

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The attributes of the Munaafiqeen

Allaah (swt) says in the Qur'aan:

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا

"Verily, the hypocrites will be in the lowest depths (grade) of the Fire; no helper will you find for them." (EMQ An-Nisaa', 4: 145)

The hypocrites are the most evil of all people and are eligible for the greatest of punishments in the hereafter. This is because they appear to be practicing Muslims, but yet they are the worst of all enemies as they conceal kufr and shirk. The importance of studying hypocrisy is as vital as studying Tawheed as they are both connected. If we do not study what kufr, shirk and nifaaq is, it is inevitable for us to fall into it, and hence become kaafir (Allaah forbid). If one does not know the attributes of the Mushrikeen, he will become Mushrik. And likewise, if one does not know the attributes of the hypocrites he will become one.

Only the Mu'min (believer) and the true Muslim (submitter) is afraid of committing nifaaq or kufr, and it is only the Muwahhid (monotheist) who is afraid of committing shirk. The only person who is free from any concerns related to kufr, shirk and hypocrisy is the kaafir. The primary concern of any Muslim is to keep as far away from kufr, shirk and nifaaq as possible, and then to worship Allaah (swt) exclusively.

It is narrated in Saheeh al-Bukhaarie by Ibn Abee Mulaikah, who said:

وقال ابن أبي مليكة: أدركت ثلاثين من أصحاب النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم، كلهم يخاف النفاق على نفسه، ما منهم أحد يقول: إنه على إيمان جبريل وميكائيل، ويذكر عن الحسن: ما خافه إلا مؤمن ولا أمنه إلا منافق

'I met thirty companions of the Prophet (saw) and each one of them was afraid of becoming a hypocrite, and none of them said that he was as strong as Jibreel or Meekaa-eel.' And Hasan (al-Basri) said: 'It is only a believer who fears from hypocrisy, and it is only a hypocrite who feels safe from it (hypocrisy).' (Saheeh al-Bukhaarie, Kitaab ul-Eemaan, chapter 36)

And the messenger Ibraaheem (as) said:

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا الْبَلَدَ آمِنًا وَاجْنُبْنِي وَبَنِيَّ أَنْ نَعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ

"...O my Lord! Make this city (Makkah) one of peace and security, and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols." (EMQ Ibraaheem, 14: 35)

One must ponder after reading such revelations that if the companions of the messenger Muhammad (saw) used to fear from hypocrisy, for greater reason should we not fear from it? If one of the greatest of prophets such as Ibraaheem (as) was fearful from shirk, should we not be? However it is very sad to see that in today's reality it is very rare to find people who are afraid of committing sin, let alone becoming kaafir, munaafiq or mushrik! People seem to have this idea that they will go to Jannah automatically and sail through the Day of Accountability.

Therefore, we should not be naïve and wake up to the very realistic possibilities of becoming Kaafir, Mushrik or Munaafiq by taking the necessary precautions and immunisations. The best we can do is by fulfilling all of Allaah's commands and to study Tawheed thoroughly. Then after this, whether we die Muslim or Kaafir is in the hands of Allaah (swt); may Allaah accept our deeds and make us die in the state of Eemaan and Tawheed, Aameen.

The messenger Muhammad (saw) taught us to always ask Allaah (swt) to die in the state of Eemaan and Tawheed due to the fact that Allaah is the one who controls our hearts and he can turn it the way he wants,

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whenever he wants:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنا وَمَيِّتِنا، وَصَغِيرِنا وَكَبِيرِنا، وَذَكَرِنا وَأُنْثانا، وَشَاهِدِنا وَغائِبِنا؛ اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ، وَمَنْ تَوَقَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَقَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ؛ اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَحْرِمْنَا أَجْرَهُ وَلَا تَقْتُلْنَا بَعْدَهُ

'Oh Allaah forgive our living and our dead, our present and our absent, our young and our old, our male and our female. Oh Allaah, whosoever of us you keep alive, keep him alive on Islaam, and whosoever of us you cause to die, cause him to die in Eemaan. Oh Allaah do not deprive us of our reward and do not subject to trials after his death.' (Riyaaḍ us-Saaliheen, book of visiting the sick #936)

If there was no possibility of becoming kaafir, the messenger Muhammad (saw) wouldn't have taught us to ask Allaah to make us live by Islaam and die in Eemaan. Let us now, with the will of Allaah (swt) study some of the attributes of the hypocrites:

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1. They claim to be believers

Allaah (swt) says in the Qur'aan:

إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا نَشْهَدُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُهُ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ

"When the hypocrites come to you they say: 'We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allaah.' Allaah knows that you are indeed His Messenger and Allaah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars indeed." (EMQ al-Munaafiqun, 63: 1)

Allaah describes the hypocrites as people who claim that they are believers, yet they are really kaafir. He calls them liars and disbelievers despite the fact that they explicitly claim by their tongues that they are Muslims and testify '*Laa ilaaha illaa Allaah*'. This is a very frightening point for any Muslim as we all claim to be believers, but yet how do we know that we are not the opposite? In another verse Allaah (swt) says:

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا نُزِّلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ...

"Have you seen those (hypocrites) who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, and that which was sent down before you..." (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 60)

Therefore we must all be aware that claiming to be Muslims alone does not guarantee us to be from the people of Jannah, and neither does it save us from hypocrisy. Without fulfilling Allaah's commands, keeping away from Taaghout and asking Allaah to keep us in the state of Eemaan, we might accidentally (or even purposely for some people) fall into the traps of hypocrisy, shirk and kufr.

However, there are two types of nifaaq, nifaaq akbar and nifaaq asghar. A person with nifaaq akbar (a real hypocrite) is actually a kaafir pretending to be a Muslim. Therefore he does not think to himself that he is a believer, rather he is claiming to be so in order to gain sanctity for his life. The nifaaq asghar could be found in a Muslim, who does believe he is a Muslim and also claims to be one. Therefore there are two levels of hypocrisy, one is a kaafir pretending to be a Muslim, and the other is an actual Muslim committing acts of hypocrisy.

2. They don't have Talaazum

At-Talaazum means moulding between the inner and the outer, i.e. to say and practice what you believe in. Every Muslim and kaafir has Talaazum; a Muslim believes in Allaah and manifests this in his actions (e.g. salaah) and sayings (e.g. tasbeeh). Likewise, every kaafir hates Allaah and his deen and hence we see them verbally declaring war against Islaam and Muslims (sayings), and acting upon this by killing innocent Muslim women, children and

elderly (actions).

However, the hypocrites have no Talaazum between the inner and the outer which makes them one of the most complicated of all people. This is because they say what they do not believe in and practice Islaam in order to be seen by men. Allaah (swt) says:

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ

“And of mankind, there are some (hypocrites) who say: “We believe in Allaah and the Last Day” while in fact they believe not.” (EMQ al-Baqarah, 2: 8)

3. They seek to deceive Allaah and the believers

Allaah says in the Qur’aan:

يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ

“They (think to) deceive Allaah and those who believe, while they only deceive themselves, and perceive (it) not!” (EMQ al-Baqarah, 2: 9)

And:

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَهُوَ خَادِعُهُمْ وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ قَامُوا كُسَالَى يُرَآؤُونَ النَّاسَ وَلَا يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

“Verily, the hypocrites seek to deceive Allaah, but it is He who deceives them. And when they stand up for As-Salaat (the prayer), they stand with laziness and to be seen of men, and they do not remember Allaah but little.” (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 142)

The hypocrites deceive themselves by claiming to be believers, while in fact they are kaafir. They seek to sanctify their lives by testifying the shahaadah whilst in actual fact they have no sanctity for their lives as they are not Muslim. Allaah (swt) has created two camps; the camp of Islaam and the camp of Kufr, yet these hypocrites wish if they can remain in both camps simultaneously. They want to benefit from the privileges of Islaam and eemaan such as inheritance, honour, dignity, brotherhood, respect, ‘Eid celebrations and rewards etc. but also wish to follow the kaafir way of life and doctrines.

4. They have a disease in their hearts

Allaah says in the Qur’aan:

فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا...

“In their hearts is a disease (of doubt and hypocrisy) and Allaah has increased their disease.” (EMQ al-Baqarah, 2: 10)

In the tafseer (explanation) of Ibn Katheer, he mentions that the term ‘disease’ in this verse means ‘doubt’. Hence, we always see those who have signs of hypocrisy often doubting the ‘Ulamaa, Allaah (swt) and the Mujaahideen etc. They doubt many aspects of the deen, such as the life after death, paradise and the Day of Judgement; hence they step outside the fold of Islaam.

5. They are liars, break promises and are untrustworthy

Continuing from the same verse above, Allaah (swt) says:

...وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ

“A painful torment is theirs because they used to tell lies.” (EMQ al-Baqarah, 2: 10)

And:

إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا تَشْهَدُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُهُ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ
لَكَاذِبُونَ

“When the hypocrites come to you they say: ‘We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allaah.’ Allaah knows that you are indeed His Messenger and Allaah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars indeed.” (EMQ al-Munaafiqun, 63: 1)

The most famous attributes of the Munaafiqoun is that they are liars, always breaking their promises and are untrustworthy whenever you entrust them with something. The messenger Muhammad (saw) also said in the famous hadeeth:

آية المنافق ثلاث: إذا حدث كذب، وإذا وعد أخلف، وإذا أؤتمن خان

“The signs of a hypocrite are three: When he speaks he lies, when he promises he breaks it and when he is trusted, he proves to be untrustworthy.” (Saheeh al-Bukhaarie, book of Eemaan, chapter 24: the signs of a hypocrite #33)

6. They become abusive when arguing

Due to their lack of knowledge and guidance, the hypocrites are known to be people who become very argumentative and abusive when he or she is involved in a discussion or argument. When they cannot provide answers for a certain issue or represent their case properly they become abusive (using foul language, swear words etc.) and obnoxious. The messenger Muhammad (saw) said in a different narration of the same hadeeth above:

...وإذا خاصم فجر

“...and when he quarrels he becomes abusive (evil and insulting).” (Al-Bukhaarie #34)

7. They betray their covenants, treaties and contracts

During the time of amin (security) in the UK, people often used to ask the question ‘how can I break my covenant’. The Muslim never breaks his covenant as it is a great sin in Islaam and another sign of a hypocrite. Again, the messenger (saw) said in the same hadeeth as above, but in a different narration:

...وإذا عاهد غدر

‘...and when he has a covenant (or contract) he betrays it.’ (Al-Bukhaarie #34)

Furthermore, the messenger (saw) has informed us of the humiliation that is in store for the one who intentionally violates his covenant:

لكل غادر لواء يوم القيامة يقال: هذه غدرة فلان

‘For every betrayer he will have a banner on the day of judgement, proclaiming: this is so-and-so who betrayed his covenant.’ (Riyaad us-Saaliheen #1585)

8. They are the cause of fitnah and corruption, yet claim to be peace-makers

The hypocrites always comment on and look to the faults of others, and never stop to think about their own mistakes and sins. They are always making fitnah and corruption, but yet point their fingers to someone else other than themselves. Allaah (swt) says:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ

“And when it is said to them: ‘Make not mischief on the earth,’ they say: ‘We are only peacemakers.’
Verily! They are the ones who make mischief, but they perceive not.” (EMQ al-Baqarah, 2: 11-12)

In this verse, almighty Allaah (swt) informs us that the hypocrites are the cause of fitnah (trials and corruption), yet they claim to be peace-makers. What is more surprising to know about is that they are completely unaware of the fact that they are the mischief makers. They strongly believe they are good, well-mannered people and establish peace on the earth, but Allaah (swt) informs us that they are completely the opposite.

9. They make **Tahaakum** (arbitration) to **Taaghout**

Allaah says in the Qur’aan:

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا نُزِّلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَّحَكُمُوا إِلَى
الطَّاغُوتِ وَقَدْ أُمِرُوا أَنْ يَكْفُرُوا بِهِ وَيُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُمْ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا

“Have you seen those (hypocrites) who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, and that which was sent down before you, and they wish to go for judgement (in their disputes) to the **Taaghout** (false judges, presidents, prime-ministers etc.) while they have been ordered to reject them. But **Shaytaan** (Satan) wishes to lead them far astray.” (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 60)

In this verse Allaah (swt) reminds us of some of the points which are mentioned above, such as that they claim to believe in that which was revealed from almighty Allaah (swt). But he also informs us of another attribute of the hypocrites, which is of arbitration to **Taaghout** (man-made law, magicians etc.).

Arbitration to other than Allaah is shirk akbar (one of the greatest and unforgivable sins), yet these hypocrites are described as those who not only regularly arbitrate to other than Allaah, but also seek and have the willingness to refer to other than Allaah to solve any disputes. They are people who continuously justify their apostasy, and in the worst case scenarios they may even quote a verse or two out of context in order to justify their corruption.

10. They are pleasing to ones’ ears, have beautiful recitation and rational arguments

One of the greatest and influential talents of the hypocrites is that they can mislead and fool people by their ‘impressive’ rational arguments or amusing recitation. Allaah (swt) says in the Qur’aan:

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ تُعْجِبُكَ أَجْسَامُهُمْ وَإِنْ يَقُولُوا تَسْمَعُ لِقَوْلِهِمْ كَأَنَّهِمْ خَشَبٌ مُسْتَدَدٌ يَحْسَبُونَ كُلَّ صَيْحَةٍ
عَلَيْهِمْ هُمُ الْعَدُوُّ فَاحْذَرْهُمْ قَاتَلَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ

“And when you look at them, their bodies please you; and when they speak, you listen to their words. They are as blocks of wood propped up. They think that every cry is against them. They are the enemies, so beware of them. May Allaah curse them! How are they denying (or deviating from) the Right Path.” (EMQ al-Munaafiqun, 63: 4)

Furthermore, the messenger of Allaah (saw) said:

يُخْرَجُ فِيكُمْ قَوْمٌ تَحْقِرُونَ صَلَاتَكُمْ مَعَ صَلَاتِهِمْ، وَصِيَامَكُمْ مَعَ صِيَامِهِمْ، وَعَمَلَكُمْ مَعَ
عَمَلِهِمْ، وَيَقْرَأُونَ الْقُرْآنَ لَا يَجَاوِزُ حَنَاجِرَهُمْ، يَمْرُقُونَ مِنَ الدِّينِ كَمَا يَمْرُقُ السَّهْمُ مِنَ
الرَّمِيَةِ

“There will appear some people among you whose salaah will make you look down upon yours, and whose fasting will make you look down upon yours, and whose good deeds will make you look down upon yours. They will recite the Qur’aan but it will not go past their throats (they will have no understanding of what they are reciting). They will go outside the fold of Islaam the way the arrow leaves the bow...’ (Al-Bukhaarie, book: virtues of the Qur’aan, chapter 36 hadeeth #5058)

11. They fear from the Qur'aan to address them, and do not look to their own faults

It is from the Sunnah of the messenger (saw) and his companions (raa) to recite the Qur'aan in a way where you can apply it to yourself, and as though Allaah is speaking to you directly. However, the hypocrites never like to admit their mistakes and recite the Qur'aan as though Allaah is addressing them. Hence Allaah (swt) says:

يَحْذَرُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ أَنْ تُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُورَةٌ تُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ...

"The hypocrites fear lest a Sourah (chapter of the Qur'aan) should be revealed about them, showing them what is in their hearts..." (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 64)

Therefore, whenever we are studying the deen we should always apply what we learn to ourselves, looking to correct our mistakes before picking on the mistakes of others.

12. They mock the believers and Islaam

Allaah (swt) says in continuation of the same verse above:

... قُلْ اسْتَهِزُّوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ مُخْرِجٌ مَا تَحْذَرُونَ

"...Say: '(Go ahead and) mock! But certainly Allaah will bring to light all that you fear.'" (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 64)

This verse was revealed during the battle of Tabouk concerning those munaafiqoun who were mocking the believers, saying that their memorisation of the Qur'aan gave them nothing but big stomachs. This same kind of sarcasm and mocking is very common to see today from the moderate sell-out Muslims who mock the Mujaahideen and the Islaamic activists who are working to see the black flag of Islaam over 10 Downing Street or the Whitehouse.

It is very common to hear the hypocrites saying 'look at these people, they believe to work for Khilaafah (or support Jihaad) in the UK' or 'how can uneducated people who claim benefits from the government be able to establish the Islaamic state?' etc. These are just some examples of the statements of those who have a disease in their hearts. Allaah (swt) also informs us of the excuses they use to justify their apostasy:

وَلَكِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا نَخُوضُ وَنَلْعَبُ قُلْ أَبِاللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ وَرَسُولِهِ كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَهْزِئُونَ
لَا تَعْتَدُوا قَدْ كَفَرْتُمْ بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ إِنْ نَعْفُ عَنْ طَائِفَةٍ مِنْكُمْ نُعَذِّبْ طَائِفَةٌ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ

"If you ask them (about their mocking), they say: 'We were only talking idly and joking.' Say: 'Was it at Allaah, and His Aayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) and His Messenger (SAW) that you were mocking?' Make no excuse; you have disbelieved after you had believed. If we pardon some of you, we will punish others amongst you because they were Mujrimoun (disbelievers, polytheists, sinners, criminals, etc.)." (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 65-66)

Allaah (swt) also says:

وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَسْتَمِعُ إِلَيْكَ حَتَّى إِذَا خَرَجُوا مِنْ عِنْدِكَ قَالُوا لِلَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ مَاذَا قَالَ آنفًا وَلِتُكَذِّبُوا طَبَعُ
اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَهْوَاءَهُمْ

"And among them are some who listen to you till, when they go out from you. They say to those who have been given knowledge: 'What has he said just now (in a mocking tone - not understanding what he has said)?' Such are men whose hearts Allaah has sealed, and they follow their lusts (evil desires)." (EMQ Muhammad, 47: 16)

13. They never go to Jihaad, participate in any struggle nor make hijrah

During battle of Uhud the Munaafiqoun fled from the battlefield and returned back to Madeenah. Some of the believers became confused in relation to how they should deal with the Munaafiqoun. The companions of the messenger (saw) believed that they should be killed wherever they are seen, whereas others were arguing the

opposite saying they (the hypocrites) are Muslims and testify the kalimah. In order to solve and clarify this dispute, Allaah (swt) revealed the following verse:

فَمَا لَكُمْ فِي الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِتْنَةٍ وَاللَّهُ أَركَسَهُمْ بِمَا كَسَبُوا أَتُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَهْدُوا مَنْ أَضَلَّ اللَّهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ
فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ سَبِيلًا

“Then what is the matter with you that you are divided into two parties about the hypocrites? Allaah has cast them back (to disbelief) because of what they have earned. Do you want to guide him whom Allaah has made to go astray? And he whom Allaah has made to go astray, you will never find for him any way (of guidance).” (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 88)

Furthermore, a hadeeth of the messenger Muhammad (saw) clearly highlights the hypocrisy of the one who has no intention for Jihaad:

من مات ولم يغز ولم يحدث نفسه بغزو مات على شعبة من نفاق

‘He who dies without to fight in Allaah’s cause, nor having the intention of doing so, will die on one of the branches of hypocrisy.’ (Muslim and Riyaad us-Saaliheen, chapter 234, hadeeth number #1341)

With regards to the Hijrah, the hypocrites didn’t want to leave their ‘beloved’ homeland and were afraid of fighting Jihaad for the sake of Allaah. Allaah (swt) revealed:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنْتُمْ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةً
فَتَهَاجَرُوا فِيهَا فَأُولَئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا
إِلَّا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانَ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ حِيلَةً وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ سَبِيلًا
فَأُولَئِكَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَعْفُوَ عَنْهُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَفُورًا غَفُورًا

“Verily! As for those whom the angels take (in death) while they are wronging themselves (as they stayed among the disbelievers even though emigration was obligatory for them), they (angels) say (to them): ‘In what (condition) were you?’ They reply: ‘We were weak and oppressed on earth.’ They (angels) say: ‘Was not the earth of Allaah spacious enough for you to emigrate therein?’ Such men will find their abode in Hell - What an evil destination!

Except the weak ones among men, women and children who cannot devise a plan, nor are they able to direct their way. For these there is hope that Allaah will forgive them, and Allaah is Ever Oft Pardoning, Oft-Forgiving.” (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 97-99)

It is always important to remember this crucial point that the Munaafiqoun hate Jihaad, the Mujaahideen and to make hijrah for the sake of Allaah (swt). If you feel like this then know you have one of the attributes of a hypocrite and ask Allaah (swt) to save you from nifaaq.

14. They have Muwalaat (alliance) with the kuffaar and live between the Mushrikeen

One of the signs of a person who is indulging in shirk is to live in-between the kuffaar and Mushrikeen without to distinguish themselves. The same evidences which are mentioned above can be used to justify this point, as well as the hadeeth of the messenger (saw) who said:

أنا بريء من كل مسلم يقيم بين أظهر المشركين... لا تراءى ناراهما

‘I am free from any Muslim who lives between the mushrikeen...and do not distinguish their fire (from the kuffaar).’ (Sunan Abou Daawud, book of Jihaad, chapter 105, hadeeth #2645)

This hadeeth clearly shows us the dangers of living between the kuffaar, integrating and not being distinguished from them. It also highlights the obligation and necessity for Muslims to live together as a community and implement the Sharee’ah; or else the messenger of Allaah will disassociate himself from us on the Day of Judgement, at a time when we will be so needy for his intercession.

15. They make numerous excuses not to do their duties and obligations

The hypocrites are always full of excuses to shun away their obligations and duties, as mentioned also in the previous verses. Allaah (swt) says in the Qur'aan:

يَعْتَدِرُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ إِذَا رَجَعْتُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ قُلْ لَا تَعْتَدِرُوا لَنْ نُؤْمِنَ لَكُمْ قَدْ نَبَّأَنَا اللَّهُ مِنْ أَخْبَارِكُمْ وَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

"They (the hypocrites) will present their excuses to you (Muslims), when you return to them. Say (O Muhammad SAW) 'Present no excuses, we shall not believe you. Allaah has already informed us of the news concerning you.' Allaah and His Messenger will observe your deeds. In the end you will be brought back to the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen, then He (Allaah) will inform you of what you used to do." (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 94)

Furthermore, during the battle of Tabouk they used many excuses to be exempted from Jihaad (please refer to the article 'Lessons from the battle of Tabouk'). One of the excuses they used was the severe heat which Allaah (swt) had prescribed during the summer months:

فَرِحَ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ بِمَقْعَدِهِمْ خِلَافَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَكَرِهُوا أَنْ يُجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَالُوا لَا تَنْفِرُوا فِي الْحَرِّ قُلْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ أَشَدُّ حَرًّا لَوْ كَانُوا يَفْقَهُونَ

"Those who stayed away (from Tabouk expedition) rejoiced in their staying behind the Messenger of Allaah; they hated to strive and fight with their properties and their lives in the Cause of Allaah, and they said: 'March not forth in the heat.' Say: 'The Fire of Hell is more intense in heat', if only they could understand!" (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 81)

Indeed Allaah speaks the truth, the heat of hellfire is incomparable to the fire and heat of the dunyaa. The messenger Muhammad (saw) said:

نار بني آدم التي توقدون جزء من سبعين جزء من نار جهنم

'The fire which the son of Aadam kindles with is one part out of 70 parts of the fire of Hell.' (Tafseer ibn Katheer of the above verse, 9: 81)

Many people make similar excuses in order not to do da'wah, demonstrations, burning the flags of Taaghout etc. They often argue that we should use hikmah (which means 'rational desire' based upon the context they are using it in) and may even use a few verses and ahaadeeth which are taken completely out of context. They will always say 'what is the purpose of doing so-and-so' or 'not now, it is not wise' etc.

16. They justify their haram, kufr and shirk

Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

وَلِيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ نَافَقُوا وَقِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا قَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَوْ ادْفَعُوا قَالُوا لَوْ نَعْلَمُ قِتَالًا لَاتَّبَعْنَاكُمْ هُمْ لِلْكَفْرِ يَوْمًا أَقْرَبُ مِنْهُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ يَقُولُونَ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ مَا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَكْتُمُونَ

"And that He might test the hypocrites, it was said to them: 'Come, fight in the Way of Allaah or (at least) defend yourselves.' They said: 'Had we known that fighting will take place, we would certainly have followed you.' They were that day, nearer to disbelief than to Faith, saying with their mouths what was not in their hearts. And Allaah has full knowledge of what they conceal." (EMQ Aali 'Imraan, 3: 167)

It is well known that the hypocrites always justify their apostasy 'if only we knew there was da'wah taking place we would have been there' etc. Allaah informs us that people become kaafir or murtad with the excuse of becoming closer to Allaah! He (swt) almighty says:

أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ

"Surely, the deen is for Allaah only. And those who take Auliya' besides Him (say): 'We worship them only that they

may bring us near to Allaah.' Verily, Allaah will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. Truly, Allaah guides not him who is a liar, and a disbeliever." (EMQ az-Zumar, 39: 3)

Therefore it is not surprising to see the hypocrites justifying their kufr and shirk actions of voting for man-made law, going to parliament to legislate law, joining the army or the police etc. The hypocrites and mushrikeen never say 'I have to commit shirk and kufr or else...' rather they use so-called 'Islaamic' excuses and justifications.

17. They commit kufr I'iraad – turn their backs to Allaah (swt)

Allaah (swt) says:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَإِلَىٰ الرَّسُولِ رَأَيْتَ الْمُنافِقِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنكَ صُدُودًا

"And when it is said to them: "Come to what Allaah has sent down and to the Messenger (Muhammad SAW)," you see the hypocrites turn away from you with aversion." (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 61)

And:

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ ذُكِّرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ ثُمَّ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا إِنَّا مِنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُنتَقِمُونَ

"And who does more wrong than he who is reminded of the Aayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, ahkaam etc.) of his Lord, then he turns aside there from? Verily, We shall exact retribution from the Mujrimoun (criminals, disbelievers, polytheists, sinners, etc.)." (EMQ as-Sajdah, 32: 22)

The hypocrites always turn their backs to Ahkaam (divine rules) and the Ulamaa'. When you give them hukm that does not suit them or their situation, they will say 'I do not follow that opinion', even though there is no other opinion regarding that issue. When you quote them verses they will say 'that is your interpretation of the Qur'aan' etc.

18. They command the evil and forbid the good

Allaah (swt) says in his Book:

الْمُنافِقُونَ وَالْمُنافِقَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ مِنْ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمُنْكَرِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَقْبِضُونَ أَيْدِيَهُمْ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَنَسِيَهُمْ إِنَّ الْمُنافِقِينَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

"The hypocrites, men and women, are from one another, they enjoin (on the people) al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief and polytheism of all kinds and all that Islaam has forbidden), and forbid (people) from al-Ma'rouf (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and they close their hands [from giving (spending in Allaah's Cause) alms, etc.]. They have forgotten Allaah, so He has forgotten them. Verily, the hypocrites are the Faasiqoun (rebellious, disobedient to Allaah)." (EMQ at-Tawbah, 9: 67)

They will try their utmost effort to prevent you from doing da'wah according to the method of Ahl us-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah, calling for Jihaad, working for Allaah's deen or even creating awareness about Islaam outside the 'Masjid' etc. Hence forbid the ma'rouf (the good) and command all forms of munkar (evil), such as voting, joining police, mortgages, insurance etc.

19. They show-off their good deeds

Allaah (swt) says:

إِنَّ الْمُنافِقِينَ يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَهُوَ خَادِعُهُمْ وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ قَامُوا كُسَالًا يُرَآؤْنَ النَّاسَ وَلَا يُذْكَرُونَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

"Verily, the hypocrites seek to deceive Allaah, but it is He Who deceives them. And when they stand up for As-Salaah (the prayer), they stand with laziness and to be seen of men, and they do not remember Allaah but little." (EMQ an-Nisaa,

The hypocrites show-off with their Arabic, tajweed – recitation of the Qur’aan, adhaan, knowledge etc. They are people who always show-off their good deeds in order to be praised and for people to listen to them. Ar-Riyaa (showing-off) is a great sin and an action of shirk, as all our actions should be done purely for the sake of seeking the pleasure of Allaah (swt) and not to be praised by people. The messenger (saw) said:

إِنْ أَخَوْفَ مَا أَخَافَ عَلَيْكُمُ الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرَ. قَالُوا: وَمَا الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟
قال: الرياء

‘The thing I fear for you the most is shirk asghar. They (believers) asked: ‘what is shirk asghar?’ he (saw) replied: showing-off.’ (Musnad Imaam Ahmad, volume 5, Musnad: al-Ansaar, hadeeth: Muhammad bin Labeed [ra])

20. They wish for you to become kaafir like them and follow their path

Allaah (swt) says:

وَدُّوا لَوْ تَكْفُرُونَ كَمَا كَفَرُوا فَتَكُونُونَ سَوَاءً فَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ حَتَّىٰ يُهَاجِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَخُذُوهُمْ وَأَقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ وَجَدْتُمُوهُمْ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ وِلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا

“They wish that you reject Faith, as they have rejected (Faith), and thus that you all become equal (like one another). So take not Auliyyaa’ (protectors or friends) from them, till they emigrate in the Way of Allaah (to Muhammad SAW). But if they turn back (from Islaam), take (hold) of them and kill them wherever you find them, and take neither Auliyyaa’ (protectors or friends) nor helpers from them.” (EMQ an-Nisaa, 4: 89)

The hypocrites are so evil that they wish for you to become kaafir just like them and to follow their corrupted and evil path. They wish for us to leave the saviour sect and to join their hizb (party) of Shaytaan.

21. They want us to fear the kuffaar

Allaah (swt) says:

الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

“Those (i.e. believers) unto whom the people (hypocrites) said, ‘Verily, the people (pagans) have gathered against you (a great army), therefore, fear them.’ But it (only) increased them in Eemaan, and they said: ‘Allaah (Alone) is Sufficient for us, and He is the Best Disposer of affairs (for us).’” (EMQ Aali ‘Imraan, 3: 173)

The hypocrite will always have a defeatist mentality and will always try to incite fear into the hearts of the believers from the kuffaar. One cannot be Muslim if they say ‘what can we do, there are too many of them and we do not have enough weapons etc.’ Hence Allaah (swt) says:

And:

إِنَّمَا ذَلِكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ يُخَوِّفُ أَوْلِيَاءَهُ فَلَا تَخَافُوهُمْ وَخَافُوا مِنِّي إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

“It is only Shaitaan (Satan) that suggests to you the fear of his Auliyyaa’ [supporters and friends (polytheists, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah and in His Messenger, Muhammad SAW)], so fear them not, but fear Me, if you are (true) believers.” (EMQ Aali ‘Imraan, 3: 175)

22. They are lazy in their Salaah

As mentioned in point #19, Allaah informs us in the verse (4: 142) that the hypocrites stand with laziness in their salaah. Another evidence for this can be found in sourah al-Maa’oun:

فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ
الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَآءُونَ
وَيَمْتَنُونَ الْمَاعُونَ

*“So woe unto those performers of Salaah (hypocrites),
Who delay their Salaah (prayer) from their stated fixed times,
Those who do good deeds only to be seen (of men),
And refuse Al-Maa'oun (small kindnesses e.g. salt, sugar, water, etc.).” (EMQ al-Maa'oun, 107: 4-7)*

The prophet of Allaah (saw) also described the hypocrite as the one who finds salaat ul-'Ishaa and Fajr very difficult to pray (regularly missing Fajr or praying 'Ishaa too early for the sake of going home to sleep).

23. They show Islaam and Eemaan in ease, but curse and ridicule when ever they are faced with any form of hardship or calamity

Allaah (swt) says:

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ حَرْفٍ فَإِنْ أَصَابَهُ خَيْرٌ اطْمَأَنَّ بِهِ وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ فِتْنَةٌ انْقَلَبَ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ خَسِرَ
الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةَ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ

“And among mankind is he who worships Allaah as it were, upon the very edge (i.e. in doubt); if good befalls him, he is content therewith; but if a trial befalls him, he turns back on his face (i.e. reverts back to disbelief after embracing Islaam). He loses both this world and the Hereafter. That is the evident loss.” (EMQ al-Hajj, 22: 11)

The hypocrites are always happy with you when everything is nice and easy, professional, well organised, and structured, but when they are being tested by almighty Allaah (swt) they completely leave Ahl us-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah, the deen and their duties.

Conclusion

The purpose of studying this topic is to be aware of the signs of the hypocrite, for the sake of not becoming one. We should ask Allaah (swt) regularly to save us from hypocrisy, kufr, shirk and bid'ah, and for us to die in the state of Eemaan and Tawheed. We should also always be aware of the high possibilities and chances of becoming kaafir, and prevent this by fulfilling all of Allaah's commandments and our obligations.