

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ هَمَزَاتِ الشَّيَاطِينِ. وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ رَبِّ أَنْ يَحْضُرُونِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

كُلُّ أَمْرٍ ذِي بَالٍ لَا يُبْدَأُ فِيهِ بِبِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ أَقْطَعُ.

ISTI'ADHAH AND BASMALAH: THE NAME OF TAKING REFUGE IN ALLAH'S MERCY AND GRACE

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty states, "Say, 'My Lord! I seek refuge in You from the temptations of the devils. I seek refuge in You, my Lord, that they even come near me.'"¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, "Every important task that is not started with Basmalah becomes fruitless."²

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty, through His prophets, has taught us two important phrases that protect us from various troubles and difficulties, while at the same time opening the doors to goodness and benevolence. These two phrases are what we know as Isti'adhah and Basmalah:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ and

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ It means "I seek refuge in Allah from the evil of Satan the accursed." and "I begin my words and actions in the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful." It is an expression of determination to organize our lives in accordance with the commandments and prohibitions of our Lord (swt).

Dear Muslims!

Isti'adhah and Basmalah means the human being, whose means and power are limited, to seek refuge in Allah (swt), the infinitely mighty and merciful. It is to live with the awareness that Allah sees us at every moment and everywhere. It is the key to our worship. It is the adornment of our tongue.

It is through Isti'adhah and Basmalah that the doors of the heart are opened to Allah (swt). It is through Isti'adhah and Basmalah that one prays to the Almighty Allah to overcome difficulties. It is through Isti'adhah and Basmalah that one asks Allah (swt) to heal their illnesses after fulfilling their responsibilities. It is through Isti'adhah and Basmalah that one hopes for a remedy from Allah the Almighty after taking all necessary precautions.

Dear Believers!

Isti'adhah and Basmalah are a treasure too precious and valuable to be confined within books and plates. Our Lord (swt) has revealed them to us so that we may understand them and take them as a guide in every aspect of our lives. Indeed, all the prophets, who set an example for people with their immaculate lives, began their invitations by reciting the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. They called people to tawhid and wahdat through the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. They sought refuge in Allah (swt) from haram, from illegitimate deeds, from hatred and anger, and from useless knowledge. They sought Allah's (swt) help against Satan, evil thoughts and feelings, and all kinds of evil and evil foci. Allah the Almighty's commandment in this regard is very clear:

وَأَمَّا يَنْزِعَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ "If you are tempted by Satan, then seek refuge with Allah."³

Dear Muslims!

Let us weave every moment of our lives with the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. Let us begin every word and action with the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. Let us surround ourselves with goodness and let us not draw near to any kind of evil. Let us gain knowledge, science and technology with the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. Let us read, and encourage others to read, in the name of Allah (swt). May what we learn lead us to Allah's (swt) pleasure, and bring prosperity to our world and the Hereafter. Let us enter our homes with the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. Let us make peace and happiness reign in our families, and let us avoid violence and hatred at all times and in all places. Let us open our workplaces and start our workday with the Isti'adhah and Basmalah. Let us earn through halal means and spend for halal, and let us avoid haram and observe both public and private rights. May the Isti'adhah and Basmalah unite our hearts. Let us strengthen our unity, solidarity and brotherhood, and let us never give a chance to those who try to sow discord, mischief and division among us.

Dear Believers!

Our beloved Prophet (saw) would always recite Isti'adhah and Basmalah when leaving his house, entering his house, going to bed, and waking up. He (saw) would begin his words and actions with Isti'adhah and Basmalah, and he would pray to Allah (swt) with Isti'adhah and Basmalah. On this first day of the month of Rajab, the first of the three holy months, let us sincerely open up our hands in supplication to our Almighty Lord (swt). Let us humbly bow our heads before Allah the Almighty. Let us seek refuge in Allah (swt) with the following supplication of our Prophet (saw), who asks us to take him as our example: O Allah! We ask You for the good that our Prophet Muhammad (saw) has asked You for, and we seek refuge with You from the evil from which he (saw) sought refuge. You are the One Whose help is to be sought. There is no power and no strength except with You.⁴

¹ Mu'minun, 23/97, 98.

² Suyuti, al-Fath al-Kabir, II, 303.

³ Fussilat, 41/36.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Da'awat, 88.