

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ وَأَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Praise be to **الله**.

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our bad deeds. Whomever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whomever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **الله** to whom there is no partner

and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اِذَا نُوْدِيَ لِلصَّلٰوةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا اِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ
اللّٰهِ وَذَرُوْا الْبَيْعَ ذٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿٩﴾

"O you who believe, when the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the day of assembly), hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business. That is best for you if you but knew" (S62, A10)



أما بعد:

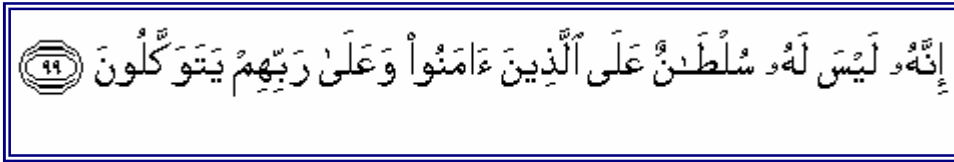
تَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ ، وَإِنَّ الدُّنْيَا هِيَ الْمَمْرُ ، وَالِدَارَ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ الْمُسْتَقَرُّ
وَحَاسِبُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ قَبْلَ أَنْ تُحَاسَبُوا ، وَزِينُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ قَبْلَ أَنْ تُزَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ

Brothers and sisters, take provisions, for the best of provisions in this life is Taqwa, and know that this life is just a transient route, and that it is the hereafter where we settle eternally. Hold yourselves to account before you are held to account, and weigh your actions and deeds before they are weighed upon you.

Brothers and sisters, I was asked to step in to give the khutbah today. I know that we have not finished last week's topic on **"Fighting off satan"**, and Insha' Allah, this gives us the opportunity to finish it today.

I apologies for the repetition, but this opportunity gives me a good chance to expand on some of the issues mentioned last week. We will go straight to the relevant aspects of how satan can affect our behaviour, the behaviour of the Muslims and of the Believers when he has no direct authority over that behaviour.

Just to remind you of the fact that we read in the Holy Quran:



"No authority has he (satan) over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord" (S16, A99)

This is a very important concept to recognise and we need to take a step back and understand what it means.

On the one hand we are clear on the fact that satan cannot drive us to do a sinful act, and he will use all sorts of trickery to make us slip. But, and a very crucial BUT, when we do indeed slip and fall to satan's trickery, we are committing a sinful act by our own free will. We cannot make the excuse that satan made me do this or satan made me do that. So, the fact that satan has no direct authority over us is in fact a two-edged sword. I hope that this point is clear. We, Insha' Allah, will cover this subject in the study circle.

Just so as that there is no doubt in our minds, when a Muslim or a Believer commits a bad deed or a sinful act, he or she is doing that by their own free will. No one and no power is twisting their arms to do something wrong.

How can that be?

وَمَا كَانَ لِيَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ سُلْطٰنٍ اِلَّا اَنۡ دَعَوْتُكُمْ فَاسْتَجَبْتُمْ

"I had no authority over you except to beckon you, and you listened to me" (S14, A22)

Satan says, I had no authority over you except to beckon you, and you listened to me. The obvious question is how does satan **beckon** us?

We heard that if a believer has some doubt, he or she is an easier target for satan.

وَمَا كَانَ لَهُۥ عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ سُلْطٰنٍ اِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَۤ اَنۡ يُؤْمِنُ بِالْآخِرَةِ مِمَّنۡ هُوَ مِنْهَا
فِيۤ شَكٍّ وَّرَبُّكَ عَلٰى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيظٌ ﴿٣١﴾

"But he (satan) had no authority over them, except that we might test he who believes in the Hereafter from he who is in doubt; and your Lord watches over all things" (S34, A21)

Doubt can creep in if one's knowledge of Islam is poor, if one's faith is still not strengthened, or if one is going through a test as Allah has decreed.

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ
وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾

"Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods, lives and fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who persevere" (S2, A155)

The believers will be tested as Allah has informed us. During these periods of test, our Iman will be put to the test and we will have moments of doubt. This test of faith is very obvious, but we need to be aware that this test can take different forms.

One can argue that there are four situations when we are tested in this manner. As the verse states, we will be tested with something of fear, of hunger, of loss in wealth and of loss in life. The first situation is when it is **us** that are being afflicted by the test. The second situation is when we witness **someone else** being afflicted, just as we are witnessing what is happening on a daily basis around us. The third situation is when one is not afflicted but on the contrary is **blessed**, with strength, with plenty and with increased wealth and people. The fourth situation is when **someone else** gets all that blessing.

All four situations are testing our faith in their different ways, and we should not fall into the trap of thinking that the **only** test of our faith is when we get badly afflicted. We know that many people doubt their faith when they witness human suffering with disaster after disaster. Their faith is so badly shaken that they wrongly start questioning Allah's wisdom? Others unwittingly put their faith in question when they are blessed by strength and wealthy. They mistakenly start thinking that their achievements are all of their doing and not from Allah. While others start to doubt their faith when they witness others getting wealthier and stronger and ask why did Allah forget them and not grant them the same?

Brothers and sisters, be aware, and be careful. All these situations will test your faith and will allow doubt to creep in. In doing so, satan creeps in as well.

However, how can satan do his work when our faith is strong and when we have little doubt. In last week's khutbah, we heard eight verses that explain some of satan's trickery.

1. *"Remember satan **made their sinful acts seem alluring to them**" (S8, A48)*
2. *"Shall I inform you, (O people), on whom it is that the satans descend? **They descend on every lying, wicked person**" (S26, A221-2)*
3. *"Satan has got the better of them, so he has **made them forget the remembrance of Allah**" (S58, A19)*
4. *"And Moses struck him with his fist and killed him. He said 'this is a work of satan, for **he is an enemy that manifestly misleads**'" (S28, A15)*
5. *"Never did we send a messenger or a prophet before you, but, when he made a "righteous" desire, **satan threw vanity into his desire**" (S22, A52)*
6. *"I will mislead them, and **I will create in them false desires**" (S4, A119)*
7. *"**Secret council are only (inspired) by satan**, in order that he may cause grief to the believers, but he cannot harm them in the least, except as Allah permits, and on Allah let the believers put their trust" (S58, A10)*
8. *"For it was satan who caused them to fail, **because of some evil they had done in the past**. But Allah has blotted out (their sins), for Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Forbearing" (S3, A155)*

We mentioned some examples of how a bad deed or a sinful act can be made to seem alluring. Cheating your brother Muslim on the grounds that you are cheating him much less than anyone else. Cheating a non-Muslim is just as bad. Sometimes we are tempted to do something wrong simply because others are doing it. A sin always does not seem to be that bad when more than one person is sharing in the act. Be careful brothers and sisters. Do not be lead up the garden path by so called friends who will tempt you to have your first cigarette, to look at sinful pictures, to be dared into breaking the law and so forth. There are many ways and routes that satan will take to make us believe that we are not doing anything wrong. I remind myself and you that a sinful act is always a sinful act no matter what justification **one** may wish to apply to it, and no matter what justification **others** may wish to apply to it. By applying a justification to sin we are letting satan take control over our actions.

Next is to remember, brothers and sisters that when we lie, we are letting satan in. When a Muslim is prepared to lie, it indicates a poor understanding of his Iman, and a weakness in his character.

سئل رسول الله ﷺ: ☆ أَيْكُونُ الْمُؤْمِنُ جَبَانًا؟ قَالَ نَعَمْ! قِيلَ لَهُ: أَيْكُونُ الْمُؤْمِنُ
بِخِيالًا؟ قَالَ نَعَمْ! قِيلَ لَهُ: أَيْكُونُ الْمُؤْمِنُ كَذَابًا؟ قَالَ: لَا... ☆ مَالِك

The Prophet^(SAAWS) was asked can the believer be a coward? He answered yes. He was asked, can the believer be a miser? He answered yes. He was asked, can the believer be a liar? and he answered NO. (Malik)

A believer may behave in a cowardly manner under certain circumstances, and may also be miserly. With improvement in faith, these tendencies can be overcome. However, when the Muslim is a true believer, it is very difficult for him to lie, and when the Muslim is a liar, it is very difficult from him to see the truth and to strengthen his Iman without giving up telling lies in the first step. There are no different levels of being a liar. One is either truthful or is not. A Muslim should always be truthful. Imagine how difficult satan's work would be if Muslims do not lie. Satan has no place in a community that does not lie. Muslims cannot afford to lie, and they cannot afford to give satan a clear run for his money.

Next is forgetting the remembrance of Allah. We mentioned the fact that during prayers we remember everything except Allah. This is also true in many other circumstances. When we are watching our favourite TV program, we are not remembering Allah. When we switch from channel to channel. When we go out shopping just before Zuhur prayers and return just after Maghrib Azan. All these actions mean that we do not have, as our highest priority, our daily prayers. We are always made to be too busy. It does take effort not to forget the remembrance of Allah, and part of our fight back against satan is to make sure that we have a clear timetable of our daily activities. Everything else has a timetable, and we must make sure that remembering Allah is also timetabled. Satan cannot force us not to remember Allah, but he can easily throw thoughts and ideas into our minds to remember everything else but Allah.

Satan will mislead us. In the story of Moses, Moses killed a man as he tried to help a fellow Israelite. Satan will take the opportunity of situations where there is fear, anger, loyalty and heightened emotions to mislead us and cause us to sin. These are situations when a person may lose control over his actions even when it appears to be in a good cause. This is a very dirty trick by Satan. How many times do we get brothers asking for help in difficult situations by asking us to lie, cheat or deceive. When loyalty is at stake Satan is just round the corner testing the situation. Satan will make us sin one by one when loyalty is at stake. How many times have we seen this in our communities? Be careful brothers and sisters, a Muslim's loyalty is to Allah only. When a Muslim brother is in need or is at fault, we support him by leading him back to Allah.

The next trick of Satan is throwing vanity into a righteous desire or deed. We mentioned the example of boasting about a good deed, like an act of charity. This is again a very dirty trick from Satan that can get us into a great deal of trouble. We hear in one hadeeth that good deeds will not be accepted if they were not done for the sake of Allah only. Please be careful brothers and sisters. Let us not throw away our good deeds by allowing Satan to throw vanity into them. Our good deeds are not to enhance our image in the eyes of people around us, but to enhance our status in the eyes of Allah only.

Satan will create in us false desires. I am not entirely sure what false desires are meant to be. However, be sure that by submitting to our desires, whatever they may be, we let Satan take control. A strong Muslim is one who is in control of his desires, and not the other way round. Undoubtedly, as humans, we have many desires. These desires are there to serve us and make our lives enjoyable, and not for us to serve them. Satan is fully aware of our desires and how strong they can be, and he will try his utmost to work on us through these. Another way of fighting off Satan is for us to have self-control and to be steadfast. Fasting is an excellent act of worship that instils in us this quality.

Secret council is the work of Satan. There should be no secrecy in the Muslim community. Secrecy leads to disharmony and leads to "Fitnah" in the community. In a hadeeth we hear that two Muslims should not talk to each other privately in the presence of a third for this may sadden him. This is how much Islam respects the individual in the community. Please brothers and sisters, beware of this very important point. To fight off Satan, Muslims should be open and truthful with each another.

In the last of the eight verses, one comes across a very dirty trick of Satan. The verse tells us that Satan will use our past sins to make us slip again. Islam acknowledges that mankind is sinful, and we all have sinned in the past, and we all are seeking Allah's forgiveness and we are all trying to repent. This verse tells us that Satan will address a Muslim by reminding him that he has previously sinned. He will tempt him again through a previously tried and tested weak spot. He will also put doubt into his mind as to whether he has gained forgiveness. In doing so, the Muslim may be tempted to think that I will do that one more time and I will seek repentance after that. Or worse still, Satan may convince him that he has no chance in forgiveness, so what is the point in stopping sinning. Be careful brothers and sisters. Do not fall into this trap. Be sure of the mercy Allah that by repenting and by abstaining we may achieve forgiveness and Satan will not be able to use this trick.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ثُمَّ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ . الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ
أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا . أَمَا بَعْدُ :

I hope the previous verses make us realise that even as believers, we are subject to satan's trickery in many ways and we need to be on our guard. Because satan has no authority over the believers, he has to deceive us, he has to change our perception of what is sinful, he has to make us forget the remembrance of Allah, he has to throw doubt into our hearts and minds, he has to work on making rifts among ourselves and he has to make us feel that we have no hope in the mercy of Allah.

Brothers and sisters, be in no doubt as to the devious ways of satan, and that we are not totally immune from him. If satan cannot get to us through our actions, he will get to us through other peoples' actions. He will get to us through our thoughts and desires, he will get to us through our friends and families, and he will even get to us through our good deeds. We need to be very vigilant.

How can we protect ourselves? What can we do if we sense that satan is at work? And how can we repel him?

We already mentioned that the first thing we need to do is to remember that satan is lurking for us all over. As such, it is a good thing to give ourselves a visible reminder. One suggestion is to put around us a sign with

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

written on it.

This should remind us that satan is here, there and everywhere. Again, if you are someone that watches TV a lot, put this sign near your TV to remind you. If you waste your time playing games put it near that. If you run a business or have a trade or a garage put it on your desk. If you are a hard worker, or study hours on end, put a sign near you. If you're a driver, put it on your dashboard. If you chit-chat a lot on the phone, put it near the phone. Make an effort to find out where are your weak points and protect yourself. You can be sure that satan has already figured each and everyone's weak point and he knows how to work his tricks on them.

Whatever little weakness you have, know that satan will use this to get to you. So beat him to it and put the sign there. Do not forget to do so, for satan will most likely make you forget. The point was made that some of you may think that this is too much, and is not necessary. Well, know very well that this is exactly what satan would love to make you believe. I sincerely hope that some of us have already started doing that.

The second thing to do is strengthen your Iman and cast away doubts. Be knowledgeable in Islam and be strong in your faith for we will all be tested at some time. Don't leave any cracks in your faith to allow satan to gain authority over you.

We heard our brother giving us the reminder on how satan will be working his tricks on us after Ramadan. Satan will congratulate us and make us feel that we have done so much worship in Ramadan to last us a lifetime, if not at least to next Ramadan. This is throwing vanity into our good deed. So, if you feel you have indeed done a lot of worship and feel happy about it, think again.

Next is conduct. Do not let your guard down. We must maintain a high standard of conduct to keep satan from our midst. Simple things, even like parking on the wrong side of the road, are ways of letting satan in. Satan will test our conduct using other people. He will test our patience, he will test our hearts to inflame all those diseases of the heart and get them to surface. We mentioned envy, jealousy, hatred, anger, greed and the like. Allah in his mercy gives us this reminder:

لِيَجْعَلَ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ فِتْنَةً لِّلَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ وَالْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُم

"That he may make the suggestions thrown in by satan, but a trial for those in whose hearts is a disease and who are hardened of heart" (S22, A53)

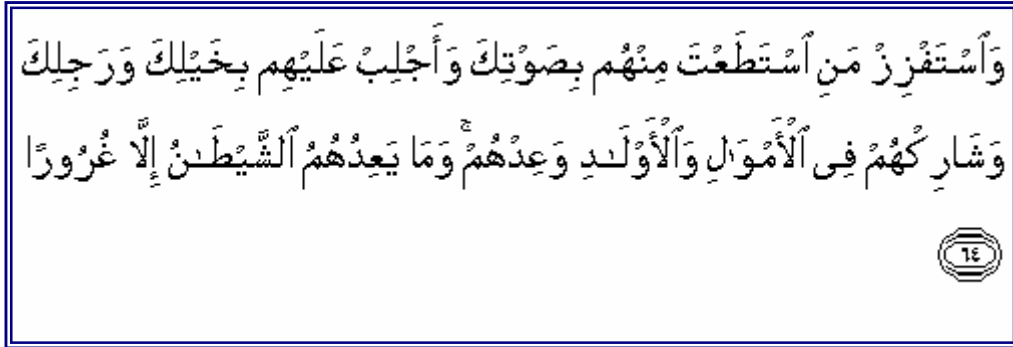
To protect ourselves from satan, we need to be of a clean heart, and of a soft heart. Satan will find an easy path to those believers who have not sorted their hearts yet. Please brothers and sisters, make sure our hearts are free of the diseases that we were regularly reminded of during the month of Ramadan.

Make sure that when we communicate with each other, only the best of spoken word is to be used, as satan is sitting there waiting to sow seeds of dissension among us.

وَقُل لِّعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّا
الشَّيْطَانُ كَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا

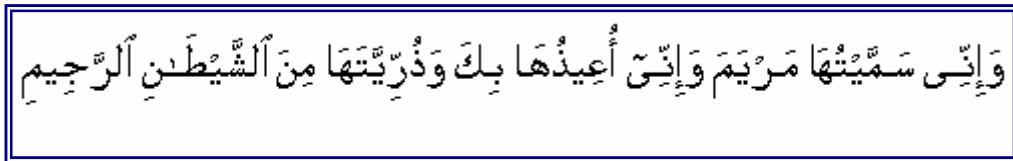
"Say to my servants that they should 'only' say those things that are best; for satan does sow dissensions among them, for satan is to man an avowed enemy" (S17, A53)

Satan will test us through fear, he will test us using our children and our wealth. He will even test us using our faith. He will literally seduce us away from the straight path.



*"And arouse those whom you can among them with your 'seductive' voice; make assaults on them with your cavalry and your infantry; **mutually share with them wealth and children**; and make promises to them, but satan promises them nothing but deceit" (S17, A64)*

This is a very worrying verse. In it we are warned that satan will try to seduce us, if that fails he will assault us and if that fails he will share with us our wealth and our children. That verse illustrated to me the length that satan is prepared to go to make us slip. The verse depicts the conflict with satan like a war. I was very worried about "**mutually share with them wealth and children**". Then I came across the following verse that made me feel much better:



"And I have named her Mary, and I commend her and her offspring to Your protection from satan the rejected" (S3, A36)

That was the prayer of the mother of Mariam to protect her from satan. Brothers and sisters, let us not forget this prayer and always remember to commend our children to the protection of Allah from satan. This is a mercy from Allah. We should always be asking for the protection of our children from satan.

Finally, what should one say if he or she feels that satan is having a go at them, and they want to cast him away:

This verse is very clear:

وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٠٠﴾

"If a suggestion from satan assail your mind, seek refuge with Allah, for He hears and knows all things" (S7, A200)

This brothers and sisters is a very clear statement. This is the weapon against satan. It is a weapon from Allah. Imagine when a soldier goes to war. He is given training and is given a weapon. Well, Allah in his mercy has given us this weapon, and we should use it. We are always asked to seek refuge with Allah using the words taught to us.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

I seek Allah's protection from satan the rejected.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

Further more, those of us who may have been fortunate to gain Taqua and fear Allah in their hearts will take comfort in the following verse:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَائِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُوا فَإِذَا هُمْ مُبْصِرُونَ ﴿٢٠١﴾

"Those who fear Allah, when a thought of evil from satan assaults them, bring Allah to remembrance, when lo! They see 'aright'" (S7, A201)

Brothers and sisters, we know very well the promise of satan, and in the last verse we have the promise of Allah. Allah will protect us from satan and open our eyes if we remember Allah and seek refuge with him.

In our fight against satan we must remember Allah and seek refuge with him.