



**Seeking the Shifa'ah
(Intercession)**

Seeking the *Shifâ'ah* (Intercession)

All praises and thanks are to Allâh, Who Alone created the heavens and the earth, and originated the darkness and the light; yet those who disbelieve hold others as equal with their Lord. I thank and praise Him. None can count His blessings except Him, the One Worthy of all praise, just as He praised Himself. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone without partners, the Lord of those in the heavens and those on the earth. I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is Allâh's slave and Messenger and the best of mankind. O Allâh! Bestow Your best blessings and peace on Your slave and Messenger Muhammad and on his progeny and Companions.

Each one of us seeks what benefits him or her and likes to perform righteous deeds, so that he or she collects Allâh's rewards and favors:

﴿ فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ۖ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ﴾

“So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant) shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant) shall see it.” (99:7,8)

Yet, all statements and actions will neither avail one, nor bear their intended fruits, unless they were performed in sincerity to Allâh Alone and following the *Sunnah* of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ.

O Muslims! Who among us does not believe in or like to earn the Prophet's *Shifâ'ah* on the Day of Resurrection, when Allâh will grant him this right, as well as bestow on him the *Al-Maqam Al-Mahmud*, the praised position that will be celebrated by the earlier and latter generations of mankind. On that Day, our Prophet ﷺ will be granted the Grand *Shifâ'ah* (on behalf of creation) that even the mighty Prophets عليه السلام will decline to seek and assume. But when creation comes to our Prophet ﷺ, he will declare, “I am worthy of seeking it.”

On that Day, the creations will seek the *Shifâ'ah* of the Prophets عليهم

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السلام with Allâh on their behalf, so that He relieves them from the hardships of the Day of Gathering. However, the mighty Messengers will decline to take up that job, as we stated, and this is when they will come to the best and most honorable of creation to Allâh, Muhammad ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ will go to his Lord and prostrate before Him first, before asking for the right to conduct the *Shifâ'ah*. Then he will be commanded, "Raise your head and speak, for you will be heard, ask and you will be given, and seek the right of the *Shifâ'ah* and it will be granted to you." This *Shifâ'ah*, the Grand *Shifâ'ah*, is exclusively for the Messenger of Allâh and none else shall share it with him.

The Prophet ﷺ has many other types of *Shifâ'ah*, all of which will occur on the Day of Resurrection and only by Allâh's Permission. Allâh only grants *Shifâ'ah* to those whom He is pleased with on behalf of those whom He is pleased with, exclusively from among the followers of *Tauhid* and sincerity.

﴿قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَعَةُ جَمِيعًا﴾

"Say: 'To Allâh belongs all intercession.'" (39:44)

﴿مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ﴾

"Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission?" (2:255)

"On that day no intercession shall avail, except the one for whom the Most Gracious (Allâh) has given permission and whose word is acceptable to Him." (20:109)

And:

﴿يَوْمَئِذٍ لَا نَنْفَعُ الشَّفَعَةُ إِلَّا مَنْ أِذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ وَرَضِيَ لَهُ قَوْلًا﴾

"And they cannot intercede except for him with whom He is pleased." (21:28)

Allâh is pleased only with *Tauhid* and only accepts the statements and actions performed inwardly and outwardly for His sake Alone. Since

the *Shifâ'ah* is in Allâh's Hands Alone and He grants it exclusively to sincere believers, only with His Leave and Permission, then it is not allowed for anyone to seek the *Shifâ'ah*, except from Allâh, Owner of all *Shifâ'ah*. On the Day of Judgment, Allâh will grant permission for the *Shifâ'ah* (by the Prophet ﷺ and righteous people) for those who worshipped Him in *Tauhid*, performed righteous deeds in sincerity with Him, followed the *Sunnah* of Allâh's Messenger ﷺ and died while on this righteous path. It is for those whom the *Shifâ'ah* of the Prophet ﷺ will be granted, and it is they who are worthy of receiving it.

Abu Huraira رضى الله عنه asked the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ:

سَأَلَ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَقَالَ: مَنْ أَسْعَدُ النَّاسِ بِشَفَاعَتِكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ: «مَنْ قَالَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ خَالِصًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ».

“O Allâh's Messenger! Who will be the happiest person, who will gain your intercession on the Day of Resurrection?”

Allâh's Messenger ﷺ said, “The one who said sincerely from the bottom of his heart ‘None has the right to be worshipped but Allâh.’”

Hence, Allâh only grants the people of sincerity His Favors and forgives them through the supplication of those whom He allows to intercede on their behalf with Him.

As we stated, there are two conditions regarding earning the *Shifâ'ah*: when Allâh is pleased with the person on whose behalf the *Shifâ'ah* is conducted and when He allows the person who is taking the task of *Shifâ'ah*, to do so. Allâh will only grant this permission when He intends to grant His mercy to His slave who sinned, but was upon *Tauhid*. He thus allows some of the sincere believers to interceded with Him on his behalf. Again, the Prophet ﷺ clearly stated that the reasons behind earning the *Shifâ'ah* are: *Tauhid*, sincerity in worship and avoiding major and minor *Shirk* (Polytheism).

The Prophet ﷺ said:

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«لِكُلِّ نَبِيِّ دَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ، فَتَعَجَّلْ كُلُّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَتَهُ، وَاخْتَبَأْتُ دَعْوَتِي شَفَاعَةً
لَأُمَّتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، فَهِيَ نَائِلَةٌ - إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ - مَنْ مَاتَ لَا يُسْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا» .

“Every Prophet ﷺ has an accepted *Du'â* (encompassing supplication), and every Prophet ﷺ has used his *Du'â* in this life. I kept my *Du'â* as *Shifâ'ah* for my *Ummah* (Muslim nation) on the Day of Resurrection. Allâh willing, it will reach those who die while associating none with Allâh in worship.”

Therefore, dear Muslims, perform righteous deeds, obey Allâh and His Messenger ﷺ, fulfill Allâh's Commandments, avoid what He has prohibited and shun all ways and means of *Shirk*, so that you earn the Prophet's *Shifâ'ah* on your behalf. Only seek the *Shifâ'ah* from Allâh and invoke Him to allow your Prophet to offer *Shifâ'ah* with Him for you.

O Allâh! We invoke you to allow Your Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to intercede with You for us and never deprive us of his *Shifâ'ah*. I say these words and seek Allâh's forgiveness from every error for you, me and all Muslims. Seek Allâh's forgiveness, for verily, He is Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.¹

¹ *Ahadith Al-Minbar*, by Shaikh Abdul-Aziz bin Abdullah bin Hasan Al-Shaikh, p. 47