

THE DEVIL'S WEAK TRICKS

How to overcome syaitan's
whispers & win against him
with Natasha Kamaluddin



قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أَغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٣٩﴾

إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمْ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾

Satan responded, "My Lord! For allowing me to stray I will surely tempt them on earth and mislead them all together, except Your chosen servants among them."

[al-Hijr 15:39-40]

Outline for Today's Session:

1. THE BIG PICTURE

Overall "War" Strategy

2. TACTICAL

Knowing Syaitan's Method in Misleading Us

3. EXPANDING ON SURAH BAQARAH: 208

What does Allah SWT mean when He says,
"Do not follow the footsteps of Syaitan"

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THE DEVIL'S WEAK TRICKS: HOW TO OVERCOME
SYAITAN'S WHISPERS & WIN AGAINST HIM

Terminology:

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THE DEVIL'S WEAK TRICKS: HOW TO OVERCOME
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Outline

1.

The Big Picture

Overall “War” Strategy

Allah has recorded in Surah Al-Hijr and Surah Sad, how Iblis confidently boast that he will mislead all of mankind.

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ
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Satan said, "By Your Glory! I will certainly mislead them all, except Your chosen servants among them."

[Sad 38:82-83]

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[Sad 38:82-83]

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(Mukhlaseen)

What does **المُخْلِصِينَ** means?

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Mukhliseen

مُخْلِصِينَ

Person who is Ikhlas.

Mukhlaseen

الْمُخْلِصِينَ

Person who is Ikhlas.

Mukhliseen

مُخْلِصِينَ

This person is doing
the actions to be Ikhlas
(striving to be pure).

Mukhlaseen

الْمُخْلِصِينَ

This person has been
chosen by Allah to be
a person of Ikhlas
(chosen to be purified).

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Why is it important
to be a  الْمُخْلِصِينَ ?
(Mukhlaseen)

Because Syaitan will certainly mislead
them all, except the 
(the chosen person of Ikhlas).

In this battle, we need Allah's Help.
We need to be among the chosen ones.

وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ^ط وَهَمَّ بِهَا لَوْلَا أَنْ رَأَىٰ بُرْهَانَ رَبِّهِ^ج كَذَلِكَ
لِنَصْرِفَ عَنْهُ السُّوءَ وَالْفَحْشَاءَ^ج إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُخْلَصِينَ

And she certainly determined [to seduce] him, and he would have inclined to her had he not seen the proof [i.e., sign] of his Lord. And thus [it was] that We should avert from him evil and immorality. Indeed, he was of Our chosen servants.

[Yusuf 12:24]

There will be a moment when
your self-control, your Iman, and
all your knowledge will fail you.
And in that moment, it is only
Allah SWT who can save you.

(Mukhlaseen)

But who does Allah pick to save? Allah picks His **المُخْلِصِينَ**.

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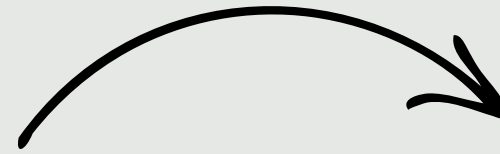
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How do we earn the privilege
to be among the **المُخْلِصِينَ** ?
(Mukhlaseen)

Mukhliseen

مُخْلِصِينَ

Strive for the upgrade!



Mukhlaseen

الْمُخْلِصِينَ

The overall war strategy is
to strive to be a Mukhliseen so that
Allah picks us to be a Mukhlaseen.

Recap:

Mukhliseen

مُخْلِصِينَ

This person is Ikhlas
(striving to stay pure).

But we can work
on this so that
Allah chooses us!

Mukhlaseen

الْمُخْلِصِينَ

We have
no part in this,
it's Allah's Doing.

This person has been chosen
by Allah to be a person of Ikhlas
(chosen to be purified).

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How do we earn the privilege
to be among the *المُخْلِصِينَ* ?

Lessons from Surah az-Zumar.

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Two mistakes or traps in which we
might compromise our Ikhlas (sincerity).

Lessons from Surah az-Zumar.

Mistake / Trap 1:

Attributing what we have to other than Allah

And when adversity touches man, he calls upon his Lord, turning to Him [alone]; then when He bestows on him a favor from Himself, he forgets Him whom he called upon before, and he attributes to Allāh equals to mislead [people] from His way. (az-Zumar 39:8)

And when adversity touches man, he calls upon Us; then when We bestow on him a favor from Us, he says, "I have only been given it because of [my] knowledge."
Rather, it is a trial, but most of them do not know. (az-Zumar 39:49)

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Mistake / Trap 1: Attributing what we have to other than Allah

Syaitan tempts us do Shirk.

=

Doing Shirk automatically
invalidates all of someone's deeds.

وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكَتَ
لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٦٥﴾

And it was already revealed to you and to those before
you that if you should associate [anything] with Allāh,
your work would surely become worthless, and you
would surely be among the losers.

[az-Zumar 39:65]

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Do not confuse
the Source of Power (Allah),
with the power cable
(which is just the conduit).

When we rely on people,
more than we rely on Allah,
we will adjust our behaviours or
our behaviours are conditioned
to actually please others rather
than pleasing only Allah.

Then from the farthest end of the city a man came, rushing. He advised, "O my people! Follow the messengers. Follow those who ask no reward of you, and are 'rightly' guided. (Ya Seen 36:20-21)

'But they killed him, then' he was told 'by the angels', "Enter Paradise!" He said, "If only my people knew of how my Lord has forgiven me, and made me one of the honourable." (Ya Seen 36:26-27)

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A test of Ikhlas is the willingness
to do something that is right,
even when it is uncomfortable.
(at the minimum level)

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We should be able to relate
what we learn in the Quran
to our day-to-day context.

Mistake / Trap 2: Pursuing or having our heart attached to false gods

وَالَّذِينَ اجْتَنَبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهَا وَأَنَابُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ لَهُمُ الْبُشْرَىٰ فَبَشِّرْ عِبَادِ ﴿١٧﴾

But those who have avoided tāghūt, lest they worship it, and turned back to Allāh - for them are good tidings. So give good tidings to My servants

[az-Zumar 39:17]

Mistake / Trap 2: Pursuing or having our heart attached to false gods

Taghut = false gods

(ie: beauty, money, power, love, popularity)

Anything that you pursue that may cause you
to prioritise it over Allah.

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The mistakes we make
sometimes are subtle forms
of Shirk and more difficult
to detect.

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In this day and age, one of the
false gods is the need for
popularity and self-affirmation.

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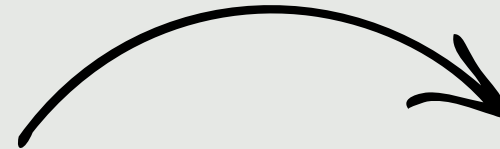
We need to do a self-diagnostic
test and understand our weaknesses,
because this is the main door
for Syaitan to enter.

Recap:

Mukhliseen

مُخْلِصِينَ

Strive for the upgrade!



Mukhlaseen

الْمُخْلِصِينَ

The overall war strategy is
we have to strive to be Mukhliseen
so that Allah picks us to be Mukhlaseen.

Recap:

Two mistakes or traps in which we might
compromise our Ikhlas (sincerity).

Lessons from Surah az-Zumar.

Mistake / Trap 1: Attributing what we have to other than Allah

Mistake / Trap 2: Pursuing or having our hearts attached to
false gods

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Outline

2.

Syaitan's Tactical Method

How he mislead us through our Aql and Nafs

ثُمَّ لَا تَجِدُهُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ
وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

Then I will come to them from before them and from behind them and on their right and on their left, and You will not find most of them grateful [to You].”

[*al-A'raf* 7:17]

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How Syaitan mislead us:

1.

By calling to us

How Syaitan mislead us; by calling to us

وَمَا كَانَ لِي عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا أَنْ دَعَوْتُكُمْ
فَأَسْتَجِبْتُمْ لِي فَلَا تَلُومُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ

...But I had no authority over you except that
I invited you, and you responded to me. So do not
blame me; but blame yourselves...

[Ibrahim 14:22]

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How Syaitan mislead us:

2.

He makes us forget

How Syaitan mislead us; he makes us forget

قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَ إِذْ أَوَيْنَا إِلَى الصَّخْرَةِ فَإِنِّي نَسِيتُ الْحُوتَ وَمَا أَنسَنِيهِ
إِلَّا الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ أَذْكُرَهُ، وَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ عَجَبًا ﴿٦٣﴾

He said, "Did you see when we retired to the rock? Indeed, I forgot [there] the fish. And none made me forget it except Satan - that I should mention it. And it took its course into the sea amazingly."

[al-Kahf 18:63]

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He makes us forget about time.

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He makes us forget
to apply the Quran
in moments that matter.

He makes us forget about an issue
or deprioritise an issue when it is
still an obligation.

For example, the Palestinian issue.

He makes us complacent in our
individual Ibadah, and we neglect
our responsibility to the community.

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How Syaitan mislead us:

3.

He makes our mind wander

How Syaitan mislead us; he makes our mind wander

“When the call for prayer is made, Satan takes to his heels passing wind so that he may not hear the Adhan and when the call is finished he comes back, and when the Iqama is pronounced, Satan again takes to his heels, and when the Iqama is finished he comes back again and tries to interfere with the person and his thoughts and say, “Remember this and that (which he has not thought of before the prayer)”, till the praying person forgets how much he has prayed...

[Sahih al-Bukhari 1231]

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When we do Ibadah,
he makes our mind wander,
so our hearts are disconnected.

How Syaitan mislead us:

4.

He makes us
completely lose our restraint

How Syaitan mislead us; he makes us completely lose our restraint

فَاسْتَعَاثَ الَّذِي مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ عَلَى الَّذِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَرَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ
قَالَ هَذَا مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ مُضِلٌّ مُبِينٌ ﴿١٥﴾

...And the one from his faction called for help to him against the one from his enemy, so Moses struck him and [unintentionally] killed him. [Moses] said, "This is from the work of Satan. Indeed, he is a manifest, misleading enemy."

[*al-Qasas 28:15*]

How Syaitan mislead us:

5.

He uses our fear or
he makes us afraid

How Syaitan mislead us; He uses our fear or he makes us afraid

إِنَّمَا ذَٰلِكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ يُخَوِّفُ أَوْلِيَآءَهُ، فَلَا
تَخَافُوهُمْ وَخَافُوا مِنِّي إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٧٥﴾

That is only Satan who frightens [you] of his supporters.
So fear them not, but fear Me, if you are [indeed] believers.

[al-Qasas 28:15]

Recap:

How Syaitan mislead us:

1. By calling to us.
2. By making us forget.
3. By making our minds wander.
4. By making us lose our restraint.
5. By using our fear.

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Ask ourselves

Which one is stronger?

Our Aql (reasoning)
or our Hawa (Nafs or desire)?

The main strategy is
to work on these two;

Our Aql (reasoning)
+ Our Hawa (Nafs or desire)

Different levels of purity for Hawa (Nafs or desire)

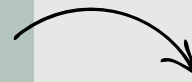
*We need to work
on achieving this
level of Hawa*

Nafs al Mutmainnah
The purest level

Nafs al Lawwaamah
The middle level

Nafs al Ammarah
The lowest level

*We need to work
on achieving this
level of Hawa*

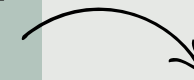


Nafs al Mutmainnah

The purest level

If we purify our souls and try to attain
the purest level of Hawa, then it is
going to be a lot harder for Syaitan to
enter us or to influence us.

*We need to work
on achieving this
level of Hawa*



Nafs al Mutmainnah

The purest level

When we no longer desire what is bad
for us, then it's very, very difficult
for Syaitan to get to us.

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We need to strengthen
our Aql (reasoning)
so that it is always present

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We need to strengthen
our Aql (reasoning)
with knowledge

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We need to strengthen
our Aql (reasoning)
with knowledge

*But knowledge
can also fail you*

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Knowledge is important, but
knowledge alone is not enough.

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We also need to strengthen
our Aql (reasoning)
with better mindshare

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To ponder

What does your mind spend time
thinking about in a day?

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If our mindshare is as much as
possible taken up by Allah SWT, then
we are going to be thinking about
Allah SWT, in every thing that you do.

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Solah, Adhkar, and the Quran

These are all
quality mindshare.

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Solah, Adhkar, and the Quran

These are all about
the quality of our connection
with Allah SWT.

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

1.

He makes us do Shirik or Kufur

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

2.

He makes us do Bid'ah (innovation)

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

3.

He makes us do major sins

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

4.

He makes us do minor sins

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

5.

He makes us do things
that are discouraged

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

6.

He makes us waste time

Syaitan's tactics
(mentioned by Imam at-Tabari):

7.

He makes us choose to do
the lesser of two good deeds

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Basically, he's a bad guy!

He will get every
single victory that he can get.

So we have to be smarter.

Outline

3.

Expanding on Surah Baqarah:208

“Do not follow the footsteps of Syaithan”

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا
تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ ﴿٢٠٨﴾

O you who have believed, enter into Islām completely
[and perfectly] and do not follow the footsteps of Satan.

Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy.

[al-Baqarah 2:208]

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What were the steps
that Syaitan took?

And We have certainly created you, [O mankind], and given you [human] form. Then We said to the angels, "Prostrate to Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblees. He was not of those who prostrated. (al-A'raf 7:11)

[Allāh] said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you? " [Satan] said, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay [i.e., earth]." (al-A'raf 7:12)

Syaitan's footsteps: 1

He was expecting that
Allah's command had to
make sense to him **before** obeying.

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When we are
questioning Allah's Command,
we are questioning Allah.

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THE DEVIL'S WEAK TRICKS: HOW TO OVERCOME
SYAITAN'S WHISPERS & WIN AGAINST HIM

سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا

“We hear, and we obey”

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Syaitan's footsteps: 2

He self-rationalize
and justifies his sin.

And We have certainly created you, [O mankind], and given you [human] form. Then We said to the angels, "Prostrate to Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblees. He was not of those who prostrated. (al-A'raf 7:11)

[Allāh] said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you? " [Satan] said, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay [i.e., earth]." (al-A'raf 7:12)

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Justifying or self-rationalizing the sin
is another sin on top of the first sin.

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Syaitan's footsteps: 3

He blames Allah for his sin

[Satan] said, "Because You have put me in error, I will surely sit in wait for them [i.e., mankind] on Your straight path. (al-A'raf 7:15)

Then I will come to them from before them and from behind them and on their right and on their left, and You will not find most of them grateful [to You]." (al-A'raf 7:16)

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Most of us don't blame
Allah, but we still blame
others or the situation.

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Syaitan's footsteps: 4

He has Hasad (envy) on us

[Satan] said, "Because You have put me in error, I will surely sit in wait for them [i.e., mankind] on Your straight path. (al-A'raf 7:15)

Then I will come to them from before them and from behind them and on their right and on their left, and You will not find most of them grateful [to You]." (al-A'raf 7:16)

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Some people do things that
destroy themselves.

They are on a path to self-destruction.

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Worse is when they want other
people to also be on the same path
to make themselves feel better.

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Syaitan's footsteps: 5

He turned his back on the potential of
Allah's forgiveness.

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There is no sin bigger than
Allah's capacity to forgive

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In Surah Sad, Allah mentioned Prophets
who made mistakes but who also
constantly turned back.

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This is a way to make sure
that even if Syaitan did win once,
he will not win again and again.

As people who are on this path
of trying to acquire knowledge
and trying to be the people of Taqwa,
it's very important not to be complacent.

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When we are serious about this path,
that is when we get attacked more.