

Surah al-Falaq (113)

سورة الفلق

'The Daybreak'

The surah derives its name from the prominence of the word *falaq*, meaning 'daybreak'. The surah is Madinan, even though it deals with affairs concerning a person when he runs into something abhorrent (*makruh*). As the surah al-Ikhlās declared the One God, this surah is a seeking of His protection.

By the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Beginning *by the name of Allah*, who comprises all the attributes of perfection.

... *the Compassionate, the Merciful*, who bestows from His mercy and grace upon the whole creation, right from the beginning and throughout their lives, and by bringing perfection to their needs and shortcomings.

Say: I shelter with the Lord of the daybreak, (1)

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ﴿١﴾

That is, I seek immunity and protection. Daybreak is given for *falaq*, whose original meaning is to split, for by the dawn the darkness is broken up and withdraws.

From the evil of that He created, (2)

مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ﴿٢﴾

That is, from the evil of everything Allah has created, glory be to Him, in the sense of tribulations, whether they be human, jinn, animal or inanimate, like floods and storms.

And from the evil of darkness when it falls, (3)

وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ﴿٣﴾

That is, from the evil of the night, for it is at night that many of the evils befall a person, when the eye is sleeping and darkness reigns.

And from the evil of the bloweresses on knots, (4)

وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ﴿٤﴾

'Bloweresses' is given for *naffathat*, which is feminine plural. The evil is that of women who use black magic to blow on a thing by which their magic is covenanted. Knots (*uqad*) are mentioned as the witch knots a cord with the intention of blocking someone's good fortune, or to separate someone from his wife; the witch then blow on these knots as part of her magic and rites. And magic has a real effect, as is shown in psychology (*ilm al-nafs*), and reinforced by experience.

And from the evil of an envier when he envies. (5)

وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ﴿٥﴾

For when a person envies another his envy drives him to harm him with his tongue or hand. And perhaps the meaning of 'when he envies' is when his envy becomes apparent and he acts according to its dictates.