

Sura 114: Al-Nas (Humankind)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 6:

1. *Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord humankind,*
2. *The King of humankind,*
3. *The God of humankind,*
4. *From the evil of the sneaking whisperer,*
5. *Who whispers in the hearts of humankind,*
6. *Of the jinn and of humankind.*

We seek refuge with the Lord of humankind, the King of humankind, the God of humankind. We seek refuge from the evil of the sneaking whisperer who whispers in the hearts of people from jinn and humankind. The Lord is the Educator, the Guide, the Keeper, and the Protector. The King is the owner. God has absolute control. These attributes are the attributes of the Protector who can protect against the invisible evil, which cannot be repelled by humans because it is unseen to them.

The Sura defined the source of this evil, "*the sneaking whisperer;*" outlined his action, "*who whispers in the hearts of humankind;*" and identified his nature, "*of the jinn and of humankind.*" People should then be aware and be prepared to fight this evil back. It is an evil which sneaks surreptitiously into the hearts of people whispering evil thoughts. There are two kinds of creatures who can do this, jinn and human beings. We do not know how do the jinn whisper to people but we find its effects clearly in our daily life. The war between Satan and humankind started a long time ago. The war was motivated by Satan's arrogance and his hate of humankind. He sought God's permission to wage this war and God gave him the permission for a reason which is only known to God. However, God did not leave humankind helpless in this war. God gave humankind the faith as a protection from Satan's attacks, the remembrance of God as a tool to combat Satan, and the refuge in God as a weapon to fight Satan with. It is humankind responsibility to look after his protection, his tool, and his weapon. It has been narrated by Ibn Abbas (RA) that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "*Satan camps on the heart of the children of Adam. Satan shrinks when they remember God, but he starts to whisper when they become heedless of God.*" This tradition indicates that the remembrance of God weakens Satan and takes away his power.

We know the evil that some people can produce. We know about those who use their friendship as a way to whisper to their friends and sway them away from the straight path. We know about the evil bands of people who encircle people in power and whisper to them bad advice and turn them into tyrants. We know the backbiter, the slanderer, and the pleasure trader who whisper to people and facilitate their way to sin. Seeking God refuge is the only safeguard which protects people from these evil whisperers. The battle between goodness and evil is an eternal battle. In

this battle, the agents of evil whether jinn or human beings are lurking waiting for an opportunity to tempt people. The Qur'an tells us that evil plans are weak and that God supports those who remember Him. Our salvation is in the remembrance of God.