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On Flies

Sahl b. Ahmad narrated from Muhammad b. Aruma from Salih b. Muhammad from 'Umar b. Shimr from Jabir from Abu Ja'far al-Baqir, peace be upon him, who said: 'The Messenger of Allah, blessings on him, said: "If a fly (*al-dhubab*) falls into one of your vessels, let it be immersed in it, for in one of its wings (*al-janah*) is a healing and in the other a poison. It dips its poisonous wing into the liquid and does not dip the wing in which is healing. Therefore immerse it, so that it may not harm you."'

He [al-Baqir] said: "Were it not for flies which fall into people's food from whence they know not, leprosy would have spread rapidly among them."

From Muhammad b. 'Ali al-Baqir, peace be upon him, who said: "Were it not that people eat flies from whence they know not, they would be afflicted with leprosy", or he said: "they would all be afflicted with leprosy."

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