

## Iblis

All praise is due to Allah (s.w.t) and I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad (s.a.w) is His Servant and Messenger.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

From the day when Allah (s.w.t) created Adam (a.s) in the best image and blown the soul in him to become a great man, from the very first moment envy, jealousy and hatred crept into Iblis's heart and his sole mission became the enmity of Adam (a.s) and his progeny.

As Allah (s.w.t) mentions in many Ayat of the Quran, Allah (s.w.t) says in surah Al-Hajr: –meaning- *“Iblis said: ‘O my Lord! Because You misled me (you put me in the wrong) I shall indeed adorn the path of error for them (mankind) on the earth (I will make disobedience attractive to them i.e. mankind on earth) and I shall mislead them all except Your chosen (guided) servants among them.’ Allah said: ‘This is a path of return to Me that is straight. Certainly, you will have no authority over My servants except those who put themselves in the wrong and follow you.’”* 15/39-42

Ibn Kathir (r.a) said: *“Allah informed about the rebellion and arrogance of Iblis in that he said to the Lord: ‘because You mislead me and misguided me, I shall indeed adorn (and make attractive) the path of error (and wrong doing) for them (i.e. the progeny of Adam) on earth. I will make sin dear to them and will encourage, provoker and harass them to commit sin and I shall mislead them all just as You have misled me and have ordained that for me except Your chosen (Your guided) servants among them.’ Allah said, threatening and warning Iblis: ‘this is the way which will lead straight to Me and all of you will return to Me and I will reward or punish you according to your deeds. If they are good then I will reward you and if they are bad then I will punish you. Certainly, you shall have no authority over My servants. You will have no way to reach those for whom I have decreed guidance.’”* Tafsir 5/395-396

Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

It is a fact that Iblis will never stop trying to mislead mankind and provoke them and encourage them to commit all kinds of sin major or minor but when he fails that, he will try other ways and methods. He will try to stop or disconvay believers from doing good by all means.

The following Hadith is just another of Iblis's tactics to stop believers from doing good deeds. Reported by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim (r.a), Abu Hurairah (r.a) relates that Allah's (s.w.t) Messenger (s.a.w) said: *“When anyone of you sleeps, Satan ties three knots at the back (base) of his neck muttering the following incantation at every knot: ‘you have a long night, so sleep on,’ Then if he (that person) wakes up and remembers Allah (makes Dhikr) one knot is loosened (undone). Then if he gets up and makes Wudu (performs ablutions) the second knot is loosened. And if he performs Salat (prayer) all knots are loosened. So he begins his morning in a happy, energetic, refreshed, cheerful*

*mood. Otherwise he gets up in bad spirits, sluggish state, disagreeable, slothful mood (i.e. with evil manners).” Riyadh 1170*

*Some Illamah (Scholars) said regarding the knots: “ Tying knots can be literal the way magicians so it in their magical exercises. With this practice Satan tries to withhold people from the worship of Allah. Some people are of the opinion that it is a metaphor for sleepiness (dozing). In any case, Satan does his level best to withhold a person from the worship of Allah. Satan experiences frustration if someone gets up at night for prayer. He also experiences happiness if he manages to keep someone asleep till dawn.” Riyadh 2/892*

Brothers and Sister in Islam,

We learn from this Hadith that to undo (untie) the three knots of Iblis placed the Muslims’ heads to keep them asleep until dawn or beyond and make them miss out on the greatest reward given to Muslims who observe Salat-ul-Tahajud or Qiyam-u-Lail. The key to loosen all three knots is in your hand. You are the only one who can use it as an individual. The Prophet (s.a.w) has given the believer the three simple, easy to use steps to get rid of the three evil knots.

- 1) Dhikru-Allah (remembrance of Allah) and the best of Dhikr is La Illah Ha Illalah
- 2) Taharah (purity) by offering Wudu or even ghusul in the need is there
- 3) Praying some Nafil Salat before the arrival of Fajr (dawn) a minimum of two Raka’at and up to eight Raka’at which is the Sunnah of Qiyam-u-Lail

May Allah (s.w.t) protect us, our parents our children our families and all Muslims from Iblis and all his plotting.

Aameen