

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

**Bis-mil-lāh**

(In the Name of Allāh)

In the Sunnah there are reports of many important words of remembrance related to what a Muslim is expected to say upon entering the home.<sup>1</sup> In summary, it is recommended and praiseworthy for the Muslim - at the time of entering the home - to say: "**Bis-mil-lāh**" (In the Name of Allāh); to praise and glorify Allāh much, and to offer the Islamic greetings of peace, whether someone is in the house or not.

### **The text of the Hadeeth:**

On the authority of Jābir Bin Abdullāh (may Allāh be pleased with him), that he heard the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying:

*"When a person enters his home and **mentions the Name of Allāh** at the time of entering and at the time of eating his food, the Shaytān (Satan) will say (to the other devils): 'There is no shelter here for you all (i.e., devils) nor any food (tonight).'*"<sup>2</sup>

### **Explanation of the Hadeeth:**

This Hadeeth indicates that a Muslim's mentioning the name of his Lord (i.e., saying **Bis-mil-lāh**), at the time of entering his house and at the time of taking his food and drink, is a means of his preservation and protection from Shaytān. Indeed, Shaytān (the Devil) follows behind the Muslim in every condition, situation or circumstance, including when he enters his house, takes his food and drink and otherwise.

Hence, if the Muslim *remembers* his Lord (i.e., saying **Bis-mil-lāh**) the Shaytān will withdraw, lose hope of (harming) him, and not come near him. The Muslim will then be protected from Shaytān and from his plotting and traps.

However, if the Muslim is *unmindful* of the remembrance of Allāh, then Shaytān will stick close to him and share with him in his **food** and **drink** and his **shelter** (i.e. place of rest for that night).

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<sup>1</sup> From among the more well-known supplications for entering the home is: "*In the Name of Allāh we enter, in the Name of Allāh we leave, and upon Allāh our Lord we depend.*" However, due to the *difference of opinion* among the scholars concerning its *authenticity*, we avoided it. See: Comments of Shaykh al-Albāni in '*al-Kalim at-Tayyib*', Hadeeth no. 62 where he said that it contains a break in the chain (**Inqitā'**) and is therefore weak (**Da'eef**). However, Shaykh Abdul-Azeez Ibn Bāz considered it Hasan (acceptable) in '*Tuḥfat al-Akḥbār*' p. 281.

<sup>2</sup> Saḥeeḥ Muslim, no. 2018.

Allāh, the Most High, says:

وَمَنْ يَعْشُ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

'And whoever turns away blindly from the remembrance of the Most Gracious (Allāh), We appoint for him a Shaytān (devil) to be a **companion** for him'. (43:36 )

This means that this Shaytān will accompany him, stick close to him and push him to commit sins.

*Remembrance of Allāh*, the Mighty and the Majestic, drives away the Shaytān and protects the human being. Hence, the one who *remembers* Allāh is guarded from the Shaytān - by the protection of Allāh.

Moreover, Shaytān gives up all hope of harming him and realizes that he has no way to overcome this Muslim. This is the reason why it is stated in the previously mentioned Hadeeth that when Shaytān hears the person mentioning the Name of Allāh upon *entering* his home and upon taking his *food*, he says: "There is no **shelter** here for you all tonight, nor any **food**." He says this to his soldiers and helpers. So, he and his helpers lose hope of sharing in the **shelter** and **food** of the one who remembers Allāh.

As for the one who is **unmindful** and **forgets** Allāh, he will never be able to destroy this relationship of sharing (with the devils), nor will he ever be safe from their harm. As Allāh, the Most High, says:

وَأَجْلِبْ عَلَيْهِم بِخَيْلِكَ وَرَجِلِكَ وَشَارِكْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ وَعَدَّهُمْ

وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا ﴿٦٤﴾

"...and make assaults on them with your cavalry and your infantry, share with them wealth and children and make promises to them. But, Shaytān promises them nothing but *deceit*." (17:64)

This is in reference to those who are *unmindful* of Allāh and fail to remember Him. As for those who remember Allāh, their affair is as Allāh, the Most High, said:

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ وَكِيلًا ﴿٦٥﴾

Verily, My servants (true believers who remember Allāh frequently) - you (Shaytān) have no authority over them. And All-Sufficient is your Lord as a Guardian. ( 17:65)

Shaykh Abdur-Raḥmān As-Sa'dee (may Allāh have mercy on him) in his explanation of this verse says: "Many of the scholars of *tafseer* mentioned that this **sharing** by Shaytān in the wealth and children includes failing to mention the Name of Allāh at the time of **eating** and **drinking** and **sexual relations** (with one's spouse); and that if one does not say *Bis-mil-lāh*, on these occasions Shaytān will have a share in it, as mentioned in the Hadeeth," (i.e., the Hadeeth of Jābir previously mentioned).

[Taken from: '*Reflections Upon Selected Daily Supplications*' - Abu Muhammad]