

Lesson 8: CREATION OF THE FIRST MAN

Allah ﷻ describes in the Quran how He created the first man, Adam ﷺ, out of clay, and gave him human qualities. Finally, as His greatest gift, Allah ﷻ breathed life into him.

Allah ﷻ blessed Adam ﷺ with the gift of speech and the ability to communicate with the other beings. Adam was also given intelligence, emotions and the ability to reason. He was blessed with the freedom of choice to obey or disobey His commands. Man is truly a unique creation.

Allah ﷻ ordered the angels to respectfully bow down to ﷺ. Since they were created to obey Allah's commands unquestioningly, the angels obeyed. However, among them was a stubborn *jinn*, named Iblis. He refused to bow to Adam ﷺ, protesting:

قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْنِي مِن نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ ﴿٧٦﴾

I am better than he is; You have created me out of fire, whereas You have created him out of clay.

(Sad 38:76)

Allah ﷻ created *Jinn* before He created human beings. They are created from fire. Like humans, they have the freedom to obey or disobey Allah ﷻ. Therefore, some *Jinn* are good, and others are bad. On the Day of Judgement, they too will be judged for their actions.

Iblis was proud and rebelled against Allah ﷻ. Allah ﷻ cursed him and could have destroyed him that very instant, but Shaitan (another name for Iblis) begged Allah ﷻ to delay his punishment until the Day of Judgement. Allah ﷻ, in His infinite wisdom, decided to grant his request to teach him a lesson.

The ungrateful Shaitan vowed to lead Adam ﷺ and all other human beings astray. Allah ﷻ gave him permission to try, but told the Shaitan that His true servants would never astray. Allah ﷻ also warned him that, on the Day of Judgement, He would condemn the Shaitan and those who followed him to Hell

for a torturous eternity. Thus was the beginning of Allah’s test to all human beings until the Day of Judgement.

How does the Shaitan lead the people astray? He tries many ways to deceive people, whispering in their minds, confusing bad with good. Some human beings behave like Shaitan by misleading others into wrong-doing, creating false justification for evil ideas. They are called “the Shaitan of men”.

How can we avoid following Shaitan into doing wrong? First, we should study the teachings of Allah ﷻ thoroughly, so we can recognize good from bad and right from wrong. The better informed we are, the stronger our *Iman* will become. Armed with the knowledge and the truth, the Shaitan’s attempts to deceive us will fail.

Second, we should always try to worship Allah ﷻ with complete devotion, even if this sometimes become difficult. This is the only way we can gain Allah’s protection and guidance in our struggle against Shaitan. We must always remember that we should prepare for the Day of Judgement, and that our every deed is being recorded.

Third, when we are tempted to do something wrong, we should seek guidance in Allah ﷻ:

I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaitan.

It is not enough to just say it: we must be firm and take action to get away from evil. A great Muslim scholar, Imam Al-Ghazali, wrote that a person who simply recites the above *du’a*, but fails to make an effort to get away from evil, is like a man who sees a lion coming to attack him, but simply states: “I seek refuge in that tree over there,” without making any move to run towards the tree.

Thus we must make genuine effort to avoid evil actions, pray to Allah ﷻ to help us in this effort. Allah ﷻ has given us a *Surah* in the Quran for such circumstances. In this *du’a*, we ask Allah ﷻ to protect us from any kind of Shaitan who may whisper into our minds:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ ①
مَلِكِ النَّاسِ ② إِلَهِ
النَّاسِ ③ مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ④
الَّذِي يُوسِّسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ ⑤
مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ
وَالنَّاسِ ⑥

Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of men, the King of men, the God of men. From the evil of the whispering tempter, who whispers into the hearts of men from among jinn and among men.

(An-Nas 114:1-6)