

A COMPANION VOLUME · THE CROSSING NATION

THE SHAYTAN

*The straight line of the lie, through seventeen generations —
linked to scripture from the Qur'an and the Bible.*

1619 – 2026 · One Claim, Repeated · “I am better than him”

THE THESIS

What the Lie Actually Is

Both scriptures agree on what Shaytan's first sin actually was. It was not violence. It was not even unbelief — Iblis never denied God's existence. His sin was a claim of superiority, made the instant he was commanded to honor a being he considered beneath him: "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay" (Qur'an 7:12). The classical commentator Al-Qurtubi named this for what it is — a racist argument, dressed as logic, offered in place of obedience. Isaiah and Ezekiel describe the same fall the same way: not a monster, but a being who looked at his own position and said, "I will ascend... I will make myself like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:13-14). This book traces one claim — I am better than him, therefore I need not bow, therefore he is mine to use — through seventeen generations of one people's history, and through the scriptures that named it from the beginning.

A NOTE ON METHOD

What This Book Is — and Isn't

This is not a claim that any living people, nation, or faith community today is Satan, or possessed by Satan. The papal bulls discussed in Generation 1 were themselves repudiated by the Vatican in 2023. England is not a demonic nation; English law eventually abolished what English law once codified. What this book identifies is a recurring lie — the claim of superiority Iblis voiced first — wearing a different costume in each generation: theology, law, economics, science, "colorblindness." Both scriptures insist Shaytan's power was always limited to suggestion, never to force (Qur'an 14:22), and that the lie is, by its nature, temporary (Qur'an 17:81). This book ends on that promise, not before it.

GEN 1 • First Arrivals (1619-1644)

The claim begins: that Anthony, Isabella, and those who came with them could be made property because of what they were made from — the same logic Iblis used against Adam.

QUR'AN "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay." <i>Surah Al-A'raf 7:12</i>	BIBLE "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field... 'You will not surely die.'" <i>Genesis 3:1-4</i>
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The first lie in both scriptures is the same shape: a claim dressed as truth, offered to someone made vulnerable. Dum Diversas (1452) and Romanus Pontifex (1455) — the papal bulls authorizing Portugal to enslave non-Christians — used theology to make this exact argument four centuries before Anthony and Isabella were born. The Vatican repudiated this doctrine in 2023; the repudiation itself proves the lie was always recognizable as one.

GEN 2 • Founding Settlement (1644-1669)

Cain's lie of disowned responsibility — the legal system begins choosing who is fully answerable for whom, and who is not.

QUR'AN "Then I will come to them from before them and behind them and on their right and on their left." <i>Surah Al-A'raf 7:17</i>	BIBLE "Am I my brother's keeper?" <i>Genesis 4:9</i>
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Iblis's vow to attack from every direction is not poetry — it describes a strategy. The lie does not stay in one place. It moves into law, into church, into family, into language, simultaneously, from every side at once.

GEN 3 • Codification (1669-1694)

Bacon's Rebellion proves Black and white resistance can unite — so the lie writes itself into permanent law specifically to make sure it never can again.

QUR'AN "Satan only wants to cast among you animosity and hatred... so will you not desist?" <i>Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:91</i>	BIBLE "Come, let us go down and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." <i>Genesis 11:7</i>
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Division is not a side effect of the lie. It is the method. Virginia's slave codes after 1676 were written, explicitly, to prevent exactly the alliance Bacon's Rebellion had just proven possible.

GEN 4 • Plantation Expansion (1694-1719)

The system industrializes. Bondage stops being incidental and becomes the engine — store cities, growing wealth, a whole economy built on a lie that has to keep being told to keep running.

QUR'AN "Satan does not promise you except delusion." <i>Surah Al-Isra 17:64</i>	BIBLE "They made their lives bitter with hard service... they built for Pharaoh store cities." <i>Exodus 1:11,14</i>
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Pharaoh's Egypt and the plantation economy share an architecture: prosperity for some, purchased directly and visibly from the unpaid labor of others, requiring an ever-larger lie to keep functioning.

GEN 5 • Peak Importation (1719–1744)

The trade reaches industrial scale. A human being now has a market price.

QUR'AN “And Satan made fair-seeming to them what they used to do.” <i>Surah Al-An'am 6:43</i>	BIBLE So Joseph's brothers “sold him for twenty pieces of silver.” <i>Genesis 37:28</i>
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Both scriptures put the same plain fact in the text without softening it: a price, paid, for a person. Stono's rebels, marching under a banner reading “Liberty” this same generation, were answering that price directly.

GEN 6 • Creole Generation (1744–1769)

The lie reaches for identity itself — not just the body, but the memory of who a person was before bondage.

QUR'AN “I will mislead them... and I will command them so they will change the creation of Allah.” <i>Surah An-Nisa 4:119</i>	BIBLE “But the people of Israel were fruitful and multiplied... and the land was filled with them.” <i>Exodus 1:7</i>
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“Change the creation of Allah” is Shaytan's own stated goal in the Qur'an — not just harm, but alteration of what God made. A native-born generation, no longer purely African, emerges here: not erased, but undeniably changed by the very system trying to erase it.

GEN 7 • Revolutionary (1769–1794)

“All men are created equal” is declared in the same generation that bondage hardens further. The lie learns to speak the language of its opposite.

QUR'AN Of the hypocrites: “They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts.” <i>Surah Al-Fath 48:11</i>	BIBLE “This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” <i>Isaiah 29:13</i>
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A lie that only ever wore one costume would be easy to name. This generation shows it learning to wear the costume of liberty itself — the Declaration and the Free African Society founded in the very same years.

GEN 8 • Trade-Ban Generation (1794–1819)

The legal trade ends in 1808 — and the lie continues anyway, smuggled, renamed, persisting exactly where the law said it could not.

QUR'AN “And do not conceal the truth while you know it.” <i>Surah Al-Baqarah 2:42</i>	BIBLE “They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.” <i>Jeremiah 6:14</i>
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A law that ends a thing on paper while the thing continues in practice is its own kind of lie — the Igbo Landing captives and Gabriel's massed rebels in this same generation knew the difference between a law and a fact.

GEN 9 • Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom (1819–1844)

The internal trade replaces the international one. The lie does not need new ships — it just needs new buyers.

QUR'AN “And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly.” <i>Surah Al-Baqarah 2:188</i>	BIBLE “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness... who uses his neighbor's service without wages.” <i>Jeremiah 22:13</i>
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Nat Turner read a solar eclipse as a direct order from God to act against exactly this: wealth built openly, for generations, on labor that was never paid for.

GEN 10 • Civil War & Emancipation (1844–1869)

The lie loses its first total argument. Slavery ends. But Shaytan's pattern, in scripture, is retreat — never disappearance.

QUR'AN “I had no authority over you except that I invited you, and you responded to me.” <i>Surah Ibrahim 14:22</i>	BIBLE “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.” <i>Luke 4:13</i>
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Both verses say the same true thing: the lie's power was always borrowed from belief in it, never owned outright. Emancipation breaks the chain. It does not, scripture warns, end the story.

GEN 11 • Reconstruction & Redemption (1869–1894)

Exactly as scripture warned, it returns — and brings reinforcements. White-supremacist “Redemption” movements deliberately end Reconstruction's protections within a single generation of their being won.

QUR'AN “Indeed, We have made the devils allies to those who do not believe.” <i>Surah Al-A'raf 7:27</i>	BIBLE “Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself... and the last state of that person is worse than the first.” <i>Luke 11:24–26</i>
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This is the most exact single match in the whole book. Luke describes an unclean spirit returning to a house ‘swept and put in order’ and bringing seven worse than itself. That is a description of Reconstruction's collapse, written two thousand years before it happened.

GEN 12 • Jim Crow / Nadir (1894–1919)

“Separate but equal” (1896) is, on its face, a lie — and the law itself enforces it for the next fifty-eight years.

QUR’AN “And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know it.” <i>Surah Al-Baqarah 2:42</i>	BIBLE “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.” <i>Isaiah 5:20</i>
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“Nadir” is the right word for this generation, and Isaiah names the exact mechanism: not open cruelty alone, but cruelty relabeled as fairness.

GEN 13 • Great Migration / Harlem Renaissance (1919–1944)

The lie follows them north — sundown towns, redlining's first maps, the Tulsa massacre (1921) — proving the geography was never the problem.

QUR’AN “Then I will come to them from before them and behind them.” <i>Surah Al-A'raf 7:17 (repeated)</i>	BIBLE “Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel saw the Egyptians marching after them.” <i>Exodus 14:10</i>
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Leaving Egypt was not the end of Pharaoh's pursuit in Exodus, and leaving the South was not the end of the lie's pursuit in this generation. Both texts agree the lie does not honor borders.

GEN 14 • Civil Rights (1944–1969)

The lie's most visible legal defeats — met, repeatedly, with bombings, assassination, and fire hoses, because a lie under pressure escalates rather than concedes.

QUR’AN “Repel evil with that which is better.” <i>Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:96</i>	BIBLE “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” <i>Romans 12:21</i>
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Both verses are, almost word for word, the operating philosophy Martin Luther King Jr. and the movement around him stated explicitly as their method — not invented in the 1950s, but inherited from scripture that had already named the strategy.

GEN 15 • Post-Civil Rights (1969–1994)

Overt segregation law ends — and the lie changes its method from shouting to whispering: the early war on drugs, the first shape of mass incarceration, “colorblind” policy with uncolorblind results.

QUR’AN “From the evil of the whisperer, who withdraws, who whispers into the breasts of mankind.” <i>Surah An-Nas 114:4–5</i>	BIBLE “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” <i>2 Corinthians 11:14</i>
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A lie that can no longer say its own name out loud does not stop — it learns to whisper, and to look respectable while it does.

GEN 16 • Diaspora Expansion (1994–2019)

Visible Black political power rises — a first Black president — in the very years mass incarceration peaks. Progress and the lie occupy the same generation without canceling each other out.

QUR’AN “And We test you with good and ill that you may return [to Us].” <i>Surah Al-Anbya 21:35</i>	BIBLE “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” <i>John 10:10</i>
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Scholar Michelle Alexander's term for this era — “the New Jim Crow” — names exactly this: a system that no longer needs the old language to produce the old outcomes.

GEN 17 • New Diaspora (current) (2019–2026)

The most recent form: George Floyd's murder (2020), the largest protest movement in American history answering it, and the backlash that followed both — the lie's oldest pattern, in real time.

QUR’AN “And say, “The truth has come, and falsehood has departed; indeed, falsehood is bound to vanish.” <i>Surah Al-Isra 17:81</i>	BIBLE “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire... and will be tormented forever.” <i>Revelation 20:10</i>
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Both scriptures end their account of Shaytan the same way: not winning, not even surviving. This book ends here on purpose. The lie is old. Both texts insist it is also, in the end, finished.

Qur'an citations follow standard Surah:Ayah format; Bible citations follow standard chapter:verse format. Compiled from this project's prior historical research (papal bulls, slave codes, Reconstruction, Plessy v. Ferguson, the Great Migration, mass incarceration) joined here to scripture. This is a work of theological reflection in the tradition of Black liberation theology, not a claim of literal historical possession or a judgment on any living community.