

## Intercession In The Light Of Traditions

Regarding intercession there are so many traditions that if you collect them they will take a 'book form' that is why the belief in intercession forms a basic peg in Islam. We have taken the support of traditions and narrations from exegesis of Jafar Subhani 'Manshoor Javed'. Forty five traditions are from 'Sehah Sitta' and fifty five are from Shiite sources, but we only relate here ten from Ahlul Sunnat and fourteen from 'Shiite' sources. We have taken care that the chosen traditions are complicit, clear and useful; we will first throw light on the tradition of the Holy Prophet (S) from the books of Ahlul Sunnah.

### [Few Traditions From The Books Of Ahlul Sunnat](#)

Holy Prophet (S) said:

لِكُلِّ نَبِيِّ دَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ فَتَعَجَّلْ كُلُّ نَبِيٍّ دَعْوَتَهُ وَ إِنِّي اخْتَبَاتُ دَعْوَتِي شَفَاعَةً لِأُمَّتِي فَهِيَ نَائِلُهُ مَنْ مَاتَ مِنْهُمْ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا.

*"Lord has made some prayers of Prophets which are answered. All have used them in this world but I have kept my prayer for the intercession of my nation which is only for the true believers of my nation who have not associated anybody with Allah."*<sup>1</sup>

Holy Prophet (S) said:

أَعْطَيْتُ خَمْسًا ..... وَ أَعْطَيْتُ الشَّفَاعَةَ فَادَّخَرْتُهَا لِأُمَّتِي فَهِيَ لِمَنْ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا.

*"Allah has blessed me with five superiority one of which is my intercession which I have kept for the believers of my Ummat who have not associated anybody with Allah."*<sup>2</sup>

Holy Prophet (S) said:

قَوْلُهُ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا هُوَ الْمَقَامُ الَّذِي إِشْفَعُ لِأُمَّتِي فِيهِ

*“This praiseworthy position which is in Surah Bani Israel : verse 79, is that status by which I will do intercession of my nation.”3*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

“أَنَا أَوَّلُ شَافِعٍ وَ أَوَّلُ مُشْفَعٍ”

*“The foremost of the intercessor will be myself and my intercession will be accept before everybody.”4*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

إِنَّ شَفَاعَتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لِأَهْلِ الْكِبَائِرِ مِنْ أُمَّتِي

*“On the day of judgement my intercession will be for those of my Ummat those who have done major sins.”5*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

شَفَاعَتِي لِمَنْ شَهِدَ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُخْلِصًا يَصْدُقُ قَلْبُهُ لِسَانَهُ وَ لِسَانُهُ قَلْبَهُ

*“My intercession will be exclusively for those who bear witness of His oneness with a pure heart of whose tongue testify the heart and vise versa.”6*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَخْرِجُ قَوْمًا مِنَ النَّارِ بِالشَّفَاعَةِ

*“Surely one group will be extracted from hell by intercession.”7*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

يَشْفَعُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ ثُمَّ الْعُلَمَاءُ ثُمَّ الشُّهَدَاءُ

*“On the day of judgement first to do intercession will be the prophets, learned people and then martyrs.”8*

Holy Prophet (S) said to attendant:

قَالَ لِخَادِمِهِ مَا حَاجْتُكَ؟

“Do you have any need?”

حَاجَّتِي أَنْ تَشْفَعَ لِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

“He said my need is that you do intercession on the day of judgement.”

وَمَنْ ذَلِكَ عَلَيَّ هَذَا؟

“Prophet asked from whom you have learnt to seek intercession from me?”

قَالَ رَبِّي

He replied: From my Lord.

أَمَّا فَأَعْنِي بِكَتْرَتِ السُّجُودِ.

Holy Prophet (S) said: “Then you help me in my intercession by your prostration.”<sup>9</sup>

Holy Prophet (S) said:

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَقَالَ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْزِلْهُ الْمَقْعَدَ الْمُقَرَّبَ عِنْدَكَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَجَبَ لَهُ شَفَاعَتِي.

“One who sends blessing on Muhammad (S) and prays to Lord to appoint you (Holy Prophet (S)) on the position near to You and my intercession becomes obligatory. (one should bear in my, that blessing on me will be complete only when he sends blessings on my progeny too.)” <sup>10</sup>

The above traditions are mostly from the companions of Holy Prophet (S) now we quote below few traditions from the reliable books of the Shias on the subject of intercession.

### [Few Traditions From The Books Of Shias](#)

Holy Prophet (S) said:

إِنِّي لَأَشْفَعُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَأَشْفَعُ وَ يَشْفَعُ عَلَيَّ فَيُشْفَعُ وَ يَشْفَعُ أَهْلُ بَيْتِي فَيُشْفَعُونَ

*“Undoubtedly I will intercede on the day of judgement and it will be accepted, Hazrat ‘Ali (a.s.) will also intercede and it will be also accepted, and my progeny will also intercede and it will be also accepted.”<sup>11</sup>*

Holy Prophet (S) said:

إِنَّ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مِنْ سَيِّدٍ أَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْجَنَّةَ بِشَفَاعَتِهِ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ مُضِرِّ

*“There are such people in my Ummat, by whose intercession persons more than the Tribe of Mazhar (the biggest tribe of Arabia) will enter Heaven.”<sup>12</sup>*

Hazrat ‘Ali (a.s.) said:

لَنَا شَفَاعَةٌ وَ لِأَهْلِ مَوَدَّتِنَا شَفَاعَةٌ

*“We will do intercession and also those who love us will intercede.”<sup>13</sup>*

Ameerul Momeneen ‘Ali Ibn Abi Taalib (a.s.) narrates that the Holy Prophet (S) said:

ثَلَاثَةٌ يَشْفَعُونَ إِلَيَّ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ فَيُشْفَعُونَ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ ثُمَّ الْعُلَمَاءُ ثُمَّ الشُّهَدَاءُ

*“There are three groups who will intercede and it will be accepted: (a) Prophets, (b) Learned man of religion and (c) Martyrs (who have laid their lives on the path of Lord.”<sup>14</sup>*

Imam ‘Ali (a.s.) has advised his son Mohammad bin Hanafia thus:

اقْبَلْ مِنْ مَتَنَصِّلٍ عُدْرَهُ فَتَنَالِكَ الشَّفَاعَةَ

*“Accept the excuse of those who plead so that, intercession for you will be accepted.”<sup>15</sup>*

It is clear from the saying of Hazrat ‘Ali (a.s.) one who will not forgive the faults of brother in faith in spite of his asking forgiveness that person’s intercession is not possible, the reason being that if he does not forgive the fault of others how can he expect the Lord to forgive him on the day of judgement. Perhaps even Holy Prophet (S) must have mentioned thus:

“مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُ لَا يَرْحَمُ”

*“Those who withhold mercy, mercy will not be showered on them.”*

Hazrat ‘Ali (a.s.) has narrated from Holy Prophet (S) thus:

إِذَا قُضِيَ الْمَقَامَ الْمَحْمُودَ تَشَفَّعْتُ فِي أَصْحَابِ الْكِبَائِرِ مِنْ أُمَّتِي فَيَشْفَعُنِي اللَّهُ فِيهِمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا تَشْفَعْتُ فِيمَنْ أَدَّى  
ذُرِّيَّتِي.

*“When I will be placed on Maqamul Mahmud (مقامو المحمود) I will intercede that person of my nation who has committed greater sins. Surely Lord will not accept my intercession for those people who have harassed and inflict my progeny.”<sup>16</sup>*

Imam Husain (a.s.) narrates that when he left Madina for Karbala he saw the prophet in his dream who said:

حَبِيبِي يَا حُسَيْنُ كَأَنِّي أَرَكَ عَنْ قَرِيبٍ مُرَمَّلاً بِدِمَائِكَ مَذْبُوحًا بَارِضٍ كَرِيبًا عَلَيَّ أَيْدِي عِصَابَةٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي وَأَنْتَ مَعَ  
ذَلِكَ يَرْجُونَ شَفَاعَتِي لَا يَنَالُهُمْ وَاللَّهُ شَفَاعَتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

*“My dear Husain I see you bathed in your blood and a group of my Ummat has slaughtered you in a state of thirst, in spite of this they hope for my intercession (no my son) Lord will never accept my intercession for them on the day of judgement.”<sup>17</sup>*

Forth Imam Zainul Aabedin narrates in one of his dua,

فَاتِي لَمْ آتِكَ تَقْتُ مِنِّي يَعْمَلُ صَالِحٍ قَدَّمْتَهُ وَلَا شَفَاعَةَ مَخْلُوقٍ رَجَوْتَهُ إِلَّا شَفَاعَةَ مُحَمَّدٍ وَأَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمْ  
سَلَامُكَ.

*“I come not before Thee trusting in a righteous work I have sent ahead, nor in the intercession of any creature in whom I have hope, except the intercession of Muhammad and the Folk of his House (upon him and upon them be Thy peace).”*

And in another dua he says,

صَلِّ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَاجْعَلْ تَوْسُلِي بِهِ شَافِعًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ نَافِعًا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

*“O Lord sends blessing on Muhammad (S) and his progeny (a.s.), and on the day of judgement accept recommendation of intercession which will be beneficial to me, surely You are most Merciful.”*

Imam Mohammad Baqir (a.s.) narrates:

يَشْفَعُ الرَّجُلُ فِي الْقَبِيلَةِ وَ يَشْفَعُ الرَّجُلُ لِأَهْلِ الْبَيْتِ وَ يَشْفَعُ الرَّجُلُ لِلرَّجُلَيْنِ عَلَي قَدْرِ عَمَلِهِ فَذَلِكَ الْمَقَامُ الْمَحْمُودُ

*“Every person (believer) will do intercession for others on the strength of his good action it is possible that he alone can intercede for a tribe, or for his family members or for a single person and the right to intercede is termed “مقام محمود” (as referred in Qur’an).”<sup>18</sup>*

A Tradition relates that a person named Abu Aiman came to Imam Baqir (a.s.) and said that few people from deviate the others saying that will be receive the intercession of Holy Prophet (S) on the day of judgement (and will be forgiven) but the fact is every body will receive punishment or reward according to their actions. Imam became angry and the expression on his face changed and he said,

وَيْحَكَ يَا أَبَا أَيْمَنُ أَغْرَكَ أَنْ عَفَّ بَطْنَكَ وَ فَرَجَكَ أَمَا وَاللَّهِ لَوْ قَدْ رَأَيْتَ إِفْزَاعَ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَقَدْ احْتَجَجْتَ إِلَيَّ شَفَاعَةَ مُحَمَّدٍ وَبِكَ وَهَلْ يَشْفَعُ إِلَّا لِمَنْ قَدْ وَجِبَتْ لَهُ النَّارُ؟

*“Woe be unto you, O Abu Aiman! Do you think that by saving yourself from the sins of hunger and lust you become proud. By Allah when you witness the intensities and the calamities of day of judgement you will really know the importance of the Prophet’s intercession (and you will need his intercession), woe on you will anybody who deserve hell can except to get intercession?”*

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (a.s.) narrates:

وَ اللَّهُ لَنَشْفَعَنَّ لِشِيعَتِنَا وَ اللَّهُ لَنَشْفَعَنَّ لِشِيعَتِنَا حَتَّى يَقُولَ النَّاسُ فَمَا لَنَا مِنْ شَافِعِينَ وَأَصْدِيقٍ حَمِيمٍ

*“By Allah he will intercede for our Shias, by Allah we will surely intercede for our Shias, till that extent (our enemies) they will shout that there is nobody to do our intercession or help us.”<sup>19</sup>*

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (a.s.) said:

لِكُلِّ مُؤْمِنٍ خَمْسُ سَاعَاتٍ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَشْفَعُ فِيهَا

*“On the day of judgement five hours are fixed for a believer so that he can intercession for others.”<sup>20</sup>*

Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (a.s.) said:

مَنْ أَنْكَرَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَشْيَاءٍ فَلَيْسَ مِنْ شِيعَتِنَا الْمِعْرَاجَ وَ الْمَسَائِلَةَ فِي الْقَبْرِ وَ الشَّفَاعَةَ

*“One who refutes this three things he is not from our Shias: (1) Ascension (Meraj) of our Holy Prophet (S), (2) Questioning in the grave and (3) Intercession.”*

Imam ‘Ali al–Reza (a.s.) narrated from Ameerul Momineen ‘Ali (a.s.) that he said that:

مَنْ كَذَّبَ بِشَفَاعَةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَمْ تَنْلُهُ.

*“Person who negates the intercession of Holy Prophet (S) he will never be interceded.”*

## Two Important Points Regarding Above Mentioned Traditions

It is evident that the concept of intercession is not the idea of a particular sect but is found in the all Muslim Ummat.

This is also evident from the above traditions that everybody has not the right to do or receive intercession, but with special conditions. One must not deduce that a person becomes careless in committing sins as there will be no punishment for the sin, definitely it is not as the think but those who have faith in intercession, their faith is well–founded and his helplessness and hopelessness is change into hope, thus he take the step not towards evil but towards good. So let us examine those personalities who are a termed as “Intercessor of the day of judgement”

1. Refer Sunan Ibn Maajah, vol. 2, p. 1440; Musnad Ibn Ahmad, p. 281, Muta Malik, p. 166, Sunan Tirmidhi, vol. 5, p. 238; Sahih Muslim p. 31; Sahih Bhukhari, vol. 8–9, p. 170.
2. Musnad Ibn Ahmad, vol. 1, p. 1301 and vol. 4, p. 246; Sunan Sanai, vol. 1, p. 172; Sahih Bhukhari, vol. 1, p. 92 and p. 119.
3. Musnad Ibn Ahmad, vol 2, p. 528; Sunan Tirmidhi, vol. 4, p. 325.
4. Sunan Tirmidhi, vol. 5, p. 238; Sunan Dareme, vol. 1 p. 126 and p. 67.
5. Sunan Maajah, vol. 2, p. 441.
6. Musnah ibn Ahmad, vol. 6, p. 428.
7. Sahih Muslim, vol. 1, p. 122; and Sahih Bhukhai, vol. 8, p. 143.
8. Sunan Ibn Maajah vol. 2, p. 1443.
9. Musnad Ibn Ahmad, vol. 3, p. 500.
10. Musnad Ibn Ahmad, vol. 4, p. 108.
11. Manaqib Ibn Shahr Aashub, vol. 2, p. 15; and Majmul Bayaan, vol. 1, p. 104
12. Majmul Bayaan, vol. 1, p. 392
13. Khesaal al–Suduq, p. 624
14. Khesaal al–Suduq, p. 156
15. Manla Yazharal Faqhi, vol. 4, p. 279
16. Aamali al–Suduq, p. 177
17. Makatebul Aimah, vol. 2, p. 41
18. Usul al– Kafi, vol. 8, p. 101
19. Manaqib Ibn Shahr Aashub vol. 2, p. 14
20. Sifaat us–Shia by Shaikh Saduq, p. 181

<https://www.al-islam.org/shafaat-intercession-sayed-abbas-abedi/intercession-light-traditions#comment-0>