



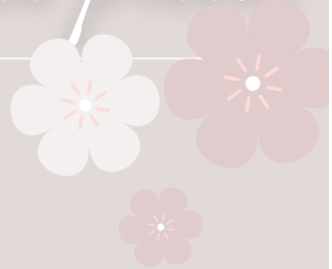
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*For Girls
Lusaka*



Written by: Shams T'

The pursuit of the straight path





Muslims reciting Surah Fatihah daily in their Salah, it is regrettable that only a minority take the time to contemplate the profound message it holds. This Surah encapsulates essential aspects of faith, guidance, and supplication, yet often escapes deeper reflection amidst the ritual recitation, urging believers to delve into its significance for a more enriching spiritual understanding of this Surah.

The sixth verse of this Surah, therefore elaborates one of the main guidelines for living our life:

أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Guide us along the Straight Path [1:6]

But what is this straight path Allah is telling us to ask for? How do we find this "straight road" in this world of windy and bendy roads? In this world of temptations how do we find this straight path?

Well, the answer is simple. Allah himself elaborates

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ
النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا

And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger will be in the company of those blessed by Allah: the prophets, the people of truth, the martyrs, and the righteous—what honourable company! [4:69]

So what is the path of the honorable people Allah is telling us to follow?

Let's turn to physics for a second. We figure out the shortest distance from point A to point B is a straight line. Definitely the best path to reach Allah is to follow the shortest route and follow the way of those honorable groups mentioned above. While the first bend on this road might be small it eventually takes us to larger bends and furthers us away and away from the path and our Ultimate goal in turn.

If a train takes a few millimeters off course from the track, while the initial deviation is small it leads to the train completely losing its course. Consequently, any small deviation from the straight path could lead us off our course. We, thus, ask Allah swt to keep us on the straight path.

Therefore, when a person reads this Ayah (أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ), he is asking Allah to be on the path of the prophets, the people of truth, the martyrs, and the righteous. Moreover, he is asking Allah to keep him on this path that all of these undertook. And to not let you deviate even momentarily from this blessed path. And there is nothing more blessed than this! It is for this, Shaytan the accursed says:

قَالَ فَبِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝١٦

He said, "For leaving me to stray I will lie in ambush for them on Your Straight Path. [7:16]

I will deviate them from the straight path.

shaytan is stating he will sit on this path and hinder the people trying to follow this path.

The devil shaytan does not busy himself in trying to hinder the people that have busied themselves in disobedience already; for the Nafs has its own shaytan and it suffices for those who are already slaves of their desires. Allah states, "Have you not seen the person that takes his desires as his lord?"

Furthermore, it is evident from the previous ayah that the accursed shaytan goes to places of worship and knowledge, the Masajid and Madaris to try and make their Ibadah hold no value. Iblis sits at the door of the masjid and tries to beautify disobedience for those praying. He tries to bring Riya (show off) in those praying.

It is for that reason he did not say I will deter them from the deviated path, because that path is already for shaitan. He rather said I will deter them from the "straight path". Verily, this is the reason shaitan finds the Salah as the best time to infiltrate and whisper in the ears of a person. This is the time a believer stands before his lord and if he can deter him from this, then he is successful.

May Allah protect us.

وَأِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

If you are tempted by Satan, then seek refuge with Allah. Surely He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

[7:200]

Allah, so Glorified, is all hearing and all seeing. And when we seek refuge in our creator, the creator of that evil shaytan, why wouldn't shaytan run?

Allah swt created these two paths, the path of obedience and mercy and the path of disobedience and punishment and left us to decide which to follow. For the reason that He swt wants to see those that obeyed him despite being able to disobey him and believed in him despite being able to disbelieve. The creations that Allah has created that do not disobey Allah, therefore, have been inferior to the humans. And this is because Allah wants to see who obeys him because of His love and in exchange for this he will grant them the everlasting blessings of Jannah.

I would like to end on the quote of Imam
Sha'rawi RA:

Good and evil are two qualities one of which
leads to the blessings of Jannah and the other
to the punishments of Jahannam. So what do
you choose, Oh you who Allah has given a brain?

The matter is clear! So why do you choose to
wrong yourself and become subservient to your
desires and devils?

It is no doubt that this is heedlessness!

Alluhumma Ihdina sirat al mustaqeem



