

The Characteristics of Shaytaan

*As-Salaam 'Alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh.
Bismillah Walhamdulillah Was Salaatu Was Salaam 'ala Rasulillah*

The Muslim ummah should always guard against falling into the trap of shaytaan, knowing its characteristics help in following the path of truth. What follows are the characteristics of shaytaan

1) Weakness

Believers should always remember the statement of Allah (SWA) in the Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa (4:76)

“So fight you against the friends of Shaytaan. Ever feeble indeed is the plot of Shaytaan.”

So the believer should put his trust in Allah (SWA) to overcome the plots of Shaytaan.

2) Lying and Cowardice

It was the first means he used against Adam (AS) and after that he has been using it against his sons at all times, and his plots never succeed except with lying, as stated in Surah An-Nisa (4:120): “And Shaytaan promises nothing but deceptions.”

3) He sees you

This is a truly dangerous attribute, because the owner of this attribute may watch others and detect their movements while they cannot see him. This enables him to control and attack them easily. If man could see him, then for sure he would defend himself.

“Verily, he and “Qabiluhu” (his soldiers from the jinn or his tribe) see you from where you cannot see them. Verily, we made the devils “Auliya” (protectors and helpers) for those who believe.”

4) The Spendthrifts

Abdullah Ibn Musud (RA) defined extravagance or squandering when he said, "Everything which is spent wrongfully." This includes wealth, time, talk, etc., and this is one of the attributes of Shaytaan and his followers, i.e., they spend time without boredom in void expenditure. Accordingly extravagance is divided into three:

a) Wasting Wealth (squandering)

Allah said in Surah Al-Israa (17:26): "But spend not wastefully (your wealth) in the manner of a spendthrift."

One has to follow a middle course on spending. One should neither be a miser nor a spendthrift and should not spend in disobedience of Allah and His Messenger (SAW). Allah said in Surah Al-Israa (17:27): "Verily, spendthrifts are brother of the devils."

b) Squandering Health

Al-Bukhari reported that the Prophet (SAW) said: "There are two blessings which many people lose: (they are) health and free time for doing good." This means that many people do not use their health and free time, in gaining more good deeds.

c) Wasting Time

With reference to the previous narration, Ibn Al-Jawzi said: "The human being could be healthy but is not free because he is busy with earning his livelihood, or he might be wealthy but not healthy, so if these two are joined together laziness will overtake him and prevent him from worshipping Allah. So whoever used his time and health in Allah's obedience he is "Al-Magboot" (i.e. the blessed, blissful) and whoever used them in Allah's disobedience, then he is "Al-Magboot" (i.e. the loser or the wronged), because free time is followed by occupation and health is followed by sickness."

And Allah knows best.

May Allaah grant us perfect understanding of His words, aamin.

Subhanakal lahomma wabihamdik. Ash-hado alla-ilaha-illa ant. Astaghfiroka w'atoobo-ilayk.

Glory be to You, Oh Allah, and all praise! I testify that there is no deity but You. I seek Your forgiveness and to You, I do repent.

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