

Chapter: 18

شَاهِدٌ شَفِيعٌ

شَاهِدٌ means one who knows, who observes or who is present. The Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) has been given this name, because whatever he knows from the Divine Gift that no one else knows. He observes the state of the Ummah and the facts and events of the Universe. The hadith says:

لَا يُشَاكَ أَحَدُكُمْ بِشَوْكَةِ إِلَّا وَاجِدُ الْمَهَا

{No sooner the thorn pierce you it hurts me too}

It is only possible to feel someone's trouble when he has information about it. The Noble Prophet is aware of our situation. That is why he will testify that his Ummah is a believer. He will also testify about other prophets on the Day of Judgment that they conveyed the message to their Ummah.

It is narrated by Hazrat Anas bin Malik that the Noble Prophet (PBUH) said:

" I will be a witness over you on the Day of Resurrection."

There are some ignorant people who cannot imagine how the Noble Prophet (PBUH) would testify and intercede for them when he had not seen or met every one of them. In their opinion, the testimony can only be given by one who has witnessed the incident and has knowledge of it. They must think over this Verse of the Quran.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا

{O Prophet! Indeed We have sent you as an observing present witness and a Herald of glad tidings and warnings (33:45)}

This Verse is addressed to the Noble Prophet (PBUH). In this, the word **شَاهِدًا** indicates his awareness and presence. And this word gives him a certificate of eligibility to testify for his Ummah.

The literal meaning of **شفاعة** (intercession) is to look for help and to seek assistance, while according to Sharia, it is to ask for good for others. Among the titles of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), "**شفيع المذنبين**" and "**شافع محشر**" are also included. The Prophet said: "Every Prophet has a special invocation which is essentially accepted. All prophets have hurriedly asked for that invocation (in this world), and I have reserved my invocation for the intercession of my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection. Insha'Allah, my intercession will be for every Ummah who will remain protected from polytheism". (Sahih al Bukhari, Hadith 5896, 6985 and Sahih Muslim, Kitab-ul-Iman, Narrator: Hazrat Abu Hurairah)

Remember that no one can intercede without the permission of Allah. Nevertheless, if anyone could be entitled of the permission of intercession, he will be the beloved of the Almighty God. In Hadiths 326 and 423 of Sahih al-Bukhari, narrated by Jabir bin 'Abdullah, it is mentioned that, "The Prophet (PBUH) said: I have been allowed for five things, one of which is that I have been granted permission to intercede". Hence, it turned out that the Noble Prophet is already allowed to intercede". In one another hadith, Jami 'al-Saghir, p. 301, hadith: 4896, the Prophet says:

شَفَاعَتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَقٌّ فَمَنْ لَمْ يُؤْمِنْ بِهَا لَمْ يَكُنْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا

{ My intercession on the Day of Resurrection is a fact, he who does not believe in it, he is not from me }

Allah says in Quran:

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ إِذْ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ جَاءُوكَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا اللَّهَ
وَاسْتَغْفَرَ لَهُمُ الرَّسُولُ لَوَجَدُوا اللَّهَ تَوَّابًا رَحِيمًا

{And if they, when they have wronged their own souls, come humbly to you and seek forgiveness from Allah, and the Noble Messenger intercedes for them, they will certainly find Allah as the Most Acceptor of Repentance, the Most Merciful (04:64)}

It is as if the Noble Prophet (PBUH) asked forgiveness for someone, then Allah will accept his repentance and have mercy on him. Therefore, intercession is a requirement of Allah's Mercy and accepting intercession is also mercy and kindness of Allah.

Concerning the Day of Resurrection and **Intercession**, there are many hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Sahih al-Bukhari, narrated by Anas bin Malik, Abu Hurairah, and Abu Saeed al-Khudri. The outcome of these hadiths are as follows:

- The Noble Prophet says that I will be the leader of all on the Day of Resurrection. On this day, all the first and all the last will all be gathered in one field. This field will be so even that everyone can see and hear each other.
- When the Day of Judgment comes, my intercession will be accepted.
- Everyone will be in great pain. The pain will be so unbearable that everyone will call for a mentor who can help them.
- So they will go to the Prophet Adam (PBUH) first. In its response, referring to his expulsion from Paradise, he will advise all of them to go to the Prophet Noah (PBUH).
- Prophet Noah will say that Allah had taught me one invocation, and I have already asked Allah for my Ummah through that invocation. And so he will send all to the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH).

- Hence, they will go to the Prophet Ibrahim Khalilullah. But from there they all will be sent to the Prophet Musa Kalimullah and from there they will be asked to meet the Prophet Isa Roohullah.
- Prophet Isa would send them all to the Noble Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by saying, "Almighty God has already bestowed him the complete forgiveness."
- So, in the end, everyone will come to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Everyone will say, O the Messenger of Allah! You are the Last of the Prophets. Allah has forgiven all your past and present sins. Please intercede for us.
- The Noble Prophet says that when I will get permission, I will fall down in prostration. Allah will guide me a way to praise Him that has never been told to anyone before. I will offer praises and glorifications to Him. He will say, "Whatever you will intercede for, that will be accepted."
- In the end, the person who said لا اله الا الله will also be taken out of Hell, and who will have faith in his heart equal to the minutest particles.
- With the intercession of the Noble Prophet (PBUH) people will enter Paradise in groups. In the end, he will say that now only those who are forbidden by the Quran are left. They will be in Hell forever.

Firstly, this intercession of the Noble Prophet (PBUH) will be for the deserving people of Paradise. Then the Prophet will recommend to increase their ranks as well. After that, his intercession will be for those sinful people whose sins will cause them to enter Hell. Then after, the Noble Prophet will also intercede for those who are already in Hell because of their sins. And they will all come out also, because of the Prophet's intercession.

Sheikh Abdul Haq Muhaddith Dahlavi thinks that there will be a **special intercession** for those who visit Madinah Munawwara and the Holy Shrine of the Noble Prophet (PBUH).

خلاق کے سرور شافعِ محشر صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
مرسلِ داور خاصِ پیغمبر صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم

{The head of the People, the Intercessor of the Day of Gathering,
Allah's Peace be upon him
The Messenger of Allah, the Special Prophet,
Allah's Peace be upon him}

اے صاحبِ جمالِ کل، اے سرورِ بشر
زوئے منیر سے ترے، روشن ہوا قمر
ممکن نہیں کہ تیری ثنا کا ہو حق آدا
بعد از خدا بزرگ تو ہے، قصہ مختصر

{O the real elegant Persona! O the Chief of human beings
With your illuminated face, the moon is shining
It is not possible to describe any way in praise of you
Long story short, you are the Great, after God}