

**THERE IS NO CHANGE OR POWER  
EXCEPT WITH ALLAH**

**لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ**

**LA HAWLA WALA QUWWATA  
ILLA BILLAH**

IPP-00554

Based on the book 'Al Hawqala'  
by Sheikh Abdulrazaq Al Bader



طلب التصريح لتداول أو طباعة المصاحف والمطبوعات

Request Issuance of Permit Publication/Printing

نتيجة تدقيق مادة علمية  
Result of Auditing the Material

Applicant	إيمان العبيد	جهة الطلب
Reference number	IPP-000554	الرقم المرجعي / تاريخ الطلب
Date of application	11/05/2023	تاريخ الطلب
The addressee		الجهة المرسل إليها

عنوان المادة	المؤلف	المحقق	الناشر/دار الطبع	شكل المادة	اللغة	سنة الطبع	القياس	عدد الصفحات
There is no change or power except with Allah	إيمان العبيد ونورة الظاهر	نورة الظاهر ومريم أحمد	مركز السلام الإسلامي	كتاب	انجليزية	2022	A4	37

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لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

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**LA HAWLA WALA QUWWATA  
ILLA BILLAH**



مركز السلام الإسلامي  
AL SALAM ISLAMIC CENTER

PREPARED BY AL SALAM ISLAMIC CENTRE

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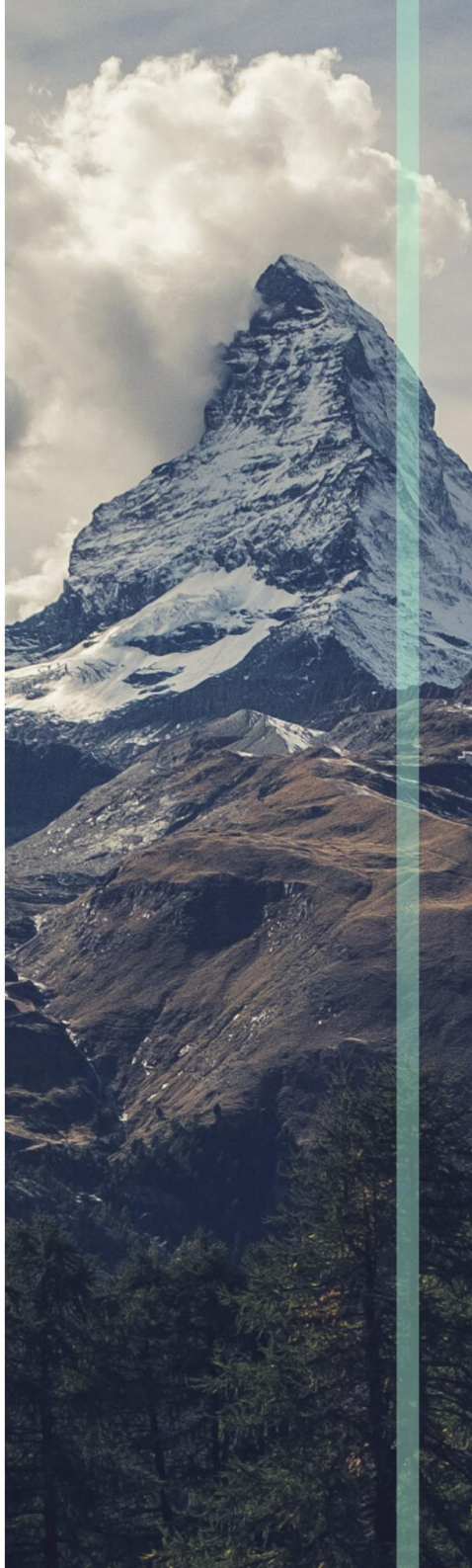
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# PREFACE

***In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Especially Merciful...  
There is no change or power except by Him...***

All praise and thanks are due to Allah Who has guided us to this. We would never have found guidance if Allah had not guided us.

This book came about as a result of our dire need to reflect on one of the treasures and doors of paradise – *There is no change or power except with Allah (La hawla wala quwwata illa billah)* (لَا حَوْلَ وَ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ). We cannot do anything and our situation cannot change without the power and might of Allah. Knowing this will bring about balance and ease in our lives because we know we are supported by Allah.

The structure of this book is to provide the meaning, virtues, and correct application of using *There is no change or power except with Allah (La hawla wala quwwata illa billah)* (لَا حَوْلَ وَ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ).

The source used in this book is (الحوقلة) by Sheikh Abdulrazaq Al Bader.

***We ask Allah to accept this work and pray that those who read it will find it easy to understand and will benefit from it.***

# INTRODUCTION

This book will highlight the meaning, virtues and evidence for belief in, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah). We begin this book by praising Allah and His Majesty.

*Dhikr* (remembrance) is attained from obedience towards Allah and it is the most majestic form of worship that draws a believer closer to Allah. It has many virtues in both the *duniya* (worldly life) and the *akhirah* (hereafter), which only Allah can encompass.

The *Qur'an* and *Sunnah* (practice of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]) are filled with evidences about the virtues of *dhikr* (remembrance) and its great status and benefits.

## VIRTUES OF *DHIKR* (REMEMBRANCE)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا ﴿٤١﴾  
وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا ﴿٤٢﴾  
هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى  
النُّورِ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا ﴿٤٣﴾  
تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ، سَلَامٌ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٤٤﴾

*"O you, who believe, Remember Allah with much remembrance. (41) And glorify His Praises morning and afternoon (42) It is He who sends Salawat (His blessings) on you, and His angels too, that He may bring you out from darkness (of disbelief and polytheism) into light (of Belief and Islamic Monotheism). And He is Most Merciful to the believers. (43) Their greeting on the Day they shall meet Him will be "Salaam (Peace) (i.e. the angels will say to them, Salamu 'Alaikum (peace be upon you)!" (44) And He has prepared for them a generous reward (i.e. Paradise).<sup>1</sup>*

In the above ayat (verses) the believers are commanded to remember Allah abundantly, as He will praise and connect with them and the Angels will make *dua'a* (supplication) for them. This is a means by which the believers are taken out from the darkness of shirk (associating partners with Allah), *bida'a* (innovation), sins and ignorance and into the light of faith, worship, knowledge and the Sunnah (practice of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]).

DHIKR (REMEMBRANCE) IS A SPECIAL MERCY FOR THE BELIEVERS.

وَالذِّكْرِينَ اللَّهُ كَثِيرًا  
وَالذِّكْرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

AND THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO REMEMBER ALLAH MUCH WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TONGUES, ALLAH HAS PREPARED FOR THEM FORGIVENESS AND A GREAT REWARD.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Surah Al Ahzab 41 – 44

<sup>2</sup> Surah Al Ahzab 35

There is great reward and forgiveness for those who remember Allah abundantly. It is important to emphasise that the remembrance needs to be more and not less.

Remembrance of the tongue is the lowest level of *dhikr* (remembrance), and the highest is when the heart and tongue both remember Allah. When we are busy remembering Allah then we will have His protection whilst purifying our heart and tongue from many sicknesses.

*Hadith (sayings): Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was travelling along the path leading to Makkah and he happened to pass by a mountain called Jumdan. He said: "Proceed on, it is Jumdan, Mufarradun have gone ahead." They said: "Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who are Mufarradun?" He said: "They are those men and women who remember Allah exceedingly."*<sup>3</sup>

The Mufarradun, means those who are unique, and who remember Allah abundantly, and those who pray and give *zakaat* (obligatory charity).

*Hadith (sayings): Abu Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, the example of the one who celebrates the Praises of his Lord (Allah) in comparison to the one who does not celebrate the Praises of his Lord, is that of a living creature compared to a dead one".*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Sahih Muslim 2676

<sup>4</sup> Sahih al-Bukhari 6407



The remembrance of Allah is what gives life to the heart and without it; it is as if a person is dead. That is because *dhikr* (remembrance) is beautiful and complete in its meaning and shows the greatness of Allah and His religion. All the *adhkaar* (words of remembrance) are concise but deep in meaning and give the believer comfort and security.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) directed us to *adhkaar* (words of remembrance) to show us that it is easy on the tongue and heavy on the scale.

*Hadith (sayings): Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "There are two statements that are light for the tongue to remember, heavy in the scales and are dear to the Merciful: 'SubhanAllahi wa bihamdihi, SubhanAllahil-Adhim' [Glory be to Allah and His is the Praise, and Allah, the Greatest is free from imperfection]."*<sup>5</sup>

Despite these great *adhkaar* (words of remembrance) from the *Sunnah* (practice of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]) which are complete, perfect and greatly rewarded, many people indulge in *bida'a* (innovation) and *shirk* (associating partners with Allah) that are not sanctioned by the *Qur'an* and *Sunnah* (practice of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]).

IBN AL QAYYIM (MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM) SAID, "THE BEST *DHIKR* (REMEMBRANCE) AND MOST BENEFICIAL IS WHEN THE HEART AND TONGUE ARE IN LINE".

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<sup>5</sup> Riyadh As Saliheen, Al Bukhari & Muslim, Book 16, Hadith 1408

Often our tongues are racing faster than our hearts which lead us to be hasty. Therefore, it is essential for us to focus on quality over quantity.

From the adhkaar (words of remembrance) which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would say more was, la hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no might or power except with Allah). These great words have many virtues, benefits and fruits which no one can encompass except Allah. They are deep in meaning which causes our faith to be firm, strengthens our certainty and increases our connection with Allah.





# MEANING OF AL HAWQALA

The word, *hawqala* is referring to, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) similar to how the term '*tasbeeh*' (glorification of Allah) refers to, '*Subhan Allah*' (Glory be to Allah).

This *adhkaar* (words of remembrance) has both negation, '*La hawla wala quwwata*' (there is no change or power) and affirmation, '*illa billah*' (except with Allah).

△ *Hawla*: means movement. For example, when we move from a sitting to a standing position, moving from one state to another. It also means, a person riding a horse.

△ *Quwwata*: means strength which is the opposite of weakness. A person who has strength is called *Qawi*.

Without *hawla* (movement) we will not have *quwwata* (strength) and without *quwwata* (strength) we will not have *hawla* (movement).

Therefore, the meaning of, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change and power except with Allah) is that there will be no movement and no transition from one condition to another. This means there will be no strength to do anything in life except by the help, support and *tawfeeq* (guidance and success) from Allah. We cannot lift our hands or blink our eyes unless Allah helps us and guides us.

Sayings of the righteous predecessors and scholars with regard to its meaning:

1. **IBN ABBAS** (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "We cannot perform any movements of worship except by Allah's will and that there is no power to make us abstain from the sins except if Allah helps us.
2. **ABDALLAH BIN MASOOD** (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "There is no way out of disobeying Allah except if Allah guards us and so *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is needed by every believer in order to remind them that it is not within their power to stop committing sins".
3. **ALI BIN ABI TALIB** (may Allah be pleased with him) said it means "I don't own anything with Allah or even below Him, we only own whatever Allah has given us, though Allah is still the Owner". This highlights the fact that, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is a reminder to all believers that absolute ownership belongs to Allah and everything that we perceive to own, is actually owned by Allah.
4. **ZUHAIR BIN MOHAMMED** (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked about the tafseer (interpretation) of, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) and he said "You can only take what you love by Allah's help" – to elaborate there are things we love such as health and obedience for which we cannot depend on ourselves to achieve. He also said, "One cannot stop one's self from what he hates except by the help of Allah". This shows us that we need to constantly rely on Allah.

**5. ABU HAYTHEM AR RAZI**, (may Allah have mercy on him) a scholar in language said, "La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah) is movement, and it is only by Allah's will that we can move or have any ability". Every movement, every blink of an eye is governed by, la hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah) and by Allah's will. This truly teaches us to be humble in front of Allah.

LA HAWLA WALA QUWWATA ILLA BILLAH (THERE IS NO CHANGE OR POWER EXCEPT WITH ALLAH) IS A TREASURE OF PARADISE BECAUSE IT CAN MAKE US ACHIEVE ANYTHING WHEN WE DEPEND ON ALLAH. WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING WHEN WE DEPEND ON OURSELVES.



# VIRTUES OF AL HAWQALA

There is ample evidence regarding the virtues of, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) in the *Sunnah* (practice of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]) and so it is important for every Muslim to know about them.

## SOME OF THE VIRTUES

△ Forgiveness of sins

*Hadith (sayings): Abdullah bin Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that: the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "There is not anyone upon earth who says: 'La ilaha illa Allah (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah, and Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest), la hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah) except that his sins shall be pardoned, even if they were like the foam of the sea.'"*<sup>6</sup>

It has been mentioned in many hadith (sayings) that the forgiveness of sins is connected to these four words which are the most beloved to Allah, and so it is important not to disregard *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) or underestimate it.

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<sup>6</sup> Jami' at-Tirmidhi 3460

## △ Help in learning the Qur'an

*Hadith (sayings): Narrated Abdullah Ibn Abu Awfa (may Allah be pleased with him): "A man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said: I cannot memorise anything from the Qur'an: so teach me something which is sufficient for me. He, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Say Subhan Allah (Glory be to Allah), Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah), La ilaha illa Allah (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah), Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest) and La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah). He said: Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), this is for Allah, but what is for me? The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Say: O Allah, have mercy on me, sustain me, keep me well, and guide me. When he stood up, he made a sign with his hand (indicating that he had earned a lot)."*<sup>7</sup>

This hadith (saying) is teaching us the virtues of saying la hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah) and how it is the solution in helping us learn the Qur'an.

## △ From the remaining good deeds

وَالْبَقِيَّةُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا ﴿٤٦﴾

*the righteous deeds, that last, are better with your Lord for rewards and better in respect of hope.*<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Sunan Abi Dawud 832, Authenticated by Al Albani as Hasan.

<sup>8</sup> Surah Al Kahf 46

*Hadith (sayings): The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah of upon him) said, "Increase in saying the remaining good deeds which are takbeer (proclaiming Allah's Greatness), tahleel (declaring the Oneness of Allah), tasbeeh (glorification of Allah), Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah) and La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah)".<sup>9</sup>*

Uthman bin 'Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked, "What are the 'remaining good deeds' (*baqiyat as saalihat*)?" And he mentioned the same. We might be familiar with *Subhan Allah* (Glory be to Allah), *Alhamdulillah* (Praise be to Allah), *La ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah), *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest) but, *La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is not something that can be grasped quickly. Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked about the remaining good deeds and he also mentioned the same.

However, this does not negate the fact that all good deeds intended for the sake of Allah will also remain. Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said "The remaining good deeds are remembering Allah, saying *La ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah) and *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah), seeking forgiveness, sending salaam (peace) upon the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), fasting, prayer, hajj (annual pilgrimage), charity, freeing a slave, enjoining kith and kin and all good deeds. These are the remaining good deeds which will remain for the people in paradise".

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<sup>9</sup> Ibn Haban 840



## △ Treasure from the treasures of paradise

*Hadith (sayings): Abu Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: "We were along with Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) on a journey when the people began to pronounce 'Allahu Akbar' (Allah is the Greatest) in a loud voice. Thereupon Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "O people, show mercy to yourselves for you are not calling the One who is deaf or absent. Verily, you are calling the One who is All-Hearing and Near to you and is with you". Abu Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) said that he had been behind him (the Prophet) (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and reciting: "La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah." He (the Prophet) (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), while addressing 'Abdullah b. Qais, (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "Should I not direct you to a treasure from amongst the treasures of Paradise?" 'Abdullah b. Qais (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Please do, of course". Thereupon he (the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]) said: "Then recite: " La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah)."<sup>10</sup>*

The Prophet (may Allah be pleased with him) told us *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is a treasure from the treasures of paradise. The people of paradise will breathe – *Subhan Allah* (Glory be to Allah), *Alhamdulillah* (Praise be to Allah), *La ilaha illa Allah* (none

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<sup>10</sup> Sahih Muslim 2704

has the right to be worshipped except Allah), *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest), but in paradise the treasure is, *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).

HADITH (SAYINGS): THE PROPHET (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON HIM) SAID: "SHALL I NOT GUIDE YOU TO A WORD THAT IS UNDER THE THRONE FROM THE TREASURES OF PARADISE? SAY: 'LA HAWLA WA LA QUWWATA ILLA BILLAH (THERE IS NO CHANGE OR POWER EXCEPT WITH ALLAH). SO, ALLAH SAYS: "MY SLAVE HAS SUBMITTED AND SURRENDERED."<sup>11</sup>

A treasure is something that has already been gathered, it is like an inheritance one receives without doing anything. *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) also shows our reliance on Allah and our humbleness in front of Him.

△ A plant in paradise

One should increase in saying, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) because it is one of the plants of paradise. *Gharaas* (plants of paradise) are the small plants which are planted. When the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) during *Isra'a wal Mi'raj* (Night of Ascension) he told our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) "O Mohammed command your ummah (nation) to increase from the plants of paradise". The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked "What are the plants of paradise?".

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<sup>11</sup> As Silsalah As Saheeha 4/35, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

He said *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).<sup>12</sup>

△ Door from the doors of paradise

*Hadith (sayings): The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Shall I not guide you to a door from the doors of paradise? La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah)."*<sup>13</sup>

There are different doors to paradise and one of them is, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) just like the door to prayer, fasting, sadaqa (voluntary charity), etc.

△ Allah will affirm we are saying the truth

It is a great honor when Allah verifies the truthfulness of what we are saying. Let us have a closer look at the below hadith (sayings):

*Hadith (sayings): It was narrated from Abu Hurairah and Abu Saeed bore witness that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "If a person says: 'La ilaha illallahu wa Allahu Akbar (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Allah is the Most Great)', Allah says: 'My slave has spoken the truth; there is none worthy of worship except I, and I am the Most Great.' If a person says: La ilaha illallah wahdahu (there is none worthy of worship except Allah alone), Allah says: 'My slave has spoken the truth; there is none worthy of worship except I, alone.' If he says, La ilaha illallahu la sharikalahu (there is*

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<sup>12</sup> Sahih At Targheeb 1583, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

<sup>13</sup> As Silsalah As Saheeha 1746, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

none worthy of worship except Allah with no partner or associate),' Allah says: 'My slave has spoken the truth; there is none worthy of worship except I, with no partner or associate.' If he says: 'la ilah illallah, la hul mulku wa la hul hamdu (there is none worthy of worship except Allah, all dominion is His and all praise is to Him),' Allah says: 'My slave has spoken the truth; there is none worthy of worship except I, all dominion is Mine and all praise is due to Me.' If he says: ' La ilaha illallah, la hawla wa la quwwata illa billah (there is none worthy of worship and there is no power and no strength except with Allah),' Allah says: 'My slave has spoken the truth; there is none worthy of worship except I, and there is no power and no strength except with Me.' One of the narrators Abu Ishaq said: "Then Agharr (another narrator) said something that I did not understand. I said to Abu Jafar: 'What did he say?' He said: 'Whoever is blessed with (the ability to say) them (these words) at the time of death, the Fire will not touch him.'"<sup>14</sup>

Ibn Al Qayyim (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "When one remembers Allah then it is a reason for Allah to verify that he is saying the truth. The one who remembers Allah is talking about His perfection and Majesty and since we cannot see it, Allah verifies it. For whoever Allah affirms his truthfulness to, that person will not be resurrected with the liars and will hope to be resurrected with the truthful ones."

So, it is important to increase in *dhikr* (remembrance) in order to be taken out from hypocrisy and be gathered with the *sadiqeen* (the truthful ones).

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<sup>14</sup> Sahih Ibn Majah 3076, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih



# BELIEF IN AL HAWQALA

*La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) has a deep meaning, therefore in order to understand it further, the following *hadith* (sayings) proves invaluable.

*Hadith (sayings): The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Shall I not guide you to a word that is under The Throne from the treasures of paradise? Say: 'La hawla wala quwwata illa billah' (there is no change or power except with Allah). So, Allah says: My Slave has submitted and surrendered."*<sup>15</sup>

'Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "Subhan Allah (Glory be to Allah) is to testify that Allah is far from imperfection and it is the prayer of all creation. *Alhamdulillah* (Praise be to Allah) is to testify that all praises are due to Allah and it is the word of gratitude. *La ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah) is to declare that there is no one worthy of attachment except Allah and it is the word of *ikhlas* (sincerity). *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest) is to announce that Allah is the greatest and it fills what is between the heavens and the earth. *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is to declare that there is no might or power except with Allah and it is the testimony of

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<sup>15</sup> As Silsalah As Saheeha 4/35, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

submission to Allah. *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is always mentioned at the end as if, it is the top of the mountain i.e. the final and most high destination that one aspires to reach."

The very least a believer should do is make *tasbeeh* (glorification of Allah). Even the animals and mountains are busy making *tasbeeh* (glorification of Allah) so the one who falls short of even doing that, is considered worse than the animals.

### **BELIEF IN SUBMISSION & SURRENDERING**

*La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is the word of submission and surrender. In essence we are freeing ourselves from having any power or might and delegating it to Allah. We cannot change from disbelief to belief, or from disobedience to obedience except by the might and power of Allah.

*IT IS THE MASTER KEY FOR ALL OUR AFFAIRS, SITUATIONS AND PROBLEMS. LA HAWLA WALA QUWWATA ILLA BILLAH (THERE IS NO CHANGE OR POWER EXCEPT WITH ALLAH) HELPS A BELIEVER TO UNDERSTAND THE DECREE OF ALLAH, INCREASE IN ITS BELIEF AND TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT EVERY SINGLE THING IS IN THE HANDS OF ALLAH.*

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The creation and command belong to Him, the dominion and praises belong to Him, the *duniya* (worldly life) and the *akhirah* (hereafter) belong to Him, the blessings and favors belong to Him, and all the beautiful praises belong to Him. His ability reaches everyone, and this is, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).

إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ﴿٨٢﴾

Verily, His Command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, "Be!" and it is!<sup>16</sup>

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢﴾

Whatever of mercy and goodness, Allah may grant to mankind, none can withhold it, and whatever He may withhold, none can grant it thereafter. And He is the All Mighty, the All Wise.<sup>17</sup>

When Allah opens any mercy whether it be rain, wealth, a job or children no one can hold it back. By acknowledging that everything belongs to Allah, it is then our duty to submit to His divinity and perfection and to surrender to His greatness.

We should delegate all of our affairs to Him whilst at the same time utilizing the means that He has given us.

### SINCERITY IN SEEKING HELP

*La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) is the word of *isti'ana* (seeking help) from Allah and also *ikhlas* (sincerity).

*La ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to worshipped except Allah) is the word of *tawheed* (attributing Oneness to Allah) and it is *ikhlas* (sincerity) to Allah in worship. We will not get, *la ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah) unless

<sup>16</sup> Surah Yaseen 82

<sup>17</sup> Surah Fatir 2

we are sincere in worshipping Him and relying on Him alone.

Allah combined the two matters of worship and *isti'ana* (seeking help) in the best surah in the Qur'an, Surah Al Fatiha:

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ  
إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ △

*(You alone we worship) which is, la ilaha illa Allah (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah)*

وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ △

*(You alone we seek help) which is, la hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah).*

When we say, *la ilaha illa Allah* which is *ikhlas* (sincerity) in worship, then this is freeing ourselves from *shirk* (associating partners with Allah).

When we say, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) which is *ikhlas* (sincerity) in seeking help, then this is freeing ourselves from all might and power.

Without realizing it, we can fall in to *shirk* (associating partners with Allah) by relying on ourselves. *Isti'ana* (seeking help) is connected with Allah's lordship and *ibadah* (worship) is connected with Allah's perfection. So, the One we rely on, has all the perfect actions and the One we worship is perfect. Our goal is, *la ilaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah) and our tool is, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).



Sheikh Al Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said: *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) makes it obligatory to receive help.

For this reason, when we hear the *mu'adhin* (caller to prayer) saying “*haya ‘alal salah* (come to prayer) *haya ‘alal falah*” (come to success), we need to say *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).

*Hadith (sayings): "I was with Mu'awiyah when the Mu'adhdhin called the Adhan. Muawiyah said what the Mu'adhdhin said, but when he said: 'Hayya 'alal-salah (come to prayer),' he said: 'La hawla wa la quwwata illa Billah (There is no power and no strength except with Allah);' and when he said: 'Hayya 'alal-falah (come to success),' he said: 'La hawla wa la quwwata illa Billah (There is no power and no strength except with Allah).' After that he said what the Mu'adhdhin said, then he said: 'I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying exactly like that.'"<sup>18</sup>*

In Surah Al Kahf, in the story of the garden, the believer said to the owner of the garden:

وَلَوْلَا إِذْ دَخَلْتَ جَنَّتَكَ قُلْتَ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ تَرَن  
أَنَا أَقَلَّ مِنْكَ مَالًا وَوَلَدًا ﴿٣٩﴾

*"It was better for you to say, when you entered your garden: 'That which Allah wills (will come to pass), there is no change or power except with Allah.'"<sup>19</sup>*

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<sup>18</sup> Sunan An Nisa'I Book 7, Hadith 685

<sup>19</sup> Surah Al Kahf 39

This ayah (verse) highlights the need to remember, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) and not busy ourselves with admiring the blessings bestowed upon us by Allah because it is only by Allah's will that anything exists.

وَإِن يَمَسَّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يُرِدَكَ  
بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ لِفَضْلِهِ يُصِيبُ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ  
الرَّحِيمُ ﴿١٠٧﴾

*And if Allah touches you with hurt, there is none who can remove it but He; and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favor which He bestows on whomsoever He wills. And He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*<sup>20</sup>

وَإِن يَمَسَّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يَمَسَّكَ  
بِخَيْرٍ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١٧﴾

*And if Allah touches you with harm, none can remove it but He, and if He touches you with good, then He is Able to do all things.*<sup>21</sup>

وَلَيْن سَأَلْتَهُمْ مِّنْ خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلْ  
أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ  
كَشِفَتْ ضُرِّيَّهِ أَوْ أَرَادَنِيَ بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَتُ  
رَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

<sup>20</sup> Surah Yunus 107

<sup>21</sup> Surah Al An'am 17

*And verily, if you ask them: "Who created the heavens and the earth?" Surely they will say: "Allah (has created them)." Say: "Tell me then, the things that you invoke besides Allah - if Allah intended some harm for me, could they remove His harm? Or if He (Allah) intended some mercy for me, could they withhold His Mercy?" Say: "Sufficient for me is Allah; in Him those who trust (i.e. believers) must put their trust."<sup>22</sup>*

All of the above are reminders and evidences that no one can prevent what Allah has decreed. He alone can remove our distress and no one can prevent the favors He bestows.

*Hadith (sayings): Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Whoever says (upon leaving his house): 'Bismillah (in the name of Allah), Tawakkaltu 'alallah (I rely on Allah alone), La hawla wala quwwata illa billah (there is no change or power except with Allah) it will be said to him: "You are guided, sufficient, defended and protected." The devil will go far away from him". Abu Dawud (may Allah be pleased with him) reported it with this addition: "One devil will say to another: "How can you deal with a man who has been guided, defended and protected?"<sup>23</sup>*

It is from the *Sunnah* (teachings of the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]) to say these words when leaving the house whether it is for a religious or a worldly matter. It shows that we are not depending on the car, time, roads, experience or ourselves but only on Allah.

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<sup>22</sup> Surah Az Zumar 38

<sup>23</sup> Riyadh As Saliheen, [Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and An- Nasa'i], Book 1, Hadith 83

## AFFIRMING ALLAH'S LORDSHIP

The words, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) confirm the Lordship of Allah, that He alone is the Creator of this universe and the disposer of affairs. Any honor or humiliation, or giving and withholding are all by Allah's permission and by His actions.

وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ بِأَمْرِ رَبِّهِ ۗ أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ  
رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٥٤﴾

*Surely, His is the Creation and Commandment. Blessed is Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)!<sup>24</sup>*

يُدَبِّرُ الْأُمُورَ مَا مِنْ شَفِيعٍ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ إِذْنِهِ ۗ

*Disposing the affairs of all things. No intercessor (can plead with Him) except with His will.<sup>25</sup>*

## AFFIRMING ALLAH'S NAMES & ATTRIBUTES

When we say, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) then it is as if we are invoking Allah by saying I have no one to turn to except You. The One we are calling is the Most Rich – 'Al Ghaniy' and everyone else is poor and needy, and He is the Self-Sufficient Master – 'Al Qayoom'. He doesn't need any partner or mediators and is All-Able – 'Al Qadeer'. Besides Allah, everyone else is deficient, imperfect and full of faults.

<sup>24</sup> Surah Al A'raf 54

<sup>25</sup> Surah Yunus 3

## JOINING IN TAWHEED BY KNOWLEDGE & TAWHEED BY ACTIONS

*Tawheed* (attributing Oneness to Allah) is to make Allah One. There are two aspects of *tawheed* (attributing Oneness to Allah):

### △ ***Tawheed (attributing Oneness to Allah) by knowledge:***

This includes *Tawheed ar ruboobiyah* (Oneness of Allah in Lordship) which is to make Allah One in His actions and *Tawheed* (attributing Oneness to Allah) in Allah's names and attributes which is to make Allah One in all of His names and attributes.

### △ ***Tawheed (attributing Oneness to Allah) by actions:***

This includes *Tawheed al uloohiyah* (Oneness to Allah in Divinity) which is when we make Allah One in our actions and worship Him alone.

When a believer affirms the Oneness of Allah's actions and His perfection in His names and attributes, i.e. '*tawheed (attributing Oneness to Allah) by knowledge*', then he also needs to complete it by turning away from anyone besides Him i.e. '*tawheed (attributing Oneness to Allah) by actions*'.

The more we know about Allah's names and actions, then the stronger our, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) will be. A person cannot be a true monotheist with knowledge alone because action and practice are needed to complete the picture.

## AFFIRMING ALLAH'S PERFECTION & DIVINITY

We confirm with our actions that only Allah is worthy of worship. Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "The meaning

of Allah is the Owner of perfection and the Owner of worship of all the creation". When mentioning the Owner of perfection then it means only He is worthy of being an *ilah* (a God) and so because He is the only One worthy of being an *ilah* (a God), He is also the only One worthy of worship. So, there is the perfection/divinity of Allah which is '*Al uloohiyah*' and the actions of the people which is '*Al uboodiyah*'.

All of Allah's most beautiful names are elaborate and explain the meaning of 'Allah'. When we say, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) then this includes all of Allah's names, consequently, knowing these names helps us to worship Him.

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا

AND (ALL) THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NAMES BELONG TO ALLAH, SO CALL ON HIM BY THEM.<sup>26</sup>

This means all the other names of Allah belong to the name 'Allah'. For example, the names '*Al Aziz*' (The All-Mighty), '*Ar Raheem*' (The especially Merciful) are from the names of Allah, but we don't say 'Allah' is from the names of '*Ar Rahman*' (The Most Merciful).

Ibn Mendah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "The name Allah is definite on its own. For example, we can say '*Al Aziz*' (The All-Mighty) and '*Aziz*', but the definite article from Allah cannot be removed, the (ال) is constructed in the word itself".

Allah stopped His creation from calling themselves with the name

<sup>26</sup> Surah Al A'raf 180

'Allah', this shows us the great importance and weight of this name. Ibn Mendah added "No one can call other gods Allah", as it is exclusively for Him alone. He further said, "The name Allah is the beginning of faith, the backbone of Islam, the word of truth and sincerity, and it goes against doing *shirk* (associating partners with Allah) with Him. And if anyone says 'Allah' then he cannot be killed, and with this name the obligations are opened. The oaths are tied by the name Allah, and refuge from the shaitan (devil) is sought with this name (aoodhubillahi minash shaitan rajeem). By this name matters are started *Bismillah* (in the name of Allah) and they end with this name as well. Blessed is His name and there is no god besides Him".

### **BELIEF IN THE PREORDAINMENT OF ALLAH & HIS DECREES**

When we believe in, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) then we believe in Allah's decree. For this reason, Imam Al Bukhari (may Allah have mercy on him) included, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) in the Chapter about Decree, as we are in fact believing in Allah's knowledge, His writing in the Preserved Tablet, the actualisation of His will and the creation of means to make the decree happen.

### **IT IS IN ITSELF A DUA'A**

By saying, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah), we are also invoking Allah and making *dua'a* (supplication), as if we are asking Allah to give us might and power. Imam Al Bukhari (may Allah have mercy on him) also mentioned, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is

no change or power except with Allah) in the Chapter about *dua'a* (supplication) as it is a *dua'a* (supplication) inclusive of goodness.

### BELIEF IN THE WILL OF ALLAH

Whatever Allah wills will happen and whatever He doesn't will, will not happen. Our will is under Allah's will and the last word is with Allah.

لِمَنْ شَاءَ مِنْكُمْ أَنْ يَسْتَقِيمَ ۖ  
وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*To whoever amongst you, who wills to walk straight, And you cannot will, unless (it be) that Allah wills, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists).<sup>27</sup>*

There is no ability for the slave to do any kind of goodness or anything beneficial for himself unless Allah wills it.

### AFFIRMING THE SLAVE'S POVERTY & HIS NEED FOR ALLAH

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ

*O mankind! It is you who stand in need of Allah, but Allah is Rich (Free of all needs), Worthy of all praise.<sup>28</sup>*

OUR NEEDINESS FOR ALLAH IS SOMETHING EMBEDDED WITHIN US AND CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM US. WE CANNOT BE INDEPENDENT FROM OUR RABB (THE LORD, THE NURTURER) AND MASTER FOR EVEN A BLINK OF AN EYE.

<sup>27</sup> Surah At Takweer 28 - 29

<sup>28</sup> Surah Al Fatir 15



Ibn Al Qayyim (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “Know that everyone living – except Allah – is in need to bring whatever benefits him and to avert anything which harms him”.

Ibn Al Qayyim (may Allah be pleased with him) further said anything which benefits us is pleasurable and anything which harms us is painful and tormenting.

### IMPORTANCE OF BEING CONNECTED TO ALLAH AT ALL TIMES

We can often deceive ourselves in to thinking that we are doing things on our own, but in fact we are not. We need to be connected to Allah for all our matters, whether in *deen* (religion) or otherwise. *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) keeps us connected to Allah, strengthens and increases our *ikhlas* (sincerity) and magnifies our trust in Him.

The true believer will always be accompanied by, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah), in his prayer, in his fasting, in his hajj (annual pilgrimage), in his goodness and all other matters. He is always asking Allah to accept his deeds.

These are some evidences and beautiful meanings of, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) which show the great status, virtues and benefits of, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah), and Allah knows best.



# SOME MISTAKES WHEN USING AL HAWQALA

There are some mistakes regarding the meaning and usage of, *La hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).

- △ It is used as a word of returning such as *inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajjoun* (Verily we belong to Allah and verily we will return to Him) rather than as a word of *isti'ana* (seeking help).
- △ It can be pronounced in an improper way, which causes a change in its meaning.
- △ It may be mentioned in a shortened way like *la hawla*; this shows heedlessness in a person. Sheikh bin Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about this and said: "It is as if they want to say, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) so they should just be reminded".



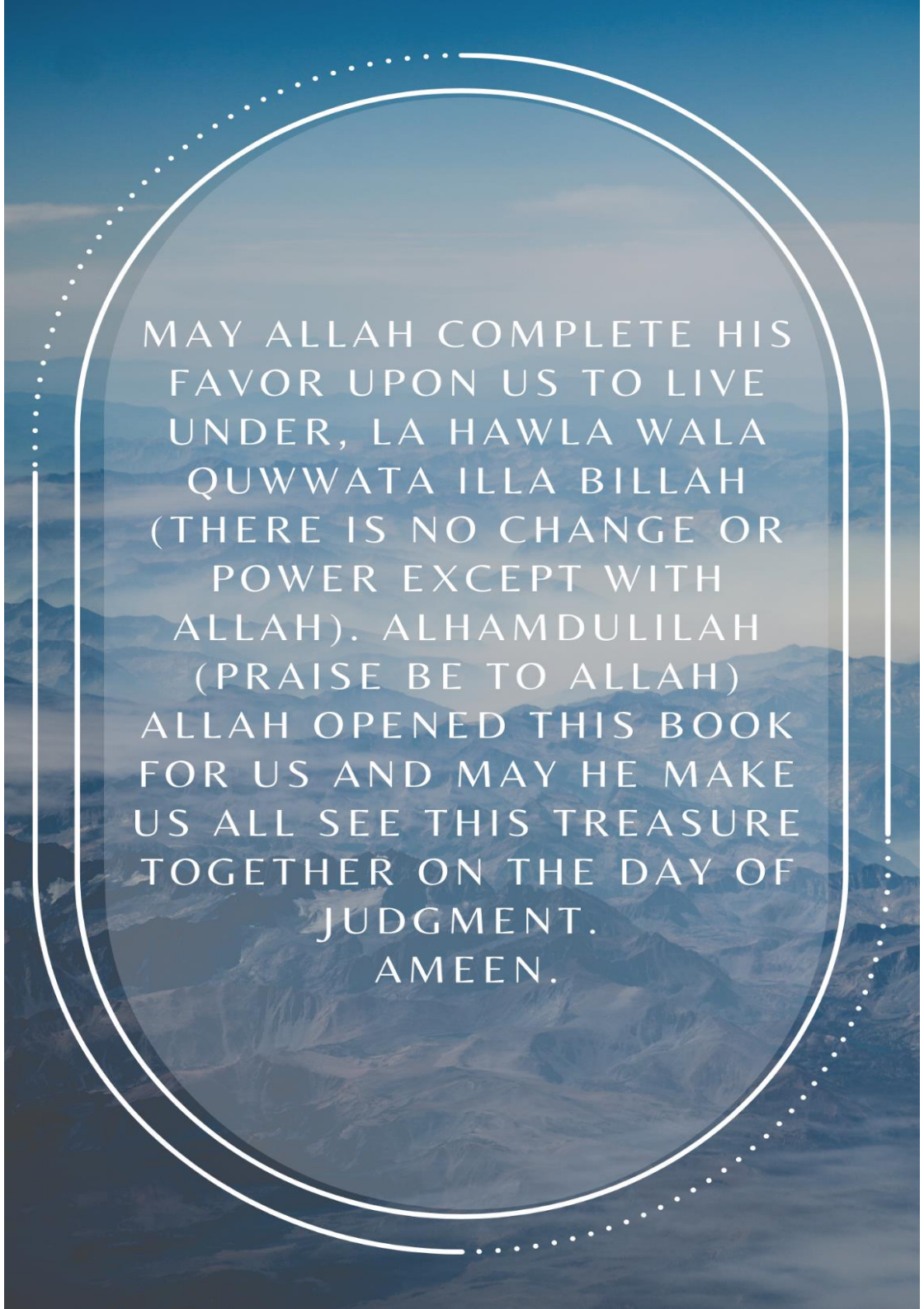
# HOW TO APPLY AL HAWQALA

These are some of the applications that we can do in our daily life so we can truly live with, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).

- △ We cannot perform any good deeds or abstain from any sins without seeking Allah's help.
- △ Allah is the source of all our strength and determination and we need to rely on him completely for any movement.
- △ We should use it to make dua to Allah.
- △ We should accept the decree of Allah and anything that happens our way because all the decree is perfect as it is, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah).
- △ We need to remember constantly that we are indebted to Allah and constantly seek His aid in all our affairs. We cannot rely on ourselves for anything.
- △ We should busy our tongues with this *dhikr* (remembrance) as it is one of the treasures from the treasures of paradise and one of the doors to Paradise.
- △ It is part of the words that are recited when we leave the house and protect us from shaitaan.

- △ By constantly saying, *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) we will be among the truthful ones because Allah will affirm that we are speaking the truth.
- △ In order to seek forgiveness we should busy our tongue with saying *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) as it erases our sins.
- △ If we want to seek help in memorising the Qur'an then we need to constantly be engaged in saying *la hawla wala quwwata illa billah* (there is no change or power except with Allah) because from one of its virtues is that it aids in memorising the Qur'an.





MAY ALLAH COMPLETE HIS  
FAVOR UPON US TO LIVE  
UNDER, LA HAWLA WALA  
QUWWATA ILLA BILLAH  
(THERE IS NO CHANGE OR  
POWER EXCEPT WITH  
ALLAH). ALHAMDULILAH  
(PRAISE BE TO ALLAH)  
ALLAH OPENED THIS BOOK  
FOR US AND MAY HE MAKE  
US ALL SEE THIS TREASURE  
TOGETHER ON THE DAY OF  
JUDGMENT.  
AMEEN.



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