

Seeking Refuge in the Perfect Words of Allāh

أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّاتِ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ

A-'oo-thu bi-ka-li-mā-til-lā-hit-tām-mā-ti min shar-ri mā khalaqa.

**I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allāh from the evil
(that comes from) what He has created**

Text of the Hadeeth:

It is confirmed in the Saḥeeh of Imām Muslim, from the Hadeeth of Aboo Hurairah (RadyAllāhu an-hu) that he said: A man came to the Prophet (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) and said: O Messenger of Allāh (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam): I came across a scorpion which stung me last night. He (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: “If only you had said – at the approach of evening: **‘I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allāh from the evil (that comes from) what He has created’**, it (i.e. the scorpion) would not have harmed you.”

[Saḥeeh Muslim, no. 2709; Aḥmad, 2/90; Saḥeeh at-Tirmidhee, 3/187; Saḥeeh Ibn Mājah, 2/266. Fortress of the Muslim, no. 97]

In the narration of at-Tirmidhee it has: “Whoever says three times – when he reaches the evening: **‘I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allāh from the evil (that comes from) what He has created’** – he will not be harmed by any *Humatun* (sting or bite of a poisonous creature) during that night.”

[Sunan at-Tirmidhee, no. 3604. Al-Albānee declared it to be authentic in ‘Saḥeeh al-Jāmi’, no. 6427. ‘Fortress’, no. 97]

Explanation of the Hadeeth:

Al-Humah refers to the sting/bite of every poisonous creature, like the scorpion and whatever is similar to it.

At the end of this Hadeeth at-Tirmidhee mentions that Suhail ibn Abi Sālih – one of the narrators of this Hadeeth - said: ‘Our family members had learned this supplication, and they used to recite it every evening. Then, one of the young girls among them was stung (by a poisonous creature), yet she did not feel any pain or harm.’

This Hadeeth contains a clear indication of the excellence of this supplication; and that whoever recites it at the onset of the evening will be protected and preserved – by the

permission of Allāh – from being harmed by the sting of a snake or scorpion or any similar creature.

The Prophet’s (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying, in the Hadeeth: ‘**I seek refuge...**’ – means to search for shelter and to hold fast to something for protection. Its reality is to flee from something which you fear, fleeing to one who can protect you from it and defend you from its evil/harm.

Hence, the one who seeks refuge in Allāh has fled from that which will harm him or destroy him, fleeing to his Lord and his Master, throwing himself in front of Him, clinging to Him, seeking safety through Him, and turning to Him for shelter.

The intended meaning of his (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: ‘...**the Words of Allāh**’ – is the Noble Qur’ān. It has also been said that what is intended is His Words that contain the *divine decrees* which govern everything that happens in the universe. And what is meant by ‘...**Perfect** (words)...’ is that His Words are complete and perfect, to the extent that they contain none of the deficiencies, defects, or shortcomings that are found in the speech of human beings.

The Prophet’s (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: ‘...**from the evil (that comes from) what He has created**’ – i.e. from every evil, in any created being that evil may come from, including animals or other than them, whether it be a human or a *Jinn*; or a crawling creature or those that walk upon four legs; or even if it be a wind or a bolt of lightning – no matter what type of calamity or affliction it might be, in this world or the hereafter. (See: ‘Tayseer al-Azeez al-Hameed’, by Shaykh Sulaimān ibn Abdullāh, pgs. 213 – 214)

Taken from: ‘***Explanation of the Morning & Evening Adhkaar***’

(Words of Remembrance of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ)

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