



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS THE MOST MERCIFUL

## **RECOGNISING YOUR NUMBER ONE ENEMY – SHAYTAN**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. IBLIS
3. THE NEW KHALIFAH (SUCCESSOR)
4. THE CREATION OF ADAM (A.S.)
5. ADAM (A.S.) WAS TAUGHT NAMES
6. THE COMMAND TO HONOUR ADAM (A.S.)
7. IBLIS REBELLED AGAINST ALLAH SWT and SHAYTAN'S PROMISE TO ALLAH
8. THE FORBIDDEN TREE (SHAJARAH)
9. EXPULSION FROM PARADISE
10. WHISPERS FROM SHAYTAN (WASWASA)
11. 7 STEPS OF SHAYTAN
12. YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST SHAYTAN

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*O Children of Adam! Let not Shaitan (Satan) deceive you, as he got your parents [Adam and Hawwa' (Eve)] out of Paradise, stripping them of their railments, to show them their private parts. Verily, he and Qabiluhu (his soldiers from the jinn or his tribe) see you from where you cannot see them. Verily, We made the Shayatin (devils) Auliya' (protectors and helpers) for those who believe not.*

**(Surah al A'raf 7:27)**

*O you who believe! do not follow the footsteps of the Shaitan, and whoever follows the footsteps of the Shaitan, then surely he bids the doing of indecency and evil; and were it not for Allah's grace upon you and His mercy, not one of you would have ever been pure, but Allah purifies whom He pleases; and Allah is Hearing, Knowing.*

**(Surah an Nur 24: 21)**

*Shaitan (Satan) threatens you with poverty and orders you to commit Fahsha (evil deeds, illegal sexual intercourse, sins etc.); whereas Allah promises you Forgiveness from Himself and Bounty, and Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower. 2: 268*

## 2. IBLIS

The name derived from the Arabic verb *ablasa* meaning to despair, feel remorse and grieve. However the real name of the being known as Iblis was "Azazil or al Harith". As Allah revealed in Surah al Kahf 18:50, Iblis was of the Jinn:

*And (remember) when We said to the angels: "Prostrate yourselves unto Adam." So they prostrated themselves except Iblis (Satan). He was one of the jinn; he disobeyed the Command of his Lord. Will you then take him (Iblis) and his offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me while they are enemies to you? What an evil is the exchange for the Zalimun (polytheists, and wrong-doers).*

The most authoritative view, from Abdullah ibn Abbas (RA), the nature of Iblis is such that:

1. iblis was created from the tip of the flame when it flares up

*"He Created the jinn from a smokeless flame of fire (marijin min nar)" – Surah ar Rahman 55:15*

2. Iblis was created from scorching fire

He “created the jinn previously from scorching fire (*nari samum*) –  
Surah al Hijr 15: 27

From the interpretation of ibn Abbas, there was an angelic tribe known as *al-Hinn* (sometimes given as *al-Jinn*) who were the guardians of paradise. These angels were created from the flames of fire, *nari samum*, a scorching fire different from the one we know. Apart from this tribe of angels, the rest of the angels are created from light, according to the prophet’s (SAW) hadith:

“The angels were created from light and the jinn were created from smokeless fire, *marijin min nar*, and Adam was created from what has been described to you (in the Quran). – Muslim 7134.

Iblis was one of the noblest among the *Hinn*, belonging to the most honoured tribe. Allah SWT granted him vast authority, making him a keeper of paradise who ruled over the lowest heaven as well as the earth. Among the angels he was one of the most knowledgeable. Moreover he was also one of the most zealous worshippers of Allah SWT.

Ibn Abbas (RA) informed us that the jinns who were created from smokeless fire were the first to live on the earth. They cause corruption upon it, shed blood and killed one another. Allah SWT then sent ‘Azazil against them with an army of angels. The angels killed the wicked jinns, eventually banishing them to islands in the oceans and mountains.

Because of this role, iblis became haughty and self-important, being so proud of his accomplishments that he considered himself better than anyone else. While the angels would not know what was going on in iblis’ minds, Allah knows absolutely everything:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ

“Surely, Allah is Aware of what is hidden in (your) breasts.” – 3:119, 154 and many others.

### 3. THE NEW KHALIFAH (SUCCESSOR)

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: "Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth." They said: "Will You place therein those who will make mischief therein and shed blood, - while we glorify You with praises and thanks and sanctify You." He (Allah) said: "I know that which you do not know." Surah al Baqarah 2:30

The angels were shocked by Allah's decision because not too long ago, Allah's creation shed blood and cause corruption. They did not object as a sign to dishonour Allah SWT but because they want to protect His sanctity and Majesty.

Allah SWT merely answered:

***Indeed I know what you did not know - 2:30***

What is this knowledge?

1. That Allah SWT knows that while the angels are all totally devoted to worshipping and honouring their Creator, there was one who was not – Iblis or 'Azazil. The angels have no idea of Iblis' arrogance and pride which iblis kept inside.
2. The angels would not know that in future, even though there are some humans who would descend to an unprecedented level of wickedness (Firaun, for e.g.),

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ

*the lowest of the low-* Surah at Tin 95:5, there would be others who would excel to the highest level of excellence: the prophets, messengers, martyrs, scholars, worshippers, righteous believers, obedient to Allah's Commands and fearing His punishments.

**(also, we must remember humans are not programmed to be 100% pious...unlike the angels. We act according to Allah's Guidance ONLY, and our nafs, and of course upon shaytan's tricks and influence)**

#### **4. THE CREATION OF ADAM A.S.**

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ مِنْ حَمَإٍ مَسْنُونٍ

*And indeed, We created man from dried (sounding) clay of altered mud.*  
(Surah al Hijr 15: 26)

Al-Saddi reported from the authority of Ibn Mas'ud and other companions of the prophet (SAW): Allah SWT sent Jibril AS to bring some clay from it. The earth said: 'I seek refuge in Allah from your decreasing my quantity and disfiguring me.' So

Jibril AS returned and did not take anything. And Jibril said: ‘ My Lord, the land sought refuge in You, and it was granted.’

Allah sent Mika'il for the same purpose and the land again seek refuge with Allah and it was granted. So, Mika'il went back to Allah and said exactly the same thing Jibril told Allah.

Then Allah sent the Angel of Death, and the land again seek refuge with Allah. The angel said: ‘ I also seek refuge with Allah from returning without carrying out His command.’ So he took the clay from the earth and mixed it. He did not take from one particular place but rather took red, white and black clay from different places. The Angel of death ascended with it and Allah soaked the clay till it became sticky. Then Allah said to the angels:

*(Remember) when your Lord said to the angels: "Truly I am going to create man from clay. So when I have fashioned him and breathed into him (his) soul created by Me, then you fall down prostrate to him". Surah Sad 38: 71-72*

The Prophet (SAW) also said:

“When God fashioned man in Paradise, He left him as He willed to leave him. Then iblis went around to see what it was. And when he found him hollow, iblis recognised and man has been created with an uncontrolled disposition.” (Muslim, 6319)

The Prophet (PBUH) said in a Hadith narrated by Bukhari, “Allah created Adam in his same shape, making him 60 cubits tall,” (Can you imagine?), the Prophet (PBUH) said, “Any person who will enter Paradise will resemble Adam (in appearance and figure). People have been decreasing in stature since Adam's creation.” (Sahih Bukhari, 6227).

Ibn Abbas added that when the angels passed by Aam AS, they were frightened of him. So was iblis. Allah left him as a clay for forty years. Iblis would kick the body, which would give a hollow sound like pottery makes when it is struck, according to Allah's words:

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ كَالْفَخَّارِ

*He created man (Adam) from sounding clay like the clay of pottery. (55:14)*

At that, iblis said: “What are you created for?” and “You are nothing. You were not created for anything!”

Iblis went repeatedly into Adam's mouth and came out through the posterior. Then he said to the angels: “Do not be afraid of this one, for your Lord is solid, but this one is hollow.” Then addressing the lifeless body of Adam (AS), iblis said: “If I am given power over you, I will destroy you utterly, but if you are given power over me, I will surely disobey you.”

Allah breathed into Adam his soul (AS)

*So, when I have fashioned him completely and breathed into him (Adam) the soul which I created for him, then fall (you) down prostrating yourselves unto him."*

(surah al Hijr 15:29)

Ibn Abbas (RA) mentioned that the spirit came from the front of Adam's head and everything that flowed from it within his body became flesh and blood.

When the breathing reached Adam's naval, he looked at his body and marvelled at the beauty he saw. He then tried to get up, but could not, emphasising Allah's statement:

Man is created of haste (Surah al Anbiya 21:37)

## **5. ADAM (A.S.) WAS TAUGHT NAMES**

## **6. THE COMMAND TO HONOUR ADAM (A.S.)**

*And surely, We created you (your father Adam) and then gave you shape (the noble shape of a human being); then We told the angels, "Prostrate yourselves to Adam", and they prostrated themselves, except Iblis (Satan), he refused to be of those who prostrated themselves. (Surah al A'raf 7: 11)*

**Note the Arabic word "kum" meaning addressed to the whole of mankind.**

Allah SWT has honoured mankind above all other of His Creations:

And indeed We have honoured the Children of Adam, and We have carried them on land and sea, and have provided them with At-Tayyibat (lawful good things), and have preferred them above many of those whom We have created with a marked preferment. (Surah al Isra 17: 70)

## **7. IBLIS REBELLED AGAINST ALLAH SWT AND IBLIS' PROMISE**

- a. Surah al Baqarah 2: 34 – 39
- b. Surah al A'raf 7: 11 – 25
- c. Surah al Hijr 15: 32 – 50
- d. Surah al Isra' 17: 61 – 65
- e. Surah al Kahf 18: 50 – 15
- f. Surah Sad 38: 71 – 85

You will see Iblîs on the Day of Judgment in hell, leaning on a column to be seen by all the people in hell, while delivering the most famous speech in history:

*And Shaitan (Satan) will say when the matter has been decided: "Verily, Allah promised you a promise of truth. And I too promised you, but I betrayed you. I had no*

*authority over you except that I called you, and you responded to me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your former act in associating me (Satan) as a partner with Allah (by obeying me in the life of the world). Verily, there is a painful torment for the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers)." (Surah Ibrahim 14: 22)*

## **8. THE FORBIDDEN TREE (SHAJARAH)**

*And We said: "O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in the Paradise and eat both of you freely with pleasure and delight, of things therein as wherever you will, but come not near this tree or you both will be of the Zalimun (wrong-doers)." (2: 35, 7:19)*

*Then We said: "O Adam! Verily, this is an enemy to you and to your wife. So let him not get you both out of Paradise, so that you will be distressed. Verily, you have (a promise from Us) that you will never be hungry therein nor naked. And you (will) suffer not from thirst therein nor from the sun's heat. (Surah Taha 20: 117-119)*

Iblis wanted to enter Paradise but the Guardians of Paradise prevented him. Iblis approached various animals, proposing that they should take him into the Garden so that he could speak to Adam and Eve, but all of them refused. Finally Iblis persuaded the snake who was an animal then with 4 feet and one of the most beautiful of beasts. The snake let iblis entered its mouth, passed by the Guardian of Paradise and with Allah's Will, entered Paradise without being noticed. In the book Tabari, a tradition from Ibn Abbas stated that the snake, after allowing iblis to enter Paradise and deceive Adam (AS), Allah Cursed it by cutting of its legs and leaving it to crawl on its belly. It is now regarded as an enemy of mankind because of its role in helping to destroy Adam (AS).

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## **9. EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM PARADISE**

Whispers of iblis:

*Then Shaitan (Satan) whispered to him, saying: "O Adam! Shall I lead you to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that will never waste away?" (Surah Taha 20: 120)*

*Then began Satan to whisper suggestions to them, bringing openly before their minds all their shame that was hidden from them (before): he said: "Your Lord only forbade you this tree, lest ye should become angels or such beings as live for ever." And he swore to them both, that he was their sincere adviser. (Surah al A'raf 7: 20-21)*

Both Adam and Eve forgot about Allah's command and warnings:

- about their enemy iblis
- about the forbidden tree

The were completely innocent and heedless, not knowing that they are being tricked and they fell into the trap of iblis and disobeyed Allah.

*And indeed We made a covenant with Adam before, but he forgot, and We found on his part no firm will-power. (Surah Taha 20: 115)*

*So he misled them with deception. Then when they tasted of the tree, that which was hidden from them of their shame (private parts) became manifest to them and they began to cover themselves with the leaves of Paradise (in order to cover their shame). And their Lord called out to them (saying): "Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you: Verily, Shaitan (Satan) is an open enemy unto you?" (Surah al A'raf 7:22)*

Then "Adam received words from his Lord" (Surah al Baqarah 2: 37) ; Both Adam and Eve repented to Allah SWT and said these very fine dua:

*"Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers." (surah al A'raf 7: 23)*

Allah SWT informed us that he will accept repentance of those who turn to him for repentance, like Adam AS and his wife:

*And his Lord pardoned him (accepted his repentance). Verily, He is the One Who forgives (accepts repentance), the Most Merciful. (Surah al Baqarah 2: 37)*

However, Allah expelled them from paradise:

*We said: "Get you down, all, with enmity between yourselves. On earth will be a dwelling place for you and an enjoyment for a time." (Suah al Baqarah 2: 36)*

And Allah SWT instructed them:

*(Allah) said: "Get down, one of you is an enemy to the other [i.e. Adam, Hawwa' (Eve), and Shaitan (Satan)]. On earth will be a dwelling-place for you and an enjoyment for a time." He said: "Therein you shall live, and therein you shall die, and from it you shall be brought out (i.e. resurrected)." (Surah al A'raf 7: 24-25)*

But Allah SWT is not without His Mercy:

*"...So there will surely come to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My guidance, he shall not go astray nor be unhappy;" (Surah Taha 20: 123)*

## **10. WHISPERS FROM SHAYTAN (WASWASA)**

A waswasa is disturbing that maybe the rules of shirk which apply in this world do not apply in the universe. Somewhere else in the universe there might be a place where the dead can hear and help, where going to the graves is a form of worship etc. Please help me with to fight this waswasa.



### HADITH ONE

*It was narrated from Ibn 'Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with them both) that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and said, "I think thoughts to myself, which I would rather be burnt to a cinder than speak of them." The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Praise be to Allaah, Who has reduced all his [the Shaytaan's] plots to mere whispers." (Narrated by Abu Dawood).*

This Hadith shows you that Shaytaan can do nothing to you but whispers, which is a mercy from Allah SWT to you that He limited the affect of the shaytaan just to whispers.

### HADITH TWO

The companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) came to him complaining about the doubts and waswaas that they were suffering. In Saheeh Muslim it is narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said:

*"Some of the companions of the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) came to him and said, 'We find in our hearts things that none of us dares utter.' He said, 'Do you really find that?' They said, 'Yes.' He said, 'That is clear faith.'" (2/153).*

What is meant by his saying 'That is clear faith' is that their hatred of that waswasah and their rejecting it was a clear sign of faith.

The Shaytaan only whispers to people of faith; as for the kaafir he comes to him however he wants and does not limit himself to waswaas, rather he toys with him however he wishes.

It secures you in two ways:

- i. it shows you that even companions had such thoughts so you are not alone.
- ii. it is a guarantee from the prophet ( صلى الله عليه و سلم ) that what you are going through is a sign of Faith.

### HADITH THREE

Narrated By Abu Huraira: The Prophet said, *"Allah has accepted my invocation to forgive what whispers in the hearts of my followers, unless they put it to action or utter it. [Sahih Bukhari: 8/657]*

we are not judged for our thoughts and notions as long as we do not believe in them or act upon them.

Allah, the most High says in the interpretation:: *{and whether ye make known what is in your minds or hide it, Allah will bring you to account for it}[Al-Baqarah: 284].* The companions found it hard and said to the prophet if we are judged for our thoughts then we are doomed, then the prophet ( صلى الله عليه و سلم ) said to them say we listen and obey and at the time everyone started saying that, Allah abrogated that verse with : *{Allah tasketh not a soul beyond its scope. For it (is only) that which it hath earned, and against it (only) that which it hath deserved} [Al-Baqarah: 286]*

## HADEETH FOUR

One of the means that the Shaytaan uses to misguide people is by casting doubts and whispers (waswaas) into their hearts. The Messenger of Allaah (SAW) has warned us against some of these things. It says in the hadeeth: *“The Shaytaan comes to any one of you and says, ‘Who created such and such? Who created such and such?’ until he says, ‘Who created your Lord?’ If that happens to you, seek refuge with Allaah and give up these thoughts.”* Narrated by al-Bukhaari, no. 3277

The Third Hadith gives you the cure to such whispers and thoughts, which happens by saying ( A'ooth billah mina Al-shyatan Al-Rajeem) and ends it there.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) taught us two important things:

1 – To turn to Allaah and seek His protection, and to beseech Him, for He is the most Generous:

*“And if an evil whisper comes to you from Shaytaan (Satan), then seek refuge with Allaah”* Surah al A'raf 7: 200

2 – To put a stop to this matter and turn away from it, and to keep ourselves busy with other, useful things.

The belief concerning which there can be no doubt is that the entire universe, from its heights to its depths, is in a state of submission to Allaah and no one in the universe possesses any power. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

*“Say: (O Muhammad to polytheists, pagans) Call upon those whom you assert (to be associate gods) besides Allaah, they possess not even an atom’s (or a small ant’s) weight either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor there is for Him any supporter from among them.*

Intercession with Him profits not except for him whom He permits”

[Saba’ 34:22-23]

## OTHER HADEETH

The Prophet (SAW) said: *“Iblees has placed his throne above the water (sea) and then he sends his detachments. The closest of them to him are those who cause the greatest trial. One of them comes back to him and says: I did such and such. Shaytaan replies: You have not done anything. Then another comes to him and says: I did not leave him alone until I caused division between him and his wife.” He (sas) said: So Shaytaan brings him closer to himself and says: You did well.”*[Muslim]

He (SAW) also said: *“Indeed Shaytaan flows in the son of Aadam like the blood.”*[Bukhari and Muslim]

## **11. 7 STEPS OF SHAYTAN**

There are so many concepts that we can talk about Shaytan. It is needless to say that he is with us 24/7. It is needless to say that he knows us inside out. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He runs in our veins like blood runs in our veins.

Muslim (2175) and this is also in bukhārī (2035),

To the extent that the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) was once walking with his wife Safiyyah. He was doing itikhaaf, she came to visit him in the masjid, and he was walking with her, taking her home, when two men of the Ansaar saw him with a woman covered from head to toes. So they changed their direction. The Prophet said, "Hold on, she is Safiyyah bint Huyay bint Akhtab, may Allah be pleased with her, my wife". They said, "O Prophet of Allah, do you think we are going to doubt you?" He said "Shaytan runs in your veins and I was afraid that he may cast something in your heart that would nullify your Islam." This is how far Shaytan would go.

Never underestimate Shaytan and never overestimate your eman. Look through out the course of history how many people he managed to lure and throw into hell. And if you think that you have a degree, and if you think that you have years of experience on your CV, then think again. Shaytan's CV runs from Adam's time until today. Look at how many people he threw in Hell with his seduction and bad deeds.

So how can we avoid Shaytan? If you know his steps, with the grace of Allah, you can avoid falling into his traps. And scholars say that there are hurdles for Shaytan. SubhanAllah! He has a number of phases he anticipates, he waits for you.

### **1. SHIRK**

The highest for him is **Shirk!** If he achieves this, he gets his bonus with his soldiers. So he anticipates to the individual.

*Surely Allah does not forgive that anything should be associated with Him, and forgives what is besides that to whomsoever He pleases; and whoever associates anything with v /.*

Now, Shirk is associating others with Allah. And this is not the only thing he wants. He wants to nullify your Islam. So whether you become a mushrik, you associate others with Allah, or you become a kafir, a disbeliever, someone who denies anything of Allah's rulings, or you become a hypocrite, a munafiq, a real munafiq, not the type of practical nifaq but the type of nifaq that belongs in the heart, which nullifies Islam, or even if you don't believe in anything, you become an atheist; all of this is okay with him.

And this goes without saying Allah forgives all types of sins except this. Whoever comes with something like this on the Day of Judgment, he is doomed in hell for eternity.

But how can we fight this hurdle?

By believing in Allah, by accepting Tawheed Ar-Rububiyyah, Tawheed al-uloohiyyah, Tawheed Al Asmaa was-sifaat. And you all know these types of tawheed.

Tawheed Ar-Rububiyyah is to worship Allah by believing that He is the creator, the Giver of life and death, that He is The Provider, that He is The Sustainer and The Owner of this universe. So this is ruboobiyah. I am worshipping Allah, believing that what comes from Him is only from Him.

Tawheed al-uloohiyyah is the opposite. It is worshipping Allah with my own acts. So I do not give my own forms of worship whether they are through the heart, through the tongue or through my actions, except to Allah. So I only pray to Allah, fast to Allah, give zakaat for the sake of Allah, I fear Allah, I hope in what Allah has, I have my trust and confidence in Allah. All of this is part of al-uloohiyah.

And Tawheed Al Asmaa was-sifaat, to believe and affirm the attributes and beautiful names of Allah as was reported to us in the Qur'an and in the Sunnah.

So if a believer does this then, I wouldn't say our friend, but our enemy would move on to hurdle number two. What is the most wanted and sought after shirk for Shaytan? If he skips this hurdle, where would he wait for us and try to make us fall into? Riyaa? Well, riyaa is part of shirk. There are two types of shirk: Shirk Akbar and Shirk Asghar. And we won't go into details. As you know there is nifaaq (hypocrisy) that is major and minor, and there is kufr which is major and minor. All of these things are explained elsewhere in sha'Allah. But true riyaa, showing off, boasting, would be considered one of the hurdles but it is with shirk as a whole.

## 2. BID'AH (INNOVATION)

And a lot of us look or belittles the bid'ah. What's wrong with carrying something that we count the tasbeeh with? What's wrong with having prayer beads with one thousand pieces doing "Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah...." one thousand times? I have a car in Saudi Arabia and its called GMC Suburban that makes this sound when you turn it on. People say that this special car for mutawwa! Because it remembers Allah when you turn it on, it says "Allah, Allah, Allah...!" So, one says, what's wrong with a little innovation here and there?

Well innovation is one of the greatest sins after shirk. Why is that? It is enough and sufficient for you to know that the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) said, "Allah has blocked repentance from every innovator." He will never repent. Why? What should I repent of? What I'm doing is for the sake of Allah. I'm innovating for the sake of Allah, so they would never repent. And whoever innovates, he is actually diverting from the straight path and making his new path. That would take him and lead him eventually outside the loop of Islam. And that is why the Muslims, the scholars, the companions, the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) warned us from innovation, small or big. And he said (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) as in the hadith of 'Aisha may Allah be pleased with her, that whoever innovates in our religion, this is rejected.

*Taroktu fii kum amroini lan tadhillu maa tamasaktum bi hima Kitabillahi wa sunnati nabiyyi*

Anything that you innovate that the Prophet did not do, Allah will not accept it. And those who innovate, whenever you do something new in Islam, then you are one of the two: either you are accusing the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) of not delivering the message of Allah because you say, “Yes, I’m doing this. The prophet did not do it, because he did not give it to us. He concealed it to himself.” This is accusing the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) of hiding and concealing knowledge. This is blasphemy! Whoever says that the Prophet did not deliver, is a kafir. Or you say, “No, no. The prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) gave us everything he knew, but he didn’t know that this was good for us.” And this is another form of kufr! Because you’re accusing the prophet of not knowing and you know more than he does (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam). So innovation is very serious stuff. How can we counter attack this? Sunnah! By following the Sunnah, the footsteps of the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam). Therefore, if a person is a believer, he’s a muwahid, and he worships only Allah (so this is hurdle one) and he follows the sunnah to the letter, spirit and to the letter, - then this is hurdle number two, then Shaytan waits for him in hurdle number three which is major sins.

### **3. MAJOR SINS**

### **4. MINOR SINS**

What are the major sins? What’s the definition of a major sin?

A major sin is any sin that Allah, put a prescribed punishment for. Such as killing, stealing, fornicating, consuming intoxicants, slandering; these are all major sins. So, there are prescribed punishments for that by the Qur’an and the Sunnah. Or Allah warned those that commit this sin with a punishment in fire, or by cursing them or by throwing them away from Allah’s Mercy. Some brothers say, “Ya Akhi, its okay if I hit my mother. Why? It’s not a kabeera, it’s not a major sin! If I hit my mother, is there any prescribed punishment in this dunya?” Chop his finger or take his eye out? No, so it’s okay”. No! It is a major sin because Allah warned us and threatened us that there is a punishment in hell for that. So these are major sins.

Now, the majority of Muslims fall in major sins. Unfortunately whenever you say to someone, “Ya akhi, fear Allah”, what would he say? “I’m afraid of Allah. I don’t kill, I don’t drink alcohol, and I don’t fornicate. What else you want me to do?” And they think that major sins are limited in seven.

Ibn Abbas, may Allah pleased with him, says “there are closer to seventy than seven”. There are even more. So do we make major sins? Do we? Such as? We are the worshipers, ma sha’Allah, we are the people of knowledge, we are the people of practicing Islam, we take a lot of our time and effort to attend these, ma sha’Allah, conferences, and we’re the cream of the society, ma sha’Allah! Do we make major sins? Yes. Such as gheeba! The easiest thing, back biting. Whenever we don’t have anything to do, we just sit two and three friends, “What do you think of sheikh so and so?” “Oh, astagfurillahil adheem” “Oh, what about our brother, our neighbor, our so and so?” And we start talking left, right and center and whenever someone tells us ya akhi, fear Allah

we say “ya akhi, we’re talking for the welfare of the society, of the community, we’re doing this for the Muslims that’s why we have to slander everybody. And if everybody is not with us, then he’s against us. “Who is your perfect example, akhi?”, “Me! I’m the best one! All of you have this and that!” And this is what leads people to Hell: their arrogance, their lack of knowledge, thinking they know more than everybody else.

So if a person abides by Tawheed, and if he follows the Sunnah, and if he has the fear of Allah inside of him, this is the remedy for the major sins. What stops you from doing haram? The fear of Allah. Yusuf, why don’t you attend, why don’t you accept the invitation of the wife of the aziz “ma ‘aa dhaAllahi innahu rabbi ahsana math waay” (“I seek the refuge of Allah. Indeed, he is my master, who has made good my residence” Surah Yusuf: 23). He’s afraid! Of whom? Allah.

This is what makes honey taste like crap! The fear of Allah, it changes the taste of things so that you can taste them as they are. When Shaytan tries to make things look differently, taste differently, until he changes your nature. Tawheed, Sunnah, fear of Allah.

If he could not get you in the major sins he tries to get you in the minor sins. And minor sins, it goes without saying, people have a thousand and one excuses to legitimize their fall in minor sins. Among them: “Ya akhi, prayer to prayer, Ramadan to Ramadan, Umrah to Umrah, they expiate what’s between them. So alhamdulillah we pray five times a day, so it’s okay!” And these minor sins are the gateway to major sins. And these are the steps of Shaytan.

Shaytan would never come to you and say, “listen how about taking a shot of heroin?” Astagfurillah, are you crazy? You’re Shaytan but I didn’t think you’re crazy! I wouldn’t go to that! So, he would never go to this stage, he would come to you and say, “have a smoke”. And if you go a little bit further he goes to hashish, he goes to marijuana. He goes a little bit further, a sniff of cocaine, maybe some crack. If you go a little bit further you take the shot. This is how he works. He never tells you to fornicate, but he tells you to mix with women. “It’s work, its halal! I have to work”. He tells you to listen to music and you find people, ma sha’Allah, putting these iPods and listening to music on the street. He comes to you through what you see and these are the passages of Shaytan: your hearing, your sight, what you take, and your intake. This is how he controls your heart. And then he makes you fall into sin.

So if you abide by Tawheed, if you follow the Sunnah, if you have the righteousness in your heart to overcome the major and the minor sins where would he come after that?

## **5. AL MAKROOHAT (THINGS THAT ARE NOT RECOMMENDED)**

Hurdle number five: Al makroohat, things that are not recommended. And what are the dangers of the things that are not recommended? We know that if we do them, we are not sinful. But if we do not, we are rewarded. Like the preferred things, if we do them we are rewarded and if we do not, we are not sinful. So, it’s not a big deal? Yes, it’s not a big

deal to normal people, not to you. Because doing the things that are not recommended is part of not following the Sunnah. So what you are actually doing is not following the Sunnah, and what does this mean? “Ya akhi, I pray, I do what I have to do and I’m avoiding major sins, I’m avoiding minor sins. What’s wrong with not following the Sunnah one hundred percent?”

Well this feeling of not following the Sunnah one hundred percent is one of the steps of Shaytan. The minute you feel that ‘Yes, I can evade a Sunnah, I can escape it, it’s okay, it’s not that big of an issue’, you start to dislike some of the sunnahs, without feeling it, without knowing it. And by time, Shaytan would cook you on light fire until you are medium rare. A little bit medium, and then it’s well done.

So you have to be careful not do the things that Shaytan tells you, ya akhi, it’s not recommended to do. And you find people entering the masjid with their left foot. “Ya akhi, right foot is the Sunnah”, “Its okay! Left foot, right foot, who cares?” You find people growing the beard, ma sha’Allah, for example, because it’s external. But if you look inside you will find disasters. So many times I go to the gym, for example, the brothers take off their shirts to change a sweaty t-shirt and underneath the hood you see problems. Jungles under their arms! All that’s missing is some monkeys, chimpanzees, jumping! “What is this, O Sheikh? Don’t you know the Sunnah is to pluck your armpit hair?”

This shows you the double standards we have. You have to follow the Sunnah inside out not only in how you appear, but also in how you treat people, in how you treat yourself, in your night prayer, in your voluntary fasting, in this and that. Following the footsteps of the prophet (salla Allahu alaihi wa sallam) avoiding the things that are not recommended. This is hurdle number five.

So if abide by the Tawheed, and if you abide by the Sunnah, and if you abide by the virtues and the fear of Allah to avoid major and minor sins, and you also follow the Sunnah in staying away from things that are makrooh or not recommended, he waits for you in hurdle number 6:

**6. FAADIL AL MAFDOOL - which is the best deeds and the deeds below those.**

So now ma sha’Allah you are a perfect person, you think. “I don’t do anything! No major sins, no minor sins, no bid’ah, I’m on the Sunnah. Where can he get me?” And you don’t know. He comes to you in choosing and prioritizing your deeds. So you come, you have two deeds to choose, you choose the lesser one in benefit to you. Shaytan is satisfied. It’s ok with him.

Arabs usually, I think you all do the same, when we go into transactions we shoot for the glory. So if we’re selling or buying we will put a margin of profit of 50%. So if we have a deal of 5% profit, its waste of time. Shaytan is not like that, he’s a bit smarter. He’s

happy with 1%. If he manages, instead of getting you a hundred good deeds, to get you ninety, for now it's good. And you can see this among us.

For example, on the twenty-seventh of Ramadan it's after 'ishaa, its time for night prayer and there's a big possibility it's Laylatul Qadr and the brother came all the way from Britain to make 'umrah and to make 'itikhaaf. And after 'ishaa when its time for qiyaam he tells his friends I'm going to visit my uncle. Why? This is connecting to the next of kin. "Ya akhi, see him tomorrow morning! See him after Ramadan, you're still in the country!" "No, no. I have to, this is one of the good deeds, and it's a form of worship that I'm offering to Allah. He makes him waste this glorious night in visiting his uncle. Though visiting his uncle is a good deed, but it is not the right time to do it. Your mother wants you to take her to the hospital and you say, "I have a dars. Malish mom, you can die another day. But tonight I have to take the dars. All the brothers and the shayookh, I have to be with them!" Ya akhi, your mother is a priority! This is what a must is for you, the rest is not.

So this is the hurdle number six.

7.

### 8. THE PERMISSIBLE THINGS (AL MUBAHAT)

The last hurdle. There is nothing, ma sha'Allah if you do everything by the book: no major sins, no minor sins, no innovation, no shirk, no makrooh, always choosing the best over the thing that is lesser, her comes to you in the last hurdle which is, al mubaha, the permissible things.

He makes you indulge in permissible things. He drowns you in permissible things. So whatever is permissible, do we have any hesitation in doing it? No. You want to eat food? Yeah, food's good! You eat and eat and eat, ah! Alhamdulillah, I'm full! You like desserts? Desserts are good! And you eat, and you eat and you eat. Halal! I'm not stuffing myself; I'm not killing myself, its halal. So through this, you'll find a lot of the good things you can do you will not do. That is why if you eat late at night, you cannot do night prayer. "Ya sheikh, I do night prayer! 5 minutes, alhamdulillah, I make witr and I sleep. Every 'ishaa!" This is night prayer for a student of knowledge?! You recite the Qur'an? You memorize the Qur'an and revise it while in night prayer? "Well I can't". Why? "I'm too full!"

Mubahat (permissible things). People work in business" good! Making money, good! But they work twenty hours a day. "Ya sheikh, just to put food on the table". Well, you're not putting food on the table, you're putting food and dessert and jewelry and so many things! So Shaytan consumes your thinking, he consumes your time, through permissible things. Once you are saturated with the love of the dunya, with the love of these permissible things, he goes on to faze six, five, four, three and the countdown goes on.

Some scholars say that there is a last hurdle that no one escapes, even if you've escaped the permissible hurdle, there is one hurdle that you will never, ever escape. Not even the prophets and messengers of Allah escaped that, to that extent! The hurdle of Shaytan that not even the messengers nor prophets of Allah could escape them. And which hurdle is



this? **The hurdle of the enemy of mankind**, whether from the jinn or from the humans. Even if you manage to escape the seven hurdles, he will always wait for you and he will always put someone among the humans to give trouble to you, to make life miserable for you. You cannot escape this!

Can you have a nice wife? I wish you can, you may have, but eventually your wife, some of these days, would be a little bit annoyed of you and you would see hell incarnation in your house. So now you say akhi, SubhanAllah, I have tawheed, I'm avoiding shirk, I'm avoiding bid'ah, I'm avoiding the permissible things, everything is by the book! Yes, but this is one of his hurdles that Allah tests your iman with.

So, in short, we are surrounded by this enemy of ours. We know his tactics, we know how he works, we know his working hours, we know that he doesn't take holidays and he doesn't take no for an answer. If we abide by Allah and if we abide by the Sunnah, if we have our trust in Allah and if we're always fearful of his traps and trying to avoid them by following the Sunnah, by the Grace of Allah we will be saved.

And I pray to Allah that He gives us a refuge from our fierce enemy and that He grants us power over him to overtake him, and Allah knows best.

## **12. YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST SHAYTAN**

This crafty enemy is keen to misguide people and to make them doubt. The more you seek the help of Allaah, learn about your enemy and be prepared to face him, the more you will be victorious over him. If you know your true enemy, the following are the weapons at your disposal.

### **Firstly:**

Adherence to the Qur'aan and Sunnah in word and deed, and keeping away from the paths of misguidance, for on every path there is a devil calling people to it. So you should follow the beliefs, words, acts of worship and laws that have come from Allaah and abstain from that which He has forbidden. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ

*O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islam (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islamic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitan (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy. [surah al-Baqarah 2:208]*

Silm (translated here as Islam) refers to Islam. Muqaatil interpreted it as doing all kinds of good and righteous deeds.

Whoever gives up any part of Islam has followed in some of the footsteps of the Shaytaan.

Adhering to the Qur'aan and Sunnah in word and deed expels the Shaytaan annoys him greatly. From Abu Hurayrah: *“When the son of Adam recites a verse of sajdah and prostrates, the Shaytaan withdraws weeping, saying, ‘Woe to me, the son of Adam was commanded to prostrate, and he prostrated, so Paradise will be his; I was commanded to prostrate and I disobeyed, so Hell will be mine.’”* Narrated by Muslim, no. 133.

**Secondly:**

Seeking refuge with Allaah from all kinds of evil and turning to Him. Islam teaches us to seek refuge with Allaah in certain situations, such as the following:

**When entering the washroom (Bukhari and Muslim):**

[بِسْمِ اللَّهِ] اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْخُبُثِ وَالْخُبَائِثِ

*“(Bismillah) Allaahumma inni a’oodhu bika min al-khubthi wa’l-khabaa’ith (O Allaah, I seek refuge with You from the male and female devils).”*

**When one is angry (Al Bukhari and Muslim):**

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ.

*“A’oodhu Billaahi min al-Shaytaan ir-rajeem (I seek refuge with Allaah from the accursed Shaytaan).”*

**When having intercourse (al Bukhari and Muslim):**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ اللَّهُمَّ جَنِّبْنَا الشَّيْطَانَ  
وَجَنِّبِ الشَّيْطَانَ مَا رَزَقْتَنَا.

*“Bismillaah Allaahumma jannibna al-shaytaan wa jannib al-shaytaana ma razaqtana (In the name of Allaah, O Allaah, keep the Shaytaan away from us and keep the Shaytaan away from that which You may bless us with).”*

**When stopping in a place (Muslim):**

أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّاتِ مِنْ شَرِّ  
مَا خَلَقَ.

“A’oodhu bi kalimaat-Allaah il-taammah min sharri ma khalaqa (I seek refuge in the perfect words of Allaah from the evil of that which He has created).”

When hearing the braying of a donkey: “A’oodhu Billaahi min al-Shaytaan ir-rajeem (I seek refuge with Allaah from the accursed Shaytaan).”

When starting to read Qur’aan: “A’oodhu Billaah il-samee’ il-‘aleem min al-Shaytaan ir-rajeem (I seek refuge with Allaah, the All-Hearing, All-Knowing, from the accursed Shaytaan).”

After starting to pray: “A’oodhu Billaah il-samee’ il-‘aleem min al-Shaytaan ir-rajeem wa min hamzihi wa nafakhihi wa nafthihi (I seek refuge with Allaah, the All-Hearing, All-Knowing, from the accursed Shaytaan, from his madness, his arrogance and his poetry).”

The best words with which we may seek refuge with Allaah are al-Mi’wadhatayn i.e., Soorat al-Falaq and Soorat al-Naas. It was narrated from ‘Uqbah ibn ‘Aamir (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Do you not see the verses that were revealed to me tonight, the like of which have never been seen? Qul ‘aoodhu bi Rabb il-falaq and Qul ‘aoodhi bi rabb il-naas.” Narrated by Muslim, 814.

### **Thirdly:**

Keeping busy with dhikr, for this is the greatest thing that may protect a person. In the hadeeth it says that Allaah commanded Yahya (peace be upon him) to enjoin five things upon the Children of Israel, one of which was: “I command you to remember Allaah, for this is like a man who is being pursued by the enemy, then he comes to a strong fortress and saves himself from them. Similarly a man cannot save himself from his enemy except by means of dhikr.” Narrated by al-Haafiz Abu Moosa al-Madani in al-Targheeb fi’l-Khisaal al-Hameedah wa’l-Tarheeb min al-Khilaal al-Murdiyyah. Ibn al-Qayyim said: Shaykh al-Islam used to regard this hadeeth highly, and I heard that he used to say: “The evidence for its being sound is quite clear.” al-Waabil al-Sayyib, 60.

### **Fourthly:**

Adhering to the main body of the Muslims (the jamaa’ah) by living in a Muslim land and choosing righteous friends who will help him to do good. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said “*Whoever among you wants to attain the best part of Paradise, let him adhere to the main body of the Muslims, for the Shaytaan is with the one who is alone but he is farther away from two.*” Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 2254. Al-Qaari’ said: its isnaad is saheeh. Al-Mubaarakfoori said: The entire hadeeth is either saheeh or hasan. Tuhfat al-Ahwadhi, 6/320. g

### **Fifthly:**

Opposing the Shaytaan, for he may come in the form of someone offering sincere advice, so we must go against him. For if he were really good he would be good to himself first, but he has caused himself to be doomed to Hell. So if he comes to you whilst you are praying, and says, “You are showing off (so cut your prayer short),” then make your prayer lengthy. If he says, “You have broken your wudoo’,” say, “You are lying”. If he says to you that the dead can hear you and benefit you or harm you, tell him, “You are lying.” When you eat, be different from him and eat and drink with your right hand, and take food with your right hand. This even applies to taking a siesta, as it says in the hadeeth: “Take a siesta for the devils do not take a siesta.” Narrated by Abu Na’eem with a saheeh isnaad. Saheeh al-Jaami’, 4/147.

Even with regard to a piece of food that falls to the ground, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Pick it up and do not leave it for the Shaytaan...” Narrated by Muslim, 12, al-Adaab.

### **Sixthly:**

Repenting and seeking Allaah’s forgiveness. According to the hadeeth the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “The Shaytaan said to the Lord of Glory: ‘By Your Glory O Lord, I will keep trying to misguide Your slaves so long as their souls are in their bodies.’ The Lord said, ‘By My Glory and Majesty, I will continue to forgive them so long as they ask My forgiveness.’” Narrated by Ahmad in al-Musnad and classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Jaami’, 2/32

So man should always be in a state of repentance and turning to Allaah. They have an example in their father Adam (peace be upon him):

“Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers”

[al-A’raaf 7:23 – interpretation of the meaning]

These are some of the means that will help you to ward off this waswaas. We ask Allaah the Almighty, by His most beautiful names and sublime attributes to grant us refuge from the madness of the devils and from their traps and whispers. Praise be to Allaah the Lord of the Worlds.

Know that your enemy, the Shaytaan and his troops will not stop at trying to bring about the cause of the destruction of your actions and seducing you into riyaa’. Look at the warning about the plan of Shaytaan which has come in the Book and the Sunnah as it is the best healing for the worst disease.

### **DUA**

Imam Ahmad narrated that `Abdullah bin `Umar said, "The Messenger of Allah used to often recite this supplication in the morning and when the night falls,

«اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْعَافِيَةَ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْعَفْوَ وَالْعَافِيَةَ فِي دِينِي وَدُنْيَايَ وَأَهْلِي وَمَالِي، اللَّهُمَّ اسْتُرْ عَورَاتِي وَآمِنْ رَوْعَاتِي، اللَّهُمَّ احْفَظْنِي مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِي وَعَنْ يَمِينِي وَعَنْ شِمَالِي وَمِنْ فَوْقِي وَأَعُوذُ بِعَظَمَتِكَ أَنْ أُغْتَالَ مِنْ تَحْتِي»

*Allaahumma innee as-alukal 'aafiyata fiddunyaa wal aakhirah; Allaahumma innee as-alukal 'afwa wal 'aafiyata fee deenee wa dunayaaya wa ahlee wa maalee; Allaahummas tur'uraati wa aamin raw-'aatee; Allaahummah faznee min bayni yadayya wa min khalfee wa 'an yameenee wa 'an shimaalee wa min fauqee wa a-'oodhu bi'azomtika an ughtaala min tahtee.*

(O Allah! I ask You for well-being in this life and the Hereafter. O Allah! I ask You for pardon and well-being in my religion, life, family and wealth. O Allah! Cover my errors and reassure me in times of difficulty. O Allah! Protect me from before me, from behind me, from my right, from my left and from above me. I seek refuge with Your greatness from being killed from below me.)"

Waki` commented (about being killed from below), "This refers to earthquakes." Abu Dawud, An-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah, Ibn Hibban and Al-Hakim collected this Hadith, and Al-Hakim said, "Its chain is Sahih. "

DUA OF IBRAHIM AS AND CAN BE USED BEFORE AL FATIHAH RECITATION:

وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ، إِنَّ صَلَاتِي، وَنُسُكِي، وَمَحْيَايَ، وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

*Wajjahtu wajhiya lillathee fataras-samawati wal-arda haneefan wama ana minal-mushrikeen, inna salatee wanusukee wamahyaya wamamatee lillahi rabbil-AAalameen, la shareeka lahu wabithalika omirtu wa-ana minal-muslimeen.*

I have turned my face sincerely towards He who has brought forth the heavens and the Earth and I am not of those who associate (others with Allah). Indeed my prayer, my sacrifice, my life and my death are for Allah, Lord of the worlds, no partner has He, with this I am commanded and I am of the Muslims.

(Muslim 1/534)

(Surah al An'am 6: 79 and 162)