

of a prohibited transaction or in a forbidden manner, and that it is not used to help in committing forbidden actions.

﴿good﴾ that is, it is not evil or filthy (*khabeeth*), such as dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine and all other unclean things. This verse indicates that the basic principle is that things are permissible to eat and make use of, and that what is forbidden is of two types: either that which is forbidden in and of itself, which is evil or filthy things that are the opposite of good, or it is forbidden for some other reason, namely its connection to the rights of Allah or to the rights of people; this is the opposite of what is permissible. It also indicates that one may eat as much of (something haram) as is necessary to survive; this is obligatory, and the one who does not do that is sinning.

When Allah commanded them to follow what He enjoined upon them, which is in their own best interests, He forbade them to follow ﴿the footsteps of the Shayṭān﴾ that is, to follow the ways that he enjoins. This refers to all sins, such as disbelief, evildoing, and transgression. That also includes the prohibition on the *sā'ibah* and *ḥām*<sup>13</sup> and the like. That also includes eating haram (forbidden) foods.

﴿for he is to you an avowed enemy﴾ that is, his enmity is blatant; all he wants to do is deceive you and cause you to become among the inhabitants of hell. Our Lord did not only forbid us to follow his footsteps; rather He also told us – and He is the most truthful – of his enmity, of which we should beware. Furthermore, He told us details of what the Shayṭān wants to make us do, and that it is the most reprehensible and evil of things:

﴿For he only commands you to do evil﴾ that is, any bad deed that harms the one who does it. That includes all kinds of sins ﴿and shameful deeds﴾. This is an example of mentioning specific matters after having spoken in general terms, because shameful

<sup>13</sup> The *sā'ibah* and *ḥām* were types of camels that were set loose to pasture freely in honour of idols during the *jāhiliyah*, and it was forbidden to make use of them.