

3. Thinking of the evil consequences of envy on one's self and those around him. Undoubtedly, he is suffering due to his envy, always stressed, unhappy, far from any good. Indeed, what he wishes for his enemies has already befallen him. Allaah says:

﴿وَلَا يَحِيقُ الْمَكْرُ السَّيِّئُ إِلَّا بِأَهْلِهِ﴾

“And the evil plotting only comes to bite its own plotters.”⁹²

Bakr bin Abdullaah said: “There was a man who was close to some king. It was his custom to stand next to the king and say: ‘Do good to the one who does good, indeed the evil of the evil doer shall come back to repay him.’ There was another man who used to envy him for that position he had and the words of wisdom he would say, so he came to the king and said: ‘This person who stands close to you is speaking ill of you saying that the king smells!’ The king said: ‘How can that be proven true?’ The man said: ‘Call him to come closer, you shall see him putting his hand on his nose.’ So, the king said: ‘Go. Let me think about it.’ So, the king called the man who was always with him. As usual, he came and stood by his side and said: ‘Do good to the one who does good, indeed the evil of the evil doer shall come back to repay him.’ The king said: ‘Come close to me.’ So, the man got closer and put his hand on his mouth fearing that he might have a bad smell and the king will be displeased by him. But the king thought: ‘I think what so-and-so said about this man is the truth.’ And this king never used to write with his own hand except an order of financial benefit a gift. So, he wrote an order directed to one of his

⁹² Surah al-Faatir: 43

subordinates: ‘When the person holding this letter brings it to you; kill him, skin him, and cut him to pieces, then send him to me to see.’ He gave the man the letter without reading it and he left to hand it over as commanded. When he left the king’s courtyard he was intercepted by the envier who inquired: ‘What is this letter?’ The wise man said: ‘A benefaction letter written by the king for me.’ So, the envier said: ‘Gift it to me.’ So, the man being a good person gave it to him as a gift. The envier took it to the recipient who was supposed to carry out the king’s directive. When he read it, he said to the envier: ‘Your letter says that I should kill, skin, and then cut you to pieces!’ Shocked the envier said: ‘It is not mine, it is not mine! Please go back to the king and ask him to verify.’ The worker said: ‘The king’s word is final.’ And he killed him. The next day or so, as was his routine, the wise man went to the king and said his normal words. The king was shocked and asked: ‘What happened to the letter I wrote for you?’ He replied: ‘So-and-so met me and asked me to gift it to him and I did.’ The king said: ‘He had mentioned to me that you speak ill of me saying I smell.’ The man said: ‘I never said that!’ The king inquired: ‘Then why did you put your hand on your mouth when I asked you to come close?’ The man said: ‘Just before that, I was with him and he invited me to food which had garlic in it so I disliked that you should smell that.’ The king then said: ‘You speak the truth, go back to your position. Indeed, the evil of the evil doer shall come back to him.’⁹³

⁹³ *ibid*