

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَدِدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

He tried to Trap Imam Abu Hanifah

It is mentioned that the Khalifah in Baghdad, Abu Jafer Mansur Abbasi, had a great amount of respect for the Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and used to give him special preference above others. Of course this did go down well with certain people and one of them was Mohammed bin Ishaq, the writer of the “Al Maghaazi”.

One day, he decided to lower the dignity of the great Imam in the court of Abu Jafer by asking him a question. He asked, “What do you have to say about that person who says to his wife, ‘On you there is three Talaqs and after a while he says he says In Sha Allah. Will divorce take place?’”

The great Imam replied, “Most certainly. The reason is that he has separated the words ‘In Sha Allah’ from the words of Talaaq, therefore this separation would be of no value to him.”

When he heard this, Mohammed bin Ishaq then turned to the Khalifah and said, “O Ameerul Mo’mineen! Look at the bravery of Abu Hanifah that in front of you, he is refuting the opinion of your great ancestor Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Abbas - *may Allah be pleased with them*. Your great ancestor has stated that even if a person mentions the words ‘In Sha Allah’ after the Talaaq, it would still take place.”

Obviously, the Khalifah was very upset when he heard this and demanded an answer from the great Imam.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - calmly replied, “O Ameerul Mo’mineen the meaning intended by Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Abbas - *may Allah be pleased with him* - is completely different from the meaning implied by Mohammed bin Ishaq. It is intention of Mohammed bin Ishaq that people must swear allegiance to you, however, when they go outside, they should silently say ‘In Sha Allah’. In this manner they would break their allegiance to you without anyone knowing.”

When the Khalifah heard this, he flew into a rage and ordered the immediate arrest of Mohammed bin Ishaq. (Tafseer Ruhul Bayan)

Look at the dangers of jealousy. We are talking about one of the authorities in Islamic history and he has fallen prey to this sickness. The immediate effect was that from the court of a Khalifah, he ended up in jail. If Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Abu Hanifah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - did not know that answer at that moment, he certainly would have found himself at the end of a sword. However, there is a famous proverb which explains that if you wish to dig a hole for someone else, you are the one that would eventually fall into this hole. This is also the reason that Surah Falaq advises us to seek protection in Allah Almighty from those who are jealous of us.