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On The Two Suras of Taking Refuge

On The Two Suras of Taking Refuge (The Sura Al-Falaq and The Sura Al-Nas)

Ibrahim al-Baytar narrated from Muhammad b 'Isa, from Yunus b. 'Abd al-Rahman - and he is called Yunus al-Musalli because of the frequency of his prayers - from Ibn Muskan from Zarara, who said: "Abu Ja'far al-Baqir, peace be upon him, said that spells do not give power over an anything but the eyes."

From Abu 'Abd Allah al-Sadiq, peace be upon him, that he was asked about the two suras of taking refuge (al-Falaq (113) and al-Nas (114)) and whether they were part of the Qu'ran. Al-Sadiq replied: "Yes, they are of the Qur'an." The man said: "They are not of the Qur'an according to the reading of Ibn Mas'ud nor in his collection of the Qur'an." Abu 'Abd Allah replied: "Ibn Mas'ud erred," or he said: "Ibn Mas'ud lied, they are both of the Qur'an."

The man said: "Shall I read them, O son of the Messenger of Allah, as they are in the written text?" He said: "Yes, and do you know the meaning of the two suras and for what they wem revealed? Labid b. A'sam, the Jew, cast a spell on the Messenger of Allah, blessings of Allah on him and his family." Abu Basir said to Abu 'Abd Allah: "Was it possible that his spell would have an effect?" Abu 'Abd Allah, peace be upon him, replied: "Ycs indeed, the Prophet, blessings on him, thought that it was comprehensive, but it was not comprehensive. He was looking for the mode of the spell but did not see it until he touched it with his hand. Spells are a fact and they do not have power over anything except the eye and the genitals. Then Jibra'il came to him and informed him of that, so he called 'Ali, peace be upon him, and sent him to bring that out of the well of Dharwan." Then he narrated the *hadith* upto the end.

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