

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ كَمَا هُوَ اَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلٰوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلٰى سَيِّدِ وُلْدِ اَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضٰى بِاَنْ يُصَلِّىَ عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,  
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon  
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his  
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

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## The Lesson from a Bird

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Hadrat Sayyiduna Khalf bin Tameem - *may Allah be pleased with him* – narrates:

Once, two of the greatest Saints of their era met in the blessed city of Mecca Shareef. They were Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaqeeq Balkhi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham then asked Hadrat Sayyiduna Shafeeq Balkhi - *may Allah be pleased with them*, “Which is the first incident that you witnessed and which has allowed you to reach such a high state among the Awliya?”

Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaqeeq Balkhi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - explained, “Once, I was in a certain jungle and I noticed a bird whose both wings had been broken. I then said to myself, ‘How will this bird be able to feed itself?’ As I was thinking about this, suddenly I saw another bird approaching which had a frog in its mouth. When it approached this bird whose wings were broken, it then placed this frog into the mouth

of this bird and flew away. When I saw this Great Divine Mercy of Allah Almighty, I was extremely shocked. I then said to my Nafs, 'O Nafs, if Allah Almighty can send sustenance to a mere bird which has no wings, why should you bother about where your sustenance comes from or whether your sustenance will actually come to you.' From that day, I divorced myself from all worldly activities and busied myself in the Ibadah of Allah Almighty. What I achieved from this is what you are able to see in front of you.'"

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - heard this, he replied, "O Shaqeeq! Why did you not try to be like that bird who brought the food and delivered it to the sick bird? If you had made an effort to be like that bird, certainly, you would have earned a great status. Did you not hear the words of the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - where he stated that the hand which is above, is greater than the hand which is below." (Bukhari Shareef, #1417)

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Shaqeeq Balkhi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - heard these words of wisdom, he kissed the blessed hands of Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and declared, "From today, you are the teacher and I am the student." (Uyunul Hikaayah)

There is no doubt that Allah Almighty, in His Divine Grace, is able to deliver the sustenance of all of His creation wherever they find themselves. Hence, people should have complete trust in Allah Almighty. Therefore, a person should always remember that what is in his destiny, that is what he will get nothing more nothing less. Therefore, a person should also strive and remember that striving should not be something which enables you to forget about the Divine Mercy of Allah Almighty. Sustenance is only good if it allows you to continue increasing in your Ibadah and good deeds. If this wealth which you have does not allow you to increase in your Ibadah and your good deeds, then this same wealth will become your greatest enemy.