

LECTURE ON  
**SHAITAN**  
Shaykh Bahmanpour

- We were talking about Shaitan and how it is possible that we worship him.
- It was mentioned in the verse in Surah Yasin.
- If you remember last week we mentioned that Shaitan is a general term - an attribute for an absolutely vicious creature, Insaan or Jinn or whatever.
- And of course there is the big Shaitan, Iblis who was ungrateful to Allah and was expelled and then he works in this world.

*Now, how does Shaitan work in this world in our hearts how does he work?  
How he spreads among us?*

- If you remember, Shaitan is a very busy person and does not have the time to come to all of us and allocate a lot of time for every one us so he should spread his words through some means and this means is his army.
- He has an army certainly.
- The army is mentioned in Surah Isra 62.

There is a conversation between Allah and Shaitan in this Surah and he says,

*What do you say about this creature that you have honored above me, if you give me respite to the Day of resurrection, I will surely seize and mislead his offspring, all but a few.*

The few that he knew he had no power over.

*What do you say about this creature, was a suggestion to Allah by Shaitan, saying that you are wrong and if you give me respite till the Day of Resurrection you will see how I mislead them but a few.*

*Allah said, Go, and whoever follows you, surely, will be recompensed in Hell an ample recompense.*

- *Any one of them that you can with your shirk, you can take them out of the right path and attack them with your foot soldiers; and your cavalry; and become their partner in their children and property; and give them promises.*
- And of course, he cannot promise humans but in deception.
- There are many concepts that if put here and if we ponder about them we will find out how Shaitan works and what are his capabilities.

First of all, it's only his voice.

- Only with your voice, not your hands or other means - and this is very important.
- He has no power over anyone but the power of deception.
- The voice in our hearts and our minds.
- And, that voice if heard, then of course he wins; if not heard, we defeat him.

Therefore this is why Allah says, *the deception of Shaitan is very weak*, he cannot do much work in your hearts; it is just a voice. If you listen to his voice, he is happy and you are waylaid, but if you do not he is defeated.

- He cannot use his hands and other means.
- He has foot soldiers and he has cavalry.
- He does not come to us himself - he sends his foot soldiers and they are us.
- We are his people who go to each other.
- And what he can do is that, he just suggests things in our hearts.
- Now, this is very important, and this is mentioned in many parts of the Qura'n that Shaitan works in our hearts - this way giving us promises.

In Surah Nisa 120 the type of work that Shaitan does is mentioned, *"He gives them false promises and stirs vain desires in them, but Shaitan promises nothing other than sheer desires."*

- Now what does this mean?
- Of course, you cannot be Shaitan in your hearts or soul but imagine if you ponder carefully.
- You cannot be Shaitan, because he is of the other kind, and that other kind is such that they can see us but we don't see him.

Surah A'raf says, *"They see us but we do not see them."*

- So, they come to our minds and give us ideas.
- We have the power of contemplation; but they use our contemplation to create desire.

E.g. If you contemplate that "If I was a chief? Then the idea comes "what could I do?" I could have any car and woman for wife, etc. This becomes the origin for our decisions. They cannot command us but only create desire and this is how we join them. But, if we just think for a second that "I am going to die soon," then all the work of the Shaitan will unravel.

- The reason the intellect becomes ineffective is because we listen to his suggestion.
- There are many things like the desire of becoming powerful over others.
- Why?
- These are the types of deception that he creates and are a part of his suggestion.
- These are desires spread by us too when we admonish our children about values or when we advise our friends of how to go about their business and life.
- It is very much like the work of Shaitan.
- It is all based on the idea that worldly things are very important and one has to make all the efforts to achieve them.

*Like a friend may come and say, of course there is the hereafter - by God - but the present too is very important. You have to get subsistence for your children and it is a most important thing.*

- Now this is an evil suggestion given by the likes of us who are his foot soldiers.
- The realization of what Allah says, you will see that some people are never attracted by these idle ideas and they are more inclined towards the hereafter.
- His success is make you forget the hereafter and then you become defenseless and then these aspirations will come to your minds.

*What are his promises?*

*Again, from Quran in Surah Baqarah, Shaitan promises you and induces you indecent acts but God promises you forgiveness of your sins and a good hereafter.*

**It is not only Shaitan, but also Allah is working in our minds. And it depends to whom we submit - we join that party. So not only Shaitan who has this power but Allah too enters our hearts.**

Now, how does Shaitan come into your hearts?

- He comes to us to tell us that we have to work hard to attain our desires, and so he tells us about the dos and the don'ts.
- He stops us from charity by saying that we should look after our children and then give charity - so he stops us from charity.
- If he sees you worshipping, he will tell you to pray, but first get sustenance for your children. He talks about your children and you.

Muaviya really annihilated himself to give the rule to the Banu Umayya in a heredity fashion. But why did he do that? Because Shaitan convinced him that he must first think of his children and how they could rule after him. So he followed him.

In Surah Ibrahim verse 22 is the confession of the Shaitan and he says, *Verily God promised you the promise of truth and I promised but failed to keep them. I had no authority over you except that I called you and you responded to me, so do not blame but blame yourselves. I cannot be your helper nor can you be mine. Verily I disbelieved you making me partner of God. Surely for the unjust ones there is painful chastisement.*

This is, after the life of everything had ended and human beings accused Shaitan of betrayal.

- He knows that the punishment cannot be increased.
- He did not use his hands to force anyone physically.
- He just called and humans followed and it is entirely their fault.
- We have resigned ourselves.
- We have aspirations but he comes and embellishes and decorates our desires.
- This makes us think that what he suggests is the only goal of human life and we do not think of the values of Qura'n like the value that every individual should realize what he wants and this is what the modern society today is striving for.

Thinkers say that today's society should help the aspiration of the socio-political and others. We should have the freedom to achieve our sexual desires, our desires of power and money etc. People are now fighting that every individual should get what he wants so long as it does not interfere with other people. This is the declaration in the charters of human rights.

Isn't the modern society working for Shaitan?

- But you may say that all desires do not come from Shaitan and yes, some desires are lawful and some are not but this gives access to unbridled desires.
- Yes, it curbs the society's interference into the human desires.
- In this way it gives fuel to the fire that Shaitan has lit about human desires.
- It is inherent in the declaration of human rights.

If we work in this way - I don't know whether you agree with or not – but human beings become the soldiers of Shaitan and some religious people are inadvertently drawn in to this. Shaitan appoints one Shaitan to a person. Many different species of these desires are suggested by Shaitan and these people who are there to guide us fail to realize this.

Once he finds that you work well for him, then you are a very valuable foot soldier. Then Allah will appoint a guard for you and place a barrier between you, and the Shaitan can come and join your company in every moment of your life.

In Surah Fussilat 25, *And we have appointed for them intimate companions who have made fair seeming to them, what was before them and what was behind them. And the Word is justified against those who were among the previous generations of the Jinns and men that had passed away before them. Indeed they were the losers.*

These intimate companions have been explained better in Surah Zukhruf verse 36 that says, *And whosoever turns away from the remembrance of the Most Beneficent, we appoint for him Shaitan to be a Qarin, an intimate companion for him.*

Now as I said, they have no physical power to do anything but whatever we comply, they decorate it to tell us that this is the only path to follow.

They think they are guided, the intellectual who knows and not others and find themselves superior, and they do not know that whatever comes from Shaitan is like a virus.

We are somehow captured by Shaitan or Jinn who tell us what to do all the time - this is of course are true. Ibrahim, said, *I feel that punishment from Allah will come to you if you worship the idols, and Shaitan will come and overwhelm you and be with you always. You will then become a party of the Shaitan and you will among the losers on the Day of Judgment.*

Surah Maryam says, *they drive them, they force them forward towards evil.* Allah too will drive them like He says in verse 84 of Surah Maryam, *And We shall drive the Mujrimin, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah to Hell, in a thirsty state.*

Shaitan drives them like one drives a horse with a whip. The only thing Shaitan does is contemplation, desires and instigation - *and whenever we want to start something we start with cursing him.* He is persistent, and we are at his mercy all the time. If we believe in all the times he has mislead us, then appoints one from his cavalry to be our leader, and then receive the punishment to go to Hell.

*Of course, Shaitan and the sinners will quarrel in front of God. And when Allah asks them why did you sin, Shaitan will answer that the human has done every thing of his own accord. And then God tells them not to quarrel in front of him when the human tries to answer and says they were both given the promises but now they will not be repeated and they will be dealt according to the punishment already foretold. They will go Hell as promised. This is one of the most severe punishments that any one can receive.*

Shaitan can never inspire a good cause and if some one comes with a good cause you may be assured that it is not from Shaitan.

The Surah Shura verse 210 says, *It is not the Shaitan that has revealed the Qura'n. Neither will it suit them nor can they produce it. Verily they have been removed far from hearing it.*

But whatever comes from Shaitan is indecent.

This was to refute the claim that the disbelieving Arabs had put after hearing the verses of the book. Since it is not written by man, then it is the work of a Jinn or Shaitan. The disbelievers and Shaitan are two people who hate each other but will have to dwell together. We will be accused of having made the Shaitan powerful.

We should note that if we hear and follow the words of God that have been brought by the angels, we can never be tempted and misled, and we can remain safe from Hell.

Shaitan homes in when he finds some evil intentions in our hearts. If some one sees a ten-pound note on the pavement and then hesitates to pick it up it is the Shaitan who makes him take it by driving him to do this. The evil intention comes from us and Shaitan only cements it.

The story of Adam and Eve also tells us that the origin of foul deeds come from us. If you remember Shaitan told Adam that the tree was the tree of knowledge and he could eat from it. But the desire to eat from that tree was already there in Adam.

In our day to day life we can be guided by the verses at the end of Surah A'raf that say,

**If an enticement comes to you, seek refuge with God; indeed He is all hearing, all knowing.**

**Verily those who guard when afflicted with an evil thought from Shaitan, become mindful, then lo they see aright.**

**Their brethren drag them deeper into error, so they do not halt their efforts.**

**When Qura'n is recited to you, listen to it and be attentive, perchance you may receive His mercy.**