

### **A Qur'anic formula of remaining hidden from enemy sight**

On occasions when the Holy Prophet, may Allahs Blessings and Peace be upon him, wished to remain hidden from the sight of the Mushriks, says Sayyidna Ka'b, May Allah be pleased with him, 'he would recite three verses of the Holy Qur'an. Such was its effect that the disbelievers were unable to see him.' Those three verses are:

***Surely, We have put covers on their hearts, so that they do not understand it, and deafness in their ears.***

[Surah al Kahf, 18/57]

***Those are the ones Allah has put a seal on whose hearts and hearing and vision.***

[Surah an Nahl, 16/108]

***Have you seen the one who has taken his own desire as god while Allah has let him go astray because of knowledge [his or His] and has set a seal upon his hearing and his heart and placed over his vision a veil.***

[Surah al Jathiyah, 45/23]

Sayyidna Ka'b, may Allah be pleased with him, says that he related this thing about the Holy Prophet, may Allahs Blessings and Peace be upon him, to a Syrian who had to go to adjoining Byzantium on a certain business. He went there and stayed for a long time until the local disbelievers started harassing him. When he escaped from there, they pursued him. At that time, he remembered that narrative and recited the three verses identified there. It so happened as if a screen was placed on their eyes why they could not see this person who was walking on the same pathway the enemies were passing by.

Imam Tha'labi says that he related this narrative of Sayyidna Ka'b, may Allah be pleased with him, to a resident of the town R'ay. It so happened that he was put under arrest by the disbelievers of Dailam. For some time he remained under detention with them. One day he got his chance to escape. They pursued him, but this person also recited those three verses. The effect was immediate. Allah Ta'ala screened their eyes in a manner that they were unable to see him – though, they were walking side by side with their clothes touching his clothes.

Imam al Qurtubi says that the verses from Surah Ya Sin which were recited by the Prophet, may Allahs Blessings and Peace be upon him, at the time of Hijrah may also be added to the three verses cited above. This was when the Mushriks of Makkah had besieged his house. He recited those verses and went right through them. In fact, he went by throwing dust on their heads and none of them knew anything about it. Those verses of Surah Ya'sin are:

***With the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Very Merciful***

***Ya Sin. By the Wise Qur'an, surely you (Oh Muhammad) are from among the messengers, on a straight path. (This is) a revelation of the Mighty, the Very Merciful,***

*that you may warn a people whose forefathers were not warned, so they are unaware. The word has already taken effect against most of them, so they do not believe. Surely, We have placed shackles on their necks reaching down to their chins, so they are with heads forced high up. And We have placed before them an obstruction and covered them, so they do not see.*

[Surah Ya Sin, 36/1-9]

Imam al Qurtubi says that he himself went through an incident in the Matthur Castle of al Qartubah in his own country of al Andalus (Spain). I ran in front of the enemy and sat in a corner. The enemy sent two horsemen after me. I was in open grounds. There was nothing to obstruct the view between us. But, I was reciting these verses of Surah Ya Sin. Both horsemen passed by me. Then they went back towards where they had come from, saying, 'this person must be some devil,' because they could not see me. Allah Ta'ala had turned them blind as far as I was concerned. [Qurtubi]