

Sura 113: Al-Falaq (The Daybreak)

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

Verses 1 to 5:

1. Say, *"I seek refuge with the Lord of the Daybreak;*
2. *From the evil of that which He created;*
3. *From the evil of the darkness when it is intense;*
4. *And from the evil of those who practice witchcraft,*
5. *And from the evil of the envious when he envies."*

This Sura and the following one constitute a directive from God to His Prophet (PBUH) and the believers to seek refuge in Him. God will protect His Prophet (PBUH) and the believers from all evil and harm. It is a call for them to seek security, safety, and serenity in the closeness of God.

‘Uqba ibn ‘Amer (RA) narrated that the Messenger of God (PBUH) told him, "I have received tonight verses that nothing similar to them was revealed before, *'Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord of the Daybreak;"*" and *'Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord of humankind."*'"

The Sura starts with stating the words that we should use to call upon God when we seek refuge in Him from the evils that are mentioned in the Sura. Then it lists some of the evils that we should seek refuge in God from. It starts with a general statement, *"from the evil of that which He created."* This is a comprehensive statement that includes any possible evil. Then any evil that can be covered by the intense darkness of the night. The darkness is horrifying in itself because we do not know what dangers it may cover.

"And from the evil of those who practice witchcraft," We know that magicians cannot change reality and they cannot create a new reality. But they may be able to create an illusion, as has been told in the encounter between Prophet Moses (PBUH) and the magicians, *"And suddenly their ropes and staffs seemed to him from their magic that they were moving. And he sensed within himself apprehension. We said, 'Fear not. It is you who are superior. And throw what is in your right hand; it will swallow up what they have crafted.'" (20: 66 – 69)* Their ropes and staffs were never transformed into serpents; Prophet Moses (PBUH) was merely under the illusion that they were. The truth was uncovered when he threw his staff and it swallowed their ropes and staffs. This is the nature of magic. We should believe that magic is an illusion. It is an evil that we should seek God's refuge from.

"And from the evil of the envious when he envies." Envy is an emotion that motivates its owner to wish the envied ill. This emotion, whether it remained as an inner feeling or it developed into an action, produces evil. There is a great deal of mysteries that we did not discover; and consequently, we do not know the relationship between the emotions that the envious harbor and the harm that will afflict the envied. However, it is an evil that we should seek God's refuge from. The Prophet (PBUH) used to recite the three Suras, *"Say, 'He is God, the One and Only;"* *"Say, 'I seek refuge with the Lord of the Daybreak;"* and *"Say, 'I seek refuge with the Lord of humankind,"* three times before he goes to sleep.