

5 - How the *Shaytaan* makes his whispers reach the heart of man

(1) *Waswasah* (insinuating whispers)

The *Shaytaan* is able to reach man's heart and mind in a way which we do not know or understand. The nature with which he is created enables him to do that. This is what is called *waswasah*. Allah has told us of that when He said:

﴿الْوَسْوَسَاتِ الْخَسَائِسِ ۖ الَّتِي يُوسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ﴾

«From the evil of the whisperer [devil who whispers evil in the hearts of men] who withdraws [from his whispering in one's heart after one remembers Allah].

Who whispers in the breasts of mankind.» [Qur'an 114:4-5]

Ibn Katheer said in his commentary: «the whisperer who withdraws» is the *Shaytaan* who sits on the heart of the son of Adam, and when he forgets and is negligent, he whispers to him, but when he remembers Allah, he withdraws.

It is narrated in *Ṣaḥeeḥayn* (Bukhaari and Muslim) from Anas that the Messenger ﷺ said: "The *Shaytaan* flows through the son of Adam like blood."⁶³

By this *waswasah* he led Adam astray and tempted him to eat from that tree:

﴿فَوَسْوَسَ إِلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانُ قَالَ يَا آدَمُ هَلْ أَدُلُّكَ عَلَى شَجَرَةِ الْخَالِدِ وَمُلْكٍ لَا يَبْئُتُ﴾

«Then *Shaytaan* [Satan] whispered to him, saying: 'O' Adam! Shall I lead you to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that will never waste away?» [Qur'an 20:120]

The devils may appear in human form, and they may speak to a person or make him hear voices, telling him to do something or not to do something, as we shall see below.

⁶³ *Mishkaat al-Muṣaabeeḥ*, 1/26, no. 68.