

Letter from Seyyidina Ahmed Tidjani to a jurist

(may ALLAH sanctify his precious secret)

Among the letters written by Seyyidina Ahmed Tidjani (may ALLAH sanctify his precious secret) and transcribed in Djawahirou-l-Ma'ani is the following letter addressed to one of the most remarkable among the jurists in the town of Sale:

Sidi Hajj Ali Harazim (may ALLAH be pleased with him) said: « Having pronounced the name of ALLAH and the prayer and the peace upon the Messenger of ALLAH, and the praise of ALLAH as it should be, Seyyidina Ahmed Tidjani (may ALLAH sanctify his precious secret) said:

“We have received and read your letter and understood its content. You asked about our situation and that of our companions. Know that, by the grace of ALLAH, we are fine and we enjoy good circumstances, praise and gratitude to Him until we obtain His Approval in the way that He approves.

He has showered upon us and our companions that which he has showered upon all Muslims, praise to ALLAH in all situations. We request ALLAH, The Glorified, The Exalted, to grant us His Attention both in this world and the Hereafter, may He immerse us in his increasing kindness and Generosity from this moment onwards for all time without end. May He be an Ally both for us and you, Help and Support in all circumstances both easy and difficult, and may He envelope us and you with His complete protection, His constant Safeguard and His Most Precious Preservation. May His Protection cover every one of our directions. He is without doubt the Guarantor and the Most Capable for this.

My advice to you and upon which you should establish your interiority and your deeds, is to attach your heart to ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted) as much as possible, and resign your heart and strengthen it in the paths of the divine decrees. Do not accustom your soiled soul to impatience before ALLAH's Order, because this is surely the destruction of the servant both in this world and the next. And if misfortunes compact around you and your situation becomes tight, then take refuge in ALLAH, the Exalted, and stand immobile at the door of His Benevolence and beg, through the plenitude of His Benevolence, for relief from what is oppressing you [...] and increasingly supplicate and implore ALLAH.

But you must do this in a state of heart entirely absorbed by ALLAH, secluded from all distraction, like an old lady whose only child has been snatched from her hands in order to cut off his head. At that point, she would beg for help from ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted) and from the people to remove what has befallen her. In this specific situation, she has no other worry than her child, her heart has no interest for anything else either in this world or the next.

This is why a person who is in a similar state and who seeks refuge with ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted) regarding misfortunes and difficulties that have befallen him and who evokes HIM by His Name “The Benevolent” (El Latif) as much as possible, will rapidly be granted relief, but if he is not in this interior state then this (difficult) situation will take longer to dissipate.

Beware of exhausting yourself in the search for your (material) world to the extent that you go beyond to the limits established by ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted) in His Law, for you will destroy yourself and you will no longer have refuge with ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted). Understand the prophetic words according to the Sahih: “**The Holy Spirit has breathed into my**

Heart that nobody will die before he has depleted his sustenance, therefore fear ALLAH and behave decently in your search. Do not imagine, considering that things are coming slowly, that you could acquire them by disobeying ALLAH because we can only obtain that which is with ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted) through His obedience.”

You will see all creatures drowning or losing themselves in this ocean, except those who have been protected by His Grace.

Beware of constantly seeking ALLAH’s help for each and every misfortune because, in this way, your impatience with ALLAH’s decisions will become a habit and you will not benefit from your life. So you should do this occasionally: sometimes you (learn to accept) fortify yourself accepting the decision of ALLAH (The Glorified, The Exalted), without impatience and without requesting relief, and sometimes you beg ALLAH for alleviation. For the person who goes towards ALLAH in this way, the doors of bliss will be opened in the Hereafter, and in this world, his life will be good, as it is said in His Words: “Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life [...]” (Surah 16 The Bee, verse 97)

What we have said here is sufficient and may the peace of ALLAH be upon you”.

*Letter extracted from the book **Djawahirou-l-Ma’ani** and translated by the Zawiya Tidjaniya El Kubra

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