

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

خطوات الشيطان

FOOTSTEPS OF THE SHAITAN

Footsteps of the Shaitan

Footsteps of the Shaitan (خطوات الشيطان) - Part I

Introduction

- We need ikhlas in everything we do and we especially need ikhlas in defeating our enemy – the shaitan. The shaitan has no power over the mukhliseen.

ayah 208 – (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ) (O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islâm (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islâmic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy.)

- (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا) (O you who believe!): Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is addressing the believers. You would think that everyone would be addressed regarding the shaitan, but in this case it is the believers.
- (ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ) (enter in Islam): When you speak, when you are silent, when you act – you need to submit to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). When you face any decree in this life, you need to submit to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

The word (السَّلام) linguistically means 'peace' and its opposite is (حرب) 'war'. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants you to have peace in this life. (السَّلام) means Islam, but the believers have already entered Islam, so why is it being mentioned?

- (كَافَّةً) (entirely): means to enter and submit completely to every detail of the deen. For example, I'll pray and fast, but don't tell me to pardon. This is not entering completely. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is making us aware of the deen when we're ready for submission, for example you hear about this voluntary prayer, so you enter, or you hear about a certain character, so you enter. And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will bring this forward to you with knowledge. The word (كَافَّةً) comes from (كاف) which means 'all', but (ة) makes it exaggerated. We have reached the level where we can't just pick and choose what we want to take from the lesson, but we need to take it entirely. But what makes people to not enter Islam entirely? Our desires, our nafs. Our nafs is more powerful than the shaitan. Our nafs is preventing us from paradise, the shaitan is just giving ideas. We don't want to use the Qur'an and Sunnah to pick what we want or just use it to attack people – this is all incorrect. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows our intentions. For example, if you have a problem with someone, you will go and send her all the hadiths that she's in the wrong and you're in the right, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows our intentions. Even in the morning/evening supplications we say (اللهم اني أعوذ بك من شر نفسي و) (من شر الشيطان و شركه (O Allah I seek refuge in You from the evil of myself

and from the evil of the shaitan). The nafs is mentioned before the shaitan.

- (وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ) (and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan).): who's following the steps of the shaitan, our nafs, we are. Before we were created, he's our enemy but we're following his steps, subhan Allah. What's preventing us from entering Islam entirely? Our nafs and if we are not defeating our nafs then we will follow the steps of the shaitan, subhan Allah. Why should we not follow the shaitan?
- (إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ) (Verily! He is to you a plain enemy): he's a clear enemy of ours, if the shaitan and your nafs make a 'peace treaty' then you become 'awliya al shaitan' – companion of the shaitan. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. The shaitan is not our wali, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is our Wali. The opposite of wali is enemy and this is the shaitan for us. The shaitan wants us to be sad and to be the worst of creation, subhan Allah. Every morning when we wake-up, there is an angel and devil, the angel says start your day with good, the shaitan says start your day with evil, whether it's thinking bad about someone, talking back to someone, etc. And the same happens before you sleep. He will remind you what so and so said to you, etc. Even when you wake up in the middle night and you want to pray qiyam al layl, the shaitan will come and say go back to sleep, you're tired, just sleep another five minutes, and the angel says Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is calling you pray, and it depends on which voice is stronger, you have to see who is your wali? Subhan Allah. That's

why we want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to be our Wali, the shaitan is not our wali, he's our enemy. The shaitan comes to us in a very convincing way, very diplomatic, he will try to make you follow his steps, but he doesn't have power over you. If you cannot defeat your nafs, then you will follow the shaitan. The shaitan will never, ever like us. Never think if you follow him he will like you. In the Qur'an, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says He is the Wali of the believers, but for the disbelievers there are no walis for them. On the Day of Judgement the shaitan will free himself from you, he will say they followed me. The shaitan already knows that he's going to the hellfire. Even the magicians who are following the shaitan, still the shaitan will not like them, on the Day of Judgement he will free himself from them. The shaitan is truly deceiving. Don't be heedless, when you're heedless the shaitan will come.

Footsteps of the Shaitan (خطوات الشيطان)

- For every human, there are four roads he can take. They are right, left, front, and back. Whichever direction you take, you will find the shaitan there, subhan Allah.
- Way of disobedience (طريق المعصية): If you want to commit a sin, though you haven't done it yet, who's watching you? The shaitan. The shaitan flows in our veins so he knows our weaknesses. For example, you want to backbite, you want to talk bad, you want to skip the prayer, etc:
 - the shaitan will encourage you
 - he will give you suggestions
 - he will be at your service, free of charge
 - he will beautify the sin, he will say of course you need to talk back, what about your honor, etc?
- Way of obedience (طريق الطاعة): if you want to do a good deed, like you want to give charity, pray voluntary, recite Qur'an, etc.:
 - the shaitan will discourage you
 - make it very ugly and difficult on you: he will say you're tired now, people are waiting, etc, he will delay until you don't do it, subhan Allah. That's why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us to hasten to do the good deeds.
 - Put obstacles: sometimes even when you want to pray, the children will start crying.
- Surah Al 'Araf 14-17: قَالَ أَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمٍ يُبْعَثُونَ (١٤) قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ (١٥) قَالَ : فَبِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ (١٦) ثُمَّ لَأَنْبِتَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ

(شَمَّآبِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ (١٧)) (Iblīs) said: "Allow me respite till the Day they are raised up (i.e. the Day of Resurrection)." (14) (Allâh) said: "You are of those respited." (15) (Iblīs) said: "Because You have sent me astray, surely I will sit in wait against them (human beings) on Your Straight Path (16) Then I will come to them from before them and behind them, from their right and from their left, and You will not find most of them as thankful ones (i.e. they will not be dutiful to You)." (17))

- Iblis didn't follow the command of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to prostrate to Adam (عليه السلام). After he was cast out, he asked for time until the Day of Judgement. Imagine how he accuses Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) with misguidance, istaghfar Allah. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) never misleads, He guides, but because of the sickness in Iblis Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knew that he cannot be a worshipper. The tests reveal your inside. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) never deprive us from good deeds. If we are stopped from a good deed then it means Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) doesn't want that deed from us. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen.
- The shaitan said I will sit on Your Straight Path, he wants to discourage us from the Straight Path which to obey Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not disobey Him.
- Then he will come to us from the front, from the back, from the right, and from the left. These are the four directions we're going in our life. And what else did he say? You will

not find the majority of them grateful. The shaitan doesn't want us to be grateful, he wants us to be ungrateful. Ingratitude is the goal of the shaitan, why? Because if you're grateful then the Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will increase you. If you're so grateful with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in everything, even with calamities, then you're balanced, you're at peace and the shaitan doesn't want you to be at peace.

Hadith: عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أُرِيتُ النَّارَ فَإِذَا أَكْثَرُ (أَهْلِهَا النِّسَاءُ يَكْفُرْنَ ". قِيلَ أَيَكْفُرْنَ بِاللَّهِ قَالَ " يَكْفُرْنَ الْعَشِيرَ، وَيَكْفُرْنَ الْإِحْسَانَ، لَوْ أَحْسَنْتَ (إِلَى إِحْدَاهُنَّ الدَّهْرَ ثُمَّ رَأَتْ مِنْكَ شَيْئًا قَالَتْ مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْكَ خَيْرًا قَطُّ) (Narrated Ibn 'Abbas (رضي الله عنه): The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers were women who were ungrateful." It was asked, "Do they disbelieve in Allah?" (or are they ungrateful to Allah?) He replied, "They are ungrateful to their husbands and are ungrateful for the favors and the good (charitable deeds) done to them. If you have always been good (benevolent) to one of them and then she sees something in you (not of her liking), she will say, 'I have never received any good from you.'" – Sahih al-Bukhari 29 (العشير) Means anyone you're close to you, whether spouse, children, parents, etc. We don't appreciate those close to us, when they make a mistake we clash but we need to overlook. When we don't overlook the faults of others then we're ungrateful. All your life that person is helping you and one

slip you will complain and make it a big problem, subhan Allah, that's why we need to do so much charity.

- No one's behavior, attitude, or manners are perfect but you need to overlook it and not talk about it because if you talk about it then you've made the shaitan happy. You have everything nice and the shaitan will point at one thing and magnify it and it will be bad in your eyes. The ultimate goal of the shaitan is to make us ungrateful.
- There are two directions that the shaitan doesn't have power – above and below because that is exclusively for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Why? Because when you make dua'a to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), the shaitan cannot come in between from above. And he will not come from below because when you make sujud this is the closest place between you and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah.
- Why does the shaitan come between us and the people? Because he wants to spoil the relationship, but if your relationship is so strong with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), he won't be able to disturb it. And the more pious you are, the more the shaitan will come. He will come to the worshipper, to those doing good. When you're separated then the shaitan will be able to overcome you. That's why the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) encouraged us being in a group.
- The shaitan will not come between you and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is your Wali, and this shows

you (لا اله الا الله). No one can disconnect that connection between you and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) unless you cut it.

Entrance of the shaitan (المدخل)

- Before the shaitan enters, he will scan you, except your heart, he cannot see inside your heart. From this, he knows which road he should take with you, subhan Allah.
- The shaitan will enter from three doors, so you need to be extra careful and put a 'lock' on these doors:

First entrance (المدخل الأول) – Temptations (الشهوة):

- The shaitan is entering this door for the majority of people, though it is less severe compared to the other doors, subhan Allah.
- Temptations include food, drink, and relations, and the majority fall into this without realizing. It makes the person think what will I eat, what will I drink, what will we do, etc. Surah Al Baqarah 168: (يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ) (O mankind! Eat of that which is lawful and good on the earth, and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Verily, he is to you an open enemy)
 - We need to not only eat halal food, but also pure food, something natural not processed and artificial.
 - Then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us don't follow the footsteps of the shaitan and this shows us the relation between food and footsteps of the shaitan. If you eat haram, then it will make you follow the shaitan. Don't think it's just food but

eating halal/pure food affects your worship. When you eat pure food, then your worship will be pure. Surah Al Mu'minoon 51: (يَأْتِيهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُّوْا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ) (O (you) Messengers! Eat of the Taiyyibât [all kinds of Halâl (lawful) foods (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, milk products, fats, vegetables, fruits, etc.)], and do righteous deeds. Verily! I am Well-Acquainted with what you do.) – Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) even commanded the messengers to eat pure food and do righteous good deeds.

- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said don't eat until you're full, it's not because it's a diet, but because it affects your worship and deeds, subhan Allah. We are eating to worship, we are not living to eat.
- The scholars called this type of temptation (بهيمية) – cattle like. To eat and drink are natural, but we can't eat and drink whatever we want. Sometimes we're eating while not hungry. If the person enters this door then he will be wronging himself (ظالما لنفسه), it will affect your health, body, and worship. If you take that sweet just like that, you're just spoiling yourself and making yourself imbalanced. Even with children or someone sick, we think feeding them is showing them love, but we're just spoiling the people, subhan Allah. It's affecting our manners. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) told Adam (عليه السلام) all of paradise is for you, except one tree. And the desire goes towards that one tree, and so the shaitan comes from this direction, from

the direction of food, subhan Allah. This is the widest door and most people are falling into it, subhan Allah. And it leads to two sicknesses ultimately:

- Greed (الحرص): without realizing you'll become greedy.
- Miser (البخل): he's only thinking about himself and not others. You don't want to give charity, you don't want to give a smile.

Second entrance (المدخل الثاني) – Anger (الغضب):

- This door is more intense than the first, and the scholars called it (سبعية) – beast like. You are not only destroying yourself but others (ظالما لنفسه و لغيره). When you're angry you don't see clearly, you don't see who you're talking to. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said don't be angry and he repeated it three times.
- When you're angry, then change positions, go for a walk, at least don't wrong others. When we're angry we say things and we'll regret it afterwards. This type of anger is for desire, it's for your ego. Don't give an excuse that this person is angry so you need to be angry.
- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was walking with Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) and someone was arguing with him, when Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) was quiet, an angel was defending him on his behalf, but as soon as he talked back, then the angel left and the shaitan came, subhan Allah. So the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) left.
- The consequence of anger is:

- Pride (العجب)
- Arrogance (الكبر), to be cont'd in sha'a Allah

Footsteps of the Shaitan (خطوات الشيطان) - Part 2

Ayah 208 – يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السَّلَامِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ (O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islâm (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islâmic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy.)

People are two groups (الناس فريقان)

- Friends of Ar Rahman- The Most Merciful (أولياء الرحمن)
- Friends of the shaitan (أولياء الشيطان): the shaitan is always behind them
- Surah Al 'Araf 27: يَا بَنِي ءَادَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْءَٰتِهِمَا إِنَّهُ يَرَاكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا الشَّيَاطِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ (O Children of Adam! Let not Shaitân (Satan) deceive you, as he got your parents [Adam and Hawwa (Eve)] out of Paradise, stripping them of their raiments, to show them their private parts. Verily, he and Qabîluhu (his soldiers from the jinn or his tribe) see you from where you cannot see them. Verily, We made the Shayâtin (devils) Auliya' (protectors and helpers) for those who believe not.)
 - Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is addressing all of humanity, don't let the shaitan put you in a fitna. The shaitan can plan, plot, and places steps to follow him. When you follow his steps, then you will fall into his trap and you will find your faith decreasing.

- Don't let the shaitan affect you just as he took your parents – Adam and Hawwa – out of paradise. We need to remember our past history and learn from it. They were in paradise, but because they fell into the fitna of the shaitan, they were taken out of paradise, and they went down to earth. Fitna takes you down.
- One of the missions of the shaitan is to make the human naked and shameless with no modesty. That's why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) describes the clothes of the dwellers of paradise, He tells us you will not be naked there. So this is not one of the traits of the dwellers of paradise. The shaitan either wants us to be naked with the people or with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), meaning without taqwa, no 'libas at taqwa', subhan Allah.
- The moment they ate from the tree, they were exposed. The shaitan wants to pull it off and make you see your awra in order to see your shame; he wants to show your faults in front of others. The shayateen can see us but we can't see them. Why are they looking at us? To see our faults and weaknesses so they know from what door to enter. Imagine someone observing you 24 hours, then of course he will find your faults, subhan Allah. The people we spend more time with are the ones who see more of our faults. That's why when you remove your clothes you say 'Bism Allah', so that the shaitan cannot see. Before entering the

bathroom, exiting the bathroom, when entering/leaving the house, eating/drinking you need to always remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) so that the shaitan cannot see you. Never think the shaitan is a good friend.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) makes the shayateen the friends of those who don't believe. But those who believe will be awliya Ar Rahman (الله ولي الذين آمنوا).

- Surah An Nahl 98-100: (فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ (٩٨) إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ (٩٩) إِنَّمَا سُلْطَانُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَتَوَلَّوْنَهُ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِهِ مُشْرِكُونَ (١٠٠)) (So when you want to recite the Qur'ân, seek refuge with Allâh from Shaitân (Satan), the outcast (the cursed one). (98) Verily! He has no power over those who believe and put their trust only in their Lord (Allâh). (99) His power is only over those who obey and follow him (Satan), and those who join partners with Him (Allâh) (100))

- You will find goodness in the Qur'an, but the shaitan doesn't want you to read it, and if you read it he doesn't want you to understand it, and if you understand it he doesn't want you to apply it, subhan Allah. That's why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us to seek refuge in Him from the shaitan, because there is nothing stronger to say.
- The shaitan doesn't have authority or power over those who believe and have tawakul in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). This is an additional characteristic of awliya Ar Rahman, they have tawakul, they trust Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in all matters. The

muttawakileen are 70,000 who enter paradise with no torment or account. They are quick to enter paradise because no one cut their way in life, they're always relying on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). They're not depending on the means. Opposite of tawakul is stress, tension, and panicking. If they're in a problem, they will say Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take them out. If they're in the middle of the sea, they will say Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take them out.

- The shaitan has power over those who take the shaitan as a wali and those who associate with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) another partner.

Entrances of the shaitan (المدخل)

First entrance (المدخل الأول) – Temptations (الشهوة)

Second entrance (المدخل الثاني) – Anger (الغضب)

Third entrance (المدخل الثالث) – Desire (الهوى):

- This door is the most intense, greater than temptations and anger. Temptations are something natural like food, drink, relations, and talking but done excessively. But desire, hawa (الهوى) is when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) commands you something but you don't want to it. Surah Al Furqan 43: (أَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ) (Have you (O Muhammad SAW) seen him who has taken as his ilâh (god) his own vain desire?)
- Depending on our hawa, we will speak or not, pray or not. The scholars called hawa – satanic (شيطانية). When Iblis was commanded

to prostrate to Adam (عليه السلام), he said You created me from fire and he from clay. Hawa is opposite taqwa. Hawa is to do something regardless whether Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is happy or not, it's just according to your mood. Today you feel like praying, tomorrow not, you feel like reciting Qur'an, another time you're not in the mood for it. Taqwa is being cautious whereas hawa is just if it's appealing to you. Taqwa makes you cautious of the consequences. If someone is following their hawa, even if you speak to them a hundred times, they won't listen. Hawa is doing whatever you want without thinking what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants from you.

- Hawa makes a person to wrong himself and others, and to go against the rights of his Creator because he's underestimating Him (ظالما لنفسه و لغيره و بحق خالقه), subhan Allah. Don't do good deeds for hawa either, don't attend the study circles because it suits you. How do you fix this problem? Change your intention for the face of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). You need to do good deeds with taqwa. What are the consequences of hawa (تتائجها)?
 - Disbelief (الكفر): just as Iblis disbelieved.
 - Sins (المعاصي): sins stem from hawa.
 - Innovation (البدعة): people will say I'm doing a worship, but it's something that is not in the Qur'an and Sunnah. This comes from hawa.

Steps of the shaitan from the Qur'an

- Surah Al An'am 142: (وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ حَمُولَةٌ وَفَرَشَاتٌ كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُواتِ) (الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ) (And of the cattle (are some) for burden (like camels) and (some are) small (unable to carry burden like sheep, goats for food, meat, milk, wool). Eat of what Allâh has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Surely he is to you an open enemy.)
- Surah An Noor 21: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُواتِ الشَّيْطَانِ وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعِ خُطُواتِ الشَّيْطَانِ) (فَإِنَّهُ يُأْمُرُ بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَمَا زَكَى مِنْكُمْ مَنْ أَحَدٌ أَبَدًا وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يُزَكِّي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ) (O you who believe! Follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). And whosoever follows the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan), then, verily he commands Al-Fahshâ' [i.e. to commit indecency (illegal sexual intercourse)], and Al-Munkar [disbelief and polytheism (i.e. to do evil and wicked deeds; and to speak or to do what is forbidden in Islâm)]. And had it not been for the Grace of Allâh and His Mercy on you, not one of you would ever have been pure from sins. But Allâh purifies (guides to Islâm) whom He wills, and Allâh is All-Hearer, All-Knower.)
 - The steps of the shaitan are to command to indecency. There are those following the shaitan and not following him, those who follow the shaitan are destroying themselves and there are those who are purifying themselves. And this is a favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Sometimes you think you have overcome the shaitan but he will not give up, he will come again. For example, you

want to pray the night prayer, and he wants you to go back to sleep and you sleep but you get up and pray. The shaitan will then come back and remind you of your good deed and say how you defeated him, you're so strong, subhan Allah. Don't give credit to yourself for anything, it's all a favor from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- The shaitan wants to corrupt us in the deen and manners (خطوات) (الشيطان لإفساد الدين و الأخلاق الكثيرة).

The shaitan has seven steps (خطوات الشيطان سبعة)

- He will customize his entrance according to your weakness. If the first step is not working, then he will go to the second, and so forth. The scholars said as long as you're alive then know the shaitan will always go against you; he will never give up until you die. And the moment of death will be the greatest blow because it's his last chance. While in the agony in death, the shaitan will come in the form of someone you know who passed away like your mother, and she will say after I died I saw the truth and this deen is not the truth, istaghfar Allah. That's why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says in Surah Ibrahim 27:
(يُنَبِّئُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ)
(Allâh will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allâh Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter. And Allâh will cause to go astray those who are Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers, etc.), and Allâh does what He wills)

1. To disbelieve and associate with Allah (الكفر و الشرك بالله) (سبحانه وتعالى): and again this depends on your weakness in these areas. If someone is already disbelieving and is a mushrik, then the shaitan will not come to him, he won't waste his energy on this. That's why many reverts say before they became Muslims there were no whispers of the shaitan, but when they became Muslims there are whispers of the shaitan. When a person is thinking about Islam the shaitan will discourage him and say you will leave your lifestyle, your gods, etc. When he overcomes and becomes a Muslim, then this Muslim wants to do hijrah, and the shaitan will say you want to leave your land and property. When he disobeys the shaitan, then the command to do obligations, the shaitan will give a bad picture. You want to wear hijab, then your husband will hate you, etc. If the person doesn't fall in disbelief and shirk, meaning his tawheed is strong, then the shaitan will go to the second step.

Footsteps of the Shaitan (خطوات الشيطان) - Part 3

آيَاتُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَدْخُلُوا فِي السَّلَامِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ (O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islâm (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islâmic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy.)

Introduction

- The shaitan never gets tired and will always have a strong will. He is persistent and he will not lose hope. He will stay with us until our last

moment of death. The shaitan studies the psychology of that human being and he will not whisper until he has made a full 'scan'. He will observe what you love, what you hate, who are the people you love, who do you hate. What are the things that irritate you, what makes you slip, what gets you angry? He studies your entire emotions. The shaitan flows in our blood, so he knows us. And to know about this is a blessing because we can understand why we are sad all of a sudden, why are we irritated, etc.

- The more a person is devoted to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), the more the shaitan will dedicate himself to that person and dedicate his followers as well. Always remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and he will turn away. But the moment you're heedless, even if it's just five minutes, he will come.
- Surah Al Isra'a 61-65: (وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ قَالَ أَأَسْجُدُ لِمَنْ خَلَقْتَ طِينًا (٦١) قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَكَ هَذَا الَّذِي كَرَّمْتَ عَلَيَّ لَئِنِ أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَأَحْتَنِكَنَّ ذُرِّيَّتَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا (٦٢) قَالَ أَذْهَبَ فَمَنْ تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ فَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ جَزَاؤُكُمْ جَزَاءً مَوْفُورًا (٦٣) وَأَسْتَفِزُّ مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتَ مِنْهُمْ بِصَوْتِكَ وَأَجْلِبْ عَلَيْهِم بِخَيْلِكَ وَرَجِلِكَ وَشَارِكُهُمْ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ وَعَدَّهُمْ وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا (٦٤) (And (remember) when We said to the angels: "Prostrate yourselves unto Adam." They prostrated except Iblīs (Satan). He said: "Shall I prostrate to one whom You created from clay?" (61) [Iblīs (Satan)] said: "See this one whom You have honoured above me, if You give me respite (keep me alive) to the Day of Resurrection, I will surely seize and mislead his offspring (by sending them astray) all but a few!" (62) (Allâh) said: "Go, and whosoever of them follows you, surely! Hell will be the

recompense of you (all) - an ample recompense. (63) "And befool them gradually those whom you can among them with your voice (i.e. songs, music, and any other call for Allâh's disobedience), make assaults on them with your cavalry and your infantry, share with them wealth and children (by tempting them to earn money by illegal ways - usury or by committing illegal sexual intercourse), and make promises to them." But Satan promises them nothing but deceit (64) "Verily! My slaves (i.e the true believers of Islâmic Monotheism), - you have no authority over them. And All-Sufficient is your Lord as a Guardian." (65))

- The shaitan has enmity because of his arrogance and no one with arrogance can enter paradise. Even if you're the best worshipper, you cannot be arrogant and look down on others.
- The shaitan thinks he's better and he is misbehaving with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by saying, did you see this one you honored above me? This shows the problem of ego. Iblis asked for time and he said (لَأَحْتَنِكَنَّ), which generally means to mislead and misguide, but it literally means to cover the jaws. He is refusing to obey the command of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because he doesn't want to prostrate to someone that came after him and whom Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has favored. This shows that you should never underestimate anyone – whether you are old in guidance, new in guidance, or not even guided. If you're guided, you need

to look at others with eyes of mercy, not as if you're better because that is the way of the shaitan. Hawa is from the shaitan. Iblis is prostrating to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) all the time but the one time he's commanded, he doesn't prostrate, why? Because of his hawa.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) told the shaitan to go, so if you obey Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then it's a favor on you. When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) cast out Iblis, he lost his favor and anyone who follows him as lost this favor as well. When you're obeying Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then you're under His companionship and when you're follow the shaitan then you're under the companionship of the shaitan, how ugly this would be.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gave the shaitan to use what he wants to mislead the people, why? To show are you really following Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) or the shaitan. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) said to irritate them by your voice – this is the call of the shaitan. Anyone who's following the shaitan, then he will be the shaitan's ride and feet, and this is a very humiliating position, subhan Allah. And to join them in their wealth and children, meaning have a share with them. Imagine your money, food, house, and your children – the shaitan has a share of it, and no one wants this. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said when a person enters his house, he should say 'Bism Allah', otherwise the shaitan will enter. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) should be remembered before eating, even before

having a relation between the husband and wife, that's why there's a dua before a relation. If the dua is mentioned then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will save this child from having a share with the shaitan. And if not, then the shaitan will have a share, subhan Allah. No one wants the shaitan to be their partner, may Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect all of us. Ameen

- The shaitan will promise you according to what you desire. Adam (ras) wished to be an angel and to live forever, for this reason Iblis promised him if he you eat from this tree then you will have what you desire. But whatever the shaitan promises is deception and whatever Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) promises is the truth.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says that for My special servants you will not have authority over them, who are these servants? We are all slaves of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) but they are who feel the servitude to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). They obey Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and abstain from the sins by choice. They don't object, they don't have a problem with what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has revealed. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us His special servants because they have the protection.

The shaitan has seven steps (خطوات الشيطان سبعة)

2. Bida'a / innovation (بدعة): bida'a is innovation in the deen with no evidence. This is just doing hawa. It appears very good from the outside, but did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) do this? Bida'as appears attractive because they're like good deeds. When a person passes away, they will divide parts and finish the Qur'an. The shaitan loves bida'a more than any sins, why? Because the people think they're doing good and they won't repent from it, subhan Allah. Can anyone be better than the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)? Three people came to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) wanting to impress him with their deeds and they thought if the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) can marry, sleep and eat and he's been forgiven his sins so they need to do more. Look at how the shaitan enters. Doing good deeds is not about desire, but to follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم). We cannot invent different types of prayers during different timings. People can easily mislead others by seeing what others do. For example, wiping the face after making dua. Did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) say to wipe your face after making dua? And now bida'a is being broadcast, different dua'as that are bida'a, if you want to get a child, read this, if you want a boy, read this, if you want to be cured, read this, etc. And people love this and when they do it, it happens, but it's only a bigger test. Or they broadcast dua'as and if you don't send it to 100 people you will lead a miserable life, subhan Allah. After shirk came bida'a because the conditions for acceptance of deeds are ikhlas and following the

Sunnah. Don't listen to the shaitan when he beautifies the deeds. The scholars said those who make bida'a in the deen are the enemies of the messengers because it's like the messengers didn't convey the message, subhan ALLah. Those who do bida'a have so much determination, why? Because the shaitan will help them to do more. And as soon as they switch to the Sunnah, the shaitan will make them lazy and tired, subhan Allah. Part of a hadith: (وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ) (مُحَدَّثَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بَدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ) (The worst of things are those that are newly invented; every newly-invented thing is an innovation and every innovation is going astray, and every going astray is in the Fire.) - Sunan an-Nasa'i 1578

3. Major sins (الكبائر): what are the major sins? Anything mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah with a punishment linked to it in the duniya and akhira, then it's a major sin. For example, magic, adultery, drinking alcohol, slandering, backbiting, etc. There a variety of major sins, and the shaitan will make the person fall according to the person's weakness. When a person falls into a major sin, then he becomes the companion of the shaitan until he repents. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen. When the shaitan determines the weakness of that person, what does he do?
 - He will beautify the sin, he will not bring the major sins to you as they are. He will beautify it and make you feel desperate to want it, subhan Allah. If your weakness is backbiting, he won't call it backbiting, he will say this is getting your right, telling people what's right, being

confident, etc. Any sin is ugly by itself but the shaitan will advertise the sin.

- Then he will tell you there is repentance, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Ghafoor Raheem, he will justify the sin for you before committing it. He will tell you, you're still young, when you do hajj everything will be forgiven, etc, subhan Allah.
- Then the person will have so much hope in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) that he will be forgiven when he commits the sin. The shaitan places hope in the person to sin, and this is poison, subhan Allah. When a person sins, he needs to feel regret.
- A person knows he's committing major sin and he's persistent in doing it, and he does good deeds without asking forgiveness thinking he will be forgiven. Anyone going to a soothsayer or magician then he's disbelieved, why? He thinks they have power.
- In a hadith, the shaitan will beautify the woman in the eyes of a non-mahram. The shaitan will make her appear the most beautiful even if she's ugly. And he will beautify her back, so she will appear very seductive even if she doesn't have the figure for it, subhan Allah. Why is the woman used in advertising when the product has nothing to do with it, because she's a tool for the shaitan, subhan Allah. Islam honored the woman, she is not an object, but is protected. The man is supposed to lower his gaze, but if he doesn't lower his gaze, then he will stare and look up and down.

He will see her as perfect, then they will speak, then they will meet, and then he will see the reality, subhan Allah. He will say what did I do to myself? Istaghfar Allah. The shaitan wants you to fall into the sin and then you'll open your eyes. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen. When a man is attracted, he should go to his wife because that is halal and that will make the shaitan angry.

- What are the major sins? Anything mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah with a punishment linked to it in the duniya and akhira, then it's a major sin. Some of the greatest major sins are magic and disobedience to parents. The one who is disobedient to parents will see his punishment both in the duniya and akhira. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us obedient to them, especially when they get older. You can't say uff to them and you need to speak to them generously, don't be concise with them. Just as you speak with your friends, you need to speak more generously with your parents. If you fall into the major sins then you need to repent and feel regret.

Footsteps of the Shaitan (خطوات الشيطان) - Part 4

آيَاتُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اَدْخُلُوا فِي السَّلَامِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ (O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islâm (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islâmic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitân (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy.)

Introduction

- Why is it called 'footsteps of the shaitan'? Because the shaitan will not take a step without having first studied the situation and customized it for every human being. And he will beautify all of his steps. The mukhliseen, sincere ones, are the ones whom the shaitan does not have a way.
- There was a man whose face was full of anger, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said if this man were to say (أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم) (I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed shaitan) – then it would all go away. But you need to say it with conviction – it's not about the words being said but the carrier of those words.
- Surah An Nisa'a 118-120: ((١١٨)) لَعَنَهُ اللَّهُ وَقَالَ لَأَتَّخِذَنَّ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ نَصِيبًا مَفْرُوضًا ((١١٩)) يَعِدُهُمْ وَيُمَنِّيهِمْ وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا ((١٢٠)) (Allâh cursed him. And he [Shaitân (Satan)] said: "I will take an appointed portion of your slaves; (118) Verily, I will mislead them, and surely, I will arouse in them false desires; and certainly, I will order them to slit the ears of cattle, and indeed I will order them to change the nature created by Allâh." And whoever takes Shaitân

(Satan) as a Walî (protector or helper) instead of Allâh, has surely suffered a manifest loss. (119) He [Shaitan (Satan)] makes promises to them, and arouses in them false desires; and Shaitan's (Satan) promises are nothing but deceptions. (120))

- The best to tell us about the shaitan is our Creator. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) cursed the shaitan, so he is far from the mercy of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). The shaitan misbehaved with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and he said he will take a decreed share from the servants of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah. He will take servants that will be his awliya. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows that not everyone will go to paradise, there are people who will be awliya of the shaitan, may Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen.
- Then the shaitan said he will take a share by surely misleading them and giving them false hope – he will tell the people Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will forgive you, you're going to paradise, he wants to make you feel good about yourself. To feel confident about yourself is one of the tricks of the shaitan, you are a servant of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), you need to seek help from Him, not yourself, subhan Allah. The trick of the shaitan is to make you feel good while you're wrong.
- The shaitan will command them after misguidance, and they you will be awliya of the shaitan. The shaitan will even command them to make holes in the animals ears, really

doing things that are opposite to the fitra, to the natural instinct. The shaitan will command them to change themselves and their features, to change their eyes, nose, even to cut their bones. People are paying money to even be companions of the shaitan, subhan Allah. The shaitan will make you feel ugly, and he will tell you Allah is Jameel, and He loves beauty or you need to obey your husband, so you need to make yourself pretty otherwise he'll divorce you and marry another – the shaitan is very good with giving you future scenarios, subhan Allah. Then he'll make you change yourself, and he'll send someone to tell you they did it and nothing happened to them, and you'll assume it to be the answer to your istikhara, subhan Allah. He's very deceiving and he only makes false promises.

The shaitan has seven steps (خطوات الشيطان سبعة)

4. Minor sins (الصغائر): if the shaitan is unable to make you drink, commit adultery, backbite, be disobedient to parents, etc – then he will work on the minor sins but don't underestimate them. A minor sin doesn't have a specific punishment associated with it, but it can lead to major sins. For example, not lowering your gaze is a minor sin, but it can lead to major sin. Or speaking to men very soft is minor, but it can lead to major. The shaitan likes to work on minor sins because you'll think it's not so bad, maybe you got angry, or reacted etc. Hadith: (عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، قَالَتْ قَالَ لِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - : " يَا)

"عَائِشَةُ إِيَّاكَ وَمُحَقَّرَاتِ الْأَعْمَالِ فَإِنَّ لَهَا مِنَ اللَّهِ طَالِبًا (It was narrated that 'Aishah said: "The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to me: 'O 'Aishah, beware of (evil) deeds that are regarded as insignificant, for they have a pursuer from Allah. (i.e. accountability).") – Sunan Ibn Majah Book 37, Hadith 4384 and hadith: (عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ)
 وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا أَخْطَأَ خَطِيئَةً نُكِنَتْ فِي قَلْبِهِ نُكْتَةٌ سَوْدَاءٌ فَإِذَا هُوَ نَزَعَ وَاسْتَغْفَرَ وَتَابَ سُوِلَ قَلْبُهُ وَإِنْ عَادَ زِيدَ فِيهَا حَتَّى تَعْلُو قَلْبَهُ وَهُوَ الرَّانُ الَّذِي ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ : (كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)
 (Abu Hurairah narrated that: the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "Verily, when the slave (of Allah) commits a sin, a black spot appears on his heart. When he refrains from it, seeks forgiveness and repents, his heart is polished clean. But if he returns, it increases until it covers his entire heart. And that is the 'Ran' which Allah mentioned: Nay, but on their hearts is the Ran which they used to earn.) – At Tirmidhi Book 47, Hadith 3654. Small sins are black dots in the heart until it kills the heart. And the shaitan will tell you the good deeds remove the bad deeds – he will tell you you're learning Qur'an, you're praying, you're doing umrah. He will tell you you're better than the rest, others are doing major sins, you're not, istagfar Allah. Though they are called minor sins but our attitude makes them major. There are people on the Sirat who will fall into the hellfire because of minor sins. How can a minor sin become major?

- In your eyes it's very small (تهون عينك): if it's small in your eyes, then it's big. The more you see the sin as small in your eyes, it will be big with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah. Why?

Because you're underestimating Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and His disobedience, you need to see how great the One you have disobeyed. When you do something wrong, you should feel it's not right. For example, you might say something wrong to someone, you feel it in your heart, but the person didn't think you said something wrong, it doesn't mean you didn't do wrong. What you feel inside is what matters, don't justify it for yourself. Hadith: (وعن النواس) بن سمعان رضي الله عنه قال: سألت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عن البر والإثم فقال: ("البر حسن الخلق، والإثم: ما حاك في نفسك وكرهت أن يطلع عليه الناس (Nawwas bin Sam'an (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: I asked Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) about virtue and sin, and he said, "Virtue is noble behaviour, and sin is that which creates doubt and you do not like people to know about it.") – Muslim Book 1, Hadith 624

- Persistence on the sin (إصرار): you don't feel guilty when doing it, and you say I will do extra prayer, or read Qur'an, to make up for it. And the problem is you get used to the sin. Surah Al Imran 135: (وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ) (And those who, when they have committed Fahishah (illegal sexual intercourse) or wronged themselves with evil, remember Allâh and ask forgiveness for their sins; - and none can forgive sins but Allâh - And do not persist in what

(wrong) they have done, while they know) – we need to always seek forgiveness from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- To talk about your sin to others (المجاهرة): you don't need to tell others that you disobeyed and did so and so. Hadith:
 سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " كُلُّ أُمَّتِي مُعَافَى (إِلَّا الْمُجَاهِرِينَ، وَإِنَّ مِنْ الْمَجَانَةِ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ الرَّجُلُ بِاللَّيْلِ عَمَلًا، ثُمَّ يُصْبِحُ وَقَدْ سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ، فَيَقُولُ "يَا فُلَانُ عَمِلْتُ الْبَارِحَةَ كَذَا وَكَذَا، وَقَدْ بَاتَ يَسْتُرُهُ رَبُّهُ وَيُصْبِحُ يَكْشِفُ سِتْرَ اللَّهِ عَنْهُ (Narrated Abu Huraira: I heard Allah's Messenger (صلى الله) saying. "All the sins of my followers will be forgiven except those of the Mujahirin (those who commit a sin openly or disclose their sins to the people). An example of such disclosure is that a person commits a sin at night and though Allah screens it from the public, then he comes in the morning, and says, 'O so-and-so, I did such-and-such (evil) deed yesterday,' though he spent his night screened by his Lord (none knowing about his sin) and in the morning he removes Allah's screen from himself.") - Sahih al-Bukhari 6069 You need to feel that the shaitan is a true enemy, he never gets bored, he never sleeps, people can change. An enemy can become a friend and a friend can become an enemy, but the shaitan is an enemy, point.

5. Wasting time in what is permissible (التوسع في المباحات): if the person is repenting after sinning, then the shaitan will make him waste his time in what is permissible, like eating, drinking, socializing, shopping, beautifying, talking, work, cooking, cleaning, etc. For

example, a businessman is spending his whole day working, and the shaitan will tell him you need to earn money in order to give charity. The shaitan will make you do what is permissible on a maximum scale. For example, going to the shopping mall for no reason and you will spend so much time just to get one thing. Or you love cooking and the shaitan will tell you this is charity for your family so you're spending the whole day cooking in the kitchen, and then you will admire the food, take pictures of eat, and send it, subhan Allah. Another example is wasting time on social media, and the shaitan will tell you you're doing dawah, but you're just jumping from one thing to another, that's why it's called 'web', subhan Allah. The time that's spent without remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will be regret on the Day of Judgment, istagfar Allah. Even as Ramadan is approaching, he will make you occupied with thinking about food and socializing because he knows he can't come in Ramadan. Those who waste are the brothers of the shaitan- Surah Al Isra'a 27: (إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ ۚ) (كَفُورًا) (Verily, spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayatîn (devils), and the Shaitân (Devil Satan) is ever ungrateful to his Lord). And you will find that after wasting time, performing the worships will be heavy for you. Everyone knows their weakness so there needs to be moderation in everything. You might spend one hour chatting and then you try to spend the same amount time in worship, for example to read the Qur'an, and then your eyes start to get sleepy,

and the shaitan tells you it's bad to read while you're sleepy, subhan Allah.

6. To be occupied with deeds that are less rewarding (الانشغال بالمفضول (على الفاضل: for example, there are two deeds in front you, one is less rewarding than the other, so the shaitan will make you occupied with the one that is less reward. The shaitan's mission is to make the person be in the hellfire forever, and if not, then in some level in the hellfire for some time, and if not, then to make him have a lower level in paradise. There are so many hadiths about what are the best deeds that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves. For example, in Ramadan, the best deeds are to be occupied with the Qur'an, not hadith. And the best deeds are the obligatory, and in Ramadan you find people are worrying about the taraweeh, and they might miss or delay their obligatory, subhan Allah. Another example, the best charity is when you spend on your household, and people are spending on others. If someone in the family is poor, then it's more rewarding to give to them than to someone outside. Praying on time and obedience to parents are even better than acquiring knowledge. To keep the kith and kin are the most beloved to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and deeds that are little though constant. Also, the most beloved words to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) are (سبحان الله و بحمده و سبحان الله العظيم) (How perfect Allah is and I praise Him; and How perfect Allah is the Most Great). Another example is a person wants to learn religious knowledge, and the best knowledge is Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), faith, Qur'an, then hadith. But the shaitan will tell you learn

Arabic and then you can go to faith and Qur'an, but how can you guarantee that you will have time then. You need to look at which knowledge is the best. The shaitan wants you to be occupied with details like grammar and fiqh, subhan Allah. in the Qur'an, it says in Surah Al Imran 79: (كُونُوا رَبَّانِيِّنَ) ("Be you Rabbaniyyun (learned men of religion who practise what they know and also preach others),), which means to learn the important matters before learning the details. For example, people know so much about tajweed or fiqh, but they don't know the three fundamentals or the tenets of faith, subhan Allah.

7. The shaitan will hurt you through others (تسليط الشيطان جنوده بأنواع الأذى): this last step takes an entire lifetime to overcome, because steps 1 to 6 are about struggling against your nafs, yourself. At that point, the shaitan cannot overpower your nafs, your self is so strong. So he will irritate your husband, your children, your parents, your friends to make them turn against you, subhan Allah. The shaitan has different ways to do this. Surah Al Furqan 31: (وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ وَكَفَىٰ) (بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا) (Thus have We made for every Prophet an enemy among the Mujrimûn (disbelievers, polytheists, criminals). But Sufficient is your Lord as a Guide and Helper.) – Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made an enemy from the people for every messenger. The shaitan cannot have power over the messengers, they are the best people, so the people around them will irritate them through the shaitan. You will find problems even though you didn't do anything wrong. For example, a lady wanted to acquire knowledge and the day

she wanted to go to class, her son would fall sick, and the next day he's fine. And this was being repeated every week until she figured out this is from the shaitan, he's 'touching' her son to cause her to stay. So then she decided to go to class and her son was feeling well, subhan Allah. The shaitan cannot have power over mutawakaleen (those who rely on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)), mukhliseen (those who are sincere), and muttaqeen (those who have taqwa). When you ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to help you, He will help you.

- When you are heedless then the shaitan will make you forget. For example, in Surah Al Kahf, the young boy forgot to tell Musa (عليه السلام) about the important incident of the fish, and he said it's from the shaitan. And Musa (عليه السلام) didn't say anything because he knows it's from the shaitan, subhan Allah.
- When any bad behavior comes out, whether it's screaming, shouting, then it's from the shaitan, even the appearance of the person will change, subhan Allah. Another example is between husband and wife, one will talk and the other will hear something else and it will cause misunderstandings. Also now with mid Shaban coming up, everyone will be forgiven except for those who have a conflict with someone and the shaitan doesn't want you to be forgiven, especially before Ramadan.
- Surah Al Hajj 52-53: وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ وَلَا نَبِيٍّ إِلَّا إِذَا تَمَنَّى أَلْقَى (الشَّيْطَانُ فِي أُمْنِيَّتِهِ فَيَنْسَخُ اللَّهُ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ ثُمَّ يُحْكُمُ اللَّهُ ءَايَاتِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ (٥٢))

لِيَجْعَلَ مَا يُنْقَلَى الشَّيْطَانُ فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ وَالْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَفِي شِقَاقٍ
 (بَعِيدٍ) (٥٣) (Never did We send a Messenger or a Prophet before you, but; when he did recite the revelation or narrated or spoke, Shaitân (Satan) threw (some falsehood) in it. But Allâh abolishes that which Shaitân (Satan) throws in. Then Allâh establishes His Revelations. And Allâh is All-Knower, All-Wise: (52) That He (Allâh) may make what is thrown in by Shaitân (Satan) a trial for those in whose hearts is a disease (of hypocrisy and disbelief) and whose hearts are hardened. And certainly, the Zalimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers) are in an opposition far-off (from the truth against Allâh's Messenger and the believers). (53)) – They will hear the opposite of what the messengers are saying, but not everyone will misunderstand it. It will be a fitna for those who have a sickness in their heart and whose hearts are hardened; they will hear the cast of the shaitan, subhan Allah.

- Sometimes you might say something and another person misunderstands it and they react to it, and this shows there's something in their heart, subhan Allah. The shaitan is very clever in this. You need to have taqwa and not react. Surah Sad 41: (وَأَذْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا أَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ ۗ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الشَّيْطَانُ) (بُنْصَبٍ وَعَذَابٍ) (And remember Our slave Ayyûb (Job), when he invoked his Lord (saying): "Verily! Shaitân (Satan) has touched me with distress (by ruing my health) and torment

(by ruing my wealth)!) – Ayoub (عليه السلام) lost everything and he knew it's a touch from the shaitan to make him ungrateful, subhan Allah. You might say no one appreciates me, my husband doesn't appreciate me, etc – but you need to forgive the people because they don't know it's a touch from the shaitan to make you ungrateful.

- In Surah Yusuf 5: (قَالَ يَبْنَى لَا تَقْصُصْ رُءْيَاكَ عَلَىٰ إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا إِنَّ) (الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ) (He (the father) said: "O my son! Relate not your vision to your brothers, lest they arrange a plot against you. Verily! Shaitân (Satan) is to man an open enemy!) – Yaqoub (عليه السلام) told his son Yusuf (عليه السلام) not to tell his dream to his brothers because the father knows the shaitan will play on the brothers, why? Because he knows they have a sickness in their heart. If your heart is pure then it won't have an effect, subhan Allah.
- You need to constantly remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) all the time, that's why we have morning/evening/sleep supplications, dua'a after leaving the house, before entering the house, before eating, as a means of protection from the shaitan.
- Any relation that is based on hawa will get separated by the shaitan because there is a sickness in the heart, subhan Allah. That's why love for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) should have no hawa. And then another trick of the shaitan is to make you feel that everyone is against you, that you're right and

everyone is wrong. He'll make you pity yourself and cry or get you angry depending on your nature, subhan Allah. He's actually working from two fronts. The shaitan wants to decrease your faith because he knows when there's a problem with those you love then it will impact your worship, your prayer, etc. The shaitan will not only irritate you through shayateen of mankind, but even of jinn. You will find that you placed something somewhere and then it's not there, the jinn can take it away, and then it will come back, subhan Allah. For example, you know you put your ring somewhere and then it's missing; the next day then it returns back. There was an imam who was walking and there was a magic show going on a street and people gathered to watch. So he stopped and saw the magician was placing swords inside himself, of course it's the jinn supporting him by entering him. So the imam started to read ayat al kursi and the jinn escaped and the swords went inside the magician's body. The magician spent six months in the hospital and told his jinn why did you leave me? They said he read ayat al kursi, so the magician commanded them to go and hurt the imam and his family, burn his house, etc. They tried but couldn't, they said he's an imam, reciting Qur'an, and saying his supplications, he's always remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), subhan Allah.

- The higher your position is with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and the more good deeds you're doing, the more the shaitan will irritate you. For example, someone might be teaching and others are benefitting, so the shaitan will cause a situation to cause a misunderstanding to bring down the one teaching, but if you're of the mukhliseen, if you're sincere in acquiring knowledge, then it will not affect you. The more a person is helping you in the deen, the more the shaitan will attack.
- Forgetfulness is from the shaitan to make the people upset with each other – someone forgot to do something, or you didn't receive a message and the person will think you're not responding. This is called (تحريش الشياطين) – the shaitan trying to irritate both parties and cause problems between them so you need to ignore it.
- The shaitan will cause problems between husband and wife, two sisters, two brothers, partners, tribes, etc. One of the wives of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه), she was a Jew before becoming a Muslim. Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه) had a helper that was a Jew, and this helper went to Omar bin Khattab (رضي الله عنه) who was khalifah at the time, and said that Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه) loves Saturdays and still has a relation with the Jews. Omar bin Khattab (رضي الله عنه) asked Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه) and she said Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) replaced my love for Saturdays with Fridays,

and she said I still have relations with the Jews because I have family members. Then Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه) went to her helper and asked her, 'why did you do that?' She said it's from the shaitan so Saffiyah (رضي الله عنه) freed her, and this irritates the shaitan even more, subhan Allah. You need to overlook your friend's and sister's mistakes, you need to pardon others. The scholars used to give a gift to the one who backbites them in order to irritate the shaitan.

How to defeat the last card of the shaitan (التحريش)?

1. Speak good to the people (الكلمة الطيبة): because now you understand why the shaitan is doing what he's doing. The scholars said the good word brings balance back to matters. And the opposite is to spoil any matter by speaking badly, even saying 'uff', subhan Allah. When driving there might someone so slow driving in front of you; just remember it's the shaitan trying to irritate you. Or your children are quiet and as soon as you begin your prayer, they start to cry, etc. Especially in the harem, when the prayer begins you hear children screaming and crying.
2. Give excuses and accept excuses: if someone gives you an excuse, accept it, don't say 'I don't accept your apology'. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) accepts someone repenting from the most major act which is shirk, and here is someone made of dust not accepting, subhan Allah. Don't be the stubborn one who doesn't accept the apology from others. And even better, don't wait for the people to

apologize, give excuses to others, you need to give 70 excuses – it's good if we can reach 2 or 3, subhan Allah. You need to remove it from your system, don't hide it or ignore it because then it makes you lose it. We are not here in this life to be sad or angry with people, we are here in this life to worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in order to get hasanat so that we can go to paradise. If someone makes a mistake, you don't want them to justify their problems in order for you to have some mercy on them so that you may forgive them, subhan Allah. It's better to pardon and overlook.

3. Don't listen to followers of the shaitan: Surah Al Qalam 10-13: (وَلَا تُطِيعْ كُلَّ حَالِفٍ مَّهِينٍ (١٠) هَمَّازٍ مَشَّاءٍ بِنَمِيمٍ (١١) مَنَّاعٍ لِلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ (١٢) عُنُقٍ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ زَنِيمٍ (١٣)
 (And (O Muhammad SAW) obey you not everyone Hallaf Mahin (the one who swears much, and is a liar or is worthless). (10) A slanderer, going about with calumnies, (11) Hinderer of the good, transgressor, sinful, (12) Cruel, and moreover baseborn (13)) – these are the descriptions of the followers of the shaitan, so don't listen to them. Anyone who comes to you swearing too much, 'Wa Allah I saw you, etc' and he's humiliating himself by swearing too much. He's a backbiter and he's walking in this life by making problems between others. Someone will say I love you so much, I want to advise you and tell you to be aware of this person. This person is actually not truthful and you need to beware of them. When you're not listening to them then you're actually irritating the shaitan.

Introduction

- The footsteps of the shaitan will be until death, the shaitan doesn't stop and he can switch between the footsteps. It's not like when you pass one step it's over and he won't come back to it again. He can go back and make you fall into shirk. Or back into innovation.
- Surah An Nisa'a 76: (الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ الطَّاغُوتِ) (فَقَاتِلُوا أَوْلِيَاءَ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّ كَيْدَ الشَّيْطَانِ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا) (Those who believe, fight in the Cause of Allâh, and those who disbelieve, fight in the cause of Tâghût (Satan,). So fight you against the friends of Shaitân (Satan); Ever feeble indeed is the plot of Shaitân (Satan).)
 - If you are striving for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), then you will be Wali Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), but if you're striving for the taghut, then you will be wali ash shaytan. The more faith you in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), the more you are struggling for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Which of these two pictures is inclined on something strong? Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), being backed by the taghut is weak and they will be disappointed because the taghut will leave them.
 - Who are awliya ash shaitan? People following the way of the shaitan. How? When people are advising you to disobey Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), the whisper of the people is more powerful than the whisper of the jinn, why? Because it's tangible, they will speak to you, they will shout at you, they will convince you and debate with you. How do you defeat them? With knowledge. When you have

knowledge, then no one can cheat you or trick you, subhan Allah.

- We need to know that the plot of the shaitan is very weak because he just gives an idea. Whereas the plot of the people is stronger, subhan Allah.
- There is a hadith that Iblis will spread his throne over water, and imagine how ugly it must be. Then his followers will come and say what did you do today? It's all wicked things, someone will say I made someone to stop praying, Iblis will say no he will repent. Another will say I made someone commit adultery, Iblis will say no he will repent. Another will say I separated between a husband and wife, then Iblis will say 'you, you come and sit next to me, you're my son'. Iblis wants to separate between husband and wife because if the house is broken, then it will break society as well. The shaitan wants to separate not only between husband and wife, but between parents and children, relatives. Hadith: (عَنْ جَابِرٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " إِنَّ إِبْلِيسَ يَضَعُ عَرْشَهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُ سَرَايَاهُ فَأَدْنَاهُمْ مِنْهُ مَنْزِلَةً أَعْظَمُهُمْ فَنِنَّةٌ يَجِيءُ أَحَدُهُمْ فَيَقُولُ فَعَلْتُ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَيَقُولُ مَا صَنَعْتَ شَيْئًا قَالَ ثُمَّ يَجِيءُ أَحَدُهُمْ فَيَقُولُ مَا تَرَكْتُهُ حَتَّى (فَرَّقْتُ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ امْرَأَتِهِ - قَالَ - فَيُذْنِبُهُ مِنْهُ وَيَقُولُ نَعَمْ أَنْتَ " . قَالَ الْأَعْمَشُ أَرَاهُ قَالَ " فَيَلْتَزِمُهُ " (Jabir reported that Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: Iblis places his throne upon water; he then sends detachments (for creating dissension) ; the nearer to him in rank are those who are most notorious in creating dissension. One of them comes and says: "I did so and so." And he says: "You have done nothing." Then one amongst them comes and says: "I did not spare so and so until I

sowed the seed of discord between a husband and a wife." The Satan goes near him and says: "You have done well." A'mash said: He then embraces him.) - Sahih Muslim 2813

- Hadith: (عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ خَبَّبَ امْرَأَةً عَلَى) (Narrated Abu Hurayrah: The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: Anyone who incites a woman against her husband is not one of us) - Sunan Abi Dawud 2175, Sahih Al Albani

- Anyone who fills the brain of the woman to be against her husband then he is not one of us. Put in your mind there is no perfect marriage and no perfect husband, but this husband is suitable for you to take you to paradise, subhan Allah. Even the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) didn't have a perfect marriage.

- Don't magnify the plot of the shaitan, this will only make him happy. The plot of the shaitan will include using the steps as well.

What is the plot of the shaitan?

- Shaitan will smell the nafs (الشيطان يشام النفس): he will identify the person and see which power he has, each person has either one, and each person knows himself:
 - Power to be brave and charge forth (قوة الشجاعة و الإقدام): these people will quickly do something without thinking too much, they just do it. If you tell them let's go climb a mountain, they'll say 'no problem, let's do it'. When the commands come, to pray, fast, etc – he will do it. But then

the shaitan will come to him and say you're doing so little, you're not doing enough. So the shaitan will give him the illusion that his deeds are not enough, so he needs to increase (المبالغة و الزيادة), so they go into bida'a. The shaitan will play on his bravery to push him to do more but against the sunnah, subhan Allah. There was a hadith of three men: أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - يَقُولُ جَاءَ ثَلَاثَةٌ رَهْطٍ إِلَى بُيُوتِ أَزْوَاجِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْأَلُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَةِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَلَمَّا أُخْبِرُوا كَانَتْهُمْ تَقَالُوهَا فَقَالُوا وَآيِنَ نَحْنُ مِنَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَدْ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ. قَالَ أَحَدُهُمْ أَمَا أَنَا فَإِنِّي أَصَلِّي اللَّيْلَ أَبَدًا. وَقَالَ آخَرُ أَنَا أَصُومُ الدَّهْرَ وَلَا أَفْطِرُ. وَقَالَ آخَرُ أَنَا أَعْتَزِلُ النِّسَاءَ فَلَا أَتَزَوَّجُ أَبَدًا. فَجَاءَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ " أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ قُلْتُمْ كَذَا وَكَذَا أَمَا وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لِأَخْشَاكُمْ لِلَّهِ وَأَتَقَاكُمْ لَهُ، لَكِنِّي أَصُومُ وَأَفْطِرُ، وَأُصَلِّي وَأَرْفُدُ وَأَتَزَوَّجُ (النِّسَاءَ، فَمَنْ رَغِبَ عَن سُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي " (Narrated Anas bin Malik: A group of three men came to the houses of the wives of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) asking how the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) worshipped (Allah), and when they were informed about that, they considered their worship insufficient and said, "Where are we from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as his past and future sins have been forgiven." Then one of them said, "I will offer the prayer throughout the night forever." The other said, "I will fast throughout the year and will not break my fast." The third said, "I will keep away from the women and will not marry forever." Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) came to them and said, "Are you the same people who said so-and-so? By Allah, I am more

submissive to Allah and more afraid of Him than you; yet I fast and break my fast, I do sleep and I also marry women. So he who does not follow my tradition in religion (sunnah), is not from me (not one of my followers).) - Sahih al-Bukhari 5063

- Power to be laidback / remain in comfort-zone (قوة الاحجام و المهانة): they don't do things quickly, they take a back-step. If you tell them let's go mountain climbing, they say no, there's not enough oxygen. You need to know which type you are. The shaitan will tell this person you're doing fine, Allah is the Most Merciful, you don't need to do more, subhan Allah. And both of these paths are far away from the Straight Path.

More Examples (الأمثلة)

- Respect of messengers/righteous people: For those who have the power to be brave, the shaitan will tell them you're not doing enough for the messengers and righteous people, you're not fulfilling their rights. The shaitan will tell them they did so much, they sacrificed so much, so these people will idolize them and think they're not doing enough for them, subhan Allah. Whereas the other group, the shaitan will tell them you don't need to give them their rights, you don't want to do shirk, don't magnify them or respect them, so they underestimate them. They will underestimate those who are righteous, they will even disrespect them to the point

they will even kill them. There are people who idolized the messengers at one end and those who wanted to kill them at the other end, subhan Allah.

- Seeking knowledge: For those with the power of bravery when seeking knowledge, the shaitan will tell them to go deep and deep into knowledge, and they will go deeper and they will memorize so much, but all without applying. Whereas the others group, the shaitan will tell them if you learn, you will need to apply it otherwise it will be against you. So the person will leave the knowledge and say don't tell me. And both of these ways are plots of the shaitan. That's why we need to ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for the middle path, the Straight Path is thin, we need to ask Him for beneficial knowledge.
- Socializing with others: the shaitan will make him feel if he's with people, then it's all fitna, then he'll fall into so many sins, so he will isolate himself even in the places of good. He will leave the Friday prayer and study circles, subhan Allah. He will say I can listen to lectures online. Whereas the other group, he will make them socialize to the other extreme to the point where they will socialize not only in good places, but even in munkar, in wrong gatherings. That's why we need the middle of path which is to meet people in places of good, not haram.
- Cleanliness: for those who are laidback, the shaitan will make them do a less perfect wudhu because they have a tendency to not do things with ihsan, and the shaitan will tell them no problem, Allah

(سبحانه وتعالى) will forgive you, it's just about your heart, so they will do a slapdash wudhu. And for those who are active/brave, he will make them to repeat their wudhu, and the shaitan will tell them this is not good, how can you present this to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)? This is wiswas. He will see are you perfectionist in your outer and then he will take it to your worship. Some people can't function unless the cushions are in place, towels are placed perfectly, the threads of the rug need to be a straight line, subhan Allah.

- Food and drink: for some people the shaitan will make them to say that everything is haram, this is not halal, you don't know how they slaughtered it, you don't know if they injected this animal with haram, etc then how will my dua'a be accepted, etc. These people will make everything haram on themselves until they're eating like cattle, only greens. As for the other group, they will eat everything, and it doesn't matter if it's halal or haram, they'll say it's just one life, so enjoy, etc. There's a straight path, which is to eat what's halal and good.
- Actions of the heart: for some people, the shaitan will tell them Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) only looks at your heart, so you don't need to do good deeds. They will say I'm good, I'm not harming anyone, I don't need to do obligations. And the other group is doing so many deeds, they recite Qur'an, fast all the time, etc but with no action of the heart. The middle path is to do deeds with quality.

From the traps of the shaitan:

(من كيد الشيطان الغناء و المعازف و Singing and music)

- Anything that will distract you from the remembrance of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is from the plot of the shaitan. The shaitan doesn't want you to say kalam Allah, he wants you to say the words of the singers, poets, nasheeds. Surah Luqman 6: (وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ) (لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ) (And of mankind is he who purchases idle talks (i.e. music, singing, etc.) to mislead (men) from the Path of Allâh without knowledge, and takes it (the Path of Allâh, or the Verses of the Qur'ân) by way of mockery. For such there will be a humiliating torment (in the Hell-fire).)
 - What is (لهو الحديث)? Ibn Abbas (رضي الله عنه) said it's music and singing. You can't say that I sing and memorize Qur'an at the same time, it can't go together, one is kalam Allah and one is kalam ash shaitan. The words of the shaitan are all about attachment to besides Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), over exaggerated love and emotions. You cannot say I listen to Qur'an and then music, you're just cheating yourself. The Qur'an will not affect your heart. The Companions said music initiates hypocrisy in the heart, subhan Allah. And one of the scholars said music is the sound of the shaitan, you see people totally hypnotized when they listen to music.

- Anyone who has a problem will start to listen to the music and they cry with it and get affected with it, it's the same affect of those who go and drink. Just as when people have a problem, they start drinking, it's the same effect, subhan Allah. We're not created for this, we are created to worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), not to play with our emotions.
- Even when you go shopping, the music is pounding so that you just buy without thinking. There was a lady who used to play Qur'an for her children before they go to sleep, then she said why not play nasheed for them, and after that they didn't want to listen to the Qur'an, subhan Allah. Some people say I get affected by religious nasheed more than the Qur'an, this is wrong. It's actually an illusion from the shaitan, because how can you put kalam Allah with kalam of the people. The Qur'an is sufficient, but the shaitan makes you feel there's something better, subhan Allah.
- Everyone is different levels, you can't just say all at once I'll stop everything because people might leave the deen. We need to know the truth, we can't deny it, and then ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to slowly let it go. It's like those who start to quit smoking to the point they can't stand seeing a cigarette. It's a process. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make it easy.

Grief and sadness (الْحَزَنُ)

- Surah Al Mujadila 10: (إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَىٰ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ لِيَحْزُنَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَيْسَ بِضَرَارٍ لَهُمْ شَيْئًا إِلَّا) (بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ) (Secret counsels (conspiracies) are only from Shaitân (Satan), in order that he may cause grief to the believers. But he cannot harm them in the least, except as Allâh permits, and in Allâh let the believers put their trust)
 - The shaitan wants to make you feel sad when you see others talking to make think they're talking about you.
- The shaitan wants to make you feel sad and depressed for no reason, even though you have everything. Sadness weakens your heart, and when your heart is weak, then the shaitan can manipulate you. Imagine putting songs and sadness together, subhan Allah. It will make people fall into more sadness.

About the shaitan

- What is the profession of the shaitan? (ما عمل الشيطان؟) Magic, which we know in Surah Al Baqarah.
- What is the 'Qur'an' of the shaitan? (ما قرآنه؟) Poetry and songs.
- What is the 'writing' of the shaitan? (ما كتابه؟) Tattoos. That's why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) cursed those who do it and have it done. Even permanent make-up, like eyebrows, eyeliner, lipstick, moles, etc.
- What is the food of the shaitan? (ما طعامه؟) Dead animals, bones, food that 'bism Allah' is not said on it. The shaitan will see if you say 'bism Allah' before you eat, if you do, he's still there to see if any

food falls. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said if any food falls, you need to clean it and eat it.

- What is the drink of the shaitan? (ما شرابه؟) Wine.
- What is the gathering of the shaitan? (ما مجالسه؟) The market place, malls. There is a hadith that the shaitan will place his flag there, subhan Allah. That's why you see people losing it when they go shopping. So best to buy what you need and leave.
- What is the house of the shaitan? (ما بيته؟) Bathrooms. The male and female devils stay there, that's why there's a dua'a before entering the bathroom. Hadith: (رضى الله عنه - قَالَ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْخَلَاءَ قَالَ "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْخُبْثِ وَالْخَبَائِثِ" (Narrated Anas bin Malik: Whenever the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) went to the lavatory, he used to say: "Allahumma Inni a`udhu bika minalkhubthi Wal khaba'ith. - O Allah, I seek refuge with You from devils – males and females) - Sahih al-Bukhari 6322
- What is his adhan? (ما أذانه؟) Musical instruments.
- Who are the messengers of the shaitan? (من رسله؟) The fortune tellers, subhan Allah.

Protection from the Shaitan (الحصن الحصين من الشيطان الرجيم)

Introduction

- The shaitan has three entries which include temptations, anger, and following the hawa.
- The shaitan has seven steps and he never gets tired, he's always trying different steps. The shaitan will come according to your personality style, whether more eager or laidback.
- And the name 'rajeem' comes from (رجم), which means stone. We also stone the shaitan in the hajj because there will never be peace with him. Other names of the shaitan is (عدو) – enemy and (وسواس) – he whispers but withdraws when you remember Allah (سبحانه) (وتعالى).
- Surah Fatir 6: (إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُوا حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ) (Surely, Shaitân (Satan) is an enemy to you, so take (treat) him as an enemy. He only invites his Hizb (followers) that they may become the dwellers of the blazing Fire.)
 - Take the shaitan as an enemy, why? Because he's calling his friends to be among the dwellers of the hellfire. All of his plots are to make people dwellers of the hellfire, so never give in to him.

Protection from the shaitan – The foundation

- Before we go to the means of protection from the shaitan, you need to have a foundation, and the foundation is tawakul in Allah

(سبحانه وتعالى). People might read Surah Al Baqarah, ayat al kursi, but they say it's not helping, why? Because you're relying on the means and not on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- When you have tawakul in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then you disable your ability, subhan Allah. Imagine if a farmer has a garden with plants and the neighbor's dog is coming in and spoiling it – do you go and try to stop the dog, or do you go to the owner of the dog? And to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the best example, you need to go to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to be protected from the shaitan. When you rely on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), don't attach to the means – attach to the Lord of the means.

Fortress One – Seeking refuge in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) (الاستعاذة)

- Surah Al 'Araf 200: (وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ) (And if an evil whisper comes to you from Shaitân (Satan) then seek refuge with Allâh. Verily, He is All-Hearer, All-Knower.)
 - The shaitan will come and 'poke' you with evil, and you can realize this when you get a bad thought, react badly, etc. When you lose something, you will automatically assume it's so and so, who gave you this bad thought? The shaitan, but it's your nafs if you take it or not. Whenever this evil comes, seek refuge in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) say (أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم)
 - Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Samee' 'Aleem – He hears what you're saying and He knows your intention. He's the All-Knower of

your weakness and how desperate you are for His protection. Based on your faith is how much your isti'adha, seeking refuge, works.

- Surah Fussilat 36: (وَأِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ) (And if an evil whisper from Shaitân (Satan) tries to turn you away (O Muhammad SAW) (from doing good), then seek refuge in Allâh. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower)
- Surah An Nahl 98: (فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ) (So when you want to recite the Qur'ân, seek refuge with Allâh from Shaitân (Satan), the outcast (the cursed one).)
 - Your solution to any problem is in the Qur'an, but as soon you read the Qur'an the shaitan makes you feel lazy, you can't focus and do taddabur.
 - The shaitan doesn't want you to read the Qur'an, so don't worry or stress, rely on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Say (أعوذ بالله من الشيطان) (عوذ بالله من الشيطان) but with faith.
- Surah Ghafir 56: (إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَانٍ أَتَتْهُمْ إِنْ فِي صُدُورِهِمْ إِلَّا كِبْرٌ) (مَا هُمْ بِبَالِغِيَّةٍ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ) (Verily, those who dispute about the Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allâh, without any authority having come to them, there is nothing else in their breasts except pride [to accept you (Muhammad SAW) as a Messenger of Allâh and to obey you]. They will never have it (i.e. Prophethood which Allâh has bestowed upon you). So seek refuge in Allâh (O Muhammad SAW from the arrogant). Verily, it is He Who is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer)

- Here it says (استعذ بالله) without the shaitan being mentioned afterwards, so it's seeking refuge in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) from yourself, from other people who argue about ayat Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) – these are human shayateen. What makes them to argue about ayat Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)? Arrogance in their hearts.
- When you see bad behavior, someone screaming, don't think you're better, but say (أعوذ بالله). May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect me from the arrogance and arguing.

Surah Al Ikhlas – Surah Al Falaq – Surah An Nass (المعوذات):

Surah Al Ikhlas: (قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ (٢) لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ (٣) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ (٤)) (Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "He is Allâh, (the) One. (1) "Allâh-us-Samad (السيد الذي يصمد إليه في الحاجات) [Allâh the Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, (He neither eats nor drinks)]. (2) "He begets not, nor was He begotten; (3) "And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him." (4))

Surah Al Falaq: (قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ (١) مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ (٢) وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ (٣) وَمِنْ (٤) شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ (٥) وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ (٥)) (Say: "I seek refuge with (Allâh) the Lord of the daybreak, (1) "From the evil of what He has created; (2) "And from the evil of the darkening (night) as it comes with its darkness; (or the moon as it sets or goes away) (3) "And from the evil of those who practise witchcrafts when they blow in the knots, (4) "And from the evil of the envier when he envies." (5))

Surah An Nass: (قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ (١) مَلِكِ النَّاسِ (٢) إِلَهِ النَّاسِ (٣) مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ) (٦) (Say: "I seek refuge with (Allâh) the Lord of mankind, (1) "The King of mankind — (2) "The Ilâh (God) of mankind, (3) "From the evil of the whisperer (devil who whispers evil in the hearts of men) who withdraws (from his whispering in one's heart after one remembers Allâh), (4) "Who whispers in the breasts of mankind, (5) "Of jinn and men." (6))

- Surah Al Ikhlas tells you Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) Whom you are seeking refuge in – Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Al Ahad – He is One and Unique and He is As Samad – He can withstand everything.
- Surah Al Falaq is seeking refuge from all of the outer evil, it's all darkness, so you are seeking refuge from Rabb Al Falaq, the One Who brings light.
- Surah An Nass is seeking refuge from the shaitan and you are using three names of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) – Rabb, Malik, Ilah in order to defeat the shaitan. The shaitan is behind all of the evil in Surah Al Falaq, the shaitan is behind the evil at night, the magicians, and bad eyes. Some people are more afraid of magicians and the bad eye than from the shaitan, subhan Allah.

When are they read?

- After the obligatory prayer
- Morning and evening supplications, 3 times

- Before you sleep, but you need to blow into your hands, read Surah Al Ikhlas, Al Falaq, An Nass blow and wipe over yourself, and repeat again for a total of 3 times.
- When there is too much wind or darkness

Fortress Two – Starting in the name of Allah (التسمية) (سبحانه وتعالى)

- When you enter the house, when you eat, drink, comb your hair, open your book, cook – anything you begin then say 'Bism Allah'. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said there will be barakah when you begin with 'Bism Allah'. Bism Allah is also a protection from the shaitan.
- Hadith: عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " إِذَا دَخَلَ الرَّجُلُ بَيْتَهُ فَذَكَرَ (اللَّهُ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِ وَعِنْدَ طَعَامِهِ قَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ لَا مَبِيتَ لَكُمْ وَلَا عِشَاءَ . وَإِذَا دَخَلَ فَلَمْ يَذْكُرِ اللَّهَ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِ قَالَ (Jabir b. 'Abdullah reported Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as saying: When a person enters his house and mentions the name of Allah at the time of entering it and while eating the food, Satan says (You have no place to spend the night and no evening meal; but when he enters without mentioning the name of Allah, the Satan says: You have found a place to spend the night, and when he does not mention the name of Allah while eating food, he (the Satan) says: You have found a place to spend the night and evening meal.) – Muslim 2018

- When the shaitan enters the house it causes problems. The children fight without a reason, it's messy, etc. So remember to say 'bism Allah' before entering.
- Hadith: (عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، يَبْلُغُ بِهِ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " لَوْ أَنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا أَتَى أَهْلَهُ قَالَ بِسْمِ)
 (اللَّهُ اللَّهُمَّ جَنَّبْنَا الشَّيْطَانَ وَجَنَّبِ الشَّيْطَانَ مَا رَزَقْتَنَا. فَفُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمَا وَلَدٌ، لَمْ يَضُرَّهُ " (Narrated Ibn `Abbas: The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "If anyone of you on having sexual relations with his wife said (and he must say it before starting) 'In the name of Allah. O Allah! Protect us from Satan and also protect what you bestow upon us (i.e. the coming offspring) from Satan, and if it is destined that they should have a child then, Satan will never be able to harm that offspring.") - Sahih al-Bukhari 141

- When there is a relation between the husband and wife and they say this, then the shaitan will not harm this child neither in the duniya or deen, subhan Allah.
- Most people are thinking about themselves at this time but it shows that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) needs to be remembered at all times.

Fortress Three – Ayat Al Kursi (آية الكرسي)

- Ayat al kursi is recited before sleep, morning and evening supplications, and after the obligatory prayers.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Al Hayy Al Qayoom and He is Al 'Aliy Al 'Adheem. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) does not get tired from protecting the heavens and earth, so what about you? Subhan Allah.
- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ وَكَلَّنِي رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِحِفْظِ زَكَاةٍ (رَمَضَانَ، فَأَتَانِي آتٍ فَجَعَلَ يَحْتُو مِنْ الطَّعَامِ، فَأَخَذْتُهُ، وَقُلْتُ وَاللَّهِ لَأَرْفَعَنَّكَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. قَالَ إِنِّي مُحْتَاجٌ، وَعَلَى عِيَالٍ، وَلِي حَاجَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ. قَالَ فَخَلَّيْتُ عَنْهُ فَأَصْبَحْتُ فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " يَا أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ مَا فَعَلَ أُسَيْرُكَ الْبَارِحَةَ ". قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ شَكَأَ حَاجَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ وَعِيَالًا فَرَحِمْتُهُ، فَخَلَّيْتُ سَبِيلَهُ. قَالَ " أَمَا إِنَّهُ قَدْ كَذَبَكَ وَسَيَعُودُ ". فَعَرَفْتُ أَنَّهُ سَيَعُودُ لِقَوْلِ رَسُولِ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنَّهُ سَيَعُودُ. فَرَصَدْتُهُ فَجَاءَ يَحْتُو مِنْ الطَّعَامِ فَأَخَذْتُهُ فَقُلْتُ لَأَرْفَعَنَّكَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. قَالَ دَعْنِي فَإِنِّي مُحْتَاجٌ، وَعَلَى عِيَالٍ لَا أَعُودُ، فَرَحِمْتُهُ، فَخَلَّيْتُ سَبِيلَهُ فَأَصْبَحْتُ، فَقَالَ لِي رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " يَا أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ، مَا فَعَلَ أُسَيْرُكَ ". قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ شَكَأَ حَاجَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ وَعِيَالًا، فَرَحِمْتُهُ فَخَلَّيْتُ سَبِيلَهُ. قَالَ " أَمَا إِنَّهُ قَدْ كَذَبَكَ وَسَيَعُودُ ". فَرَصَدْتُهُ الثَّلَاثَةَ فَجَاءَ يَحْتُو مِنْ الطَّعَامِ، فَأَخَذْتُهُ فَقُلْتُ لَأَرْفَعَنَّكَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، وَهَذَا آخِرُ ثَلَاثِ مَرَّاتٍ أَنْتَ تَزْعُمُ لَا تَعُودُ ثُمَّ تَعُودُ. قَالَ دَعْنِي أَعْلَمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ يَنْفَعُكَ اللهُ بِهَا. قُلْتُ مَا هُوَ قَالَ إِذَا أُوَيْتَ إِلَى فِرَاشِكَ فَاقْرَأْ آيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ {اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ} حَتَّى تَخْتِمَ الْآيَةَ، فَإِنَّكَ لَنْ يَزَالَ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ اللهِ حَافِظٌ وَلَا يَفْرَبَنَّكَ شَيْطَانٌ حَتَّى تُصْبِحَ. فَخَلَّيْتُ سَبِيلَهُ فَأَصْبَحْتُ، فَقَالَ لِي رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَا فَعَلَ أُسَيْرُكَ الْبَارِحَةَ ". قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ زَعَمَ أَنَّهُ يُعَلِّمُنِي كَلِمَاتٍ، يَنْفَعُنِي اللهُ بِهَا، فَخَلَّيْتُ سَبِيلَهُ. قَالَ " مَا هِيَ ". قُلْتُ قَالَ لِي إِذَا أُوَيْتَ إِلَى فِرَاشِكَ فَاقْرَأْ آيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ مِنْ أَوْلَاهَا حَتَّى تَخْتِمَ {اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ} وَقَالَ لِي لَنْ يَزَالَ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ اللهِ حَافِظٌ وَلَا يَفْرَبَنَّكَ شَيْطَانٌ حَتَّى تُصْبِحَ، وَكَانُوا أَحْرَصَ شَيْءٍ عَلَى الْخَيْرِ. فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَمَا (إِنَّهُ قَدْ صَدَقَ وَهُوَ كَذُوبٌ، تَعْلَمُ مَنْ تُخَاطَبُ مِنْذُ ثَلَاثِ لَيَالٍ يَا أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ". قَالَ لَا. قَالَ " ذَلِكَ شَيْطَانٌ " (Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) deputed me to keep Sadaqat (al-Fitr) of Ramadan. A comer came and started taking handfuls of the foodstuff (of the Sadaqa) (stealthily).

I took hold of him and said, "By Allah, I will take you to Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)." He said, "I am needy and have many dependents, and I am in great need." I released him, and in the morning Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) asked me, "What did your prisoner do yesterday?" I said, "O Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)! The person complained of being needy and of having many dependents, so, I pitied him and let him go." Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Indeed, he told you a lie and he will be coming again." I believed that he would show up again as Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had told me that he would return. So, I waited for him watchfully. When he (showed up and) started stealing handfuls of foodstuff, I caught hold of him again and said, "I will definitely take you to Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم). He said, "Leave me, for I am very needy and have many dependents. I promise I will not come back again." I pitied him and let him go. In the morning Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) asked me, "What did your prisoner do." I replied, "O Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)! He complained of his great need and of too many dependents, so I took pity on him and set him free." Allah's Apostle said, "Verily, he told you a lie and he will return." I waited for him attentively for the third time, and when he (came and) started stealing handfuls of the foodstuff, I caught hold of him and said, "I will surely take you to Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as it is the third time you promise not to return, yet you break your promise and come." He said, "(Forgive me and) I will teach you some words with which Allah will

benefit you." I asked, "What are they?" He replied, "Whenever you go to bed, recite "Ayat-al-Kursi"-- 'Allahu la ilaha illa huwa-l-Haiy-ul-Qaiyum' till you finish the whole verse. (If you do so), Allah will appoint a guard for you who will stay with you and no satan will come near you till morning. " So, I released him. In the morning, Allah's Apostle asked, "What did your prisoner do yesterday?" I replied, "He claimed that he would teach me some words by which Allah will benefit me, so I let him go." Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه) (وسلم) asked, "What are they?" I replied, "He said to me, 'Whenever you go to bed, recite Ayat-al-Kursi from the beginning to the end - --- Allahu la ilaha illa huwa-l-Haiy-ul-Qaiyum----.' He further said to me, '(If you do so), Allah will appoint a guard for you who will stay with you, and no satan will come near you till morning.' (Abu Huraira or another sub-narrator) added that they (the companions) were very keen to do good deeds. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "He really spoke the truth, although he is an absolute liar. Do you know whom you were talking to, these three nights, O Abu Huraira?" Abu Huraira said, "No." He said, "It was Satan." – Sahih Al Bukhari 2311

- You need to listen to everyone even to your enemies, but of course Abu Huraira (رضي الله عنه) verified with the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) first.
- Hadith: هذه الآية التي في سورة البقرة الله لا إله إلا هو الحي القيوم من قالها حين يمسي أجبر منا (حتى يُصبحَ ومن قالها حين يصبحُ أجبرَ منا حتى يمسي (The ayah in Surah Al Baqarah – ayat al kursi – whoever says it in the evening then he will be protected from the shaitan until the morning and whoever says it in

the morning then he will be protected from the shaitan until the evening) - الراوي : أبي بن كعب | المحدث : الألباني | المصدر : صحيح الترغيب الصفحة أو - الرقم: 662 | خلاصة حكم المحدث : صحيح

Fortress Four: Last two ayat of Surah Al Baqarah (آخر آيتين من سورة البقرة)

- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي مَسْعُودٍ، وَلَقَيْتُهُ، وَهُوَ يَطُوفُ بِالْبَيْتِ فَذَكَرَ قَوْلَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَنْ مَنْ (Narrated Abu Mas'ud: The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "If somebody recites the last two Verses of Surat al-Baqara at night, it will be sufficient for him.) - Sahih al-Bukhari 5051
 - It will be sufficient for you from the shaitan, from yourself, from your concerns, matters, worries, and enemies.

Fortress Five: Reciting Surah Al Baqarah (قراءة سورة البقرة)

- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " لَا تَجْعَلُوا بُيُوتَكُمْ مَقَابِرَ إِنَّ (Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as saying: Do not make your houses as graveyards. Satan runs away from the house in which Surah Baqara is recited.) – Sahih Muslim 780
 - A grave is dark and awkward so make your house lively. It needs to be read, even if divided amongst people. Being played on tape is not considered.
- Hadith: (اقرءوا سورة البقرة فإن أخذها بركة وتركها حسرة ولا تستطيعها البطلة) (Abu Umama said he heard Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) say: Recite Surah al-Baqara, for to take recourse to it is a blessing and to give

it up is a cause of grief, and the magicians cannot confront it.) –
Sahih Muslim 804

- To take Surah Al Baqarah is a blessing, meaning to apply it, and to leave it is a misery. The magicians cannot handle it they have power no power.

Fortress Six: Remembrance of Allah (ذكر الله) (سبحانه وتعالى)

- Hadith: عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ - أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " مَنْ قَالَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ، وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ. فِي يَوْمٍ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ، كَانَتْ لَهُ عِدْلَ عَشْرِ رِقَابٍ، وَكُتِبَ لَهُ مِائَةُ حَسَنَةٍ، وَمُحِبَّتٌ عَنْهُ مِائَةُ سَيِّئَةٍ، وَكَانَتْ لَهُ حِرْزًا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ يَوْمَهُ ذَلِكَ، (حَتَّى يُمِيبِيَ، وَلَمْ يَأْتِ أَحَدٌ بِأَفْضَلَ مِمَّا جَاءَ بِهِ إِلَّا رَجُلٌ عَمِلَ أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُ " (Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said," Whoever says: "**La ilaha illal-lah wahdahu la sharika lahu, lahu-l-mulk wa lahu-l- hamd wa huwa 'ala kulli shai'in qadir,**" one hundred times will get the same reward as given for freeing ten slaves; and one hundred good deeds will be written in his accounts, and one hundred sins will be deducted from his accounts, and it (his saying) will be a shield for him from Satan on that day till night, and nobody will be able to do a better deed except the one who does more than he.") - Sahih al-Bukhari 6403

- You can say this throughout the day.

Fortress Seven: Dua'a when leaving the house (دعاء خروج المنزل)

- Hadith: (من قال-يعني إذا خرج) عن أنس رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : "من قال-يعني إذا خرج) من بيته-: **بسم الله توكلت على الله، ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله** ، يقال له: هديت وكفيت ووقيت، وتنحى عنه الشيطان". رواه أبو داود والترمذي، والنسائي وغيرهم. وقال الترمذي: حديث حسن، زاد أبو داود: (Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Whoever says (upon leaving his house): '**Bismillah, tawakkaltu 'alallah, wa la hawla wa la quwwata illa billah** [I begin with the Name of Allah; I trust in Allah; there is no altering of conditions but by the Power of Allah], it will be said to him: 'You are guided, defended and protected.' The devil will go far away from him". "One devil will say to another: 'How can you deal with a man who has been guided, defended and protected?") - Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and An- Nasa'i, Riyadh As Saliheen Book 1, Hadith 83
- When you say this dua'a, you have to gather your heart and want all of the virtues of this dua'a. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says you will be guided, you will not get lost, you will not miss the turns, you will be sufficient, you don't need more. You will be protected from accidents and people. The shaitan will not be in your path, he won't have a 'free ride'.
 - The shayateen will tell each other this person is guided, sufficient, and protected, so we can't do anything.

Fortress Eight: Dua'a when reaching a place where you're staying

(الدعاء اذا نزل منزلاً)

- Hadith: أَنَهَا سَمِعَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " إِذَا نَزَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنْزِلًا فَلْيَقُلْ أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ (Khaula bint Hakim Sulamiyya reported: I heard Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as saying: When any one of you stays at a place, he should say: " **I seek refuge in the Perfect Word of Allah from the evil of that He created.**" Nothing would then do him any harm until he moves from that place.) – Sahih Muslim 2708
 - You seek refuge in the perfect words of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), you are praising Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by His words, there is nothing better than the words of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). When you read this, then nothing will harm you until you leave the place.

Fortress Nine: Suppress the yawn (كظم التثاؤب)

- Hadith: سَعِيدٌ عَنْ أَبِيهِ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " إِذَا تَثَاوَبَ أَحَدُكُمْ فَلْيُمْسِكْ بِيَدِهِ فَإِنَّ (The son of Abu Said al-Khudri reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: When one of you yawns, he should try to restrain it with cue help of his hand since it is the Satan that enters therein.) - Sahih Muslim 2995
 - You don't say (أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم) when you yawn, but you try to suppress it and hold it down, and if you can't, then cover your mouth otherwise the shaitan will enter, subhan Allah. Imagine if the shaitan enters, then what will

happen? You especially see so many people yawning in the study circles. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) hates yawning and loves sneezing, subhan Allah.

Fortress Ten: Dua'a when entering the masjid (دعاء دخول المسجد)

- Hadith: عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ كَانَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْمَسْجِدَ قَالَ " أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ وَبِوَجْهِهِ) (Haiwah b. Shuraih reported : I met 'Uqbah b. Muslim and said to him: it has been reported to me that someone has narrated to you from the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) that when he entered the mosque, he would say: **I seek refuge in Allah, the Magnificent, and in His noble face, and in his eternal domain, from the accursed Devil.** He asked : is it so much only? I said: Yes. He said: when anyone says so. The devil says: he is protected from me all the day long.) - Sunan Abi Dawud 466, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih
 - The shaitan is even waiting at the masjid.

Fortress Eleven: Avoid the shaitan (تجنب الشياطين)

- Let your children remain at home during maghrib:
 - Hadith: سَمِعَ جَابِرَ بْنَ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا - قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (إِذَا كَانَ جُنْحُ اللَّيْلِ - أَوْ أَمْسَيْتُمْ - فَكُفُّوا صَبِيَّاتِكُمْ، فَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ تَنْتَشِرُ حِينَئِذٍ، فَإِذَا ذَهَبَ سَاعَةٌ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَحَلُّوهُمْ، وَأَغْلِقُوا الْأَبْوَابَ، وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ، فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَا يَفْتَحُ بَابًا مُغْلَقًا) (Narrated Jabir bin `Abdullah: Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "When night falls (or it is evening), keep your children close to you for the devils spread out at that time.

But when an hour of the night elapses, you can let them free. Close the doors and mention the Name of Allah, for Satan does not open a closed door." - Sahih al-Bukhari 3304

- The shayateen will spread during that time, so avoid them. When you close the doors, say 'Bism Allah'. And anything that's uncovered like clothes, drinks, then cover it. And turn-off candles.
- Make wudhu and pray in times of anger and temptation (الوضوء و الصلاة عند الغضب و الشهوة)
- Avoid curiosity with extra talk and staring (تجنب فضول الكلام و النظر): extra talk opens the door to the shaitan, or a person is wearing a watch and you want to see what brand it is – this is curiosity by staring. You need to avoid it because the shaitan comes with these matters, subhan Allah. Problems always happen with extra talk.
- Avoid abandoned, demolished places and dirty places (تجنب الأماكن الخربة و النجسة الخالية من الانس)
- Clear the house from pictures, statues, dogs, and bells (تطهير البيوت من الصور و التماثيل و الكلاب و الأجراس)
 - Pictures of images of humans and animals and statues of humans and animals. Placing bells and chimes in the house, even on animals. Children's toys should be placed away and not on display.
- Hadith: (سَمِعْتُ أَبَا طَلْحَةَ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " لَا تَدْخُلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ) (Narrated Abu Talha: I heard Allah's " نَبِيًّا فِيهِ كَلْبٌ وَلَا صُورَةٌ تَمَائِيلَ "

Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying; "Angels (of Mercy) do not enter a house wherein there is a dog or a picture of a living creature (a human being or an animal).) - Sahih al-Bukhari 3225

- If the angels don't enter, then the shayateen will, and mercy comes with angels, so why are we making things difficult on ourselves, subhan Allah.

Conclusion

- Surah An Nahl 99: (إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ) (Verily! He has no power over those who believe and put their trust only in their Lord (Allâh).)
 - The shaitan has no power over those who believe and have tawakul in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- Surah Sad 82-83: ((٨٣) إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ (٨٢) قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ (82) "Except Your chosen slaves amongst them (faithful, obedient, true believers of Islâmic Monotheism).") (83))
 - The shaitan has no power over the sincere one, mukhliseen.

We seek refuge in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) from the accursed shaitan (أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم). This is the end of the series, may Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) forgive us and accept from all. Ameen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PAST CLASS NOTES AND NEW POSTS ON TELEGRAM

THIS IS OPEN TO BOTH WOMEN AND MEN

<https://t.me/markazalsalampublicationsENG>

