

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 3rd Holy Ramadhan 1426 AH / 8th October 2005

Occasion: Holy Ramadhan Weekend Majalis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 1

“And say: My Lord! I seek Your protection from the promptings of devils; and I seek Your protection, my Lord, from their presence near me”. (23:97-98)

AL-ISTI'ADHA basically means 'to seek protection' or 'to seek refuge' from mankind's greatest enemy – Shaytan.

Why should we talk about Shaytan?

Shaytan, we have been told, is the greatest enemy of mankind. His work is to stand between Allah (SWT) and us and deviate us from the right path. There are numerous verses and traditions in this regard. For instance:

“And Shaytan is indeed man's manifest enemy”. (17:53)

“Shaytan is indeed your enemy, so treat him as an enemy”. (35:6)

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (as) has said, **“Iblees has schemed his traps in this deceitful world and his only target is our followers”**. (Tuhaf al-'Uqool)

A person comes to Imam Musa ibn Ja'ffar al-Kadhim (as) and asks, “Which of the enemies has Allah commanded us to fight against?” Imam (as) replied, **“One who is closest to you and the staunchest enemy of all...he is Iblees”**. (Bihar al-Anwaar)

Shaytan is our biggest enemy. Quran and Hadith have warned us against him. History shows generations of people who were misguided by him. Our condition too, shows that many a time, we want to do good but Shaytan creates hurdles.

Therefore wisdom dictates that we talk about Shaytan and his schemes so that we are able to protect ourselves from him.

Who is Shaytan?

Shaytan is a Jinn. Allah (SWT) created Adam (as) and his progeny from clay; the angels from *Noor* meaning 'pure light' and the Jinn from fire. **“When We said to the angels, 'Prostrate before Adam', they prostrated, except Iblees. He was of the Jinn”**. (18:50)

THE MAKING OF MAN & JINN

Man is made up of four elements: Fire, Water, Soil and Air. The content of soil is prominent in his make-up and this gives volume and weight to the human body. Therefore, the power of comprehension and action in a human being are limited.

A Jinn is made up of fire – with the fire and air being predominant in his make up. Therefore, Jinn is absolutely **Lateef** 'rare and light' and this puts a very wide range of actions and mobility in his control.

Man thinks that he has great faculties at his command but a Jinn has incredible capabilities such as: He can become so small as to easily pass through a tiny crevice. He can also become so huge as to encompass a vast place. The distance, which takes a man to cover a month with difficulty, Jinn can do the same at a blink of eyes. The heavy weight, which man is incapable of lifting, Jinn can lift effortlessly. The Holy Quran says that when Prophet Sulayman (as) asked, **"Who will bring the throne of Bilqees to me?" "An envoy among the Jinn said: I will bring it to you before you rise from your place". (27:39)**

Since **Shaytan** and the Jinn are rare and light, human eyes cannot perceive them. They can only visualize things that have volume. So just as man cannot see the air, or the waves of the wind although they feel it blowing – they cannot see **Shaytan** and the Jinn. **"Indeed he sees you – he and his hosts- whence you do not see them". (7:27)**

ABOUT SHAYTAN

Shaytan literally means 'a devil' but his real name was **Azazeel**.

[**Azazeel** had earned the title of **Ta'us al-Malaikah** because of his consistency in the worship and obedience of Allah (SWT). Many people have misinterpreted the meaning of **Ta'us al-Malaikah** as 'leader of angels'. **Ta'us** means 'peacock', which is a most handsome creature from among Allah's feathered creation. From among all the angels, once, **Azazeel** stood out like a beautiful peacock among ordinary birds because of his exemplary worship.] **(Arrogance & Humility)**

Azazeel at one time had such a high status in the sight of Allah (SWT) that even the Angels looked upon him at the time of need. And indeed it is this very thing that affected his mind and pumped it with **Takabbur** 'pride'. It is reported that:

There was a cry in the skies that one of the pious worshippers would be one of the most cursed ones. All the creatures, at all stations were worried that it could be them & went to the creation, next higher in station, to seek his intercession by prayer. Only Azazeel was confident & prayed for all, except himself & as a result he was the cursed Satan!

THE PRIDE OF SHAYTAN

We all know what happened and in short, Allah (SWT) created Prophet Adam (as) and instructed all the angles to prostrate before him. Everyone prostrated except **Azazeel** – the Iblees. Quran says: **"And when We said to the angels, 'Prostrate before Adam', they prostrated except Iblees: he refused and acted arrogantly and he was one of the faithless". (2:34)** As a result, he was banished from the Heavens and the ranks of the Angels. Whilst leaving, Shaytan promised to misguide the mankind and that is why we have been warned against him.

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