

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

A CHANGING WORLD: UNCOVERING THE VEILS OF ILLUSION



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SESSION 1

Creation and Foundations

- **The Beginning:**
 - Before Earth's creation, Allah created the Pen, which wrote everything until the Day of Judgment in لوح محفوظ (Preserved Tablet).
 - Everything in the universe, including human actions, is written and decreed.
- **Angels:**
 - Created with specific tasks (e.g., carrying Allah's Throne, seeking gatherings of dhikr, controlling weather).
 - Angels glorify Allah continuously and never disobey Him.
- **Jinn:**
 - Created before humanity, with free will like humans.
- **Creation of Adam AS:**
 - Formed from various types of soil mixed with water, then given a soul.
 - First words: **Alhamdulillah** ("All praise is due to Allah"), establishing a worldview centered on gratitude to Allah.
 - Purpose: Humanity was created as caretakers (Khalifah) on Earth to be tested with free will.
- **Honor of Humanity:**
 - Angels prostrated to Adam by Allah's command, emphasizing

- Angels prostrated to Adam by Allah's command, emphasizing human dignity and purpose.

أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ

"Did you think We created you without purpose?" (Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:115)

- Believers surpass angels in rank through conscious worship and free-willed submission.

The Fall of Iblees

1. Refusal to Prostrate:

- Iblees' arrogance led to disobedience; he refused to prostrate to Adam, citing his creation from fire.

أَبْنَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ

"He refused and was arrogant and became one of the disbelievers." (2:34)

1. Manifestation of Arrogance:

- Arrogance, long nurtured internally, manifested in disobedience.
- Iblees blamed Allah rather than accepting responsibility.

2. The Vow of Iblees:

- Pledged to mislead humanity except for the sincere.

ثُمَّ لَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ

"I will come to them from in front, behind, their right, and left, and You will not find most of them grateful." (7:17)

Tactics of Shaytan (Quran 7:17)

1. From the Front:

- Creating doubt about the Hereafter (atheism, agnosticism, non-theistic beliefs like reincarnation).

2. From Behind:

- Beautifying disobedience, making sin appealing.

3. From the Right:

- Instilling doubts about faith (doubting parts of Islam).

4. From the Left:

- Encouraging indulgence in sinful behavior.

Gratitude as a Shield

- Gratitude in Islam: Using Allah's blessings in ways that please Him.
- Ibn Abbas: Shaytan's tactics aim to divert people from gratitude, leading them to misuse Allah's blessings.

The Impact of Shaytan's Vow on Worldviews

1. Historical Context:

- The promise of Shaytan underpins the challenges humanity faces, influencing worldviews across eras.

2. Modern Philosophies:

- Secularism, materialism, and nihilism stem from Shaytan's tactics, particularly through doubt, indulgence, and rejection of purpose.

3. Contemporary Observations:

- Many philosophies reject theological purposes, focusing solely on materialism or subjective values.

Lessons from the Story of Adam AS and Hawa AS

The Importance of Repentance

• Adam and Hawa's Response to Sin:

- Upon realizing their error, they said:

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

"Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers" (Surah Al-A'raf, 7:23)

- They took full responsibility for their actions and did not blame Shaytan.
- Their sincere repentance was accepted by Allah.

• Key Lessons:

- When committing a wrong, immediately turn to Allah in

- repentance.
- Acknowledge personal responsibility instead of blaming external influences.
- Recognize the need for Allah's mercy and forgiveness.

The Purpose of the Story

- **Historical Significance:**

- The story of Adam and Hawa is not just a narrative but a lesson for all humanity.
- It highlights the test of life and the reality of Shaytan's enmity.

- **Allah's Warning:**

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّبَكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّبَكُمُ بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ

"O mankind, the promise of Allah is true, so do not let the worldly life delude you and do not let the Deceiver delude you about Allah." (Surah Fatir, 35:5)

- **How Shaytan Deceives:**

- Attaching humanity excessively to worldly goals.
- Encouraging doubt about Allah (atheism, agnosticism, deism).
- Misguiding Muslims by exploiting misunderstandings about Allah's mercy.

- **Command to Treat Shaytan as an Enemy:**

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا

"Indeed, Shaytan is an enemy to you; so take him as an enemy." (Surah Fatir, 35:6)

- The battle between good and evil manifests in various ways: ideologies, temptations, and division within communities.

Warnings from Allah

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ

"O children of Adam, do not let Shaytan tempt you as he removed your parents from Paradise." (Al-A'raf, 7:27)

- The lesson is to avoid falling into Shaytan’s traps by learning from past mistakes.

فَإِذَا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِّنِّي هُدًى فَمَن تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

“When guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance – there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve.” (Al-Baqarah, 2:38)

- Allah assures those who follow His guidance that they will attain Jannah.

Practical Action Items

- **Equip Yourself with Sincerity (إخلاص):**

- Renew intentions constantly through worship and devotion.
- Even if Shaytan succeeds momentarily, seek forgiveness with sincerity.

- **Equip Yourself with Beneficial Knowledge:**

- Reflect on how much of the information consumed daily is beneficial.
- Avoid intellectual junk and seek knowledge that strengthens faith.
- Dua for beneficial knowledge:

اللهم اني اسالك علما نافعا ورزقا طيبا وعملا متقبلا

“O Allah, I ask You for beneficial knowledge, pure provisions, and accepted deeds.”

- **Equip Yourself with Pleasing Actions:**

- Perform deeds consciously that bring you closer to Allah.
- Trust in Allah as He promises protection:

إن عبادي ليس لك عليهم سلطان

“Indeed, My servants – no authority will you have over them” (Surah Al-Hijr, 15:42).

وعلى ربهم يتوكلون

“And upon their Lord, they rely” (Surah Anfal, 8:2).

Shaytan's Traps

- **Fear of Poverty:**
 - Shaytan promises poverty to deter acts like charity:

الشَّيْطَانُ يَعِدُكُمُ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُم بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَاللَّهُ يَعِدُكُم مَّغْفِرَةً مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلًا

“Shaytan threatens you with poverty and orders you to immorality, while Allah promises you forgiveness and bounty” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:268).
 - Hassan Al-Basri reflected:
 - Allah mentions His provisions in 90 places in the Quran but warns of Shaytan's fear tactic only once, “لَأَغْوِيَنَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ”
- **Life Example of Imam Ahmad:**
 - As he was dying, Shaytan tried to deceive him by claiming victory over him.
 - Imam Ahmad resisted and continued to proclaim the Shahada until his last breath.

The Children of Adam AS

- After Adam AS and his children were brought to earth, humanity experienced its first major crime: murder.
- **First Crime:** According to many scholars, Qabil murdered his righteous brother Habil,, marking the first instance of homicide in human history.
 - This atrocity occurred during the lifetime of Adam AS, demonstrating the immediate impact of Shaytan's influence.
 - Shaytan succeeded in leading one of Adam's sons astray.
- **Adam's Concerns:**
 - Adam AS worked to guide his offspring, warning them about Shaytan's traps and urging them to worship Allah alone.
 - He prophesied that other messengers would follow, all calling to the same fundamental message: the Oneness of Allah.
- **Adam's Successor:**
 - Near the end of his life, Adam AS chose his son Sheeth AS as his successor. This choice is mentioned in hadiths,

- though not explicitly in the Qur'an.

Idris AS

- Idris AS, a descendant of Adam, was renowned for teaching the use of writing with a pen.
- **First Acts of Zina:**
 - During the time of Sheeth AS, Shaytan introduced two traps: music (singing and instruments) and intermixing of genders, leading to zina.

Nuh AS

- Nuh AS was the first of the five **Ulul 'Azm** (أولو العزم), the greatest messengers of Allah.
- **Dawah to His People:**
 - Nuh AS called his people to Allah for 950 years, using various methods: public and private calls, day and night.
 - Despite his relentless efforts, only 70-80 followers joined him, according to Ibn 'Abbas (RA).
- **The Origin of Shirk:**
 - Before Nuh's time, five righteous men mentioned in Surah Nuh (سورة نوح) were revered by their people.
 - After their deaths, Shaytan encouraged the people to create idols in their memory. Initially, the idols were not worshipped but were later associated with prayer and eventually became objects of worship.
 - Shaytan's strategy involved gradualism, taking centuries to lead people from remembrance to shirk (associating partners with Allah).
- **The Flood:**
 - Nuh AS warned his people of Allah's punishment, but they mocked him and his followers.

- Allah commanded Nuh to build an ark in preparation for the flood. Despite the ridicule, he obeyed.
- When the punishment came, only the believers were saved.
- Nuh's own son rejected the truth and drowned, choosing kufr (disbelief) despite his father's efforts.
 - Key lesson: Faith is a personal choice; even prophets cannot compel their family members to believe.

Hud AS and the People of 'Ad

- The people of 'Ad were the first to revert to shirk after the flood.
- Hud AS was sent to call them back to the worship of Allah alone.
 - His message: **Ask forgiveness from your Lord, and turn to Him in repentance. He will send you abundant rain and strengthen you with wealth and children.**
- **Reactions of 'Ad:**
 - **Denial of Evidence:** They claimed Hud AS lacked proof and rejected his message.
 - **Attachment to Idols:** They refused to abandon their idols.
 - **Conditional Belief:** They demanded evidence on their terms, not Allah's terms.
- **Key Lessons:**
 - Genuine seekers of truth will accept evidence on divine terms, while others will use demands for proof as a pretext for disbelief.
 - Hud AS's people were destroyed after they persisted in disbelief, serving as a warning to later generations.

Prophet Saleh AS

- **People of Thamud:**
 - Lived in a place called *al-Hijr* (northwest of Medina).
 - Known for their power, large numbers, and homes carved out of mountains.

- **Message:**
 - Prophet Saleh called his people to worship Allah alone, seek His forgiveness, and promised blessings and forgiveness from Allah.
- **Request for a Miracle:**
 - The disbelievers demanded a miracle to believe in his message.
 - Allah sent a miraculous she-camel as a sign, which also gave birth to a baby camel.
 - Saleh instructed:
 - i. Let the camel eat freely from the earth.
 - ii. Share the water resources with it.
 - iii. Do not harm the camel, or they would face punishment.
- **Rejection and Arrogance:**
 - Despite witnessing the miracle, most disbelieved due to internal, spiritual issues.
 - They plotted against Saleh, killed the camel and its baby, violating Allah's command.
- **Punishment:**
 - The people of Thamud were destroyed as a consequence of their disbelief and arrogance.
- **Lessons:**
 - Miracles alone do not always lead to belief; internal sincerity and an uncorrupted *fitrah* (natural disposition) are necessary.

Prophet Ibrahim AS

- **Position:**
 - One of the five greatest Messengers.
 - Nicknamed *Khalilullah* (Friend of Allah) and seen on the seventh level of heaven during Isra and Mi'raj.
- **Challenges:**
 - His father was an idol maker and promoter of idol worship.

- Ibrahim used wisdom and logic to invite his father and people to Allah.
- **Interactions with Tyrants:**
 - Spoke truthfully and fearlessly to rulers like Nimrod.
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - Knew when to speak and remain silent.
 - Persuasive, strategic, and action-oriented.
 - Trusted in Allah's plans and maintained caution against dangers.

Prophet Lut AS

- **Society:**
 - Known for sexual deviances, criminal robbery, and oppression.
- **Worldview of His People:**
 - "We desire what we want."
 - Pursued desires without moral considerations, reflecting ancient forms of hedonism.
- **Parallels with Modernity:**
 - The revival of hedonism (1700s onward) prioritizes desires and the pursuit of happiness.
 - Prophet Lut's people exemplified how unchecked desires can lead to harm.
- **Punishment:**
 - The people, including Lut's wife, were punished for their rebellion and immorality.
- **Lesson:**
 - Morality must be based on truth, not fleeting desires. Desires can be harmful and must align with moral and divine guidance.

Prophet Shuaib AS

- **People of Madyan:**
 - Known for highway robbery, unjust taxes, and cheating in

- business.
- Financial corruption and oppression were rampant despite their prosperity.
- **Message:**
 - Worship Allah alone.
 - Avoid corruption, mischief, and dishonesty.
 - Do not hinder others from the path of good.
- **Rejection:**
 - Accused Shuaib of being crazy, a liar, or affected by magic.
 - Mocked his followers as losers and challenged him to bring divine punishment.
- **Punishment:**
 - Allah destroyed the disbelievers and labeled them as the true losers.
- **Lessons:**
 - True loss is rejecting the truth and morality, not lacking wealth or power.
 - Justice and morality must be rooted in a true and sound worldview, not corrupted by the wealthy or elite.

Reflections on Worldviews

- **Evidence and Belief:**
 - Disbelief is often rooted in internal barriers, not a lack of evidence.
- **Modern Parallels:**
 - Hedonism reflects Prophet Lut's people's worldview.
 - Neoliberalism and wealth inequality parallel the corruption of the people of Madyan.
- **Key Takeaway:**
 - Societal justice requires a moral framework grounded in divine truth rather than subjective or corrupt ideologies.