The first question of Fatwa no. 6618

Q 1: A man lives in a house in the desert which he inherited from his forefathers. On the second day of Ramadan, he experienced a calamity. He claims that ever since that night, he feels stones being thrown at him from inside and outside his house.

(Part No. 1; Page No. 285)

The lights of the house go on and off, utensils break and he feels played with, without knowing who is doing this! This went on for several days, after which he consulted his clan hoping they would be of help to him. However, they told him that it was probably some of his enemies who were doing these terrible things to him. They accompanied him back to his house and when night fell and it became dark, they witnessed everything he had told them about and believed him. After that his family urged him to leave the house. How do you interpret this awful occurrence? What is its remedy? What is the legal ruling on this?

A: This may be a group of devils from among the Jinn who are harassing him in order to drive him away from his home, or merely to annoy him. They may be taking revenge on him for having harmed them without him being aware. In any case, he should seek refuge with Allah and fortify himself by reciting the Qur'an in the house. He should also recite Ayat-ul-Kursy (the Qur'anic Verse of the Throne, Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:255) upon lying down to sleep and seek refuge with Allah from the evil of what He has created by saying thrice, ("A'udhu bi kalimat Allaah al-taammaat min sharri ma khalaq (I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allah from the evil of what He has created).")

(Part No. 1; Page No. 286)

Whenever he enters his house, he should say: ("Allahumma inni as'aluka khair al-mawlij wa khair al-makhraj. Bismillahi walajna, wa bismillah kharajna, wa 'ala Allah rabbina tawkkalna (O Allah! I ask you for the best entering and the best exiting. In the Name of Allah do we enter and in the Name of Allah do we exit, and in Allah, our Lord, we put our trust).") He should also say in the morning and in the evening (thrice): ("Bismillahi alladhi la yadurru ma' ismihi shai'un fil-ardi wa-laa fil-samaa'i wa huwa al-Samee'u al-'Aleem ("In the Name of Allah, with Whose Name nothing on the earth or in the heaven can cause harm, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing).")

In conclusion, he should keep reciting the Qur'an in the house and elsewhere, and the Adhkar (oftrecited supplications) which are prescribed by the Prophet (peace be upon him) to be said at specific times in the morning and the afternoon, at home or elsewhere. These supplications can be found in the books entitled Al- Kalim Al Tayyib by Ibn Taymiyyah, Al-Wabil Al-Sayyib by Ibn Al-Qayyim, Al-Adhkar by Al-Nawawy and other books of Hadith.

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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