

When Riding In A Vehicle Or On An Animal

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي

سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ ﴿١٣﴾

وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ
نَفْسِي فَاعْفُرْ لِي؛ فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

**Bis-mil-lāh, Wal-ḥam-du lil-lāh, Sub-ḥā-nal-la-dhee sakh-kha-ra la-nā hā-dhā wa mā kun-nā la-hoo
muq-ri-noon wa In-nā i-lā Rab-bi-nā la-mun-qa-li-boon.**

**Al-ḥam-du-lil-lāh, Al-ḥam-du-lil-lāh, Al-ḥam-du-lil-lāh Allāhu Ak-bar, Allāhu Ak-bar, Allāhu Ak-
bar. Sub-ḥā-na-kal-lāhum-ma, In-nee ḍḥa-lam-tu naf-see, fa-gh-fir lee, fa-in-na-hu lā yagh-fi-rudh-
dhu-noo-ba il-lā An-ta.**

In the Name of Allāh; All Praise belongs to Allāh. O How Perfect is He Who has subdued this (vehicle) to us, and we were not able to do it (on our own). Indeed, unto our Lord we are returning.

Praise be to Allāh, Praise be to Allāh, Praise be to Allāh. Allāh is the Greatest, Allāh is the Greatest, Allāh is the Greatest. O How Perfect You are, O Allāh! Indeed, I have wronged myself. So, forgive me. Indeed, no one forgives sins but You!¹

The text of the Hadeeth

On the authority of 'Ali Bin Rabe'e'ah (may Allāh be pleased with him) who said: "I witnessed 'Ali (may Allāh be pleased with him) when a riding animal was brought to him to mount it. When he put his foot in the stirrup, he said: '**Bis-mil-lāh**' (In the Name of Allāh). Then, when he mounted its back, he said: '**Al-ḥam-du lil-lāh**' (All praise belongs to Allāh). Then, he said: '**Sub-ḥā-nal-la-dhee sakh-kha-ra la-nā hā-dhā...**' 'O How Perfect is He Who has subdued this (vehicle) to us...' Then (upon completing this supplication) he laughed, and it was said to him: 'O Ameer Al-Mu'mineen (leader of the believers)! Why are you laughing?' He replied: 'I saw the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) do what I have just done,

¹ Fortress of the Muslim, no. 206.

and then he laughed. So, I asked him: 'O Messenger of Allāh! Why are you laughing?' He replied: 'Verily, your Lord is amazed when His servant says: 'Forgive me my sins', knowing that no one can forgive sins except Me!''²

Explanation of the Hadeeth:

The saying of the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "**Sub-ḥā-nal-la-dhee sakh-kha-ra la-nā hā-dha**" (O How Perfect is He Who has subdued this vehicle to us) means: *I declare Allāh - Who has made this vehicle subdued and obedient to us - to be free from any defects, shortcomings or imperfections; and likewise He is free from everything that has been falsely attributed to Him, such as having a son or a wife or an equal.*

His saying (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "**Wa mā kun-nā la-hoo muq-ri-neen**" (And we were not able to do it on our own) means: we were not able to master and control this vehicle or animal, except by the permission and help of Allāh.

His saying (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "**Wa in-nā i-lā rab-bi-nā la-mun-qa-li-boon**" (Indeed, unto our Lord we are returning) means: we will return to Allāh, our Lord, in the Hereafter for accounting and reward or punishment.

His saying (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "**In-nee dḥa-lam-tu naf-see**" (Indeed, I have wronged myself), means: I acknowledge and confess both my shortcomings and my sins to the only One Who accepts repentance and forgives sins.

Allāh, the Most High, says:

وَالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الْفُلْكِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ مَا تَرْكَبُونَ ﴿١٣﴾ لِيَسْتَوُوا عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ ثُمَّ تَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرْنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ ﴿١٤﴾ وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

And He Who has created all the pairs, and has appointed for you *ships* and *cattle* on which you ride. In order that you may mount on their backs, and then may *remember the favor of your Lord* when you mount thereon, and say: O How Perfect is He Who has subdued this to us, and we were not able to do it on our own. Indeed, unto our Lord we are returning. (43:12-14)

Shaykh Abdur-Razzāq Bin Abdul-Muḥsin Al-'Abbād (may Allāh protect and preserve him and his father) commented upon this verse:

"Indeed, Allāh, the One Free of Imperfections, has informed us that *all means of transportation*, whether **ships** or **cattle** as well as *those means* that Allāh has subjected to man in this day and time,

² Abu Dāwood, no. 2602 and at-Tirmidhee, no. 3446. Al-Albānee declared it to be Saḥeeḥ (Authentic).

from among the *modern means of transportation* - including that which moves across the *land*, that which flies in the *air*, and that which floats across the *seas* - all of these are means of transportation which the people find rest in when traveling from one place to another with ease and comfort.

This verse makes us to know that all of this is from Allāh's *kindness, generosity and bounty*, subjecting all of these means of transportation to mankind. *So, how can anyone who rides these means of transportation be unmindful of the One Who provided all of this from His Generosity? And how can they fail to praise Him in the way that is due to Him?"*

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