

Before Eating

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

Bis-mil-lāh

(In the Name of Allāh)¹

The text of the Hadeeth:

The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) **said:** "Whenever one of you eats his food, then he must say: '**Bis-mil-lāh**' (In the Name of Allāh). If he forgets to say this in the beginning, then he must say: '**Bis-mil-lāh, fee aw-wa-li-hee wa ā-khi-ri-hee**' (In the Name of Allāh, in the beginning and the end)."²

This Hadeeth indicates that the time for mentioning the Name of Allāh is *before* beginning to eat. However, if one forgets to mention it at this point, it will fulfill the obligation if he mentions it *while* he is still eating, using the added words mentioned in this Hadeeth:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ فِي أَوَّلِهِ وَآخِرِهِ

Bis-mil-lāh, fee aw-wa-li-hee wa ā-khi-ri-hee.

(In the Name of Allāh, in the beginning and the end)

Explanation of the Hadeeth:

The meaning of the statement of the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam): "**Bis-mil-lāh**" is: In the Name of Allāh, i.e., with His blessings and permission *I eat this food, with gratitude and thanks* to Him, *Ar-Razzāq* (the Provider)!

Allāh, the Most High, said in the Qur'ān:

¹ Fortress of the Muslim, no. 178.

² Reported by Abu Dāwood, no. 3767, Ibn Mājah, no. 3264 and at-Tirmidhee, no. 1858, from 'Ā'isha (may Allāh be pleased with her). Al-Albānee said that it is Saḥeeḥ (authentic) in Saḥeeḥ al-Jāmi', no. 380.

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ كُلُّوْا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ^ع

إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٦٨﴾

"O mankind! Eat of that which is *lawful* and *good* on the earth, and follow not the footsteps of Satan. Verily, he is to you an open enemy." (2:168)

Allāh, the Most High, also said:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُلُّوْا مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَأَشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ

إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿١٧٢﴾

"O you who believe! Eat of the good things that We have provided you with, and be grateful to Allāh, if it is indeed He Whom you worship." (2:172)

It has been reported in a Hadeeth with a chain of narrators that **is not authentic**: "The Messenger of Allāh (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) was sitting while a man was eating and he **did not** mention the Name of Allāh until only a morsel of his food remained. So, when he raised his hand to his mouth (with that last bit of food), he said: "In the Name of Allāh, in the beginning and the end," (*Bis-mil-lāh, aw-wa-lahu wa-ā-khi-ra-hu*). The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) laughed and said: "Satan was eating with him all along, and then when he mentioned the Name of Allāh, *Satan vomited all that was in his stomach.*"³

As for mentioning the Name of Allāh *while* someone is eating, in the case of someone who *forgot* to mention it in the beginning, this is confirmed in the Hadeeth of Ā'isha (may Allāh be pleased with her) mentioned previously. However, the mention of **Satan vomiting** when the man remembered to mention the Name of Allāh is **not authentic**.

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

³ Reported by Abu Dāwood, no. 3768. Al-Hāfidh Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalā-nee and others declared it to be **Weak** (Da'eef). See also Irwā' al-Ghaleel (7/27).