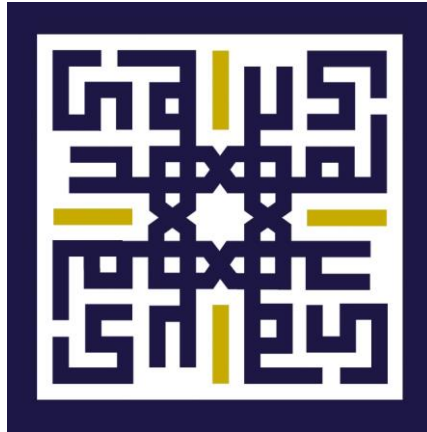


COURSE TITLE:

Thematic Tafsir:
**An Analysis of Shaytan's Strategies and
Psychology in the Qur'an**

Instructor:

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Course Title: An Analysis of Shaytan's Strategies and Psychology in the Qur'an
Course Duration: 4 weeks, every Thursday 7–8pm beginning 7th March 2019
Venue: Al-Mahdi Institute, 60 Weoley Park Road, Birmingham, B29 6RB

Course Description:

In this *tafsir* course, we will be taking a thematic approach to our topic: Analysing Shaytan's strategies and psychology, by looking holistically at the various *ayaat* across the different *surahs* that deal with the subject. Shaytan, is mentioned on nine specific occasions by name – Iblis - in the Qur'an in contexts which touch mostly on two events: his confrontation with the newly-created Adam, resulting in his condemnation, and his revenge on mankind, through the seduction of Adam. The name 'Shaytan' additionally appears about fifty times in the Qur'an, to touch on some aspect of his involvement in man's spiritual life. Through a close reading and interpretation of these holy verses using established *tafsir* works, we will examine the psychology behind his rebellion and the strategies that he used with our original parents, and continues to use with us, in order to achieve his aims.

Course Requirements:

All students are required to bring a personal copy of the Qur'an (in Arabic) and at least one English translation. Throughout this course there will be a lot of cross-referencing to other parts of the Qur'an, and students should feel comfortable annotating their own personal copy. While there are many good bilingual editions of the Qur'an, we strongly recommend the following:

1. *The Qur'an: With a Phrase-by-Phrase English Translation*, translated by 'Alī Qulī Qarā'i (Clarkville, Maryland: Katoons, 2006).
2. *The Qur'an: English Translation and Parallel Arabic Text*, translated by M. A. S Abdel Haleem (Oxford: OUP, 2010)
3. Those wishing to engage the Qur'an more thoroughly are encouraged to purchase *The Study Qur'an*, translated by Seyyed Hossein Nasr (Harper Collins, 2015).

Familiarization with the two events mentioned above: the story of the creation of Adam, and Shaytan's beguiling him and his wife, would be most useful. They can be found in the following *ayaat*:

2: 30-36

7: 11-22

15: 31-43

17: 61-63

18: 50

20: 116-121

38: 71-85

Course Schedule:

❖ Session 1 (7th March 2019)

Preliminary Discussions:

- Introduction and aim of the discussion at hand
- Shaytan/Iblis/Azazil: origins of his name (s)
- His nature
- Shaytan in the Jewish and Christian Traditions
- Alternative views of Iblis: Sufi tradition
- Brief recount of the two narratives in the Qur'an

❖ Session 2 (14th March 2019)

Iblis's Rebellion:

- Was he an angel?
- The nature of the prostration before Adam
- His reasoning behind his refusal to abide by God's command
- His subsequent banishment and respite
- God's clear warnings to Adam and Eve

❖ Session 3 (21st March 2019)

Shaytan's Seduction of Adam and Eve:

- The 6 strategies through which he managed to seduce them despite God's clear warnings.
- Other strategies that he used with others, and continues to use with us

❖ Session 4 (28th March 2019)

Why such a vendetta? (his psychology):

- Shaytan's promise in his own words
- The two main aspects of his psychology
- God's warnings and promise to us
- The difference between God's promise and Shaytan's promise
- The greatest trick the devil ever pulled
- Plenary discussion and feedback