

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَلَدِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى 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*

Their Concern for Creation

One night, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - entered a Masjid which was in a desolated area. The Masjid was so old that it had no doors at the entrance. Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - noticed that there were three people sleeping inside this Masjid and it was also extremely cold. He became extremely concerned for these poor people even though he himself was shivering with the cold. He had a piece of cloth which covered his lower body and nothing else.

Bear in mind that once, this was the same King who wore the most expensive clothing in his kingdom. He used to sleep in soft and comfortable bedding and just to keep his room warm, he had special areas which had oil heaters all around. But, to achieve the nearness of Allah Almighty, this special servant of Allah Almighty had thrown away all of these comforts of life and when people saw him now, they considered him to be the poorest person on earth. In reality, by throwing all of this away for the Divine Pleasure

of Allah Almighty, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - became the greatest human being of his era.

The only way Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - felt that he could protect these poor people was if he stood in front of the door himself. He stood in front of this door the entire night spreading out his hands so that the cold wind would not enter the Masjid. When these poor people awoke in the morning, they were shocked to see the great Saint standing in this manner. They then asked him the reason for this. Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, "You people were sleeping and I had nothing to block the wind entering the Masjid except for my own self. Hence, this was the only way I felt I could block the cold wind from entering the Masjid."

In other words, these were those blessed servants of Allah Almighty who placed their own life in front to serve and protect other Muslims. They understood the important lesson that to deliver peace and comfort to another Muslim is better than a thousand Nafil Salaah. (Makhzanul Ikhlaaq, 254).

In the *Awaarif Al Mu'aarif* it is written that, "Among the manners and behaviour of the eminent Awliya is that they also look at the comfort and benefit of others below them."

After narrating this incident, they also record another incident pertaining to this great Saint. It is mentioned that after giving up his kingdom, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - earned his livelihood by helping people in their farms. Whatever income he received, he used this to purchase some food for those who lived in his spiritual retreat. His companions fasted during the day and in the evening, they all used to join together and eat whatever food was available. At times, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to come late. One evening, he was late from work and these people decided to prepare the food themselves and eat without him with the intention that the next time, he would come early.

All of them then ate whatever was available and went to sleep. When the great Saint arrived, he found all of them asleep and thought that perhaps they had all gone to sleep in a state of hunger. Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with*

him - immediately began to prepare a fire so that he could prepare some food for them. When they heard noises in the kitchen and went to investigate, they realised that he was busy preparing food for them. They then felt extremely guilty and embarrassed and began to think that his behaviour was completely opposite to theirs. In spite of the fact that they had completely ignored him, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ebrahim bin Adham - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was preparing food for them as soon as he arrived. Needless to say, they sincerely apologised for their action. (Risaale Qushayriyyah, 453,452)