

7. Prophecy about *Dajjāl*

***Ulama's* beliefs disillusion rational thinkers.**

It is a pity that our opponents, having got entangled in a false belief, are unnecessarily beating a drum tied around their necks. These people have done great harm to the religion because of such senseless and absurd beliefs, and have given the adversaries of Islam an opportunity to object. A sect of the Muslims, which is enamoured of the physical world and the laws of nature, has, because of the highly unreasonable statements of these people, denied the prophecies about the second advent of the Messiah, which enjoy a high standard of repetitive reporting in Islamic history. People who had received modern education and who thought along rational lines, heard the following statements of these people:

In the last days a *Dajjāl* (Anti-Christ) would be born, and he would have an ass who would be about three hundred feet long. That *Dajjāl* will cause rain to fall and bring out the sun at will. He will bring the dead to life. Heaven and hell will be by his side. He shall rule over all God's creation such as rivers, winds, fire, earth, moon, sun etc. He will be blind in one eye, while the other eye will be enlarged. The true worshippers of God, in his time, will die of poverty and lack of rain; even their prayers will not be accepted. But the worshippers of the *Dajjāl* will have all comforts: exactly at the proper time the *Dajjāl* will pour rain on their fields. Then the Messiah will descend from the sky in great glory, accompanied by angels on his right and left. As far as his breath reaches, the disbelievers will die thereof. But he will

not be able to kill the *Dajjāl* by his breath. At last, with great struggle and hard work he shall kill him in battle.

The modernly-educated people were greatly perturbed at these statements, and an occasion for anxiety it really was. For, considering that the worshippers of created things have become involved in this worship unreasonably, without witnessing any Divine work from their deities, and their number has reached tens of millions, then if a man does really demonstrate the powers of God, how large will the number of his worshippers reach? Why should those people not be excused who would have witnessed his divinity to the full?

Consider this, that Jesus son of Mary could not create even a mouse in this world, nonetheless about four hundred million people, given to worship of created things, are venerating him. Then how much mischief can be caused in the world by a man who would control the entire working of God's power? It is far removed from the law and practice of the Benevolent and Merciful God that He should subject people to such a faith-destroying trial. This would — God forbid — bring to naught the entire concept of the Unity of God taught in the Holy Quran and shatter the whole of the Quranic teaching. So how could the notion of such a *Dajjāl* be comprehensible to people of sense and understanding? Similarly, the living of the Messiah, son of Mary, for hundreds of years in heaven, contrary to the plain injunctions of the Book of God, then his descending in a huge gathering with a company of angels, and his killing of all the unbelievers by his breath, and the witnessing of this sight by the people of the world, which is also contrary to faith in the unseen — this was in fact something that the believers in nature and natural laws should have denied. For, miracles of this kind have no precedent in history, and the Quran refutes them as is clear from the verse: "Say: Glory to my Lord! ..." ¹

1. This refers to the reply which the Holy Prophet Muhammad is told to give to those who demanded that he ascend to heaven: "Say: Glory to my Lord! am I anything but a mortal messenger?" — 17:93. (*Publisher.*)

So the burden of all this sin lies upon our *Ulama*. By clothing the *Dajjāl* entirely in Divine garb, and by making the Messiah descend from the sky in a manner that has no precedent in the entire system of miracles or the laws of nature, they caused embarrassment and bewilderment for those of an enquiring mind. At last those poor people denied both these prophecies, while the fact is that both of these prophecies are to be found in Islamic history, Hadith reports and sayings of the Companions, with a high degree of continuity which is unmatched in the case of any other prophecy, and no sensible man can deny repeated reports.

Meaning of *Dajjāl*.

Hence if these ignorant *Ulama* had given the plain and correct interpretation of these prophecies, this pitiable group would not have fallen into this tribulation of denial. It was not at all to be expected of these sensible men that if they had found the plain, clear and reasonable meanings, they would have rejected this prophecy of a high order on which there is consensus of all the sects of Islam, and to which even the Gospel of the Christians bears witness. For, the plain meaning of *dajjāl* is apparent from the root *dajl* itself, i.e. taking the art of deceit to perfection like selling of oats resembling wheat. These are the very meanings intended in the prophecies which no man of reason can hesitate to accept. And it is in accordance with this very deceitfulness, that two types of attributes of the promised *Dajjāl* have been mentioned in the Hadith. One is that he would claim prophethood and the other is that he would claim divinity. If both of these are interpreted literally, it is entirely impossible to reconcile them. For, the claim to prophethood requires that the claimant should believe in God the Most High, while the claim to divinity requires that the claimant should himself pose as god and not believe in any other to be god. So how can both these claims proceed from the same man?

Religious leaders and scientists of Europe fulfill signs of *Dajjāl*.

Hence, the truth is that *Dajjāl* is not the name of an individual. According to the Arabic language, that group is known as *Dajjāl* which presents itself as trustworthy and religious but, in reality, is neither trustworthy nor religious; rather, there is deception and fraud in all its affairs. Now this quality is found in that party of the Christians which is called their clergy. And the section which is trying to control all sorts of machinery, industry and the works of God, that is the scientists of Europe — they are *Dajjāl* because, on account of their accomplishments and also their high claims, they place the creatures of God under the misconception that they [the scientists] can interfere in the Divine works.

The priestly section is laying claim to prophethood because, having lost the true heavenly Gospel, they are spreading in the world an altered and adulterated account, called as translation of the Gospels. If one demands to see that original Gospel which was the revelation of Jesus over a period of three years, regarding which Jesus said that he spoke not of himself but what God told him to say,² they cannot say anything at all about its whereabouts, as to where that book has vanished. As for the translations they present, these are undoubtedly their self-produced Gospels regarding whose authenticity they cannot give any proof.

Hence the impertinence and the boldness with which they are publishing these baseless translations, it is this act of theirs which, in other words, amounts to a claim to prophethood. For, they have taken the office of prophethood in their own hands by deceit. In the guise of translation they write whatever they wish, and then attribute it to God the Most High. Therefore, this course of theirs is like a claim to prophethood, and most of the Christian people are entrapped in this net. This *dajl* (deception) is the work of the Christian religious preachers.

2. See the Gospel of John 8:28. (Publisher.)

The other attribute of the *Dajjāl* is manifested in those who do works which are tantamount to claiming Divinity. That is, as I have just stated, the group consisting of the scientists and the inventors of machines of Europe. They have tried their utmost to discover the chain of causes and means, and having achieved considerable successes they have at last come to the worthless view that the power of God and belief in it are of no value. Most of the intellectuals among the Christians of Europe follow this group. They are day and night busy in research as to how they themselves can become masters of such secrets of nature that they produce rain at will, control whether a child born in a family is a boy or a girl as they wish, and make a woman barren whenever they wish. Hence there is no doubt that this course is, in other words, a claim to divinity.

In short, this is an interpretation of the claim of the *Dajjāl* to prophethood and to divinity which no wise man can deny. Without doubt, as regards the trust of prophethood, which is the revelation and word of God, the Christian clergymen have made such an uncalled for interference in it as to lay hold upon the office of prophethood like a claimant. Every translation which these people publish under the title of the Gospel is, as it were, a new Gospel presented by themselves. Had they any fear of God the Most High, they would have printed the original text in every translation that has been published, as is the practice of the Muslims in publishing the Holy Quran. But these people concealed the original and published the translations which are a sleight of their own hands. So there is no doubt that it is, in a sense, a claim to prophethood to put forward one's own words and ascribe them to God.

Man's control over nature leading to denial of God's power.

Similarly, the claim to divinity is established by the actions of their scientists who want to get hold of the secrets of Divine creation in such a way as to take control of all works of God. It is natural that when man wants to interfere in the Divinely-

ordained system operating on land and sea, and earth and heaven, and having been involved in scientific research and reached the bottom of everything, wants to take control of the running of the system of nature, then all the successes that he achieves in this scientific research and investigation, discovery and enquiry, and his performance of the functions of the Divine system by himself — all these successes produce in him those feelings of being high and mighty which are attributes reserved for God. Being intoxicated with this arrogance, his lower self becomes filled with egotism in such ways that this, in other words, can be described as a claim to divinity. Especially when such an arrogant scientist, by means of some practical ingenuity of his own, acquires the power to bring about, let us say, a storm of wind or water, or becomes capable of causing rain, then such successes mean that he finds a sign of divinity in himself and looks down upon the Lord of honour and glory. Hence the greatness of God the Most High gradually diminishes in the heart of such a man, and the idea is established in his mind that, perhaps, in the same way it is due to ignorance of the system of cause and effect that people have come to believe in the existence of God.

The misfortune of these inauspicious successes which he achieves by means of the modern sciences — in regard to climate, rivers, oceans, vegetation, animals, minerals, the doing of all sorts of works, inventions of all kinds, and modern theories in astronomy, and the things he discovers by means of telescopes about the sun, moon and stars, and not only does he acquire knowledge of the natural laws governing these things but in practice he even performs many acts like God the Most High — given this situation it is unavoidable and natural that this man of imperfect sense comes to believe that as regards all those matters in which people used to entreat God the Most High by prayer, it was due to their ignorance and a worthless course, but rather, man can achieve all those things by the practical application of his own knowledge. There is no doubt

that this is a claim to divinity with which the minds of the Europeans of the present day are filled.

Other nations revere Europe because of scientific advances.

Leaving them aside, there are millions of other people who, on account of the Europeans' astonishing scientific researches, most marvellous inventions and practical application of knowledge, hold them in such high reverence as if to confirm that they possess a share of divinity. In fact, I myself observed that a Hindu, who held an honourable official post, when a mention was made before him of the greatness and power of God the Most High, became enraged and indignant, and said:

“When people fail to get to the bottom of things they start talking about God’s powers. The English have manifested such divinity that they have unmasked the powers of nature. Scientific researches keep on raising man to the position of God.”

Hence the reason why that Hindu declared the English as god was only that in his opinion their wonderful industries appeared to be so magnificent that he considered the existence of God as unnecessary. And I see that this impression is widespread among the Muslims, especially those who have received modern education. Such an awe of European thinkers and scientists rules over their hearts that even if someone were to claim falsely that, for example, in a European country a new invention had been made such that, in some scientific way, by sowing the seed of a fruit in the earth, and nourishing it with certain things, they cause it to grow so rapidly that it bears fruit in a single day, and by the evening it is quite fit for eating, probably none of the modernly-educated people will deny it.

Many ignorant people say that “nothing is impossible for the Europeans,” and it is possible that in the future they may even reach the sky by means of some practical science. It is man’s habit that from a few experiences he becomes so convinced of

the power and capability of a person that he exaggerates it to the extreme. This is exactly what is happening to most people of this country. For example, if a few reliable men were to relate, purely by way of jest, before some famous leader and distinguished, renowned man of India, for example, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, that the Europeans have created a vegetation-attracting substance such that when it is placed in front of a tree, the tree, along with its roots, immediately lifts out of the ground and starts moving towards this substance, it is not possible that Sir Sayyid would deny it. On the other hand, if the miracle of our Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of God be upon him, is put forward that many a time, at his beckoning, trees came towards him, then Sir Sayyid would certainly deny this miracle and, at once, start considering as to how that Hadith report could be declared fabricated!

Now consider what limit the condition of this age has reached, that there is not even so much respect entertained in people's hearts for God and His Messenger as there is for those who are known as *kafir*. My object in writing all this is that in reality these people are *Dajjāl* who are called the Christian clergymen and the intellectuals of Europe. These are the two jaws of the promised *Dajjāl* with which he is devouring the faith of people like a python. To start with, the foolish and ignorant people are caught in the snare of the Christian preachers, and if any one, detesting their low and false ideas, remains free from their claws, then he is certainly caught by the claws of the European thinkers. I see that the masses have more danger from the deceit of the Christian preachers while the elite have greater danger from the deceit of the intellectuals.

Now rest assured that this is the *Dajjāl* regarding whom our Holy Prophet, on whom be peace and the blessings of God, had foretold that he would appear in the last age. It is entirely impossible that Divine powers should actually appear in someone. The Holy Quran, from beginning to end, is opposed to this. Therefore the divinity of *Dajjāl* refers only to these matters and to his wonders which are being shown today by the scientists

of Europe. This was the intent of the prophecy, which has been fulfilled. The word *dajjāl* itself indicates that he would not have any real power, but deceit, mere deceit. Now if there is a man who is blessed, let him accept this. In reality this tribulation which has come forth from the Christian clergymen and the European scientists is such that from the time of Adam to this day it has no parallel. Is it not true that people's faith has suffered the most terrible damage from this mischief, and the love of God the Most High has cooled down in the hearts of millions of people? Some minds have been completely overwhelmed by this tribulation, while others have been affected to some degree. O servants of God! think, for this is the truth.