

THE SATANIC TRAPS

SALEM AL AAMRY

Course Outline

Course topics:

1. Al Hawa
2. Slavery to one's desires and inclinations
3. Servitude to the worldly pleasures
4. How to get rid of evil inclinations I
5. How to get rid of evil inclinations II
6. How to get rid of evil inclinations III
7. The heart
8. Riyaa
9. States of Riyaa
10. Different types of Riyaa
11. Things thought to be forms of Riyaa while they are not
12. The remedy

Course objectives:

1. To be able to list the ways of how to get rid of evil inclinations
2. To be able to avoid Riyaa' and work solely for Allah
3. To be able to list the remedies of how to avoid Riyaa'

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video	–	2 hours 20 min
Study Guide	–	35 min
Assessment	–	15 min
Total Duration	–	3 hours 10 mins

Lesson 1: The Satanic Traps Part-1

1. Al Hawa

The Hawa actually means inclination towards something.
Tips to get rid of one's desires, which are called in Arabic, Al Hawa.

This inclination can be:

- i. praiseworthy, and that is when your inclinations are towards the righteous deeds, and worshiping Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala
- ii. blameworthy, and that is when you are inclined towards evil, lusts and desires

2. Slavery to one's desires and inclinations

Sometimes one's *Hawa* becomes one's god.

There are many people who are actually slaves for their own desires, and they think they are free, but in reality, they are slaves.

If you really want to be free, you should be only a slave and servant of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala.

Otherwise, you will be a slave for many gods, your desire, money, fame, football, wealth, etc.

Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, **says** in the Hadeeth what can roughly translated into English as, "Woe to the worshipper (or slave) of the Dirham (silver currency), the worshipper of the Dinar (gold currency), the worshipper of the Khameesah and Qateefah (two pieces of garments)

3. Servitude to the worldly pleasures

Occupying your entire time in the service of something is tantamount to being a slave to it, whether it be the pursuit of money, prestige, positions, etc.

Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said in the Hadeeth, which is reported in Musnad Ahmad, "What I fear most for you are lusts of your stomachs, lusts of your private parts and of hearts."

So, we have three types of desires:

- i. Desires of the stomach. This is related to consumption. He does not care whether what he consumes is from *Halaal* or *Haraam*.
- ii. Lust of the private parts. This is related to sexual desires. And this is the problem of many people.

As a matter of fact, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam he made it very clear, and said what I fear most for the men of my Ummah is the women.

- iii. The third type, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam mentioned is the lust of hearts. Among the lust of the hearts are arrogance, haughtiness, Proud, envy and jealousy.

4. How to get rid of evil inclinations I

- i. Through strong will and determination
- ii. Through Sabr, patience. And by the way, do you know what's the meaning of Sabr? Sabr actually is a bitter fruit. And it also refers to patience, which means self-control.
- iii. By being brave and through disobeying yourself
- iv. You have to think of the ultimate pleasure in Jannah because normally, when people commit sins, they are looking for pleasures which are transient, but if they think of the eternal and the infinite pleasures in Paradise, they will feel the strength to resist these devilish temptations.
- v. You have to think also of the evil consequences of committing sins in this world and the next. This will surely deter you from indulging in Haraam.
- vi. You have to think of Allah's pleasure. Obeying Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, and that Allah is pleased with you is the most important thing, because it is the only means to enter Paradise.

It should be noted here that the best of all pleasures in Paradise is seeing Allah.

- vii. The sweetness of the worship is better than the pleasure of sinning. The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam used to find his joy, his peace, and his happiness in the Salah
- viii. You have to remember that you are not created for having pleasure in this Dunya. From an Islamic perspective, Dunya is a means, and a farm wherein we have to plant, and we will reap the produce in the second life.

Lesson 2: The Satanic Traps-Part 2

5. How to get rid of evil inclinations II

- i. Remember that Allah created everything in this world for us, human beings. So, we are the masters in this universe, and therefore, we should utilise it in the best manner, in the light of the divine guidance we got from the Prophet.
- ii. We have to reflect on the fate of those who followed their evil desires. Think and study history.

What happened to Fir'awn, the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt? What happened to the people of Sodom, the sodomites? They perverted and started fulfilling their desires with the same sex, something abnormal. Allah destroyed their town. Allah sent the Archangel Jibreel, and he uprooted the whole city and turned it upside down.

Through excavations, they have found the houses are inverted upside down.

- iii. If your desires can only be fulfilled at the cost of infringing on the rights of others, put yourself in the position of those on whose rights you are going to encroach.
- iv. You should think of the disgrace that you will bring upon yourself. History tells us this is a reality. How many people were in big positions, but were following their own desires, had scandals, and every day in newspapers, we read a scandal.
- v. Always cry to Allah because we are all human beings. We are not angels. We are not infallible.

So, when you feel weak and you are about to fall into sinfulness, turn to Allah Azza Wa Jal.

- vi. We have to weigh the pros and cons, the advantages and disadvantages. Okay, if I do this, what will happen? Oh, Hellfire after it. So, no, no, I will not do this.
- vii. We should not give up and surrender to our open enemy, Shaitaan.

Lesson 3: The Satanic Traps-Part 3

6. How to get rid of evil inclinations III

- i. We should know that there are two doorways through which the Shaitan gets access to our hearts: 1) lusts (desires, Hawa), and 2) doubts. How to close them is through the Taqwa (to abstain from lusts) and knowledge (to combat doubts and misconceptions).
- ii. **Remember** that the pleasure of sinning is very short. And then the consequences are very dreadful. The perpetrator regrets doing the sin and admits the desire fulfilled was nothing besides the ensuing remorse.
- iii. Remember that following the Hawa can lead to the Riddah, apostasy
- iv. Beware of the destroyers, i.e., the major sins. They destroy and ruin the Eemaan.
- v. Also, the most respectable people are the ones who do not follow their Hawa. In any community, people respect the people who are just, impartial, are objective,
- vi. You should have this constant struggle between the intellect and the desire. Because who wins, rules.
- vii. Follow the truth. The Haqq is always opposite of the Hawa.
- viii. Following one's desire deprives the person of Allah's help. Allah's help is for those who are always with Allah not those who remember Him only when they have a problem.
- ix. Following the Hawa weakens your determination, and renders you unable to make big decisions.

Sometimes you might be able to do many rituals, but to abstain from lusts becomes difficult.

Lesson 4: The Satanic Traps-Part 4

The Hidayah which is guidance from Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala are of two types in Islam:

- i. One refers to showing the way, and Allah has shown us the way through the Prophets and scriptures. This Hidaayah is for all people.
- ii. The divine support and special guidance that He gives to His beloved ones. This is called Tawfeeq

7. The Heart

The Eemaan has light. If you have the Eemaan in your heart, you feel your heart is lit up, your face will be lit up, and your life will be lit up.

The heart is supposed to be the king of the rest of the organs.

Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam told us in the authentic Hadeeth that there is one organ in the body, if it is whole, then the rest of the organs will be whole.

But if it is corrupt, then the rest of the organs will also be corrupt. That is the heart.

Softening the heart

We need to work hard on our hearts to soften them by:

- i. remembering Allah, a lot
- ii. making *Dhikr*
- iii. shedding the tears while praying Nafil prayers at night.
- iv. there is something else that softens the heart as the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam recommended. That is to wipe over the head of an orphan.

Lesson 5: The Satanic Traps Part-5

8. Riyaa

A Muslim should dedicate all his good deeds to Allah. To show off means that you want to please people, not Allah, with your deeds. Therefore, it is a form of shirk. It is the subtle shirk.

Riyaa nullifies one's worships

The moment you associate anyone with Allah, Allah Subhanaha Wa Ta'ala does not accept that deed from you at all. So, we should question and check our intention: Whose pleasure are we seeking?

In a Hadeeth Qudusi, the Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam quoted Allah saying, "Whoever associates any partner with Me while doing a good deed, then I will leave that deed for their partner whom he associated with Me."

The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said that Allah looks into your hearts and your deeds. Therefore, there should be no trace of Riyaa seen therein.

The danger of Riyaa

The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said that the first three groups that will be thrown into the Hellfire are:

- i. the first group will be religious scholars who spent a great part of their life in pursuit of knowledge but for people's praise.
- ii. The second are the Mujaahid (people of jihaad) who fought in order to be praised as brave.
- iii. And the third group of people are those who spend money for humanitarian and religious projects not for the sake of Allah's reward but for show off.

The person who shows off is called Muraa'ee,

Sometimes you don't feel it, and you think you are doing the deed for the sake of Allah. You think you are doing it purely to please God Almighty, but it is so subtle that it creeps into your heart without you knowing. So, that's why we need to work hard to detect this Riya and try to get rid of it.

To get rid of this inconspicuous infiltration of Riyaa', the Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam taught us a Du'a. So, every Muslim should memorise this Du'a.

O Allah, I seek protection in You from associating any partner with You knowingly, and I seek Your protection and forgiveness from associating any partner with You unknowingly.

9. States of Riyaa

We should always remember the following scenarios.

- i. When you start doing some good deed for Allah but then the Shaitaan starts to infuse Riyaa into your heart, and you surrender to him and start perfecting it, for the sake of being seen by the people.

This voids the good deed. And Allah will not accept it from you.

- ii. You start doing some good deeds for the sake of Allah, but in the process of doing this 'Ibaadah, showing off creeps in your heart. Here, you have to dispel it immediately.

If you do this, then Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala will accept from you your good deed. But, if you carry on with the Riyaa', then Allah will not accept your good deed.

However, if the first part done with pure intention form an independent unit, then only the second part of the act which is done for the sake of people's appreciation is rejected.

For example, if one gives charity to a person for the sake of Allah, and gives another for the sake of being seen, then only the second charity will be rejected not the first.

- iii. Sometimes you complete doing a good deed all for the sake of Allah. But after doing that, the Shaitaan comes to you and starts whispering, telling you that you didn't do it for the sake of Allah.

In this case, you just ignore it. This should not harm you.

- iv. And when you strive in life for the sake of Allah but then people, seeing your positive contribution, praise you. This praise does not affect your deeds.

Lesson 6: The Satanic Traps-Part 6

10. Different Types of Riya

- i. Showing pretentious Zuhd (abstemiousness) by going through strict diet to become thin, or by walking creepingly slow, because to look weak was a sign of abstemiousness.
- ii. Wearing dirty and shabby clothes, so that we will think, oh those people really fear Allah Azza Wa Jal, and are Zahid (i.e., men of Zuhd)

However, Zuhd is to have the Dunya in the hand, not in the heart, not that you wear dirty shabby clothes, and you think this is Zuhd, that is showing off.

- iii. Seeking knowledge to argue with scholars and prove yourself knowledgeable.
- iv. Perfecting good deeds for the sake of being seen by the people
- v. Boasting about popularity among the intelligentsia.
- vi. Doing things motivated by tribalist, nationalistic causes, not for the sake of Allah.

Lesson 7: The Satanic Traps-Part-7

11. Things thought to be forms of Riyaa while they are not

- i. Number one, people's appreciation, people's praise for someone's good deeds.
- ii. Another type, a person becomes more active when he or she sees or mixes with active people.
- iii. Hiding one's evil past. Islam commands us not to expose our faults and sins. On the contrary, we should stop doing evil and do not reveal it even to the closest people to us.
- iv. To wear nicely and to look good.

12. The Remedy of Riyaa'

- i. To know the Tawheed, and to believe that no worship may be dedicated to anyone other than Allah.
- ii. To know what Allah has prepared for the sincere and the insincere people in the next life.
- iii. To apply utmost caution not to show off your good deeds
- iv. Expel the Shaitan through remembering Allah a lot
- v. Hide your good deeds, and do not seek popularity with them
- vi. Pray to Allah to protect you from Riyaa'.

Question and Answer Bucket

1) What are the types of hearts?

Ans. Hearts are of the following types:

- i. healthy hearts
- ii. sick hearts: they are infested with envy, arrogance, show off, vanity, etc.
- iii. dead hearts: which are the hearts of the disbelievers. Their hearts are dead, because they don't accept the truth.

2) What makes the heart sick?

Ans. The following reasons make the heart sick;

- i. When you commit a sin, it will breed another sin, and the Shaitaan will not leave you until you leave Islam.
- ii. Also, being a slave to one's Nafs

3) What gives the heart immunity from illnesses?

Ans. The following is prescribed:

- i. Eating little.
- ii. Reading and contemplating and pondering upon the Book of Allah
- iii. Performing Qiyaamil Layl
- iv. Sitting with religious scholars
- v. Pursuit of religious knowledge