

Sayyidi Shaykh Yaqut al-'Arshi

## Interceding for the doves

Shaykh Yaqout al-'Arshi was known to plead (pray) to Allah on behalf of others, and Allah would accept his intercession. He even interceded on behalf of the animals.

One day, when he was sitting in a circle of students, a dove came and sat on his shoulders, and then whispered some secret into his ear. He said: 'Bismi Allah, we will send one of the students with you.' The dove told him: 'Only you will satisfy my need.'

So Shaykh Yaqout al-'Arshi mounted his mule and journeyed from Alexandria to Cairo and entered the Mosque, saying: 'Let me meet the muadhin (the one who calls to prayer!)' The muadhin was sent for, and the Shaykh said to him: 'This dove told me in Alexandria that you kill its chicks whenever she gives birth to them in the minaret.' The muadhin said: 'Yes, this is true. I have killed them on several occasions.' The shaykh said: 'Don't do this again.' The muadhhdhin said: 'I repent to Allah Most High.' After this, the shaykh returned to Alexandria, may Allah Most High be pleased with him.

Verily, this incident indicates the greatness of Sayiddi Shaykh Yaqut al-'Arshi, but it also highlights the auspiciousness of the dove. A thought may cross the mind as to how and why the dove was granted this privilege of being aided by the awlia. The Ulema (scholars) mention that Allah almighty protected the dove because it protected the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in the cave during the hijra. As a favour and gratitude to the service the dove offered our beloved and Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) Allah almighty granted this grace and favour to its generations to come.

Indeed the the awlia can benefit us, not only in this life but the hereafter as well. In this life they can guide us to Allah almighty and assist the creation of Allah almighty through the miracles He gives them: and in the Hereafter they may interced (plead to Allah on our behalf) that Allah may forgive us and allow to enter Paradise.

May Allah almighty increase our love and attachment to His Awlia, and allow us to be in their company in both worlds.

## About

### Sayyidi Shaykh Yaqut al-'Arshi (d. 707/1307)

He is Aabu al-Durr b. 'Abdullah al-Habashi. He was a virtuous shaykh who command awe and reverence. An imam of gnosis, he was a devout worshipper and ascetic. He is counted among the most illustrious disciples of Shaykh Abu'l 'Abbas al-Mursi radi Allahu anh. On the day of his birth in Abyssinia, Shaykh Abu'l 'Abbas was informed of it. It was a summer day in Alexandria and he prepared 'asida [for the newborn]. When he told that 'asida was only prepared for the winter, he retorted, 'This is the 'asida of your brother Yaqut, who is born in Abyssinia and will come to you.' And so it happened.

He was born from those who interceded on behalf of Shaykh Shams al-Din b. Al-Lubban, when the latter disavowed Sidi Ahmad al-Badawi radi Allahu anh, resulting in his own knowledge and spiritual state being taken away. Shaykh Shams al-Din b. Al-Lubban had sought the intercession of all other saints.

He was called al-'Arshi because his heart was constantly under the Throne ['Arsh], only his body being on the earth. It is also said that he would hear the adhan from the angels carrying the Throne.

He rahimahu Allah died in Alexandria on 18 Jumada II AH 707. He was eighty years old. His shrine in Alexandria - may Allah have mercy on him – is a site of pilgrimage for adults and children seeking spiritual graces. May Allah benefit us through him.

Reference:

Kuhun: Tabaqat al-Shadhiliyya al-Kubra