

# ﴿THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE﴾

## How to Understand Islaam Correctly

Shaykh Muhammad Al-Malki

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### Dars 22- `Aqeedah: Believing in the Hereafter – The Intercession 23/04/2011

After praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon His Messenger (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) and those who followed him, our Shaykh and teacher, Muhammad Al-Malki welcomed the students to today's class. We will deal with: **The Intercession**

#### ASH-SHAFAA`AH – الشَّفَاعَةُ (THE INTERCESSION)

The shafaa`ah is affirmed in the Book of Allaah and in the Sunnah of the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam). As for the Book, the greatest ayah of the Book is Aayatul-Kursee, ayah 255 of sooratul-Baqarah and it contains the mention of the shafaa`ah. Allaah said in it,

﴿... مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ...﴾

...Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? (Al-Baqarah 2:255)

As noted, intercession occurs only with the Permission of Allaah Ta`aala. Allaah also mentioned the Shafaa`ah in soorah Saba' when He said,

﴿وَلَا نَنْفَعُ الشَّفَاعَةَ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا لِمَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ...﴾

Intercession with Him profits not, except for him whom He permits. (Saba' 34:23)

It is also mentioned in sooratul-Anbiyaa',

﴿...وَلَا يَشْفَعُونَ إِلَّا لِمَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ وَهُمْ مِّنْ خَشْيَتِهِ مُشْفِقُونَ﴾

... and they cannot intercede except for him with whom He is pleased. And they stand in awe for fear of Him. (Al-Anbiyaa' 21:28)

It is also mentioned in sooratul-Mudaththir; Allaah Ta`aala said,

﴿فَمَا نَنْفَعُهُمْ شَفَاعَةُ الشَّافِعِينَ﴾

So no intercession of intercessors will be of any use to them. (Al-Muddaththir 74:48)

In these aayaat the Shafaa`ah was proven to exist by way of its being mentioned.

In the Sunnah, it is narrated in Saheeh Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (radhiyallaahu `anhu) who said that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, ***“There is for every prophet a supplication which is accepted, but every prophet used his da`wah (supplication).”*** In another hadeeth, it mentions that these prophets used this promise against their people when they disobeyed them. He (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, ***“However, I reserved my da`wah (which Allaah promised to accept) to be used as intercession for my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection, and it would be granted, if Allaah wills. It will cover everyone from my Ummah who dies without having any association with Allaah in worship.”***<sup>1</sup>

It is collected in Musnad Ahmad and the Muṣannaf of `Abdur-Razzaaq with an authentic chain, on the authority of Abu Sa`eed Al-Khudree (radhiyallaahu `anhu) who said that the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) mentioned the hadeeth and then he (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said that Allaah Ta`aalaa said i.e. on the Day of Resurrection ***“The angels have interceded, the apostles have interceded and the believers have interceded, and no one remains (to grant pardon) but the Most Merciful of the merciful (i.e. Allaah). He will then take a handful from Fire and bring out from it people who never did any good.”***<sup>2</sup> This hadeeth requires explanation.

As for His saying, Glory be to Him Allaah Ta`aalaa the Exalted, ***“no one remains (to grant pardon) but the Most Merciful of the merciful”*** it means that there is no one left (to intercede) except the Most Merciful i.e. Allaah Himself, Subhaanahu wa Ta`aalaa. So ***“He will then take a handful from Fire”*** i.e. He will grab a “handful” which proves that He Ta`aalaa has hands and we know the meaning (of the word “hand”) but we never speak about “how” (they are). This grabbing and extracting from the Fire is not something random; rather, it is counted and well-known. He, Allaah Glory be to Him, has written those who are the people of Paradise and those who are the people of the Fire in the Preserved Book<sup>3</sup> before creating heavens and earth by 50,000 years<sup>4</sup>.

As for His saying, ***“people who never did any good”***, some of Ahlul-`Ilm (the people of knowledge) say that it refers to those who never did any good which will remain in their book of good deeds as they will be consumed by the oppression that they practiced against others. This is as in the hadeeth which mentions that ***a man will be brought before his Lord on Yawmul-Qiyaamah having lots of hasanaat (good deeds) in his record of good deeds but at same time in his record of bad deeds he has lots of sins as he oppressed, backbit, slandered, took money (of others), dishonored (others) so his hasanaat will be taken from his record of hasanaat and placed in their record of hasanaat until his hasanaat are finished but his oppression still remains; so their sins will be taken and placed on his record.*** Some of the scholars have said that this is the explanation and interpretation of the saying ***“people who***

<sup>1</sup> Saheeh Muslim, The Book of Eemaan (Faith):

لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ، فَتَعَجَّلَ كُلُّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَتَهُ، وَإِنِّي اخْتَبَأْتُ دَعْوَتِي، شَفَاعَةً لَأُمَّتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، فَهِيَ نَائِلَةٌ - إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ - مِنْ مَاتَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئاً

<sup>2</sup> Also mentioned with a similar wording as part of a long hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim, The Book of Eemaan:

شفعت الملائكة وشفع النبيون وشفع المؤمنون ولم يبق إلا أرحم الراحمين فيقبض قبضة من النار فيخرج منها قوماً لم يعملوا خيراً قط

<sup>3</sup> Al-Lawh Al-Mahfoodh (اللوحة المحفوظة - the Book of Divine Decrees that is in the heaven with Allâh).

<sup>4</sup> Saheeh Muslim, The Book of Qadr (Predestination): `Abdullaah bin `Amr bin al-`Aas reported: “I heard Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying: ‘Allaah ordained the measures of the creation 50,000 years before He created the heavens and the earth, as His Throne was upon water.’”

*never did any good*". They say that it does not mean that these people only witnessed that 'there is no One worthy of worship besides Allaah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah' but never prayed, fasted, gave zakaat, performed Hajj or `Umrah, were never dutiful to their parents and never upheld the rights due to neighbors, guests, wives, husbands, children and kinship. What is Islaam if they didn't do these things which they were ordained to do? Islaam is comprised of all of this.

## THE TYPES OF SHAFAA`AH

The Shafaa`ah on Day of Resurrection is of two main types:

1. **Shafaa`atun Maqboolah** (شفاعة مقبولة) - intercession which is accepted by Allaah.
2. **Shafaa`atun Mardoodah** (شفاعة مردودة) – intercession which is rejected by Allaah.

The Shafaa`ah that is rejected is the intercession that did not have the conditions of acceptance before Allaah. As for the one that is accepted it is the shafaa`ah where the conditions for acceptance are met.

## CONDITIONS FOR THE ACCEPTED SHAFAA`AH

The conditions for the acceptance of Shafaa`ah are:

- ❖ Allaah's being pleased with the intercessor.
- ❖ Permission from Allaah for the intercessor to intercede.
- ❖ Permission from Allaah for the one who intercession is being sought for.
- ❖ Permission from Allaah to begin or start the Shafaa`ah.

## THOSE WHO MAY INTERCEDE

The accepted intercession on the Day of Resurrection is affirmed for:

- The prophets
- The angels
- The believers who did good deeds i.e. they were pious e.g.
  - The scholars
  - The *muhaajidoon* – those who practiced *jihad* upon the correct understanding of Islaam i.e. as understood by the `Ulamaa'; it is not just anyone who claims that he is a *mujahid*
  - The *huffaadh* (memorizers) of the Qur'aan, with the condition that they did it sincerely for Allaah alone, without showing off or seeking fame, position or authority, and seeking no wealth from it

As for Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam), he has the greatest number of shafaa`ah than anyone else. He has eight (8) types of intercession on the Day of Resurrection. He has the **greatest intercession** (الشفاعة الأعظمى) which absolutely no one shares with him (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam).

## THE SHAFAA`AH OF MUHAMMAD (SALLALLAAHU`ALAYHI WA SALLAM) ON YAWMUL-QIYAAMAH

1. The **greatest intercession** which is for the judgment (*hisaab*) to begin on that day. It is called “*Al-Maqaam Al-Mahmood*” (المقام المحمود) and it is only for our Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam).
2. For people whose *hasanaat* (good deeds) and *sayyiaat* (bad deeds) are equal to enter the Jannah.
3. For those from amongst the Muslims who sinned and deserve to be punished in the Fire for their sins, to not enter the Fire at all.
4. For the people of Jannah to be given higher ranks than what they deserve.
5. For people to enter Jannah without any questioning or reckoning. At the head of these are the Sahaabah.
6. For people who deserve to be punished permanently in the Fire as they were *kuffaar*, to have their punishment reduced. This is like his uncle Abu Taalib who died upon *kufr* but who used to support him (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) so he interceded for him and he will be the only one to have the lowest torment in Jahannam (Hell) - he will wear slippers of Fire such that his brain will boil from its heat.
7. For the people of Jannah who have finished their judgment to not have to wait on the plain of Judgment, but to enter the Paradise.
8. For those from his Ummah who committed major sins, excluding shirk, to be taken out of the Fire and placed in Jannah.

These 8 types of shafaa`ah will be seen on the Day of Resurrection, that day on which the head of a child will turn grey<sup>5</sup> and a pregnant woman will drop her pregnancy and people will appear dizzy as if drunk but they will not be drunk; however, the punishment of Allaah is severe.<sup>6</sup> On that day on which neither wealth nor children can benefit, except what one did in the worldly life of good deeds and who comes with pure heart free of shirk;<sup>7</sup> on that great day this noble Prophet will intercede. We ask Allaah to grant us his shafaa`ah and we ask Him to allow us to come to his (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) lake and drink from it such that after drinking from it once we will never be thirsty again. We ask Him Subhaanahu wa Ta`aalaa to grant us the companionship of the Messenger (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) in Paradise. We ask Him to make us from amongst those who are accepted before Him as intercessors. We ask Him to make us from the intercessors who intercede for our parents, families, children, kin and pious believers. We ask Him `Azza wa Jall to place a barrier between us and whatever may prevent us from intercession before Him Subhaanahu wa Ta`aalaa on the Day of Resurrection.

*We now end by praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon the Messenger of Allaah.*

## ❧ END OF DARS TWENTY-TWO ❧

<sup>5</sup> Al-Muzzammil 73:17 - {...on a Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) that will make the children grey-headed}

<sup>6</sup> Al-Hajj 22:2 - {The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursling, and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet they will not be drunken, but severe will be the torment of Allâh.}

<sup>7</sup> Ash-Shu`araa 26:88-89 - {The Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, except him who comes to Allâh with a clean heart [clean from Shirk (polytheism) and Nifâq (hypocrisy)].}