

Surah 113. Al-Falaq

Asad: SAY: "I seek refuge with the Sustainer of the rising dawn,"¹

Malik: Say: I seek refuge with the Rabb of the dawn

Pickthall: Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of Daybreak

Yusuf Ali: Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of the Dawn ^{6301 6302}

Transliteration: Qul aAAoothu birabbi alfalaq

Khatab:

Say, ?O Prophet,? "I seek refuge in the Lord of the daybreak

Author Comments

1 - The term al-falaq ("the light of dawn" or "the rising dawn") is often used tropically to describe "the emergence of the truth after [a period of] uncertainty" (Taj al-'Arus): hence, the appellation "Sustainer of the rising dawn" implies that God is the source of all cognition of truth, and that one's "seeking refuge" with Him is synonymous with striving after truth.

6301 - In Allah's created world, there are all kinds of forces and counter-forces, especially those put in motion by beings who have been endowed with some sort of will. The forces of good may be compared to light, and those of evil to darkness. Allah can cleave the depths of darkness and produce light (vi. 96), and therefore we should cast off fear and take refuge in divine guidance and goodness.

6302 - Falaq is the Dawn or Daybreak, the cleaving of darkness and the manifestation of light. This may be understood in various senses: (1) literally, when the darkness of the night is at its worst, rays of light pierce through and produce the dawn; (2) when the darkness of ignorance is at its worst, the light of Allah pierces through the soul and gives it enlightenment: xxiv. 35; (3) non-existence is darkness, and life and activity may be typified by light. The author and source of all true light is Allah, and if we seek Him, we are free from ignorance, superstition, fear, and every kind of evil.

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