 2022).

In the book *Lisanul 'Arab* by Imam ibn Manzur, شيطاً و شياطة و شيطوطة: احترق which means burning. The term devil is not only used for jinn but can also be given to humans, humans who are disobedient and lead them astray are also called devils. It can be understood that devil's plans are very dangerous for humans. They help each other by various means of deception and misdirection, the devils work together to help each other mislead and plunge each other into hell. If humans could realize this, they would protect themselves from devil's deception (Al-Raghib, 2009).

The concept of the devil varies across cultures and religions but is generally considered an evil creature that tries to tempt humans into committing sins and evil deeds. Devil is known as a creator of chaos, a slanderer. Allah Devil has the special characteristic of being able to see humans, but humans cannot see him, so he can easily monitor all human movements and actions while they are not aware of it (Qamar, 2013). Allah devil has given devil a special characteristic of being able to see humans, but humans cannot see him, so he can easily monitor all human movements and actions while they are not aware of it. This can lead humans to dreams that are not useful so that they can cause bad things. and it is just a hoax.

Devil is a creature entangled in greed and pride that desires power. Devil also encourages humans to create conflict and chaos, and devil is also known as a cunning creature trying to derail humans. And they are proud creatures. The devil is hostile to the prophets and people so that they do not follow the footsteps of the prophets, because they are people who disobey God, he also persuades other people to do evil and abandon the commandments of God. Therefore, the devil's trickery is very dangerous and must be guarded against. because the devil also has a mission to plunge people into hell. Devil is forever trying to whisper in the hearts of believers, by showing various pleasures of the world and its ornaments, encouraging people to follow their lust. All that is aimed at turning people away from the truth. The devil cooperate with each other, helping each other in going astray (Muhammad, 2014).

## METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a thematic analysis approach, the data source is taken from eighty-three words that refer to the meaning of devil in the Quran. The eighty-three devil words were then analyzed thematically based on ten tafsir books (Azima, 2017; Hidayat et al., 2019). According to Castleberry & Nolen, (2018); Spiers & Riley, (2019) this research approach can be used to discuss certain problems, issues, or topics originating from literature that has been collected as a whole and then take themes that are appropriate to the required data. After all the research data has been collected, the next step is to select the necessary data according to the theme that will be raised in this article (Fadhlan et al., 2023). Next, we discuss the collected data and then divide it into discussion themes, to strengthen the analysis and discussion. Researchers also refer to expert opinion books and

various findings from previous researchers related to this issue and topic (Ramli et al., 2017).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the author's analysis regarding the steps used by Devil to mislead humans in the Quran, he found the results of four of Devil's incentives to mislead humans, namely: first, inciting humans to hostility. Second, waste. Third, whisper evil thoughts. Fourth, it makes people forget to remember Allah. To make it easier to understand, the author explains this based on tafseer books, related books, literature, and previous research.

First, inciting humans to hostility. Secret conversations or what could also be called gossiping are one of Devil's attempts to destroy human relationships so that divisions and quarrels occur. Therefore, Allah explains in the Quran Surah al-Mujadalah verse 10

إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَى مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ لِيَحْزُنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَيْسَ بِضَارِّهِمْ شَيْئًا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

It means: *"Indeed, the secret talk is only from the devil, so that the believers will be saddened, while it (talk) does not harm them in the slightest, except with the permission of God. Only in God should the believers trust"* (Al-Quran Surah al-Mujadalah: 10).

Allah warned them to stay away from secret conversations, gossip, and seeking information without the knowledge of the Muslim community. Meanwhile, he is part of that group and their interests are his interests, so that a group does not feel excluded from its group on any issue. Allah emphasizes that if a Muslim hears whispering, exclusion, and gossip it will cause sadness and guilt in him. Allah emphasizes that Devil always persuades two people who chat in secret to cause sadness and sorrow in the hearts of their brothers. Allah emphasizes that believers should be sure that Devil will not achieve his goal (Qutub, 2000).

God forbids the believers to whisper to each other secret talks and immorality. Talk to each other about something that contains goodness, as well as good deeds. Al-Qurthubi said *"God forbids believers to whisper to each other as hypocrites and Jews do"*. God commands people to whisper obedience and piety to each other and to stay away from what God forbids (Al-Thabari, 2009).

In the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah, a prohibition has been issued against whispering that can hurt others, as narrated by Imam Ahmad from Abdullah bin Mas'ud, he said, Rasulullah said:

حدثنا اسحق حدثنا الأعمش عن أبي واثل عن عبد الله ابن مسعود قال: قال رسول الله صل عليه و سلم

: اذ كنتم ثلاثة فلا يتناجي اثنان دون صاحبها فإن ذلك يحزنه

Meaning: *"If there are three of you together, don't whisper to each other alone and ignore the others, because that could make you sad."* (Abdullah, 1995)

Second, Extravagance. That extravagance is the devil's way of making people greedy, and making people his brothers. As God has said. has explained in the Quran Surah al-Isra' verse 27:

إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ ۖ كَفُورًا

Meaning: *"Indeed those spendthrifts are brothers of the devil and the devil is very disobedient to his Lord"* (Al-Qura: 27)

The meaning of "brother" is a perfect likeness, while avoiding likeness with the devil even if only one character among the characters is mandatory, especially the more general ones as shown by the absoluteness of the word likeness. Extravagance (wasting wealth) is an act of the devil, so when someone does it, it means he has obeyed and followed the devil (Sayyid, 2003).

وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ ۖ كَفُورًا

It means: (*and the devil is disobedient to his god*)

What this means is that he has a lot of denial and great disobedience to the truth, because apart from his denial, he also doesn't do anything other than bad, doesn't order anything except bad, and doesn't make small interference with something that doesn't contain good (Katsir, 2017).

Third, whisper evil thoughts. God explains how the devil whispers evil thoughts to humans that drive humans to disobedience and disobedience to God as God's words in the Quran Surah al-An'am verse 112.

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيْطَانِ الْإِنْسِ وَالْجِنِّ يُوحِي بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرُفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا يُولَوْا شَاءَ رَبُّكَ مَا فَعَلُوهُ فَذَرْهُمْ وَمَا يَفْتَرُونَ

Meaning: *"Thus (as we made for you enemies) we have made (also) for every prophet an enemy consisting of devils (in the form of) humans and jinn. Some of them whispered to others beautiful words as a trick. If your Lord had willed, they would not have done it. So, leave them with what they make up (lies)"* (Al-Quran Surah. al-An'am: 112)

Allah mentioned that the characteristics of the devil's behavior are whispering sweet words to the other half as a form of deception (Rababah & Qatawneh, 2022). In this verse, it is explained how Devil whispers people with evil thoughts, and words that are sweet like honey after being tasted, turn out to be filled with bile, they are just deception. Therefore, it can be seen that Devil's whispers are very dangerous, they can cause slander (Hamka, 1990).

According to Quraish Shihab, the word whisper suggests that Devil actually seduces people's hearts and minds by depicting in their minds things that can encourage humans to commit acts of disobedience designed by Devil. Among other things, it makes people afraid of the future, or excessively optimistic, resulting in wishful thinking and evil thoughts (Shihab, 2017).

Fourth, it makes people forget to remember Allah. People often forget to remember Allah because of the whispers of the devil who appeals to keep people away from remembering Allah. So that people focus too much on worldly affairs, as God says in the Quran, surah al-Mujadalah, verse 19.

اسْتَحْذَرُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الشَّيْطَانَ فَانْسَهُمْ ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ جَرَّبُ الشَّيْطَانِ إِلَّا إِنْ جَرَّبَ الشَّيْطَانُ هُمْ الْخَسِرُونَ

Meaning: *"Devil has taken control of them, and made them forget to remember Allah. They are the devils. Know that the devils are the losers"* (Al-Quran. al-Mujadalah: 58/19)

It needs to be understood that every human being is always being chased by devil. These devil try hard to make people forget to remember Allah. If someone is busy with worldly affairs, they will automatically fall into devil's trap. That is, forgetting to remember Allah and remembering our obligations towards Him. If devil has accompanied someone into his trap so that someone forgets Allah, then that person needs to immediately remember Allah and ask Allah for guidance, then Allah will protect him with His mercy (Ash-Siddiqiey, 2000).

## CONCLUSION

The study delving into the interpretation of Devil's steps and strategies in leading astray, as outlined by certain *mufassir*, reveals four distinct methods employed by the Devil to misguide humanity. These methods encompass inciting enmity among people, fostering wastefulness, planting seeds of evil thoughts through whispering, and inducing forgetfulness of remembrance towards Allah. Understanding these strategies is paramount for individuals to safeguard themselves from falling into the snares laid out by the Devil, thus enabling them to navigate through life with vigilance and spiritual resilience.

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