

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 10th Holy Ramadhan 1426 AH / 15th October 2005

Occasion: Holy Ramadhan Weekend Majalis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 3

“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 topic that has received maximum attention in the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet (saww) and the AImma (as) is that of **Al-Isti'adha**.

Al-Isti'adha means 'to seek protection' or 'to seek refuge' in Allah (SWT) from the manoeuvrings of **Shaytan**. This basically means to recite: **A'OODHU BILLAHI MINASH-SHAYTANIR-RAJEEM** (I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaytan).

“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)

In the beginning of his sermon, which he (as) gave to warn against religious strife, Imam Ali (as) said, **“I praise Allah and seek His help from (what led to the) punishment of Shaytan and his deceitful acts, and (I seek His) protection from Shaytan's traps and way-layings”.**
(Nahjul-Balaghah/ Sermon: 151)

Therefore, we must form the habit of reciting this, whenever we feel that Shaytan is tempting us towards evil and at all times.

INSTANCES WHEN AL-ISTI'ADHA IS RECOMMENDED

There are certain instances when recitation of **Al-Isti'adha** has been particularly recommended. What are those instances? We shall look at only one or two of such instances tonight Inshallah and continue with others in the next Majlis.

NO.1: One instance is whilst reciting Quran & Prayers.

“When you recite the Quran, seek the protection of Allah against the outcast Shaytan”. (16:98)

[A person asked Imam Ja'ffar as-Sadiq (as), “Does one need to seek refuge in Allah from Shaytan before the recitation of every chapter (of Quran)? Imam (as) said, **“Yes! You must seek refuge from the outcast Shaytan and remember that the accursed is the worst of all devils”.**] (Bihar al-Anwaar)

Quran contains the divine instructions for the guidance of mankind. Since Shaytan had vowed to sit on every way of guidance, we have been instructed to seek refuge in Allah (SWT) so that: We recite the Quran correctly, understand its instructions and we are motivated to follow the path directed therein.

With regard to **Salaat** (prayers), this is directly targeting the schemes of **Shaytan**.

Shaytan invites man to evil and indecency: **"He (Shaytan) only prompts you to (commit) evil and indecent acts". (2:169)** Whereas **Salaat** prevents one from them: **"And maintain the prayer. Indeed the prayer prevents indecencies and wrongs". (29:45)**

That is why **Shaytan** will do his best to either stop a believer from **Salaat** or do to him what will render his **Salaat** as void!

[It is therefore important to recite: **A'OODHU BILLAHI MINASH-SHAYTAANIR-RAJEEM**- before performing Wudhoo and after Takbeeratul-Ihraam, before one recites **Bismillah**. However, **Al-Isti'adha** should be recited slowly after the Takbeeratul-Ihraam in **Salaat**.] (**Al-Isti'adha**)

NO.2: The second instance is when we remove clothes from our bodies and are going into the state of nakedness. Whether we are removing the clothes to bath or to change into another or for whatever other reason, it is important that we recite: **A'OODHU BILLAHI MINASH-SHAYTAANIR-RAJEEM**. Why?? Because when private parts are exposed, Shaytan interferes with them in order to get us into Haraam.

In Islam, except between husband and wife, to expose one's private parts to others, or to look at the private parts of other people, regardless of whether they are of the same gender or otherwise, is Haraam. Infact according to Quran, one of the signs of a true believer is that he/she will guard their private parts from others. In the opening of Surah al-Muminoon (23) Allah (SWT) says: **"Certainly the faithful have attained salvation". (23:1)** Then He (SWT) describes the qualities of true believers, among which, one is: **"Who guard their private parts". (23:5)**

The Holy Prophet (saww) has said, **"You must refrain from entering a public bath without a covering; for verily one who enters into a public bath without any covering, the curse of Allah is upon the one who looks and the one who is looked at". (Makarim al-Akhlaaq)**

And in our own privacy, when we are exposing the private parts, it is highly recommended that we should seek refuge in Allah (SWT) from the accursed Shaytan and recite the prescribed dua's. For instance:

Whilst changing clothes, it is highly recommended that we should recite: **ALLAHUMMASTUR 'AURATEE WA LAA TAJ'AL LISH-SHAYTAANI FEE DHAALIKA NASEEBA** (O Allah! Keep my private parts hidden and save me from the interference of Shaytan).

Whilst entering the Toilet, it is Mustahab to recite: **ALLAHUMMA INNEE A'OODHU BIKA MINAR-RIJSIL-MUKHBITHIL-KHABEETHISH-SHAYTANIR-RAJEEM**. (O Allah! I seek Your protection from the accursed Shaytan and the defiled impurities).

All these dua's show that we must seek refuge in Allah (SWT) from the accursed Shaytan whenever we remove our clothes.

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