

MODULE 2

Class Title: *Dajal* of this World, part 3 – Reality behind glamour of this life (3rd part of a 3 lesson series)

Aims of the Lesson: To understand the temporary & fragile nature of this life

Categories: Scripture, popular culture

Lesson format: Power point presentation with narration. Discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*
(*Taooz*) *Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*
(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*
(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli*
(Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Teacher: Have you understood the concept of *dajal* and deception from the last two classes?

Students: yes

And for those of you who are here for the first time and who haven't attended these two classes, we were talking about *dajal* the way Allah (swt) has explained it in Surah Al Kahf. It is that Surah of the Qur'an which is particularly beneficial to read on a Friday.

Slide 2:

Last week we discussed that Allah (swt) has said that if you want to protect yourself from *dajal*, the first thing that you need to have is patience and self control.

It's like, you are sitting here at Perceptions in the middle of Friday afternoon when you could have been doing anything else – be watching a movie, hanging out with friends, sleeping! You could be getting bored out of your mind and you might be saying oh my God, there she goes again. Have patience!

So have patience and self control. Make friends with those who want to please Allah (swt) and who remember Allah (swt) all the time.

وَاصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا تُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَنْ ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرُطًا

Wasbir nafsaka m'alladhina yad'una rabbahum bil ghadati wal 'ashee yuriduna wajhhahu Wa la tadu 'ainaka 'anhum tureedu zeenat al hayat adduniya Wa la tutie aghfalna qalbahu un dhikrina watab'a hawahu wa kana amruhu furuta

“Keep yourself patiently with those who call on their *Rabb*, morning and evening seeking His face and let not your eyes overlook them desiring the pomp and glitter of the life of this world. And obey not those whose heart We have made heedless of Our

Remembrance and who follow his own desires and goes to extremes in the conduct of his affairs.” (Surah Al Kahf 18: Verse 28)

‘And who want to seek the pleasure of Allah (swt).’

Hang out with like minded people and don’t get easily impressed by glamour that every time you see a fabulous dress or a model or watch *American Idol*, you go like, “Oh I wish that was me...” It’s very easy to get impressed by a big house or a flashy car. My youngest daughter who is 7 years old came home the other day from a friend’s house and told me; ‘*Amma* (mother) do you know they have a split (air conditioner) in every room!’ and that was like wow! She was very impressed and she is 7 years old. That happens to the best of us.

The lesson we learn from Surah Al Kahf is that worldly ways look glamorous and lure you away from Allah (swt) but stay steadfast on your *deen* by holding onto the company of God fearing friends for support and guidance. You are likely to get impressed if you see somebody’s humongous house or swimming pool but do not follow those who are extreme in behaviour and follow their own selfish desire. Another way of being extreme in your behaviour is that I want something when I want it and I want it now so what we need to do is to curtail this urge.

Slides 3- 4:

This is a formula that Allah (swt) has given us to protect ourselves from the deception that is around us. Then Allah (swt) has given us a very stern warning .Allah (swt) says that if you dare make any change in the laws of Allah (swt) and in His commandments, you will find no refuge from Him. Can anybody tell me why Allah (swt) has given us these warnings?

Students: so that we get one more chance to improve ourselves

Student: so we can avoid Hell fire

Student: because Allah (swt) loves us

Slide 5:

Teacher: *MashaAllah* – spot on guys. Thus, Allah (swt) gives us all these warnings because Allah (swt) loves us and wants to warn us so we can’t say on the Day of Judgment “I didn’t know what I was supposed to do” and He also wants to save us from destruction in this world and in the Hereafter.

Before we go on let me clarify one important point. When Allah (swt) talks about this world, He talks about it at two levels.

1. He talks about it as the place of opportunity, the place where we plant the seeds from that which we will earn the harvest of in the Hereafter –

Or

2. He has condemned it, the *duniya* is referred to in the Qur'an and *sunnah* as something we should turn away from, and not be attached to. What is this negative connotation of *duniya*, of this life? – one scholar says this world – when mentioned in a blameworthy context - is anything that busies you away from Allah (swt). (Shaykh Faraz Rabbani – Seeker's Guidance)

Is that clear to you all? *Duniya* in itself is not an issue, but if it sucks us in so bad that we forget about Allah (swt) and we ignore His commandments and choose some way of life that is at odds with what Rasool Allah (pbuh) lived and told us to live, then that *duniya* is problematic.

I hope this is not too complicated for you. Nah – clever girls you lot!

Slides 6- 7:

Now if we look around our *duniya* – we notice that for some strange reason there is a lot of stress on “having funnnnn”.

And this concept of “fun” is often designed by **other** people for us such as the media and our peers etc. For example, for some people summer vacation is fun **only** if they go away somewhere on a vacation - particularly to that exclusive hideaway that is painted so alluringly in that shiny holiday brochure - otherwise they feel that they are the most miserable and deprived species on planet Earth!

This limits our capacity to have fun as there are other more enjoyable means to spend summer holidays if only we define fun for ourselves and not just follow what others are selling. Try going to Sandspit (a beach in Karachi) with friends and family and splash around Fun, fun, fun.

Slides 8- 9:

Perhaps people tell you that if you don't listen to music, you live a boring and pathetic life – so dumb, naa. Similarly how many of you have you been told by your friends that “oh my God you don't go to a birthday party then what do you do? Oh my God your mother doesn't celebrate your birthday! So how do you get any presents?” Are you ever told that? And if you are not told then you are looked at by very concerned eyes saying, “Aww poor thing. She doesn't have a birthday party.”

Student: People ask that why is it that you are not coming to a birthday party?

Hai na (yes)? *ke becharee* (that poor thing), no fun in her life. What a horrible Dracula mom she probably has! Now if you don't have any of the friends who have **your** kind of fun then what are you going to do? It is going to get really miserable but if you have other likeminded people who don't celebrate birthday parties, don't go to concerts and who don't listen to music and you guys figure out your own kind of fun, then there is nothing better than that.

Who tells you that somebody else has to define fun for you? If you are hanging out with the right kind of people then there is no limit to your fun!

See what Allah (swt) is saying make friends with people who remember Allah (swt) and are like minded. It doesn't matter what everybody else is doing because you are doing it too but in a different way.

Slides 10- 11:

Weddings! Weddings are a big fun event, aren't they? You know if you don't go to a *dholki*, that's death! So what do you mean have a *Valima* function only? And *Nikah* in a mosque!

Dholki, mayun, peela jora and God knows what more is defined as being fun.

Slides 12- 15:

There are various different arenas of fun that we have now such as *basant*, Valentine's day and fashion shows etc but how long does all of that fun last? What is the maximum amount of time that you have spent at a party? How many hours?

Student: Three to five hours.

Student: "I went for a sleepover to my friend's house and the fun lasted throughout the night so that's 12 hours!

Teacher: Ha aha. Ok so did the fun eventually come to an end?

Students: Yes

Slides 16- 18:

Teacher: Just like everything else in life, fun also comes to an end. You must have seen a bubble floating all over the place looking absolutely fabulous...and then what? Pop goes the weasel. Does that happen? Have you ever made foam bubbles? How long do they last? Not long.

Student: I just wanted to ask you something. Why does fun end?

Teacher: We are just coming to that.

See if you go for a sleepover to a friend's house like one of you just said that you do, then although you have fun but eventually you got to sleep otherwise you are going to turn into a zombie and start killing each other. When you are exhausted, the only thing that seems fun is to sleep. There is no fun activity or fun event that keeps going on and on. That just doesn't happen. It comes to an end and what price do we pay for that? For staying up all night and having good clean fun?

I am not even talking about fun that is *haram* but innocent activities such as maybe having fizzy drinks and chilli chips while talking & giggling away with friends at a sleep over etc but what price do you pay? You get exhausted and get cranky.

Student: health suffers, grades fall

Teacher: absolutely

Slides 20- 22:

Have you ever seen people in movies or on television who have a hangover after they get drunk? It is the most ugly and awful thing that can happen to a human being. It is beneath humanity, throwing up and having a severe headache, doing things they don't even remember later. It's awful! Last week we looked at all these glamorous stars, models, actors and singers and we witnessed the sad reality behind that glamorous façade. Such ugliness, heartache and depression that one shudders and wonders why would a human being do this to one's self deliberately?

The kind of fun which is defined by some people is totally stressful. For e.g., if you know there is a certain party coming up, you might be fretting over the fact that whether you would be invited or not, what to wear that you haven't worn before...it is just stressful! The kind of fun which is defined by other people, just stresses you out. Look at people who are chronic *shadi* (wedding) goers. Oh my God, *yeh wala jora tu us wali mehndi par pehna tha woh wali jewellery tu uske sath pehni thi. Wo wali chapel tu iske sath nahi match karte.* (I wore this outfit at that other function, this jewellery with that other outfit; this sandal does not match with this outfit) *Oh my God she was invited and I wasn't and everybody was saying that she was looking prettier than I was.* Stress, stress, stress.

Recently, there was a wedding at which one gold coin was given to all the guests as a giveaway – by the way this is a “new” thing for us *desis* (Pakistanis). In yonder years, weddings were simpler affairs. Later, the hosts were found inquiring, what did the guests say on getting the gift? One lady said *oho agar ek dey saktey they tu do dey dete* (if they could afford it why didn't they give two coins). You see there is no end to this craziness.

Slide 23:

We don't get any real satisfaction out of this artificial and glamorous concept of fun. It comes to an end and the destruction that it causes is unbelievable and then eventually the end is, (May Allah (swt) save all human beings from this), the Hell fire. It is *shaitan* (Satan) who makes us feel that it is not going to happen to me but to somebody else but Allah (swt) warns us not to change His words.

Slide 24:

Allah (swt) says in Surah Al Kahf: Verse 45

وَاضْرِبْ لَهُم مَّثَلَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَاخْتَلَطَ بِهِ نَبَاتُ الْأَرْضِ فَأَصْبَحَ هَشِيمًا تَذْرُوهُ الرِّيَّاحُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّقْتَدِرًا

“And tell them the example of the life of this world, it is like the rain which we sent down from the skies, the earth's vegetation mingles with it but soon it becomes dry stubble which the winds do scatter. It is only Allah who prevails over all things.”

Look at this
[Video clip 1 - Desert Rain]

Slides 25- 26:

This is a little clip from *National Geographic*. You can see a desert and then observe what happens after rain falls there. These are the rain clouds that are coming over a desert and these are dead plants. Notice how they come to life and seeds start sprouting when rain drops begin to fall. Allah (swt) brings life from something which is completely barren *subhanAllah* and now these seeds are scattered all over so that new vegetation grows. It takes longer, of course, than what the clip shows us but they have filmed it like this for us to see the after effect.

Slides 27- 28:

When the earth's vegetation mingles with rain, you see fields which are full of flowers or vegetation and then what happens?

Slides 29- 30:

It comes full circle and soon it becomes dry stubble which the winds scatter and it is only Allah (swt) who prevails over all things.

This is a very profound verse. This is the reason why the Prophet (pbuh) said that we should read Surah Al Kahf every Friday because you see it gives us the raw material to contemplate on the fact that this life is so temporary! It is as temporary as that bubble which is going to burst very soon. You asked why is it that fun doesn't last? Because we go through a circle of life, we begin and we end. It has to come to an end.

Slide 31:

Then Allah (swt) says in the next verse:

الْمَالُ وَالْبَنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا

“Wealth and children are an ornament of life of this world but good deeds which endure are better in your Lord's sight for reward and better in respect of hope.” (Surah Al Kahf: Verse 46)

Look at this.

Slides 32- 33:

Teacher: What is this? Our World, isn't it?

Students: Yes

Our world, our *duniya* – which looks so glamorous and attractive and we sometimes yearn for so bad - looks exactly like this bubble. There is absolutely no difference.

One day it is going to pop and when that day is going to come, it will be the end. The end of all the sky scrapers, the fancy malls and cinemas, the amusement parks, the fashion industry and the music industry and the wedding industry – of everything that seems so attractive and everlasting at the moment.

Slide 34:

Just like a seed or a frog or a butterfly has a life cycle. Little seed becomes a sapling, then a small plant, grows more and then what happens eventually? Eventually it finishes. Nothing lasts. Then another one grows in its place but the first one passes away, mingles with the earth.

Slide 35:

That is exactly what is going to happen to us. All of you were babies once, weren't you? And probably your mothers say, "*How you have grown! Just yesterday you were a teeny weeny chweety little thing!*" I look at my kids and wonder where has the time gone?

Sometimes you sit and see a family album and then you see your little baby pictures and then you are growing and it is your first day of school and then ...here you are ...time passes so fast. Doesn't it?

Teacher: What month is this?

Student: October

Can you believe it's October 2010 already? And when January 2010 came, we thought *ooh abhi tu pora saal para hai* (the whole year is ahead) and now it is almost at an end.

Teacher: And what does the passing of time mean?

Student: You are getting closer to your day of judgement.

You guys came here at 3:20, it is almost 5:15 right now. We are 2 hours closer to our death. Each and every one of us. Two hours of our life has passed, gone! There is no exception to this rule. You hear about people who live to be what 145 years old or 150 years perhaps. Prophet Nuh (as) lived for 900 years but then he died eventually...

Slides 36- 38:

That is **the** fact of life and one of the valuable lessons that we learn from Surah Al Kahf, to Him we belong and to Him is our return. No matter where you are, no matter what position in society you have, no matter which school you go to, no matter what kind of fun you have, this is where you end up. In the ground, to your Lord. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raajeoon* – to Him we belong and to Him is our return.

We must keep this **reality** in mind every time we see something glamorous that dazzles our eyes and pulls at our heart strings. We must remember, this too shall pass. This is not long lasting.

The only thing that is going to last are our righteous deeds.

This is our life span.

[Video clip 2 - Growing]

Watch it again. (play clip twice)

Allah (swt) mentions in verses 112 to 114 of Surah Al Mu'minun

قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ عَدَدَ سِنِينَ
قَالُوا لَبِثْنَا يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ فَاسْأَلِ الْعَادِينَ
قَالَ إِنْ لَبِثْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا لَوْ أَنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

He (Allah) will say: what number of years did you stay on earth?

They will say: we stayed a day or part of a day. Ask of those who keep account.

He (Allah) will say: you stayed not but a little, if you had only known!

(Surah Al Mu'minun 23: Verse 112 – 114)

That is what we too are going to feel like on the Day of Judgement and this is how our life passes in a flash.

So the whole purpose of this long discussion about *dajal* was trying to understand that all that glitters is not gold. This Surah reminds us of the reality of this perishing, temporary world and teaches us valuable lessons.

We must not waste our time in useless activities and see the deceit behind the glitz and glamour of this temporary world and worry about clocking in righteous deeds which are the **only** things that we will take away with us from this *duniya* and will be the **only** things that will be resurrected with us on the Day of Judgment. *InshaAllah*.

Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

References for Teacher

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