69963 - Reciting Surat al-Baqarah in the Home

the question

With regard to recitation of Surah al-Baqarah in the home and its driving out of the shayateen (devils): must it be recited out loud? Will using a recording serve that purpose? Is it acceptable to read it not all at once?

Summary of answer

1- Reciting Surat al-Baqarah is a blessing and forsaking it is a cause of regret, and the magicians cannot withstand it.
2- Reciting Surat al-Baqarah in a loud voice is not a must. It is sufficient that it be read and recited in the house, even if it is recited in a low voice.
3- If there is no one in the house who is able to read or recite Surat al-Baqarah, and there is no one who can recite it for them in the house, they can use a recorder to recite it

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Virtues of reciting Surat al-Baqarah in the home

The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) has told us of the great virtue of Surat al-Baqarah as a whole, and of some of its verses, such as Ayat al-Kursiy and the last two verses of the surah .

Among the things that he (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) has told us about its virtue is that the devils flee the house in which this surah is recited, and that is beneficial in protecting against and remedying sihr (witchcraft).

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Do not make your houses into graves, for the Shaytan flees from a house in which Surat al-Baqarah is recited.” Narrated by Muslim (780).

Abu Umamah al-Bahili said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) say: “Read Surat al-Baqarah, for reciting it regularly is a blessing and forsaking it is a cause of regret, and the magicians cannot withstand it.” Narrated by Muslim (804).

Must Surat Al-Baqarah be recited out loud?

It is not stipulated that it be recited in a loud voice; rather it is sufficient that it be read and recited in the house, even if it is recited in a low voice. Similarly, it is not stipulated that it be recited all in one go; rather it may be recited in stages. And it is not stipulated that it be read by only one member of the household; rather if it is shared out among them, that is acceptable. However, with regard to all of that, the best is if it is recited all in one go by one person.

Playing a recording of Surat al-Baqarah in the home: Enough?

It is not permissible to rely on the recitation coming from a broadcast or recording; rather it must be read directly by the members of the household themselves.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih al-‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked:

There is a hadith from the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) which says that if a person recites Surat al-Baqarah, the Shaytan will not come into his house. But what if the surah is recorded on a tape; will that achieve the same result?

He replied:

“No, no; the voice on the tape is nothing and will not serve any purpose, because it cannot be said that one has read or recited Quran; rather it may be said that one has listened to the voice of somebody who recited it before. Hence if we record the adhan of a muadhdhin, then when the time comes we play it over the loudspeakers, and we leave it to call the adhan, is that acceptable?

It is not acceptable. If we record a moving khutbah (sermon), then on Friday we play this recording of the “imam of the microphone”, and the recording says “As-salamu ‘alaykum wa rahmat-Allahi wa barakatuhu (peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings),” then the muadhdhin gives the call to prayer, then the recording of the khutbah is played, is this acceptable? It is not acceptable; why is that? Because this recording is a voice that was recorded in the past. It is like if you wrote it on a piece of paper or put a Mushaf in the house; is that sufficient instead of reading or reciting it? It is not sufficient. (As’ilat al-Bab al-Maftuh (question no. 986)

But if there is no one in the house who is able to read or recite Surat al-Baqarah, and there is no one who can recite it for them in the house, and they use a recorder to recite it, then what appears to be the case – if Allah wills – is that it will serve this purpose and make the Shaytan flee from the house, especially if there is someone in the house who is listening to the recitation from the recorder.

For a detailed commentary on certain verses from Surat al-Baqarah, please see these answers to questions: 141772 , 118142 , 12191 , 1024 .

And Allah knows best.