

Ḥadīth Nineteen

Children and household items are vulnerable to the mischief of the devils during sunset

O company of jinn and mankind, if you are able to pass beyond the regions of the heavens and the earth, then pass. You will not pass except by authority [from Allāh] (55:33).

يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ إِنَّ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ أَنْ تَنْفُذُوا مِنْ أَقْطَارِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ فَانفُذُوا ۚ لَا تَنْفُذُونَ إِلَّا بِسُلْطَانٍ ﴿٣٣﴾

When the wings of the night (spread) or it is evening, restrain your children (from going out), for the devil is out at that time, and when a hour of the night has passed, free them; and shut the doors, making mention of Allāh's name, for the devil does not open a closed door; and tighten the mouths of waterskins and mention the name of Allāh; cover your utensils and mention the name of Allāh even though you should just put something on them; and extinguish your lamps.

إِذَا كَانَ جُنْحُ اللَّيْلِ - أَوْ أَمْسَيْتُمْ - فَكُفُّوا صِبْيَانَكُمْ فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْتَشِرُ حِينَئِذٍ فَإِذَا ذَهَبَ سَاعَةٌ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَخَلُّوهُمْ وَأَغْلِقُوا الْأَبْوَابَ وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَا يَفْتَحُ بَابًا مُغْلَقًا وَأَوْكُوا قَرَبَاتِكُمْ وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ وَخَمِّرُوا آيَاتِكُمْ وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ وَلَوْ أَنْ تَعْرُضُوا عَلَيْهَا شَيْئًا وَأَطْفِئُوا مَصَابِيحَكُمْ

Recorded in Al-Bukhārī & Muslim.

Cover your utensils and tie your water skins, and close your doors and keep your children close to you at night, as the jinn spread out at such time and snatch things away. When you go to bed, put out your lights, for the mischief-doer (i.e. the rat) may drag away the wick of the candle and burn the dwellers of the house. 'Aṭā said: The devils (instead of 'jinn').

خَمِّرُوا الْآيَةَ وَأَوْكُوا الْأَسْقِيَةَ وَأَجِيفُوا الْأَبْوَابَ وَاكْفِتُوا صِبْيَانَكُمْ عِنْدَ الْعِشَاءِ فَإِنَّ لِلْجِنِّ اثْتِشَارًا وَخَطْفَةً وَأَطْفِئُوا الْمَصَابِيحَ عِنْدَ الرُّقَادِ فَإِنَّ الْمُؤَيَّسَةَ رُبَّمَا اجْتَرَّتِ الْقَيْبَةَ فَأَخْرَقَتْ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ قَالَ ابْنُ جُرَيْجٍ وَحَبِيبٌ عَنْ عَطَاءٍ فَإِنَّ لِلشَّيَاطِينِ

Recorded in Al-Bukhārī & Muslim.

Points of benefit:

1. The devils spread when the sun is setting and that is the period when they are most mischievous.
2. They target children, food and water of the household.
3. They may eat our food and drink.
4. They may possess children.
5. They may target fire lamps to burn down the house.

6. The devils have *خَطْبَةٌ*
7. The jinn cannot enter through closed/locked doors, nor can they eat or drink from closed or sealed utensils over which the name of Allāh (*bismillāh*) was mentioned.
8. Through *bismillāh* we are actually seeking refuge, aid and barakah (blessings) from the actual Being Allāh, rather than simply the word/name 'Allāh'.
9. This ḥadīth clearly demonstrates the power of the Name(s) of Allāh when accompanied with an intention. It also demonstrates that whatever is intended when mentioning the Name(s) of Allāh take effect.
10. If rooms and food and water utensils can be blocked off or protected by mentioning the Name(s) of Allāh then one can also block themselves and the house they reside at by mentioning the Name(s) of Allāh (with that intention).