

Ḥadīth Fourteen

The power of tawḥīd and refuge with Allāh is overwhelming

Indeed, My servants - no authority will you have over them, except those who follow you of the deviators (15:42).

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ ﴿٤٢﴾

Uthmān ibn Abi al-'Āṣ said: When the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) appointed me as governor of Ṭā'if, I began to get confused during my prayer, until I no longer knew what I was doing. When I noticed that, I travelled to the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), and he said: The son of Abul-'Ās? I said: Yes, O Messenger of Allāh. He said: What brings you here? He said: O Messenger of Allāh, I get confused during my prayer, until I do not know what I am doing. He said: That is the devil. Come here. So I came close to him, and sat upon the front part of my feet then he struck my chest with his hand and put some spittle in my mouth and said: Get out, O enemy of Allāh! He did that three times, then he said: Get on with your work. 'Uthman said: Indeed, I never felt confused (during my prayer) after that.

عَنْ عُثْمَانَ بْنِ أَبِي الْعَاصِ قَالَ لَمَّا اسْتَعْمَلَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى الطَّائِفِ جَعَلَ يَعْزِضُ لِي شَيْءٌ فِي صَلَاتِي حَتَّى مَا أَدْرِي مَا أَصَلِّي فَلَمَّا رَأَيْتُ ذَلِكَ رَحَلْتُ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ ابْنُ أَبِي الْعَاصِ قُلْتُ نَعَمْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ مَا جَاءَ بِكَ فُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ عَرَضَ لِي شَيْءٌ فِي صَلَاتِي حَتَّى مَا أَدْرِي مَا أَصَلِّي قَالَ ذَلِكَ الشَّيْطَانُ إِذْنُهُ فَدَنَوْتُ مِنْهُ فَجَلَسْتُ عَلَى صُدُورِ قَدَمَيْهِ قَالَ فَضْرَبَ صَدْرِي بِيَدِهِ وَتَعَلَّ فِي فَمِي وَقَالَ اخْرُجْ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ فَفَعَلَ ذَلِكَ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ الْحَقُّ بِعَمَلِكَ قَالَ فَقَالَ عُثْمَانُ فَلَعَمْرِي مَا أَحْسِبُهُ خَالَطَنِي بَعْدُ

Recorded in Ibn Mājah; Ṣaḥīḥ.

Uthmān ibn Abi al-'Āṣ said: Allāh's Messenger, the devil intervenes between me and my prayer and my reciting of the Qurān and he confuses me. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: That is a devil who is known as Khinzab, and when you perceive its effect, take refuge with Allāh against it and spit three times to your left. He said: I did that and Allāh removed it from me.

عَنْ أَبِي الْعَاصِ أَنَّ عُثْمَانَ بْنَ أَبِي الْعَاصِ أَتَى النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ قَدْ حَالَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ صَلَاتِي وَقِرَائَتِي يَلْبِسُهَا عَلَيَّ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ذَلِكَ شَيْطَانٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ خِنْزَبٌ فَإِذَا أَحْسَسْتَهُ فَتَعَوَّذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنْهُ وَاتَّقِلْ عَلَيَّ بِسَارِكٍ ثَلَاثًا قَالَ فَفَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ فَأَذْهَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَنِّي

Recorded in Muslim.

Either the incident occurred twice or it is one incident with two complementing narrations.

Points of benefit:

1. The Prophet (ﷺ) commanded the devil to exit. That means that it was inside (the Companion Uthmān ibn Abi al-'Āṣ).

2. One treatment of ridding the body of a devil is striking the limb the devil is residing in (here it was the chest); another is blowing inside the mouth and commanding it to leave with the name of Allāh. Also, a treatment procedure may have to be performed repeatedly.
3. In other authentic narrations it is reported to place the right hand upon the forehead of the ill person, his chest, stomach or any other place of the body (other than the 'awrah) like the ḥadīth of S'ad where he fell ill in Makkah. As for women, only via a maḥram's (male relative) hand can the Rāqī place his hand upon the forehead.
4. There exists a particular category of devils who attempt to distract a person during prayer; they may even enter them to distract them.
5. Devils can have names as categories depending upon their tasks.
6. When their presence is sensed in prayer, one ought to take refuge with Allāh and blow towards their left thrice. This does not have to be done by turning the face away from the qiblah (prayer direction). A subtle blowing towards the left suffices.
7. Any or all of these treatment methods may be utilised for ruqyah upon a person.