

## During Ramadan Shaytan is chained. He is not dead

Explained by ibn Taymiyyah

ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said:

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَجْرِي مِنْ ابْنِ آدَمَ مَجْرَى الدَّمِ

Surely Shaytan circulates through man like blood.<sup>1</sup>

There is no doubt that blood is generated by way of food and drink. When the person eats or drinks the passage for Shaytan widens. For this reason he said:

فَضَيِّقُوا مَجَارِيَهُ بِالْجُوعِ

Constrict his passage with hunger

Some have mentioned this wording directly narrated from the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Likewise, for this reason the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

إِذَا دَخَلَ رَمَضَانُ فَتُحْتُّ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ وَغُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ وَصُفِّدَتْ الشَّيَاطِينُ

When the month of Ramadan enters the doors of paradise are opened, the gates of the Hell-fire are closed, and the devils are chained up.<sup>2</sup>

For surely the passage of Shaytan – which is the blood – becomes constricted (by fasting). And when it becomes constricted the hearts are provoked towards good deeds which open the doors of paradise. And the hearts are provoked to abandon evils deeds which open the gates of the Hell-fire. (Consequently the gates of the Hell-fire are closed)

The devils are chained thus their strength and actions are weakened because they are chained. Therefore during the month of Ramadan they are not able to accomplish what they do in other months. **And he did not say the Shaytan is killed or he dies (during Ramadan) rather he said “the devils are chained”. A chained devil can still cause harm.** But their harm is less and weaker than it is outside the month of Ramadan.

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<sup>1</sup> Sahih al-Bukhari 7171

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim 1079

It is based upon the completeness or deficiency of the fast. The person whose fast is complete will have a protection from Shaytan which is greater than the protection of the person whose fast is deficient.

مجموع فتاوى ابن تيمية: كتاب الصيام: فصل فيما يفطر الصائم وما لا يفطره

Collection of Fatawa from ibn Taymiyyah: book of Fasting: what breaks the fast and what does not

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