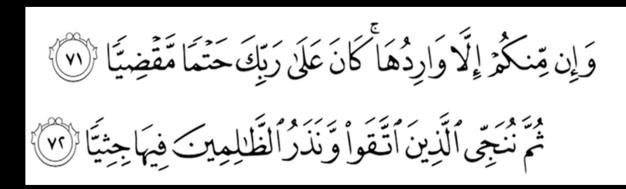


LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the Sirat
- To explain the concept of shaf'ah and its role on the Day of Judgement.
- To conclude that our actions in the world will determine the ease with which we will cross the sirat.

AYAH



And there is none of you except he will come to it: a (matter that is a) decided certainty with your lord. Then We will deliver those who have taqwa, and leave the wrongdoers in it, fallen on their knees.

(Surah Maryam 71-72)

KEYWORDS

Sirat - Path

Shafa'ah - Intercession

SIRAT

What is the sirat? What is this path? Where is it? When will we see it?

On the day of judgement we will go through accounting (hisaab) and our deeds will be weighed at the scale (mizan). However for some people their good deeds will not be enough and thus they will not be able to enter paradise unless they are purified.

The sirat is a long path which passes over hell and goes all the way to the gates of heaven. This path purifies the souls of the people so that they can enter heaven.

When we sin in this world it pollutes our souls and hence we cannot enter heaven until it is purified.

SIRAT

The path is thinner than a piece of hair and sharper than a sword!!

Everyone will pass through the sirat but some will be able to zoom through it and some will crawl through it! It all depends on our deeds.

So how does this path work??

Well this path is long and has many stations. At each station we will be questioned about a certain obligation. For example, one of the stations is for Salaah. Here we will be questioned about our 5 daily prayers. If we established prayers in the world, we will zoom through it but if not, we will be held at that station...



So... Allah has blessed us with the magnificent Masumeen that have the power to intercede for us. This intercession is called Shafa'ah! Other chosen people such as prophets will also have this power!

Shafa'ah is the belief that on the day of judgement Allah will grant permission to his special servants to intercede on the behalf of some people and ask Allah to forgive the sins of the sinners and save them from the fire of hell.

However, the intercessors will not intercede for those that are undeserving!

SHAFA'AH

People that will be able to intercede for others are as follows:

- A pious parent will be able to intercede for his or her children
- An Alim will be able to intercede for his students
- Prophets will be able to intercede for their faithful believers

The stronger the relation between the 2 the sooner shaf'ah will be made.

SHAFA'AH

- The strongest power of intercession will be given to Rasullalah and the ahlulbayt.
- Therefore, maintain close ties with them. Develop a love with the ahlulbayt! However true love comes with action and following in their footsteps!

SO... DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN SIN?

NO!! Not at all. We need intercession because we have not been able to worship Allah the way he deserves to be worshipped!

Intercession will help bridge the gaps in our worship.

Remember we need to work hard to be eligible for this intercession. For instance, the 6th Imam explains that one who takes his prayers lightly will not receive intercession!

LET'S WORK HARD!

So lets try your best to stay away from sins and follow in the path of the Ahlulybayt so we can zoom through the sirat and receive the intercession of the ahlulbayt!