

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 22nd Shawwal 1426 AH / 25th November 2005

Occasion: Friday Majlis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 10

“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)

THE THREE TYPES OF AL-ISTI'ADHA

There is no doubt that **Al-Isti'adha** is a very powerful weapon to keep Shaytan and his temptations away from us. However, it should be noted that **Al-Isti'adha** does NOT consist of mere words, it is a meaningful and spiritual condition and it can ONLY be effective if prompted from the heart of a person!

Al-Isti'adha is of three kinds:

1. One kind is when a person recites **Al-Isti'adha** but he neither understands what he is reciting nor is he reciting it in the right spirit. Rather, he is reciting it as forced habit. Such **Isti'adha** is nothing but a satanic joke and it will not have any effect whatsoever!
2. The second kind is when a person recites **Al-Isti'adha** and he understands what he is reciting BUT he does not have right feelings for it in his heart and his actions also are in obedience of Shaytan. Once again, such **Isti'adha** is a satanic joke and in reality *such a person is actually seeking refuge in Shaytan from Allah instead of vice versa!*
3. And the third kind is when a person recites **Al-Isti'adha** both, with understanding and feelings. Such a person is cognizant about Allah (SWT)'s Greatness and hence his **Al-Isti'adha** shall be accepted and become effective. **(Al-Isti'adha)**

The question that comes to minds here is: How can a person train himself to recite and resort to **Al-Isti'adha** with understanding and feelings?

ANTAGONISE SHAYTAN

The first and foremost thing to do is to recognize Shaytan as our greatest enemy and treat him as an enemy. In other words, we must antagonise Shaytan. Just as he has exhibited his enmity towards us, we must also reciprocate with enmity!! This is the command of Allah (SWT) to all of us in the Holy Quran.

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

If a person puts his hand in a tiger's mouth and then cries for help, will his cry save his hand from being eaten? No, it will not! And in addition, such a person shall be considered as a fool for making himself an easy target of a beast. The same goes for **Al-Isti'adha**. If we refuse to acknowledge Shaytan as our greatest enemy and every now and then fall victims to his promptings. How then can **Al-Isti'adha**, which is a cry of help to Allah (SWT), benefit us??

WE MUST FORTIFY OURSELVES

Secondly, We must fortify ourselves! Shaytan is aggressive and dangerous for our Imaan. Since we are living in this world and know for certain that Shaytan can attack us from any side (north, south, east or west), wisdom dictates that we should fortify ourselves from him. How can we fortify ourselves? There are different ways of doing this and one of the ways is: To have **Taqwa**, which means Godwariness, in our hearts.

The heart of a human being is either the throne of Rahman or the dwelling place of Shaytan. If a person has **Taqwa**, Shaytan cannot break into his heart – BUT if he does NOT have **Taqwa** then Shaytan takes shelter in it.

INCIDENT OF PROPHET YAHYA (AS)

Shaytan once came to Prophet Yahya (as). The Prophet (as) asked him about his dealings with the progeny of Adam (as) and Shaytan replied,

“Men are divided into three groups:

1. The first group is of those people who are revered who are always out of my reach. These are the Prophets and the Infallibles.
2. The second group consists of those whom I can his sway. But with penitence (Istighfar) they nullify my manoeuvres.
3. And the third group is of those in whose hearts I dwell – and they are in majority.” (**Al-Isti’adha**)

We must make our hearts strong with **Taqwa** so that Shaytan is unable to penetrate into it in any way. In other words, Allah (SWT) should always be in our hearts and before we do or say anything, we are conscious of Him and His presence. **“When those who are Godwary are touched by an insinuation of Shaytan, they remember (Allah) and behold, they perceive”.** (7:201)

Look at the breakdown of this verse:

INNALLADHEENAT-TAQAW **“When those who are Godwary”**. This is in reference to those whose hearts are filled with consciousness of Allah (SWT) and are free from sinful thoughts. Thus when the hearts are clean and pure – all the other organs are also free from pollution and wrong acts.

IDHAA MASSAHUM TAA’IFUN MINASH-SHAYTAANI **“When they are touched by TAA’IF of Shaytan”**. ‘Taa’if’ in Arabic means a person who does Tawaaf. When a person goes to Hajj, he does Tawaaf of the Holy Ka’bah; therefore such a person becomes a Taa’if. In this verse Allah (SWT) is telling us that if the Godwary people are touched by the Tawaaf of Shaytan – i.e. Shaytan doing the Tawaaf of their hearts and trying to break into them.

TADHAKKAROO **“They remember (Allah)”** They remember Him because their hearts are the thrones of Allah (SWT) thus they always engage in His remembrance by saying: “Yaa Allah” or “Astaghfirullah” or “A’oodhu Billah”

The outcome of this is: **FA IDHAA HUM MUBSIROON** **“And behold, they perceive”**. Their eyes instantly illuminate with the light of vision and they get warned of the thief in their environs.

The greater the Taqwa the stronger the heart.

{Shaykh Murtadha Ansari was a great Shia' Scholar. It is related that one night, a disciple of this great scholar saw Shaytan in his dream carrying some bridles in his hand. One of the bridles was strong and thick.

This disciple asked Shaytan, "Why are you holding the bridles in your hand?"

He answered, "I put them in the necks of people and drag them".

The disciple then asked, "What was the strong and thick bridle for?"

Shaytan replied, "This is for your mentor, Shaykh Ansari. Yesterday, I put it around his neck and dragged him but he freed himself and escaped".

The disciple went to see his mentor the following day and narrated to him his dream. Shaykh Murtadha Ansari said,

"Shaytan has spoken the truth. We needed few things at home and I did not have any money. I thought that from *Sahm-e-Imam* I have the Holy Quran, which I should go and sell and use the money for my need as a loan to be reimbursed later. I took the Holy Quran and while buying my needs it occurred to me why am I doing this? I became remorseful and returned the Holy Quran in its original place}". **(Al-Isti'adha)**

So we must fortify our hearts with **Taqwa** so that Shaytan is unable to penetrate into it and make a home for himself.

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