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**Rebelling Devil and Revengeful God**

**Who is the originator of violence and who is the originator of the arts?**

**Abstract**

Notwithstanding the strong monotheism of Islam, enormous importance is given to the Devil. The myth of Iblīs' refusal of God's order to bow in front of Adam presents the first choice ever made by a creature, the first sin and the first act of violence. This latter is not committed by the sinner, but by God, who punishes Iblīs for his pride and disobedience. Given a respite from Allāh, Iblīs, named the Satan after his sin, takes revenge on humankind by leading astray whomever he can. He is not, however, an uncomplicated figure, a simple enemy of God and humans. He was also seen by some of the most splendid minds in the history of Islam as a generous benefactor. For instance, he was considered to be the patron of the arts, the most important being poetry and music. As the aniconism of Islam reflects the phobia of idolatry, the virtually complete absence of the "dark side" in visual arts mirrors the fear of it and the will to negate it. The Devil represents all desires and pleasures that are in contradiction with the social norms. The myth of the Devil's revolt against God and his punishment by Him expresses the tension between the individual and the community, the freedom and the rules, the ego and the super-ego. The conclusion of the myth indicates that the community and its leaders have the right to punish the deviant individual.