

*COMBATING  
THE  
WHISPERINGS  
OF SHAYTAAN*

HAZRAT MAULANA YUNUS PATEL SAHIB  
(RAHMATULLAHI 'ALAYH)

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Title: Combating the Whisperings of shaytaan

Compilation of advices from the teachings of  
Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel Sahib (Rahmatullahi 'alayh)

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## FOREWORD

*All praises are for Allah Ta'ala, the Executioner of all affairs.  
Salaat and Salaam upon the Beloved of Allah Ta'ala,  
Sayyidina Muhammad ( صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ).*

In the scheme of creation, Allah Ta'ala created the earth as the battlefield between Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*), his children and shaytaan and his progeny.

Shaytaan's intense hostility and entrenched enmity for us, the progeny of Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*) stems from him being rejected and cursed by Allah Ta'ala for defying and challenging Allah Ta'ala and refusing to make Sajdah to Sayyidina Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*). In the course of shaytaan's promised and ruthless revenge, a relentless battle between these two forces ensues till Qiyamah.

Living in times wherein the evil elements and influences of shaytaan are overwhelming and abounding, we need to be all the more wary against the onslaught of the enemy, shaytaan. Due to our ignorance and also our weakness of not being able to recognize the various ploys and conspiracies of shaytaan, we fall prey to the same.

While it may appear difficult to contend with a foe that cannot be seen, we have been informed by Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* as how to recognize the enemy and how to overcome him. We have also been

commanded to be on guard to his evil insinuations, promptings and whisperings, and to seek the much-needed protection and assistance of Allah Ta'ala, the Creator of shaytaan.

In one of Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel Sahib's (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) weekly talks at Masjid-e-Noor (Asherville), Hazrat Maulana presented, concisely and simply, the requirements, implements and various methods of combat against shaytaan and his army, drawn from the Qur'aan Shareef and Ahadith, making it easy for us to successfully overpower shaytaan.

Being of tremendous help to many who were victim to shaytaan's assaults in various forms, the talk was transcribed with the Fadhl (Grace) of Allah Ta'ala and is entitled, *Combating the Whisperings of shaytaan*, for the benefit of the children of Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*) in the battle against our enemy, shaytaan.

May Allah Ta'ala make this book purely for His sake. May He accept it and may He protect us from the mischief and evil of the shayateen. May Allah Ta'ala also grant us all a deep understanding of the knowledge acquired, accompanied with the Taufeeq of practice on the Commands of Allah Ta'ala and the teachings of Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* as explained by our pious and learned Ulama.

May Allah Ta'ala grant Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) the highest stages in the Aakhirah.

Jumaad-al Aakhirah 1445 / January 2024

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَكَفَى وَ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا الْمُصْطَفَى  
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَبَارَكَ وَ سَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا كَثِيرًا كَثِيرًا  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَقَدْ قَالَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَ تَعَالَى  
أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
فَإِذَا قرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

**“SO WHEN YOU WANT TO RECITE THE QUR`AAN, SEEK REFUGE  
WITH ALLAH FROM SHAYTAAN, THE CURSED ONE.”**

[SURAH AN-NAHL 16 : 98]

Ulama-e-Kiraam, dear brothers and also our respected sisters at the Madrasah,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

Having received perhaps over a dozen calls this week, from people who are suffering anxiety, worry and depression due to what we term as ‘wasaawis’ of the shayateen or whisperings of the shayateen, I have decided to explain a few matters in regard to the same.

## *Troublesome thoughts*

A lady called, saying that while reading Salaah, the images of idols come in front of her and there is a whispering in her heart: *'You are not a Muslim. You are a mushrik<sup>1</sup>, so prostrate (or make Sajdah) to this idol.'*

Surely if an image like that comes before a person in Salaah, the person will become terribly worried. And she repeatedly hears this: *'You have become a mushrik. You have become a mushrik.'*

As a result, she was very, very anxious and worried, saying that due to this worry she could not sleep. Due to the frequency of these whisperings, she was becoming a nervous wreck. She did not know as to whether she would die as a Muslim or not. In fact, she believed that she had lost her Imaan.

Whilst this is one incident, there are very many like this, where shaytaan is whispering into the hearts of people such thoughts that these people believe that they have lost their Imaan. Due to various whisperings, some of them do not want to perform Salaah anymore; some do not want to take a bath and obtain purification and some do not want to read the Qur`aan Shareef.

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<sup>1</sup> mushrik: one who associates partners with Allah Ta'ala

Strange things are happening. The whisperings and evil effects of these shayateen are such that numerous people have fallen prey to them. Often, it is our environment which contributes to these happenings. What else would one expect if in our homes filthy films and television programmes are viewed, or pop and other music is played? Bad elements draw bad elements. Music, television, videos, etc. draw the shayateen and evil Jinn who are attracted to and enjoy sins.

### *The Power of Shaytaan*

What should be understood is that Allah Ta'ala has given shaytaan the power of whispering into the hearts and minds of people. Of the many and various things from which we seek protection in Allah Ta'ala, we are taught in Surah An-Naas to seek protection:

مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ۝ الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ ۝

**“...FROM THE MISCHIEF OF THE WHISPERER (OF EVIL), WHO WITHDRAWS (AFTER HIS WHISPER). HE WHO WHISPERS INTO THE HEARTS OF MANKIND.”**

[SURAH AN-NAAS 114 : 4/5]

These whisperings cannot be heard but their messages are perceived and comprehended by the heart. As long as we do not believe and subscribe to what shaytaan is



whispering into our hearts, there is no need to become so worried and apprehensive.

### *The Sign of Imaan*

Nevertheless, I asked this lady a simple question: *“Are you comfortable with these thoughts that you have turned away from Islam and that you are worshipping this idol that you see in front of you?”*

She said: *“No, I am very worried. I am a Muslim and wish to die a Muslim.”*

To this reply, I said: *“That is the sign of Imaan. If you did not have Imaan, you would have been extremely comfortable with those thoughts.”*

The person who is a Christian, Jew or Hindu does not find discomfort in believing what his respective faith asks him to believe. An atheist does not feel uneasy on his beliefs and his rejection of God. The person is not uncomfortable with accepting these ideologies and doctrines, be it of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Atheism, etc.

If you were to ask a Christian: *“Are you uncomfortable with your belief in Jesus Christ as the Lord or the son of God, or in the doctrine of Trinity: The Lord, the son of God and the Holy spirit, all in one?”*

He would say: “No, this is my belief and I am very comfortable with it. I would be quite happy if you also believe in the same.”

On the other hand, those Muslims who are tormented with these thoughts, images or whisperings are most uncomfortable with them. They are left disturbed, distressed and unsettled. This, itself, indicates to Imaan.

### *Other Examples*

While the fussaag (evildoers) and fujjaar (the immoral and shameless) are attended to and accompanied by the shayateen, the pious also become the targets of shaytaan.

One person said that he keeps getting this thought: *That the Qur`aan Shareef is an out-dated book. It cannot solve our worldly problems in these modern times.* – Na`uzu Billah<sup>2</sup>

This is not one of those modernists who is asking for a reformation of the Qur`aan Shareef. This is a pious, young person and he said that this thought is recurring: *‘The Qur`aan Shareef that you believe in cannot solve modern day problems.’* ...Whereas he said that his *yaqeen* (conviction) and belief is that the teachings of the Qur`aan Shareef are the solution to the problems of all times.

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<sup>2</sup> We seek Allah’s protection.

Another person is troubled by the thought that the beliefs of Jannah (paradise), Jahannum (Hell), Aakhirah (hereafter), etc. are merely fairy tales ... that there is no truth in them, whereas his deep hearted belief is that there is a hereafter, a day of judgment, paradise and hell.

These are not people who subscribe to or uphold such beliefs. On the contrary, they are extremely restless with these thoughts. They are anxious and fearful. In fact, they want a solution desperately. They want to know how to overcome the thoughts and get rid of them. ...I told them that these feelings of uneasiness and unhappiness are the signs of Imaan. There is therefore no need for so much of worry and concern.

### *The Promise*

Shaytaan's endeavor is to mislead. He had asked Allah Ta'ala for life until the Day of Qiyamah (Resurrection). The story of shaytaan is mentioned in the Qur'aan Shareef.

When shaytaan was rejected, he said:

قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ ۝

**“MY LORD! GIVE ME THEN RESPITE TILL THE DAY THE (DEAD) ARE RESURRECTED.”**

[SURAH SAUD 38 : 79]

On being granted life till the Day of Qiyamah, he declared his open enmity for all of mankind:

قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ۖ إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ۖ

**“BY YOUR MIGHT, THEN I WILL SURELY MISLEAD THEM ALL – EXCEPT YOUR CHOSEN SLAVES AMONGST THEM, SINCERE AND PURIFIED (BY YOUR GRACE).”**

[SURAH SAWD 38 : 82/83]

Allah Ta’ala warns and cautions us:

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ۖ

**“...VERILY SHAYTAAN IS AN OPEN ENEMY UNTO YOU.”**

[SURAH AL-A`RAAF 7 : 22]

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا ط

**“SURELY SHAYTAAN IS AN ENEMY TO YOU, SO TREAT HIM AS AN ENEMY...”**

[SURAH FATIR 35:6]

Since shaytaan is our open and declared enemy, he will most definitely follow through with his promise ... and what is his promise?

قَالَ فِيمَا أَعْوَيْنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝  
 ثُمَّ لَأَتِيَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ ط  
 وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ ۝

**“BECAUSE YOU HAVE SENT ME ASTRAY, SURELY I WILL SIT IN  
 WAIT AGAINST THEM (HUMAN BEINGS) ON YOUR STRAIGHT PATH.  
 THEN I WILL COME TO THEM FROM BEFORE THEM AND BEHIND  
 THEM, FROM THEIR RIGHT AND FROM THEIR LEFT,  
 AND YOU WILL NOT FIND MOST OF THEM AS THANKFUL ONES  
 (I.E. THEY WILL NOT BE DUTIFUL TO YOU).”**

[SURAH AL-A'RAAF 7 : 16/17]

Allah Ta'ala said:

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطٰنٌ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغٰوِينَ ۝

**“CERTAINLY YOU SHALL HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER MY SLAVES,  
 EXCEPT THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOU OF THE ‘GHAWEEN’  
 (MUSHRIKEEN, THOSE WHO ARE ASTRAY, CRIMINALS, POLYTHEISTS  
 AND EVIL DOERS, ETC.).”**

[SURAH AL-HIJR 15 : 42]

Allah Ta'ala says in regard to shaytaan:

إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطٰنٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ۝

**“VERILY, HE HAS NO POWER OVER THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND PUT  
 THEIR TRUST ONLY IN THEIR LORD (ALLAH TA'ALA).”**

[SURAH AN-NAHL 16 : 99]

Thus, shaytaan will not have any power, any effect, any force or any control over those people who truly and sincerely believe in Allah Ta'ala and place their complete trust in Allah Ta'ala. On their faith and reliance, Allah Ta'ala will not allow shaytaan to mislead them.

Shaytaan will only succeed in misleading those who have made him their friend; who follow and obey him. If we were to befriend shaytaan, he would certainly mislead and misguide us and these whisperings would then manifest their evil and adverse effects.

إِنَّمَا سُلْطَانُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَتَوَلَّوْنَهُ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِهِ مُشْرِكُونَ ۝

**‘HIS AUTHORITY IS ONLY OVER THOSE WHO TAKE HIM AS AN ALLY  
AND THOSE WHO ASSOCIATE OTHERS WITH ALLAH.’**

[SURAH AN-NAHL 16 : 100]

### *Whisperings to the Righteous*

Shaytaan, however, whispers into the hearts of the good just as he does to those who are indulging in evil. In a Tafseer (commentary) of Surah An-Naas, it is mentioned that those who are making an effort towards piety, righteousness and gaining the closeness of Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah Sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam should also seek protection in Allah Ta'ala from the whisperings of shaytaan.

Shaytaan makes a greater effort to mislead the pious through pride, arrogance and riyaa (show). ...Just as pride and arrogance destroyed shaytaan, the same could result via his whisperings.

### *The Existence of Shaytaan*

The existence of shaytaan is mentioned in the Qur'aan Shareef. If a person does not believe in this, he is not a Muslim; he is not a Mu`min (Believer). Just as Allah Ta'ala created Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*), Allah Ta'ala also created shaytaan.

To briefly explain: Shaytaan belongs to the species of Jinn whose origin is fire, like the origin of man is sand. The Jinn were created long before man was created and they had inhabited the earth. Allah Ta'ala mentions their history and many other details in the Qur'aan Shareef.

وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ مِنْ نَارِ السَّمُومِ ۝

**“AND THE JINN, WE CREATED AFORETIME FROM THE SMOKELESS  
FLAME OF FIRE.”**

[SURAH AL-HIJR 15:27]

Like mankind comprises of both the virtuous and the evil from among men and women, so too are there the good and the bad among the male and female Jinn. While they can see us, we cannot see them.

إِنَّهُ يَرَاكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ ط

**“...VERILY, HE (SHAYTAAN) AND HIS TRIBE SEE YOU FROM WHERE YOU CANNOT SEE THEM...”**

[SURAH AL-A'RAAF 7:27]

The name of shaytaan was Azazeel and he was a great Aabid (worshipper) of Allah Ta'ala. Then, due to pride and arrogance, he rejected the Order of Allah Ta'ala to prostrate to Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*) and thus became the accursed Iblees/shaytaan.

كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنَّ فَفَسَقَ عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِ ط

**“...HE WAS ONE OF THE JINNS; HE DISOBEYED THE COMMAND OF HIS LORD...”**

[SURAH AL-KAHF 18:50]

In Ma'ariful Qur'aan, it is mentioned in the Tafseer (commentary) of Surah Baqarah that the name Iblees comes from the root 'balas' which means 'to be disappointed'. This signifies, "One who has lost all hope of receiving the Grace of Allah Ta'ala." 'Shaytaan' comes from the root 'shatn' which means 'to be far away' and hence signifies, 'One who has been removed far away, from the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala'.

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Shafi Sahib (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*), the author of Ma'ariful Qur'aan, also made mention that



the root 'shayt' means 'the excess of anger and rage' and may possibly be the basis of the word shaytaan.

Blaming his downfall on Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*), shaytaan vowed to lead the children of Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*) astray. His every effort is towards the path of deviation, towards the fire which is his ultimate end.

Belief in the story of shaytaan's rejection to prostrate before Hazrat Aadam (*Alaihis Salaam*) is an essential part of Islamic belief. ...In this gathering, I am not talking to those people who do not believe in the Qur`aan Shareef. I am talking to Believers who believe that just as Allah Ta'ala created us, human beings, Allah Ta'ala also created shaytaan.

### *Extremes*

There are two extremes: One is of those people who say that there is no such creation as shaytaan. Their ill-considered philosophy in life is: 'Seeing is believing and hearing is deceiving.' This is not something a Muslim goes by because our Imaan is on that which we have not seen – Jannah, Jahannum, Qiyamah, Pul-siraat, etc.

In this material, physical world, there are many things that we do not see with our naked eye but which we have

accepted and believe in. For example, the air that we breathe. ...Science tells us that there are millions of micro-organisms or microbes to be found everywhere although not visible to the naked eye. We do not refute such information.

The very fact that people do not believe in shaytaan indicates that they have been ensnared by shaytaan.

The other group is of those who believe that shaytaan, himself, is the Lord. This group is known as the satanic cult. They believe in shaytaan as the Lord and the God and they worship him. - *Na'uzu Billah*. These are two extremes. These are not the beliefs of a Muslim.

### *Shaytaan's Influence*

A doubt may arise in the minds of some: *How does one shaytaan influence millions?*

Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam explained this by informing us that each one of us has an angel that encourages us to virtue and a shaytaan that goads us to engage in evil. The chief of all these shayateen is Iblees, who was rejected by Allah Ta'ala. However, accompanying each person is one shaytaan.

From another perspective: With technology and the satellite and speedy communication systems, we see how one person can influence the whole world. One shaytaan, in the form of a human being, expresses a new ideology or scheme and the human race is introduced to Communism, Socialism, Fascism, Darwinism, Humanism, etc. ...Since shaytaan's workforce is from among men and jinn, it is easy to understand how his influence can be so far-reaching.

Despite shaytaan's apparent influence, Allah Ta'ala says in Surah An-Nisaa:

إِنَّ كَيْدَ الشَّيْطَانِ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا ۝

**“SURELY THE PLOT OF SHAYTAAN IS EVER FEEBLE.”**

[SURAH AN-NISAA 4 : 76]

This verse relates to those who believe in Allah Ta'ala. Shaytaan's plan is weak and cannot harm the true Muslim. He has got no power, no control, no force, no authority and no domination over those who submit themselves and trust fully in Allah Ta'ala.

...What then must be done when these types of thoughts and whisperings occur?

## *Thoughts in Salaah*

If these thoughts occur during Salaah and the person tries fighting them, the Salaah will come to an end but the thoughts will not. At the end of the Salaah, the person will say that the entire Salaah went by in thinking about what was coming into his mind. This is the end result of fighting those thoughts – the person is so occupied with thoughts; he forgets that he is supposed to be having a conversation with Allah Ta’ala.

The moment these thoughts surface and you realize that you are going on some other track in the Salaah, immediately bring your mind back to the Salaah. Instead of fighting the thoughts, ponder over the Surah that you are reciting. ...It is, therefore, preferable to read a Surah in our Sunnah or Nafl Salaah which we are not very fast at reading or which we do not normally read; much like a Hafiz who is reciting his newly learnt ‘sabaq’ (lesson).

For many people, the only Surahs they read in Salaah are Surah Al-Kauthar and Surah Al-Ikhlaas. Since they know these Surahs well and they have a minimum number of Aayaat (verses) as required, they keep reading the same Surahs in every Salaah – Sunnah, Witr and Nafl; even Fardh. In doing so, the person generally only realizes he has completed his Salaah when he makes the final Salaam.

If, instead, he reads Surah At-Teen in his Witr Salaah or he recites 'Wal 'Aadiyaat' in his Sunnah Salaah – which is not his usual reading habit – he is going to concentrate when reciting.

In addition, learn the meaning of at least those Surahs which are normally read in Salaah. Having learnt the meaning, reflect and ponder over the message conveyed.

Thirdly, contemplate that you are standing before Allah Ta'ala and this is how we are going to stand on the Day of Judgment, accountable and answerable for all that we have done. Bring the Azmat (Greatness) of Allah Ta'ala into the heart and Insha-Allah, the Salaah will improve.

Wasaawis (whisperings) will come but if we are going to fight them, then even outside our Salaah they will continue to harass, upset and disturb us. We just have to ignore them.

### *A National Highway*

A general point to note is that while stray thoughts will make their way into the mind of a person (in Salaah and outside Salaah), such thoughts should not be deliberately introduced into the mind.

The mind is like a national highway and on a national highway all kinds of vehicles are found: cars, scooters, trucks, lorries, tractors, carts, etc. Sometimes animals too are found crossing the highway like cats, dogs, horses and even pigs. In a similar manner, on the national highway of the mind, all kinds of thoughts will cross: good thoughts, bad thoughts, good ideas, bad ideas, good intentions and bad intentions.

A person on a journey does not lose sight of his destination when travelling on a highway. He does not stop to watch the other vehicles or animals on the highway. He focuses his mind on his destination and continues with his journey. Similarly, when evil thoughts come into the mind and are not purposely brought, ignore them. Neither fight them nor entertain them.

### *Pure Imaan*

The Sahabah-e-Kiraam (*Radhiyallahu ‘anhum*), who were blessed with the company of Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam*, complained to Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam* of the same evil thoughts. There are different incidents mentioned in the Ahadith.

Once a person said to Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam*:  
“Sometimes such evil thoughts occur to me that I would rather be

*burnt to ashes than make a mention of them.”* (e.g. Who created Allah Ta’ala?)

Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam replied: *“Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest. Praise and thanks be to Allah who has turned this affair into one of evil suggestions.”*<sup>3</sup> ...In other words, it is the Grace of Allah Ta’ala that He has made these thoughts remain thoughts only and that these thoughts had not turned into doubt and evil deeds.

It is mentioned in another narration that some Sahabah (*Radhiyallahu ‘anhum*) presented themselves to Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam and said: *“Our condition is that sometimes we experience such evil thoughts and sentiments in our hearts that it is most painful to even mention them.”*

Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam said to them: *“Do you really perceive it.”*

They said: *“Yes.”*

Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam said: *“But that is pure faith.”*<sup>4</sup>

To feel disturbed and uneasy at such thoughts and sentiments are a sign of good Imaan.

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<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawood 5112

<sup>4</sup> Sahih Muslim 132

## *The Notorious Thief*

Where does a person steal or where does a thief break in? Where there are valuable goods. Have you heard of a hold-up in a shack? ...No. ...Even if you leave a house empty with the door and windows wide open, what need would there be to break in when there is nothing to steal? ...A thief will break into a home or a place where there is gold, silver, valuables and a lot of cash. ...Of course, in South Africa, doors, windows, roofing and tiling too will disappear, so do not even leave empty houses accessible.

Shaytaan, who is notorious and infamous for his thieving exploits, sees the wealth of Imaan in the heart of the Mu`min. He detects the precious treasure of the Ishq of Allah Ta'ala. In the realm of jealousy and malice and in the skill of thieving, none can match the likes of shaytaan. He is the robber, swindler, mugger, looter and hijacker of the Muslim. He makes every effort and endeavour; he conspires, plots and plans; he assaults and he attacks the heart, only to snatch the precious and priceless commodity of Imaan. This is his mission.

Now the poor person tries to fight these thoughts and by fighting them, he gets nowhere.



## *The Existence of Allah*

One person was a complete atheist before being guided to Islam. After accepting Islam, he was being plagued with thoughts about the existence of Allah Ta'ala. These thoughts were from shaytaan. His unhappiness and discomfort were, as mentioned, a clear indication of Imaan. An atheist will not be concerned by such thoughts. In fact, atheists propagate these thoughts and beliefs.

I told the person that at such times he should immediately read: *أَمِنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ* (I believe in Allah and His Messengers). He should also read Imaan-e-Mujmal and Imaan-e-Mufassal with an understanding of the meaning, as well as *لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ* (There is no strength to do good or abstain from evil without Allah Ta'ala's Help).

Thereafter, he should talk to shaytaan even though he does not see him. Tell him: *'The proof that Allah Ta'ala exists is in my own person. If Allah Ta'ala did not exist, I would not have been created. I would not have these eyes, ears, etc.'* ...All of these bounties which were created and placed perfectly in the darkness of the womb. ...Or say to him: *'I do not see my intelligence but believe I am intelligent.'*

The very fact that no two persons have the same thumbprints; that each of us has our own special fingerprints, clearly alludes to a Creator and Fashioner. Everything in and around us points to the existence of our Maker, Allah Ta'ala. There is no shortage of evidence to prove the existence of Allah Ta'ala. This, however, is a different subject.

### *The Rejected Dog*

Mullah Ali Qari (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) states in his commentary of Mishkaat Shareef which is entitled Mirqaat, that shaytaan is like a dog outside at the door, having been chased out by its owner.

My Shaykh, Hazrat Maulana Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Sahib (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*), had explained in one of his talks that some people who own palatial homes, keep huge dogs from foreign countries. When people come to their homes, those dogs begin barking. As a result of the dogs barking, people are kept at bay and are unable to enter the house.

Now, what would happen if a person wants to enter the house and begins to fight that dog? When the dog barks viciously and threateningly, the person challenges the dog: 'I'm going to fight you.' The dog barks, so he also barks at the dog!

If the person engages the dog in a barking contest, he is not going to enter the house. All he has to simply do is ring the bell. The master of the dog will come out and he will address the dog in some code language. The dog will then drop its tail, sit down or move away. Is this not the sensible thing to do? ...Just summon the master of the dog.

### *Turn towards Allah*

When shaytaan barks (whispers), do not argue with him. Do not 'bark' back. His knowledge is extensive. He has got the knowledge of all the Shari'ahs. At such times, read 'Ta'awwuz' – i.e.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ<sup>5</sup>

Seek protection in Allah Ta'ala from the mischief of this rejected dog, shaytaan.

Allah Ta'ala did not direct us to challenge and fight shaytaan. He did not say that we punch, kick, boot and shoot him. Allah Ta'ala directs us to turn to Him:

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<sup>5</sup> I seek protection with Allah from shaytaan, the cursed one.

وَأَمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ۝

**“AND IF AN EVIL WHISPER COMES TO YOU FROM SHAYTAAN THEN SEEK REFUGE WITH ALLAH. VERILY, HE IS ALL-HEARER, ALL KNOWER.”**

[SURAH AL-A'RAAF 7 : 200]

Shaytaan is the dog of Allah Ta'ala that does not want the Believer, in fact, all of mankind to come to Allah Ta'ala. Shaytaan knows that if a person has to establish 'nisbat' (a connection) with Allah Ta'ala and enjoy the sweet taste of obedience to Allah Ta'ala, he will thereafter never want to go towards anything sinful. Since shaytaan does not want any of us to receive Allah Ta'ala's Mercy and enjoy the bounties of His eternal pleasure, he will bark. Do not waste time and energy fighting a rejected dog; turn towards Allah Ta'ala and He will grant protection.

### *An Attribute of the Pious*

Allah Ta'ala states:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَئِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُوا فَإِذَا هُمْ مُبْصِرُونَ ۝

**“VERILY, THOSE WHO ARE THE PIOUS, WHEN AN EVIL THOUGHT COMES TO THEM FROM SHAYTAAN, THEY REMEMBER (ALLAH), AND (INDEED) THEY THEN SEE (ARIGHT).”**

[SURAH AL-A'RAAF 7 : 201]

When the pious are affected by the evil, wicked promptings of shaytaan, their lapse into negligence is temporary. They recognize the influence of shaytaan quickly and immediately remember Allah Ta'ala. In discerning the reality of these promptings, they are able to distinguish right from wrong.

### *Another Prescribed Remedy*

Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam said: "Shaytaan will come to you and say: Who created the heaven, who created the earth? (And the man) replies: 'It is Allah.' He who found himself confronted with such a situation should read: اٰمَنْتُ

بِاللّٰهِ وَرُسُلِهِ (I believe in Allah and His Messengers.)<sup>6</sup>

When the person recites this, Allah Ta'ala will protect him. This also applies to those evil suggestions and whisperings which come into the mind and encourage a person to engage in sinful actions. ...Shaytaan whispers (the nafs too is in the forefront of this encouragement to evil): 'Look at this beautiful woman.', 'Let's go to the cinema!', 'Let's watch the dirty movie!', 'Let's read the filthy novel.', 'Let's steal.', 'Let's go to the casino.', 'Let's enjoy a high on Crack, Heroin or liquor.' - and so forth.

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<sup>6</sup> Sahih Muslim: 134

At that time, read, *أَمِنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ* repeatedly, with conviction and faith in Allah Ta'ala and occupy the mind in something else which is permissible.

### *Seeking guidance or misguidance*

When it comes to the recitation of the Qur`aan Shareef, Allah Ta'ala says in the verse that I recited at the beginning:

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ۝

**“SO WHEN YOU WANT TO RECITE THE QUR`AAN, SEEK REFUGE WITH ALLAH TA'ALA FROM SHAYTAAN, THE CURSED ONE.”**

[SURAH AN-NAHL 16 : 98]

Therefore, before reciting the Qur`aan Shareef, read ‘Ta’awwuz’. Seek protection in Allah Ta’ala. Why?

The Qur`aan Shareef is the means of guidance. It has been revealed to guide mankind and shaytaan does not want any of us to be guided. Therefore, while reciting the Qur`aan Shareef also, he is liable to introduce such thoughts in one’s mind that could even lead one astray.

There are so many people who read the Qur`aan Shareef and go astray. This is due to the pre-conceived ideas they entertain. They open the Qur`aan Shareef with the

intention to find Aayaat (verses) to justify their evil actions. They find some verse, give a wrong interpretation and go astray.

...When a person discards obedience to Allah Ta'ala, allows his nafs and shaytaan to lead him astray and justifies his wrongdoing, he buys humiliation and disgrace. It should be understood that a person is led astray when he, himself, chooses to go astray.

For the person who seeks Hidayah (Guidance), Allah Ta'ala guides him. When a person makes a concerted effort in that direction, he will experience as to how Allah Ta'ala manifests His Attribute of 'الْهَادِي' – the One who Guides. Allah Ta'ala also states in regard to the Qur`aan Shareef:

يُضِلُّ بِهِ كَثِيرًا ۖ وَيَهْدِي بِهِ كَثِيرًا ط

**'HE MISLEADS MANY BY THIS BOOK AND GUIDES MANY THEREBY.'**

[SURAH BAQARAH 2 :26]

Those in quest of Divine guidance will find the Qur`aan Shareef replete with guidance, while those corrupted by nafs and shaytaan fall deep into transgression and misguidance. ...Thus, we seek protection in Allah Ta'ala when reciting the Qur`aan Shareef. Through the Qur`aan Shareef, we will be recipient to our greatest need: Hidayah.

Allah Ta'ala will inspire us on the Siratul Mustaqeem (the Straight Path).

### *The Revelation of Surah Falaq and Surah Naas*

It comes to mind that Allah Ta'ala begins the last two Surahs of the Qur'aan Shareef, Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Naas, with the words: قُلْ أَعُوذُ. It was these same Surahs that were revealed when Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam was affected by Sihr (witchcraft).

Due to jealousy and enmity, Labeed bin A`asam (a Jew) and his daughters cast a spell on Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam. The effect of that witchcraft on Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam was that sometimes he would do a thing and forget whether he did so or not.

Since he was a Nabi of Allah Ta'ala, that had nothing to do with the Ahkaam (laws) of Shari'ah or with the Wahi or Qur'anic verses that were revealed to him. There was no question of the witchcraft having any effect in that regard. The effect was in relation to his worldly occupations and responsibilities. He would do something and later think he had not done so, or he would not undertake some work and think he had completed it. The eleven verses of Surah Al-



Falaq and Surah An-Naas were revealed to remove the effects of the witchcraft.

Eleven knots had been tied on a piece of gut and a needle was placed in each knot and was buried together with the hair of Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam*. When Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam* recited these Surahs, for each Ayah recited, a knot opened, until finally all the knots were undone and Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam* was cured.

### *Treatment*

There are many people who mislead others by saying that there is black magic and there is white magic. If it is black magic, you need to go to a *sungoma* or visit a temple, and if it is white magic, you need to go to a Molvi Sahib or an Aamil<sup>7</sup>.

There is no such thing as ‘white’ magic. All Sihr is referred to as black magic or witchcraft. The same verses of the Qur`aan Shareef are a remedy for any kind of Sihr or Jadu (black magic). It is forbidden to seek treatment from a *sungoma* or *pandit*, visit a temple, etc.

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<sup>7</sup> Aamil: One who treats people afflicted by witchcraft or the influence of Jinn

Furthermore, when sick, do not immediately suspect witchcraft and rush to an Aamil. Many are frauds and unscrupulous money makers. See a good doctor, make Dua and seek cure from Allah Ta'ala. If all fails and the symptoms are of Sihr, then see a reputable, sincere and pious Aamil. Apart from this, Shaykhul Hadith, Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) emphasized that we should try to remain in the state of wudhu and Taharah (purification) for protection from the effects of Jinn and Jadu.

### *Benefits of the 'Quls'*

Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* taught us that the recitation of Surah Al-Ikhlaas and the Mu'awwizatayn (Surah al-Falaq and Surah an-Naas) will suffice as a protection from everything.<sup>8</sup>

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Khubaib (*Radhiyallahu 'anhu*) reported that one dark and rainy night they went out in search of Nabi *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* for him to lead them in Salaah and they found him. Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* said: 'قُلْ' (Say).

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<sup>8</sup> Abu Dawood: 5082

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Khubaib (Radhiyallahu ‘anhu) asked Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wasallam: “What should I say?”

He Sallallahu ‘alayhi wasallam said: “Read Surah Ikhlaas and the Mu’awwizatayn (Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Naas) thrice every morning and evening; it will suffice (as a protection) from everything.”<sup>9</sup>

The recitation of these Surahs which Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wasallam taught Hazrat Abdullah ibn Khubaib (Radhiyallahu ‘anhu) was not only for him. It is for the Ummah until the Day of Qiyamah. ...Since we cannot fight this dog of Allah Ta’ala, we will have to seek protection in Allah Ta’ala.

The complete Surahs of Surah Al-Ikhlaas, Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Naas have to be read thrice. Each Surah has to be read three times. I emphasize this because one person was told that if he reads Yaseen Shareef forty-one times, he will, Insha-Allah, be successful in a certain project he was to undertake. ...Some Allah Wala must have advised him to read Yaseen Shareef forty-one times, whereas in these days we no longer prescribe such an amount.

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<sup>9</sup> Mishkaat

After a few days, when the person returned, he was asked:  
“Was your work accomplished?”

He replied: “No. I read ‘Yaseen’ forty-one times but nothing happened.”

He was asked: “How did you read it?”

He said: “Yaseen, Yaseen, Yaseen – forty-one times.”

We must read these three Quls (Surah Al-Ikhlaas, Surah Al-Falaq and An-Naas), three times each.

### *Importance*

Mulla Ali Qari (*Rahmatullahi ‘alayh*) states in Mirqaat that these Surahs are a sufficient protection from **all** evil. He added that if a person does not have the time, this wazeefa<sup>10</sup> will suffice for all other Duas that one would otherwise have read.<sup>11</sup>

Whichever country, city or place my Shaykh, Hazrat Maulana Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Sahib (*Rahmatullahi ‘alayh*) travelled to, Hazrat laid great emphasis that these three Quls be read daily and habitually, morning and evening. Hazrat Maulana explained that it is a protection

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<sup>10</sup> Wazeefa: Recitation of Surahs, Qur’anic verses or other supplications and glorifications.

<sup>11</sup> Mirqatul Mafatih, Hadith: 2163

against *Jadu*, *Sihir*, the mischief of *shaytaan*, the mischief of one's *nafs* and all other mischiefs, evils and *fitan* which are common and widespread.

These three Surahs should be recited for protection against all external and internal elements which affect our lives. Like the *shayateen* spread evil, mischief and corruption, so too do those who have been strongly influenced by the *shayateen*. They too are instrumental in the harm and evil which affects others.

The pre-condition for the benefits of the recitation of the 'Quls' is that it be read with sincerity and faith.

### *A Powerful Bullet*

We should keep in mind that *Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* was not addressing people like us who have got no *Salaah*, no *Zakaah*, no fasting, etc. We have got all kinds of sins in our lives and we say that we read the *wazeefa* and nothing happens. *Taweezes*<sup>12</sup> and *wazeefas* will not prevent the punishment of Allah Ta'ala which descends on disobedience.

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<sup>12</sup> *Taweezes*: amulets

No doubt, the three 'Quls' are a powerful bullet. However, this bullet has not been loaded into the gun. The 'gun' being referred to is the gun of Imaan and Islam – true submission.

...If a person has to take just a bullet, hold it in his hand, aim and throw it at a lion in the Kruger National Park, the lion will not be harmed. ...That lion may have him like a samoosa before the main meal.

This bullet of the three 'Quls' (in fact, all wazaa'if) has to be loaded into the gun of obedience to Allah Ta'ala for its powerful results.

Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam* was addressing the Sahabah (*Radhiyallahu 'anhum*) who preferred to give their lives than do anything against the Hukm (Order) of Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah *Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam*. Therefore, if our wazeefa is not having an effect, it is our problem.

If there is a certain model of car and all the cars are moving very well and fast but the car I purchased is not moving, I will say that there is something wrong with the engine of my car. Not that all cars of this model and make are faulty.

When we read our wazaa'if with conviction in Allah Ta'ala, Allah Ta'ala will protect. If for some reason, after reading the wazeefa, still some harm befalls a person, he must have

100% yaqeen that there was khayr (goodness) in that. ...It may be that Allah Ta'ala wants to reward the person with something much better or it may be that a big calamity was to befall the person. With the Barakah (blessings) of this wazeefa, Allah Ta'ala removed the calamity, saved him and is going to reward him in some other way in the Aakhirah (Hereafter).

More often than not, these wazaa'if come like a barrier in front of the problem, disaster or difficulty.

### *Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (RA) against shaytaan*

In one of the Jumu`ah talks, I discussed Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Naas and mentioned an incident in the life of Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) – a great Wali of Allah Ta'ala. Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) said that not a single day passed in his life but that shaytaan came to him from the four directions he had promised. ...Shaytaan's effort on the Auliya Allah is even greater.

I will relate to you in my own words the verbal exchange between shaytaan and Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*).

Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) explained that shaytaan attacks from the front (as he said he would) and

he whispers: “Why are you so concerned about pleasing Allah Ta’ala and why are you so wary of sins? Why do you exert yourself in so much of Ibaadah? ...Enjoy yourself. Allah Ta’ala is Ghafur-ur-Raheem.”

Shaytaan approaches many of us in the same manner, whispering: ‘Why engage yourself in Ibaadah, Zikr, Tilawah, etc.? Why are you so particular in performing Salaah five times a day, in paying Zakaah and in fasting? Why are you so rigid and strict in conforming to Shari’ah? Allah Ta’ala is Ghafur-ur-Raheem.’

Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) said: “I reply: ‘Yes, indeed Allah Ta’ala is Ghafur-ur-Raheem, but for whom?’”

وَإِنِّي لَغَفَّارٌ لِّمَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدَىٰ ۝

**“AND VERILY, I AM INDEED FORGIVING TO HIM WHO REPENTS, BELIEVES (IN MY ONENESS, AND ASSOCIATES NONE IN WORSHIP WITH ME) AND DOES RIGHTEOUS GOOD DEEDS, AND THEN REMAINS CONSTANT IN DOING THEM (TILL DEATH).”**

[SURAH TA-HA 20 : 82]

Allah Ta’ala’s Forgiveness extends to those who are sincere in their Taubah (repentance) and Istighfaar (seeking forgiveness); they believe in Allah Ta’ala, do righteous deeds and remain steadfast.



## *Effort*

In worldly matters a person makes a concerted effort in the right direction and thereafter waits for results. The farmer ploughs the land, plants the seeds, waters the earth and waits for results. We have not heard of a farmer just scattering the seeds on dry land and thereafter saying that he is waiting for a good crop of wheat. Nothing will grow there.

In the same way, we have to make the correct effort when it comes to our Deen. Together with Taubah and Istighfaar, good deeds have to be carried out with sincerity and commitment.

## *Deceit*

The conspiracies of shaytaan are numerous and incessant. One of his deceptions is that he encourages and leads a person to commit sins with this very thought that Allah Ta'ala is Ghafur-ur-Raheem. This generally leads a person to be indifferent to the Ahkaam (laws) of Shari'ah and sometimes flagrantly and deliberately disobedient to Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala warns us clearly in the Qur'aan Shareef:

وَلَا يُغْوِيَنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْعَظُورُ ۝

**“...LET NOT THE DECEIVER (I.E. SHAYTAAN) BEGUILE YOU  
IN REGARDS TO ALLAH.”**

[SURAH LUQMAAN 31 : 33]

...Do not be misled by shaytaan to commit sins because Allah Ta’ala is The Most Forgiving and Most Merciful.

Allah Ta’ala is indeed Ghafur-ur-Raḥeem and He is also Al-Muntaqim – One who takes Retribution. Out of His kindness, Allah Ta’ala gives to us numerous opportunities to make amends and return to His Obedience. If we still persist and insist on sin and we are bent on disobedience, then His Punishment is something that cannot be escaped. The same shaytaan who, out of absolute spite, invites us to the disobedience of Allah Ta’ala in every cunning and conniving way had, himself, said:

إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ شَرِّطَ وَاللَّهُ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ۝

**“...VERILY! I FEAR ALLAH FOR ALLAH IS SEVERE IN  
PUNISHMENT.”**

[SURAH AL-ANFAAL 8 :48]

These are the words of the same one who whispers that Allah Ta’ala is Ghafur-ur-Raḥeem.

## *Back Answering Shaytaan*

When assaulted by the whisperings of shaytaan, Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) countered those attacks by back answering him. This is what we have to learn. In some instances, this is what should be done.

Sometimes, when you are on your own (as I told this lady), talk to shaytaan even though he is invisible. When people are around, then don't. They may doubt your sanity. They may have you admitted into an asylum. ...Sometimes, when you are alone, you have to talk to shaytaan.

When he says: *"You have become a disbeliever in Allah Ta'ala."*, you must say: *"I am a Muslim. I believe in the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala and testify that Sayyidina Muhammad Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam is His final Messenger."*

Then there are some people who experience the problem of 'wasaawis' in the following way: They make wudhu for so long and they are just not satisfied. They wash their hands and continue washing, twenty-four times, thirty-five times but they are not satisfied that the hand is washed properly.

If shaytaan says, after you have washed your hand in a proper manner, three times (in wudhu): *'It has not been washed properly,'* or *'Your wudhu is not complete.'*

Now, you have to say (if there are people near you, then in your mind): *'No, I am satisfied that it is complete and I am going to make my Salaah.'*

Shaytaan will then whisper: *'But your Salaah will not be valid.'*

You say: *'Never mind if it is not valid, I am going to read it.'* And see how he disappears.

However, the moment you give in – these whisperings will worry you and the problem will not be solved.

## *Wudhu*

Shaytaan comes to people in different ways. Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam said that to wash more than three times in wudhu is not permissible. Those people who remain at the taps and keep washing half a dozen times should understand that it is Makrooh to wash more than three times while making wudhu even if you are at the sea-shore.

This was the great wisdom and great mercy of Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam for people like us. Otherwise shaytaan would have whispered that our wudhu is not complete and we would have gone on washing and washing and the time of Salaah would have expired.

It is narrated by Imam Abu Dawood (*Rahmatullahi ‘alayh*) that when Hazrat Abdullah bin Mughaffal (*Radhiyallahu ‘anhu*) heard his son making Dua: “O Allah, I ask Thee a white palace on the right of paradise when I enter it.”, he advised his son to ask Allah Ta’ala for Jannah and seek refuge in Him from Jahannum, for he said that he had heard Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam say: “In this community/Ummah there will be some people who will exceed the limits in purification as well as supplication.”<sup>13</sup>

Exceeding the limits in purification refers to washing the limbs more than the Sunnah method of three times in wudhu and ghusl, using excessive water and washing to such an extent that one reaches the limit of ‘waswaas’ (whisperings) and ‘wehm’ (doubts).

A person would exceed the limits of supplication (Dua) by asking Allah Ta’ala for unlawful things or asking Allah Ta’ala in a manner which is against the etiquette of asking.

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<sup>13</sup> Abu Dawood : 96

## *Other Whisperings*

Sometimes, shaytaan makes a person remain in the toilet for a long, long time, creating the doubt that Istinja<sup>14</sup> is not complete. Sometimes, before the person can commence his Salaah, shaytaan whispers: *'You haven't made the intention right.'* and the person is taking his own time. The Imam is gone into ruku and he is still making his intention.

Similarly, there are people who are washing their clothes, dozens of times and they are not satisfied. In the case of young couples who are plagued by the same whisperings, they are put off from taking a Fardh bath. This keeps them in a state of impurity most of the time. ...Wash properly as directed by Shari'ah and ignore doubts.

## *Doubts*

Hazrat Umar (*Radiyallahu 'anhu*) set out on one occasion with a group of riders; among them was Hazrat Amr ibn al-As (*Radiyallahu 'anhu*). (They travelled) until they arrived at a pond. Hazrat Amr ibn al-As (*Radiyallahu 'anhu*) asked the owner of the pond: *"Do wild animals come to your pond?"*

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<sup>14</sup> Istinja: Purifying oneself after answering the call of nature by using clean water, etc.

Hazrat Umar (*Radiyallahu ‘anhu*) told the owner: “Do not answer, for we drink after the wild animals and the wild animals drink after us.”<sup>15</sup>

Again, simply ignore the doubts that shaytaan whispers into the heart.

## *The Second Attack*

Hazrat Shaiq Balkhi (*Rahmatullahi ‘alayh*) said: “*Shaytaan comes from my right-hand side and attacks. He attacks me by whispering: ‘How long are you going to be tied down to Halaal and Haraam in earning a living? Where is your concern for your wife, children and grand-children? It must not be that you leave them poverty stricken and in such dire straits that they suffer starvation.’*”

This is another manner in which shaytaan whispers to us: ‘*How long are you going to restrain yourself from Haraam? You should go out of your way: accumulate, earn and make a packet for yourself in whichever way, adopting any means – Halaal or Haraam – for your livelihood. And why worry about closing shop every day come Zuhr and Asr? As it is business is bad; you will only run at a greater loss!*’

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<sup>15</sup> Muwatta Imam Maalik: 44

He continues with his evil counsel: *‘You need not be so cautious and scrupulous in holding back from interest, gambling money, stolen money or anything Haraam? Nor should you be so careful about not buying and selling stolen goods or taking someone else’s share of the inheritance?’*

If the merchandise, properties, monies, etc. do not rightfully belong to the person, no matter how much his heart desires it, he says: *“No. If it is not due to me in accordance with the Qur’aan Shareef and the Ahadith of Rasulallah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam, it will never bring Barakah in my life. It will make my life miserable and Allah Ta’ala will make sure that money goes out some way or the other!”*

Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) said: *“I reply to shaytaan at that time:*

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا

**“AND THERE IS NO LIVING BEING THAT MOVES ON EARTH, BUT  
HIS SUSTENANCE DEPENDS ON ALLAH ...”**

[SURAH HUD 11 : 6]

Allah Ta’ala controls sustenance. He has taken it upon Himself to provide the sustenance of every creature He has created on this earth. Whosoever and whatsoever Allah Ta’ala has given life, Allah Ta’ala has destined what he is



going to receive as sustenance. His sustenance will not fail to reach him.

All one has to do is make use of the Halaal means that Allah Ta'ala has created, to earn a living. Allah Ta'ala will provide.

### *Rizq*

Take two persons of equal intelligence; give both of them an equal amount of money and give both of them prime spots in the bazaar or marketplace; provide for both of them the same stock of the same quality. They are of equal standing. At the end of the month, ask both: “*How much of profit did you make?*”

Even if both of them worked equally hard, there will definitely be a difference. It could even be that the sales or profits of one are 75% less than that of the other.

In India, Pakistan and many other places you will find sometimes, twenty or twenty-four stalls all in a line, selling the same things: combs, handkerchiefs, knives, buttons, etc. Who is sending sustenance to the different stalls? ...Allah Ta'ala.

What then is the need to be envious and jealous?

## *Jealousy*

There are so many who become jealous when a person opens his business next to theirs selling the same kind of merchandise. They think their business will be affected. Jealousy, hatred and enmity build up and this sometimes leads to fights and arguments; sometimes even shootings, Sihr, Jadu, etc.

When shaytaan whispers these fears regarding one's sustenance, tell him: *“Allah Ta’ala has destined my sustenance. My responsibility is to make the correct effort. Allah Ta’ala has provided me hands, feet and intelligence. I must go to the bazaar and marketplace, make an effort to earn an honest living and Allah Ta’ala will provide for me whatever He has destined for me.”*

Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam said: *“Verily Jibraeel (‘Alayhis Salaam) inspired me that no one dies until he has received the sustenance destined for him. As such, guard yourself from disobedience to Allah Ta’ala, and do not outstep the limits of moderation in seeking your livelihood, and in case of delay do not try to seek it by unlawful means, for the sustenance and mercy of Allah Ta’ala cannot be attained through sin.”*<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Mustadrak Hakim Vol. 2 Pg. 4

## *Insurance*

If shaytaan cannot ensnare us in theft, interest, gambling and fraud, he will deceitfully tender more advice: *'You need to take out some insurance policies as a safety measure, and security.'*

The insurance scheme has covered everything: car, house, life, death, etc. We get carried away by these schemes and fall for the trap. Worse is that we indulge in this Haraam believing that these policies are in our best interest. After taking out so many policies, there is still no peace and satisfaction. In fact, the fear increases. How many people fear being killed by family members because of some insurance policy? ...There are incidents of even Muslim children taking the lives of their parents because of insurance.

## *The Third Attack*

Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (Rahmatullahi 'alayh) said: *"Shaytaan attacks from the left-hand side and whispers into my heart. This time he whispers: 'How long are you going to deprive yourself of all these sins that others are enjoying so much?'"*

Shaytaan comes to many who restrain themselves or who have changed their lives and he whispers: *'People are going*

to the cinemas, theatres, clubs, concerts and enjoying their lives. Why are you staying away?’

While others are listening to all kinds of filthy music, wasting their youth, health and strength in sinful, Haraam pleasures, this person goes against the flow. He decides that he will not follow the trends to indulge in various sins ... sins which have become accepted as the norms of society and which are encouraged and promoted as if they are virtues. - *Na’uzu Billah.*

No matter what the temptation, he restrains, refrains and abstains from all the Haraam entertainment. Shaytaan whispers: ‘Here you are like a Sufi sahib - lowering your gaze and closing your ears and saying: “No, no I can’t be there,” missing out on all the excitement. You are leading a miserable, boring, pathetic life! Get into action and enjoy life!’

At that time, Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) says: “I reply to shaytaan:

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ  
فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ ۝

**“BUT AS FOR HIM WHO FEARED TO STAND BEFORE HIS LORD AND RESTRAINED HIMSELF FROM (UNLAWFUL INDULGENCE IN) LUST, LO! PARADISE WILL BE HIS HOME.”**

[SURAH AN-NAAZI’AAT 79 : 40/41]

The person restrains himself from the evil desires that come. He is a human being. He also has desires. It is not that he is made of iron or steel. It is not that he is made of wood or coal. This person also has a heart.

### *The Hearts of the Ush-shaaq*

The Ush-shaaq (lovers) of Allah Ta'ala have hearts filled with Ishq and Muhabbat. They are far more sensitive - to beauty and anything else that would appeal to their hearts. Despite this, they restrain themselves. They do not displease their Beloved Maula (Master) for a moment. In return, Allah Ta'ala blesses them with the sweetness of Imaan and an ocean of noor in their hearts.

They continuously wound their hearts by sacrificing those evil desires for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. The sword of Divine Love is repeatedly struck at the necks of their evil desires. The Love of Allah Ta'ala has made sacrifice and martyrdom the pleasure of their lives. ...Hazrat Maulana Jalaluddeen Rumi (*Rahmatullahi 'alayh*) had said: *“O People! If for just a moment you experience the splendour of Allah Ta'ala's Nearness, you will be prepared to sacrifice your precious life in striving for Allah Ta'ala.”*

Until we do not turn our hearts red with the blood of our evil desires, there is no way that we can gain the closeness of Allah Ta'ala. There is no Wali of Allah Ta'ala who has become a Wali by fulfilling the evil desires of his heart.

### *Sweetness on Sacrifice*

Allah Ta'ala has not promised the Halawat (sweetness) of Imaan on anything else as He has promised on sacrifice. A person is tempted to look at a pretty woman or a woman is tempted to look at a handsome man – there is a demand from the nafs but the person sacrifices this desire.

It may be a film actor, a sports star or that woman can be the one who was crowned Miss World but the person says: *“My Allah is going to be displeased with me.”* and lowers his gaze. Allah Ta'ala so appreciates the sacrifice that He reciprocates generously by causing the heart to be imbued with sweetness. This is His promise.

**It is mentioned in a Hadith-e-Qudsi: “Verily evil glancing is an arrow from the poisonous arrows of shaytaan. Whosoever fears Me (Allah Ta'ala) and refrains from it, will receive from Me such Imaan, the sweetness of which he will taste (feel) in his heart.”<sup>17</sup>**

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<sup>17</sup> Mustadrak Hakim Vol. 4 Pg. 314

The Halawat of Imaan is a reality. The Ahl-e-Dil, those who have sacrificed their hearts for Allah Ta'ala, enjoy this sweetness. It is a short and direct route to Allah Ta'ala especially in these times of fitnah<sup>18</sup>.

In business or any other profession, *if* there is a need sometimes to look, make plenty of Taubah and Istighfaar. Where there is no need at all, we lower our gazes – be it at the schools, universities, airports, shopping centers and other places. In doing so, we too will enjoy the sweetness of Imaan. Of course, there will be some grief and pain which the heart will have to endure in rendering sacrifice... but then this is the way of Love.

*'We have eclipsed a myriad suns and moons of beauty!  
On experiencing the pain and sorrow of giving up sin,  
Only then did we find Allah.'*

The person restrains himself because he fears standing before Allah Ta'ala on the Day of Judgment and accounting for his actions. If Allah Ta'ala punishes, no one can save him. On this self-restraint, Allah Ta'ala will grant the person Jannah and Jannah is the place of all pleasures.

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<sup>18</sup> Fitnah: Trials (also implies corruptions, mischief, etc.)

## *Jannah*

Allah Ta'ala said: ***'I have prepared for My pious servants which the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard, and no human heart has ever perceived (such bounties).'***<sup>19</sup>

Those who restrict themselves in this worldly life will enjoy the unrestricted bounties and pleasures of Jannah.

Our folly is that we are swept away by the glitter and glamour of the material things of the world. We see beautiful mansions, different models of cars, exquisite jewelry, designer clothes, all kinds of furniture and so many other luxuries to be found on the market. As a result, we have forgotten that there is Jannah.

We consider the things of this world to be exotic and beautiful yet in describing Jannah, the Qur`aan Shareef and Ahadith make mention that Jannah is made of bricks of gold and silver, and its gravels are made of pearls and rubies. Its clay is that of saffron; the garments of Jannah will be of rare, fine silk; the homes will be lofty mansions; the chattels will be of gold and silver and the couches will be encrusted with gold and precious stones. ...The bounties of Jannah are innumerable and far beyond our imagination.

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<sup>19</sup> Sahih Al-Bukhari: 3244



This world and all that it contains is absolutely nothing in comparison to Jannah and what it has to offer us. Unfortunately, we do not have true yaqeen (conviction) in the Akhirah and in the promises of Allah Ta'ala. As a result of this weakness, we make this world the be all and end all of our lives. Allah Ta'ala mentions in the Qur`aan Shareef:

بَلْ تُؤْتِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ

**“YOU PREFER THE WORLDLY LIFE (TO THE HEREAFTER) WHEREAS  
THE HEREAFTER IS BEST AND EVERLASTING.”**

[SURAH AL-A'LA 87 : 16/17]

In our short and temporary stay in this world, we should make use of the ni'mats (bounties) that Allah Ta'ala created and blessed us with but we should not let these bounties make us forget that there is Jannah and that is our goal.

How long are we going to live in this world? Who has lived here forever? After acquiring everything of the best also, the person has to leave and go. We need to understand that this world is part of the journey and Jannah is the destination ... Insha-Allah.

Jannah is the place where there is no pain, no difficulty, no hardship, no sorrow, no grief, no jealousy, no envy, no malice, no hatred, no pride, no anger, no fights and no

quarrels – only wonderful peace; a place where all wishes and desires are fulfilled; a place to enjoy ourselves.

### *The Ultimate Bounty*

After being granted the bounties of Jannah, the Jannati will be blessed with the ultimate bounty of Jannah - the vision of Allah Ta'ala. In a beautiful poem, a poet explains that despite the indescribable beauty of the bounties of Jannah, the greatest ni'mat of Jannah is when the Jannatis will be blessed with the *deedar* (vision) of their Beloved Allah Ta'ala.

*'That veil which was covering Allah Ta'ala's  
Countenance will be removed.  
Now will be the time to smile for those  
who took the grief on their hearts  
and restrained themselves from all evil.'*

Even in this worldly life, the person enjoys the sweetness of Imaan and the fragrance of Jannah within his heart. Many of the Ahlullah have mentioned that even their saliva becomes sweet on taking the name of their Beloved Allah and their hearts experience tranquility, peace and happiness that sins become absolutely filthy to them.

## *Sins*

To us sins are something enjoyable; to the lovers of Allah Ta'ala, sins are filthy and dirty, just as urine and stool are to us. ...The Ahlullah do not want to go anywhere near the gutters of sin.

It is far easier for them to stand on the Musallah, read the Qur'aan Shareef, engage in Zikrullah, serve mankind, pray and ask of Allah Ta'ala than to go to the cinemas, theatres, dancing halls, casinos and other vice dens.

The enjoyment, ecstasy and pleasure that they experience in their khalwat (solitude) with Allah Ta'ala and in their obedience to Allah Ta'ala is such that they would not exchange it for anything of the world, let alone the fleeting, temporary pleasures of sins. Unfortunately, we have been deceived into thinking that there is pleasure in sins and as such we have been deprived of the sweetness of obedience to Allah Ta'ala.

## *The Final Attack*

Shaytaan attacks again and once more he whispers: *'Why are you so worried? All your Ibaadah has been accepted. You've made more than enough now! How long are you going to carry on? ...The Musallah too is torn. It's enough!'*

Hazrat Shaqiq Balkhi (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) said: “At that time, I tell shaytaan:

وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ۝

“... AND THE (BLESSED) END IS ONLY FOR THE PIOUS (THOSE WHO FEAR ALLAH TA’ALA).”

[SURAH AL-A’RAAF 7 : 128]

Since we do not know the end result, how can we give up? The end result will be at the time of death and shaytaan whispers even at this time. Due to this final assault from shaytaan, some have even lost their Imaan at the time of death. May Allah Ta’ala protect us all.

### *The End Result*

One person said to Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh): “O Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh). You have done so much of Ibaadah and you are a Wali-e-Kaamil and you are so close to Allah Ta’ala. You should have no fear of any kind. We are the ones who are sinful and we should have a lot of fear.”

Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) replied: “Abdul Qadir is like that person who is on board a ship at sea, caught in the midst of a storm. Strong winds and torrents of water are lashing it. The passengers do not know as to whether

*there are any chances of survival. There is tremendous fear of drowning. It is only when they reach the safety of the shore will they know that they have been saved. Abdul Qadir is, at present, like that passenger who is on board that ship which is being lashed by storm.”*

This is a Wali of Allah Ta’ala. ...Who then are we?

### *Prescriptions*

To return to the subject matter of the whisperings of shaytaan: When these thoughts plague a person, he or she should read the following prescriptions:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أَمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

Nabi Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam also taught us the Dua:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ وَسْوَاسَ قَلْبِي خَشْيَتَكَ وَذِكْرَكَ

*O Allah, make these whisperings in my heart a means of Your fear and Your remembrance.<sup>20</sup>*

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<sup>20</sup> Musnadul Firdaws: 1930

Shaytaan will say: *“I was trying to mislead him and he is saying: ‘O Allah make these wasaawis into Your fear and Your remembrance.’”*

How does one make these whisperings and thoughts into the Zikr of Allah Ta’ala? ...Say: *O Allah, what a heart and mind You have created! A person can picture the mountains, the heavens and earth, the wonderful forests and the magnificent oceans. ...The whole world can come into the heart of a person ... and now shaytaan is also whispering into this kind of heart.*

The person turns to Allah Ta’ala and in this way changes those whisperings into Allah Ta’ala’s Fear and Remembrance. On doing so, shaytaan will disappear.

It is mentioned in the Tafseer of Surah An-Naas that shaytaan withdraws or flees when a person remembers Allah Ta’ala. Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wasallam said: *“Verily shaytaan places his snout on the heart of man. If he remembers Allah Ta’ala, shaytaan flees and if he forgets Allah Ta’ala, shaytaan whispers into his heart.”*<sup>21</sup>

These are simple and successful ways of combating evil thoughts.

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<sup>21</sup> Abu Ya’la 4301

## *Bad Dreams*

I will conclude with a brief explanation of bad dreams. People get very worried and disturbed about such dreams, and especially in these days when many people are dreaming of hold-ups, hijackings, murders and killings.

These dreams are either 'al-hulm' or bad dreams which result because of shaytaan's interference, or the dreams could be 'hadith-un-nafs' - a replay of the thoughts and events of the day. We listen to and read about these happenings and we dream of the same. ...Although, sometimes, it could very well mean that nafs and shaytaan are hijacking us. In fact, whenever we dream of a hijacking, we should believe that it is nafs and shaytaan who are hijacking us and taking us off track, in a very wrong direction.

Nevertheless, our dreams are generally the talk, thoughts and activities of the day. If a barber dreams that he is giving a haircut – what does that dream mean? ...Nothing.

Ibn Sireen, who was famous for his interpretations of dreams, wrote that sometimes when a person sleeps on a full stomach or the person is constipated that also results in bad dreams. ...The person who is interpreting the dream discerns the cause and reason. Sometimes I tell the person

that the ‘ta`beer’ (interpretation) of his dream is that he must take a laxative.

### *What to do*

Rasulullah *Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam* said: “A good dream that comes true is from Allah, and a bad dream is from shaytaan, so if anyone of you sees a bad dream, he should seek refuge with Allah from shaytaan and should spit on the left, for the bad dream will not harm him.”<sup>22</sup>

On seeing a bad or frightening dream, we are advised to read Ta’awwuz, spit (dry spit) to the left. This does not mean that the person must start spitting – just make a spitting sound, turn his side and sleep. Insha-Allah, if this is done, that dream will not cause any harm, and after all, whatever is going to happen, will happen. Sometimes, in a dream, a person is only given some sort of indication as to what may occur. That too, not always. In fact, a person who has a bad dream should not make a mention of it to just anyone.

Sometimes a dream is a glad tiding and sometimes a warning to the person to give up sins or prepare for the Azaab (punishment) of Allah Ta’ala.

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<sup>22</sup> Sahih Al-Bukhari: 3292



## Dua

We must make Dua to Allah Ta'ala that He protects us from the mischief of nafs and shaytaan, and that He grants to us such Imaan (faith) and Tawakkul (trust) in Him that we do not fall prey to the temptations of shaytaan. May that Imaan be such that we restrain ourselves, no matter how difficult it is on our nafs, from everything Haraam, and try and make a concerted and sincere effort to please Allah Ta'ala and gain within our hearts, the sweetness of Imaan.

When we will develop that Imaan and gain that sweetness within our hearts, the world and all that it contains will be considered as negligible in value as the wing of a mosquito as mentioned by Rasulullah Sallallaahu 'alayhi wasallam: ***“If the world had the value of even the wing of a mosquito by Allah Ta'ala, He would not have given any disbeliever even a drink of water.”***<sup>23</sup>

We are not going to reject the world. We are not going to say: *“I'm not going to use a car anymore.”*, *“I'm not going to enjoy the comfort of my home.”*, *“I'm not going to sleep on a good bed now.”*, *“I'm not going to wear good clothes.”*, etc.

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<sup>23</sup> Tirmidhi 2320

Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam said: **“Verily, the world has been created for you and you have been created for the Hereafter.”**<sup>24</sup>

We will use everything but we will not give our hearts to the perishable things of a perishable world. Our hearts will be reserved for Allah Ta’ala, the Giver of these Bounties.

Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Shafi (Rahmatullahi ‘alayh) had said: *“It is permissible to keep the dunya (material world) in one’s hand and even in one’s pocket but not in one’s heart. The heart is Allah Ta’ala’s house.”*

May Allah Ta’ala bless us all with the Taufeeq of practising on His Laws and the beautiful teachings of Rasulullah Sallallaahu ‘alayhi wasallam. May Allah Ta’ala protect us all from the mischief of nafs and shaytaan.

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<sup>24</sup> Shu’abal Imaan 10097

## SURAH AL-IKHLAAS

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝  
لَمْ يَلِدْ ۙ لَمْ يُولَدْ ۙ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

## SURAH AL-FALAQ

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ۝ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ۝  
وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ۝ وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَّاثِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ۝  
وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ۝

## SURAH AN-NAAS

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ ۝ مَلِكِ النَّاسِ ۝ إِلَهِ النَّاسِ ۝  
مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ۝  
الَّذِي يُوسِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ ۝ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ ۝

## Publications

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Kicking the Habit  
Du`aa  
Labour of Love  
Removing the Safety Net  
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Towards Reformation of the Heart – Book 1 & 2  
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Islaahi Correspondence – Book 1  
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Seeking the Shade of the Arsh | Guidance for the Youth  
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