

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 25th Holy Ramadhan 1426 AH / 30th October 2005

Occasion: Holy Ramadhan Weekend Majalis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 9

"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 SIXTH INSTANCE OF AL-ISTI'ADHA:

The sixth instance when we should be resorting to **Al-Isti'adha** is when entering a **Masjid**. **Masjid** literally means 'a place where Sajdah (prostration) is performed'. Generally, this is in reference to a Mosque where Muslims come and pray; and usually perform their Sujood. The plural of **Masjid** is **Masajid**.

IMPORTANCE OF MASJID

Every place that has been officially appoint as a Masjid holds a lot of importance in Islam.

"The places of worship belong to Allah so do not invoke anyone along with Allah".
(72:18)

The term **Masajid** in this verse means two things: It means the Mosques that have been built by Muslims for prayers. And it also refers to the 7 bodily parts, which are placed on earth during prostration – i.e. the forehead, two palms, two knees and two toes.

The Holy Prophet (saww) has said, **"It is written in Tawrat: 'Verily My houses on the earth are the Masajid (Mosques). Therefore, glad tidings are for My servant who purifies himself at his home and then visits Me in My house....'"** (Bihar al-Anwaar)

Imam Ja'ffar ibn as-Sadiq (as) has said, **"You must give importance to coming to the Mosques for verily they are the houses of Allah on the earth; And whosoever comes to them purified, Allah (SWT) shall purify him from sins and include him among His visitors; Therefore increase in them (your) prayers and supplications..."** (Bihar al-Anwaar)

THE THAWAAB OF COMING TO MASJID

The Holy Prophet (saww) has said, **"Whoever walks to a Masjid with the intention of performing SALAAT AL-JAMA'AH (Congregational Prayer)- for every step which he takes, Allah (SWT) writes for him: The reward of 70,000 good deeds; And raises his level by the same measure (in the Hereafter); And if he dies in that condition (whilst walking or driving to a Masjid) – Allah (SWT) appoints 70,000 angels who frequently visit him in his grave; comfort him in his loneliness and pray for his forgiveness till the day he shall be resurrected".** (Bihar al-Anwaar)

In another Hadeeth, the Holy Prophet (saww) told his companion Abu Dhar, **“O Abu Dhar! For as long as you sit in a Masjid, for every breath you take: Your level in Paradise is raised; The angels send Salawaat upon you; For every breath you take, 10 good deeds are written for you and 10 bad deeds are erased from you.” (Bihar al-Anwaar)**

However, this sitting should NOT be without purpose. Some people may think that since only sitting in a Mosque has so much of rewards then we can sit in it and have fun! Do some gossiping and talk about worldly affairs! No! The purpose of being in the Mosque should be one of the three: Either to say prayers Or to remember Allah (SWT) in different ways Or to acquire Knowledge that will enlighten the path of Allah (SWT) for us and make us better Muslims.

“Only those shall maintain Allah’s mosques who believe in Allah and the last day...” (9:18)

In relation to this verse, Abu Dhar al-Ghifari asked the Holy Prophet (saww): “O Messenger of Allah! How are the Mosques of Allah maintained?” He (saww) said: **“Voices should not be raised in it; Do not talk unnecessary things in it; No buying or selling should take place in it; & Vain talks should be avoided in it; If you do not adhere to these then blame no one but yourself on the Day of Judgement”.** (Bihar al-Anwaar)

In addition to these, the other benefits that have also been stated in Ahadeeth are:

- o One will acquire Knowledge
- o One will be motivated to pray to Allah (SWT) and also to abandon sins
- o Ones Dua’s shall be accepted
- o And one will be able to find a brother who will be useful to him in the path of Allah (SWT)

WHY REFUGE FROM SHAYTAN?

The question that arises here is that: **Masjid** is the house of Allah (SWT). Why is it that we have been recommended to recite **Al-Isti’adha** when visiting it?

The answer to this question is very simple: As mentioned earlier, **Masjid** literally means ‘a place where Sajdah (prostration) is performed’. Since **Shaytan** was banished from the ranks of the Angels and from the heavens because of not doing **Sajdah** to Adam (as), he abhors anyone who performs **Sujood** or anything that has to do with performing the **Sujood**. Hence he will always cause hindrance for a person to either do **Sajdah** or go to places where **Sujood** are common!!

Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (as) has said, **“Extend your Sujood for there is no deed that hurts Iblees as much as seeing the son of Adam in Sajdah, because he was commanded to do Sajdah but he disobeyed...”**

(Bihar al-Anwaar)

Imam Ja’ffar as-Sadiq (as) has said, **“Indeed when a servant prolongs his Sujood such that no one sees him, Iblees cries out loudly: Woe unto me! They have obeyed and I have disobeyed. They have prostrated and I refrained from it”.** (Meezan al-Hikmah)

Ayatullah Dasti Ghayb relates in his book **Al-Isti’adha**:

[A pious man once noticed Shaytan at the threshold of a Mosque so he asked him, “O accursed one! What are you doing here?”

The Shaytan replied, "Some of my associates have been missed in these environs and I am waiting for them".

The pious man understood that these may be intelligent people who have gone into the Mosque and the accursed Shaytan could NOT follow them inside. They must have taken care of reciting **Al-Isti'adha** before entering the Mosque.】

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