PROTECTION FROM THE TRAPS OF SHAITHAN

A‘oothu billaahi min ash-shaiT aani min hamzihi wa nafthihi wa nafkhih.
“I seek refuge in Allah from the cursed Shaytaan, and his madness, his arrogance, and his poetry.” (Ibn Majah, 808)

We need protection from the plots of shaithan and at the same time we need to remember that his plot is weak. He attacks us from every direction- by beautifying the duniya, neglecting the akhirah, discouraging good deeds and encouraging doing bad deeds. From every direction he wants us to be ungrateful. Shukr (gratitude) means to do good deeds- it shows on you.

He tricks us and hypnotizes us- he makes us deluded and see what he wants us to see. He stitches up a story in your mind till you fall into his trap- ‘O no no, she meant bad’, ‘See, he did that to you again’- he goes on and on whispering to you till you react and do something bad. You think bad, backbite or slander, then he will leave you alone in your guilt and misery. He stands at the side and then laughs at you. For example, if a wife has a jealous personality, then shaithan will make her see something- like lipstick, or foundation- though there is nothing just to make her fight with the husband. The husband may be patient with the wife but then the shaithan pesters the wife and she nags him till the husband is fed up and divorces her. Then both will be crying and shaithan will be laughing at them.

Even when you want to do something good, he irritates and troubles you till you leave it and then you feel guilty. Even if someone has a secret sin, he will push the person till his sin is exposed in front of others. There is a story of a worshipper. Three brothers had left their sister with this worshipper when they travelled. Shaithan tricked the worshiper step by step- first he said ‘why don’t you give her food?’; then ‘why don’t you talk to her?’; then ‘why don’t you go inside?’- till they both committed adultery and she became pregnant. He killed her and the baby, buried them and when the brothers came, he lied to them. Later all the three brothers saw the same dream that their sister was buried in the same place. When they woke up they narrated their dream to each other. They went and dug the same place only to find her sister and baby there. The worshiper was caught and put in jail. Shaithan came to the worshiper in the jail and deceived him again by telling him that he could take him out of jail- just do one sujood to me. The worshiper did sujood to shaithan and then he died.

Shaitan left that person to sin and then he exposed him. He made him miserable.
When the mushrikeen (idol worshippers) came for the Battle of Badr, Shaithan came to them in the form of a man that was known to them. Though he was not that person, the people did not know. He told the mushrikeen to fight the Muslims and promised to protect them. However, when they were defeated in the battle, shaithan fled away and freed himself from them. When he got what he wanted- i.e., for the mushrikeen to fight the muslims, then he left. He showed his reality. We face such situations in life. Someone will come and incite you to fight with another. Then once you fight, they tell you ‘I didn’t tell you to fight’ or ‘you misunderstood’. Shaithan told the mushrikeen that he saw what they did not see and that is referring to the unseen angels. Qatadah said about this incident- the enemy of Allah has spoken the truth and the enemy of Allah has lied. This means- he spoke the truth when he said ‘I see what you do not see’ and he lied when he said ‘I fear Allah’. And remember Allah is severe in punishment.

Be careful- don't allow him to deceive you. He is a liar. If he feared Allah then he would not do the things that he does. He mixes between the truth and falsehood so you need to be aware and alert of him and his tricks.

For example, when you go shopping he will pester and irritate you till you buy. Then you feel guilt and fill your home with clutter.
They (all those who worship others than Allah) invoke nothing but female deities besides Him (Allah), and they invoke nothing but Shaitan (Satan), a persistent rebel! Allah cursed him. And he [Shaitan (Satan)] said: "I will take an appointed portion of your slaves; Verily, I will mislead them, and surely, I will arouse in them false desires; and certainly, I will order them to slit the ears of cattle, and indeed I will order them to change the nature created by Allah." And whoever takes Shaitan (Satan) as a Wali (protector or helper) instead of Allah, has surely suffered a manifest loss. He [Shaitan (Satan)] makes promises to them, and arouses in them false desires; and Shaitan's (Satan) promises are nothing but deceptions.

(Surah An Nisa 117-120)

He is putting himself in rivalry with you. He take a share from your life. He misleads them from the truth. He gives them false hope telling them ‘You are fine’, ‘Allah will forgive you’. He works on your desires, misleads you and then he commands you. What does he command you to do? To do meaningless actions- like cutting the ears of cattle. He commands you to change the nature. How can one do that? By plucking the eyebrows, plastic surgeries. He takes a person from truth to falsehood to disbelief.