



The Thinking Muslim

SURAH AL-NAAS EXPLAINED

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INTRODUCTION TO AL-FALAQ & AL-NAAS

- The two sister surahs that offer protection (al-Mu'awwidhataan)
- According to most, they were both revealed together
- They both complement each other
 - Falaq deals with evils that come to us from the outside
 - Naas deals with evils that come to us from the inside
 - These are more dangerous so Allah uses three of His Names
- Virtues
 - Read before going to sleep
 - Read after every obligatory salah
 - Prophet (pbuh) used to recite them whenever he was sick even till the end
- Why they were revealed
 - A Jewish man cast a spell which would cause him to become confused whether he had done something or not



VERSE 1

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ

Say, "I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind"

Explanation:

- The word Rabb (Lord) in Arabic means the following things:
 - Authority, owner, giver gifts, one who nurtures, one who takes care or maintains
- Meaning here is, "Say, I seek protection in the One who is in complete control of everything!"



VERSE 2

مَلِكِ النَّاسِ

The King of mankind

Explanation:

- He is the King of the ruler and the ruled (i.e. King of kings)
- He has **complete** authority over them:
 - Give life and cause death
 - Give honor or humiliation
 - Make rich or poor



VERSE 3

إِلَهُ النَّاسِ

The God of mankind

Explanation:

- Our pursuit of Deity sets us apart from the animals
 - Otherwise, we are not much different by just following our needs
 - Without Him, we tend to cross boundaries
- The word إله
 - Used to refer to that which deserves to be worshipped
 - Previous two names lead to this conclusion. He is the only true Deity
- Allah repeated the word "mankind" thrice in order to show their dignity and honor with Him



VERSE 4

مِن شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ

From the evil of the retreating whisperer

Explanation:

- Now that it is established that He is in control and the only Deity, naturally we are going to seek protection directly from Him
- We are seeking protection in Allah against our greatest enemy: Iblis
- The Arabic word **الْوَسْوَاسِ**
 - It comes from a word meaning sound of the clanking of jewelry in a way that you barely hear it
 - Mankind does not even notice when Shaytan is giving them a suggestion
 - What is he whispering? Inciting disbelief, sin, and lewdness



VERSE 4

مِن شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ

From the evil of the retreating whisperer

Explanation:

- The Arabic word الْخَنَّاسِ
 - When a star flickers and disappears quickly or a barely detectable gesture
 - When someone sneaks away in a manner that it is like he was not even there to begin with
 - Why Shaytan called this?
 - Because he is present to whisper and hides when we remember Allah. When we become heedless, he reappears to continue whispering



VERSE 5

الَّذِي يُوسُّوسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ

Who whispers [evil] into the breasts of mankind

Explanation:

- We all have a Shaytan that is assigned to make various types of evil suggestions to us as mentioned in a hadith (i.e. Qareen)
 - He encourages you to do evil deeds and keeps you away or delays you from doing good ones
 - He comes and goes
- How does he do it?
 - He uses some sort of invisible speech that the heart understands but which cannot be heard by sound
 - Some said it is like the devil sits on top of your heart waiting for an opening



VERSE 6

مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ

From among the jinn and mankind

Explanation:

- Those people who let the Shaytan into their hearts eventually become the ambassadors of the Shaytan himself
 - They transform into human devils. They become their partners
 - Then they begin giving people evil suggestions and beautifying lewdness
- Some said that the devils among mankind are worse because they never fold, whereas, the devils among jinn disappear when we seek Allah's refuge



CONCLUSION OF AL-NAAS

- The word **shaytan** (devil) in Arabic:
 - Comes from a word meaning to let something burn for a long time. He is called this because he wants to burn something inside of us and keep it burning
- The Quran ends with seeking refuge in Allah and begins with al-Fatihah, which speaks about seeking help with Allah alone
- The most valuable thing we take to Allah are our hearts
 - Surah al-Naas protects the heart (internal dangers)