

## Seeking the Lawful Means of Approach to Allâh

All praises and thanks are due to Allâh, the Greatest, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful, Owner and Bestower of the great favor and tremendous bounties. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh, Alone without partners, and unto Him belongs the Most Noble Sovereignty. I bear witness that Muhammad § is His slave and Messenger whom Allâh described:

"And verily, you (O Muhammad 養) are on an exalted (standard of) character." (68:4)

O Allâh! Bestow Your mercy, forgiveness and blessings on Muhammad, his progeny, his Companions and all those who followed their guidance.

O people, fear Allâh the Exalted:

"O you who believe! Do your duty to Allâh and fear Him. And seek the *Wasilah* (means of approach) to Him, and strive hard in His Cause (as much as you can), so that you may be successful." (5:35)

'Fear Allâh' in this  $\hat{A}yah$  pertains to avoiding Kufr (disbelief), sin and disobedience. As for  $Jih\hat{a}d$  in Allâh's Cause, it pertains to striving hard against the people of misguidance, disbelief and atheism. 'Seek the Wasilah to Him', pertains to drawing close to Allâh by adhering to the pillars of Faith, the laws of Islam and acts of Ihsan (excellence in the religion).

He who worships Allâh and invokes Him by His Names and Attributes, has sought the best means of approach to Him. He who invokes Allâh on account of His favors, bounties, generosity and kindness, will have sought the path of the chosen righteous believers.

He who seeks the means of approach to Allâh by avoiding what He has disallowed and working for His pleasure, will no doubt earn all that is good and righteous. He, who seeks the means of approach to Allâh by mentioning his need and meekness to Him, will have used the best way of drawing closer to Him.

As for he who seeks the means of approach to Allâh by mentioning the grade and status that some of His creation have with Him, he is an innovator in the religion and an unjust person. He who invokes the creation for help and relief, claiming that he is seeking a means of approach to Allâh through them, then he is a *Mushrik* (polytheist) and a disbeliever.

Therefore, invoke your Lord by praying often, reciting His Speech with humbleness and humility and being kind to His creation, for He likes the good-doers. Seek the means of approach to Allâh by being dutiful to parents and keeping relations with kith and kin, for Allâh keeps relations with those who do so and severs relations with those who shun their relatives. Seek the Wasilah to Allâh by fearing Him and hoping and trusting in Him, for Allâh loves those who trust in Him. Remember Allâh always by your words and seek His forgiveness, for truly, those who remember Allâh in Dhikr will acquire ultimate happiness. Seek the means of approach to Allâh by loving your Prophet and reciting the Salât (blessings upon him) for his benefit. Surely, he who often recites the Salât on the Prophet, then Allâh will suffice for him concerning all his needs. When one says Salât once on the Prophet \$\%, Allâh will give him ten times that Salât, and he will earn the Prophet's love and Shafa' (right to intercede with Allah on his behalf on the Day of Judgement) by Allâh's Leave. Seek Allâh's pleasure by being kind to the orphans, the weak and even with animals. Surely, Allâh gives mercy to those among His slaves who are merciful. Seek Allâh by ridding your hearts from all types of sin, envy and rage on Muslims, and by offering sincere advice and being compassionate with all creation. Seek the Wasilah to Allah by abandoning whatever the evil inner self commands one to do and satisfy of sin, lusts and desires; protect your sight from illegal things, preserve your tongue from uttering evil and stay away from all types of beliefs, actions and

statements that Allâh has disallowed. Seek the *Wasilah* to Allâh by having perfect sincerity and obeying the Messengers. Allâh willing, if you do this, you will earn all that you seek, that is good and beneficial. May Allâh direct us to the blessings of the Glorious Qur'ân and benefit us with whatever is in it of the Âyat and Wise *Dhikr*. I say this and ask Allâh the Great, the Most Honored for forgiveness for me, you and all Muslims for every sin. Invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Al-Fawakih Ash-Shahiyyah, by Shaikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sa'di, p. 36