

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُ الْصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْعَبْدِ وَرَبِّ الْأَدَمِ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرْضِي إِنَّمَا يُصْلِلُ 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 Others

There is no doubt that the Awliya are those blessed creation of Allah Almighty in whose every vein there is immense love, mercy and kindness for the creation of Allah Almighty. In fact, when we look at the amazing qualities and examples of their kindness, it would not cease to amaze ordinary people.

Among them is the blessed being of Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Haafi - *may Allah be pleased with him*. He was one of those blessed creation of Allah Almighty because of whom the animals never used to drop dung on the streets of Baghdad Shareef perchance his blessed feet become soiled by this. Bear in mind that he was one who never wore shoes or sandals. Interestingly, the day these animals began to drop dung on the ground was the day he passed away. It is said that this was all due to his immense respect displayed for the Blessed Name of the Allah that the animals also began to respect him.

About him, it is mentioned that one day, when it was extremely cold. Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar Haafi - *may Allah be pleased with him* - had only one piece of cloth covering his lower half of the body. He was also shivering from intense cold. Someone then asked him, “O Abu Nasr! What has happened?”

He replied, “I thought about the poor and destitute who have nothing to wear and because of this, I also removed my clothes and I also decided to share in their sadness when they are in this state.” (Kitaabut Tasawwaf by Abu Nasr Siraj Tusi and Mirqaat Sharah Mishkaat.)

Some people in Baghdad Shareef relate that there was once a certain business person who used to be in the habit of always picking faults with the Awliya. However, what is shocking is that after a few days, this same person began to spending all his wealth for the Awliya and was always found in the blessed company of the Awliya.

I then asked him, “You were someone who used to always avoid the company of the Awliya and never spoke good about them. What has happened?”

He replied, “One day, after performing the Jumu’ah, I noticed Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar - *may Allah be pleased with him* - leaving the Masjid. It looked like he was going somewhere. I then said to myself that I would like to find out where this person is going whom everyone considers a great Saint and who did not even stay very long in the Masjid. I then started to follow him. He went to a bakery and bought fresh hot bread. I then said to myself, that this is supposed to be a Saint and he is purchasing fresh hot bread. He then came at a shop which was selling Kabab and also bought some Kebab for a single Dinaar. Obviously, by now I was beginning to get very angry. He then approached another shop and bought some Faludah for another single Dinaar. After purchasing these items, he then began to walk towards the outskirts of the town. I thought that he would now be in search for some vegetables. At the same time, I also thought that perhaps he was also looking for a private place to eat all of this food and when he starts to eat, that is when I will start to scream and accuse him of being a false Sufi.

However, he continued to walk without stopping until the time of Asr. At the time of Asr, he then entered a village and entered a Masjid. Inside the Masjid, there was an old

and frail and sickly person and Hadrat Sayyiduna Sirri Saqti - *may Allah be pleased with him* - took out this food and fed this person with his own blessed hands. I then went outside to look at this village and when I returned, I noticed that he had left. I then asked the old person where Hadrat Bishar - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was and he replied that he had already departed for Baghdad Shareef. I asked him how far Baghdad Shareef was from this place. He mentioned that it was extremely far away. I then regretted my actions and also realized that I had no money to return to Baghdad Shareef. However, the sickly person informed me that I could stay with him and that the great Saint would arrive the following Jumu'ah.

The following Jumu'ah, as the great Saint started to feed to this old person, he mentioned to the great Saint, "O Abu Nasr! There was a person who had come with you last Friday and he is still here."

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Bishar - *may Allah be pleased with him* - looked at me, he was extremely angry and asked me why I had followed him. I admitted that I had made a grave mistake and will never do this again. I then started to walk with until the time of Maghrib. Suddenly I could see Baghdad Shareef in front of me. I told him that I stayed in a certain area and he again reminded me not to make this mistake again. Thereafter, I made sincere Taubah and chose to stay in his blessed company and I have always remained steadfast on my Taubah." (Nuzahul Basaateen urdu translation of Roudatur Riyaheen, 245)

Hadrat Fareedudeen Attar - *may Allah be pleased with him* - writes that once the famous Khalifah, Harun Rashid, decided to visit the eminent Saint, Hadrat Sayyiduna Fudail bin Ayyaz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - in the company of his trusted advisor, Fadl. When they came to the door of this great Saint, Fadl mentioned that he was in the presence of the great ruler and they wanted to speak to the great Saint. However, Hadrat Sayyiduna Fudail bin Ayyaz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, "What work do I have with the Ameerul Mo'mineen and what need do I have of him?"

However, they insisted on entering the room of this great Saint. When they entered, the great Saint turned off the lantern so that he could not see anyone. During these brief moments, the hand of the Khalifah touched the hands of the great Saint and he declared, "How soft are these hands of yours, if only it could save you from the Fire of hell."

The Khalifah then asked the great Saint for some advice.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Fudail bin Ayyaz - *may Allah be pleased with him* - replied, “Your father is the blessed uncle of the Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - and he once requested the Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - to make him the Governor of any region.” However, the Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - replied, “O my uncle! I have made you the Governor of your Nafs.”

Harun Rashid then asked for more advice, the great Saint replied, “This country is your home and the subjects of this country are your children. You should be kind to your parents and also your brothers and sisters and also be extremely kind to your children. If anyone sleeps hungry within your country, on the Day of Judgement, you will be answerable for this and this person will also argue with you.” (Taarik Mashaaike Chist) Khateeb Baghdadi narrates the following amazing incident with his solid Sanad. It explains the immense kindness that Hadrat Sayyiduna Sirri Saqti - *may Allah be pleased with him* - displayed for people. This is narrated by a person named ‘Alaan Hayyat.

He narrates: Once, I was sitting in the company of the great Saint when a female approached him. She then said to him, “O Abul Hasan! I am one of your neighbours and last night, the ruler of this city took away my son. You will have to come with me to the King to free him or I will announce that you did not help.”

The narrator explains, “I thought that the great Saint would leave with this female to the court of the King. However, instead of doing that, he awoke and started to read two rak’ah of Salaah. The Qiyam and Sajdah were also extremely long. During all this time, the woman kept saying, “O Abul Hasan! Fear Allah Almighty in regard to my problem and I have fear that perchance the King would harm my son.”

The great Saint then read the Salaam and turning to this female he said, “O slave of Allah! I have been busy in resolving your problem, (in other words, he was making Du’ā for her).”

Suddenly, another female arrived and said to this first female, “Come let us leave, the KING has released your son.” (Taarik-e-Baghdad. Khateeb Baghdad)

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