

For Fast 15

Chapter 16

- 53** And whatever good you have, it is from Allah; then, when evil afflicts you, to Him do you cry for aid.
- 54** Then when He removes the evil from you, lo! some of you set up partners with their Lord,
- 55** so as to deny what We have given them. Then enjoy yourselves, for soon will you know.

Note: As in many other places, here an aspect of human behaviour is described, that man cries to God when in affliction, but when it is removed he goes back to looking at other things as his ultimate saviours. By “partners with their Lord” are not only meant other objects of worship, but all kinds of other things and means such as money, knowledge, power, friends, etc.

- 98** So when you recite the Quran, seek refuge in Allah from the accursed devil.
- 99** Surely he has no authority over those who believe and rely on their Lord.
- 100** His authority is only over those who befriend him and those who set up partners with Him.

Note: The purpose of reciting the Quran is to learn from it. What we learn from it is how to remain free of the grip of the devil by strengthening our faith in God. Therefore it is appropriate to begin its recitation by seeking refuge in Allah from the devil.

Chapter 17

- 11** And man prays for evil as he ought to pray for good; and man is ever hasty.

Note: What is meant by man praying for evil instead of good is explained by the following verses occurring a little further:

- 18** Whoever desires this transitory life, We hasten to him in it what We please for whomsoever We desire, then We assign to him hell; he will enter it despised, driven away.
- 19** And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it with due striving and is a believer — those are they whose striving is amply rewarded.

Note: The meaning of v. 11 is that man prays for the transitory things of this life; he is hasty and can see the immediate gain in obtaining something material. But because his aim in life is only to get material things, they turn out to be an evil for him and he creates hell with his own hands. He ought to pray with the same eagerness for the permanent good, which does not come immediately.
