

Shaykh ‘Umar al-Yāfi’s Supplication for Rain



Shaykh ‘Umar al-Yāfi b.

Muḥammad al-Ḥusayni was

born in the city of Yāfā (Jaffa) in Ottoman Palestine in 1759/1173. His family settled there after leaving Mecca for Morocco and then residing in the city of Dimyāt in Egypt for a period. He memorized the Qur’an with its proper recitation (*tajwīd*) before the age of ten. Afterwards, he set on the path of learning and spent many years in pursuit of sacred knowledge. Upon completion of his foundational training under the important figures in his region, he traveled to Nablus and then to Egypt where he sat at the feet of the some of greatest scholars of his time. After completing both his formal training in the Islamic Sciences and his spiritual training at the hands of his Shaykh al-Murshid Abū al-Faṭṭāḥ Kamāl al-Dīn al-Siddīqī, he settled in Damascus where a section of the Umayyad Mosque was devoted to him and to this day is known as *Mashhad al-Yāfi*. He was a Ḥanafī who had a deep knowledge of Islamic Law (*fiqh*), hadith, Arabic grammar, and morphology. He was also a great spiritual guide who had a profound impact on the lives of the great many who were transformed by his teachings. He expressed much of his divine love and wisdoms in the many lines of poetry he composed, which were later collected by his students in what became known as *Dīwān al-Yāfi*. Amongst his most famous compositions is the short prayer for rain below. In a region where water is scarce and rain is considered a blessing whose abundance or scarcity correlates with the good actions and sins of the community, this composition became sung far and wide. Perhaps, what has distinguished this poem over others is the deep humility and sense of submission to God conveyed in Shaykh al-Yāfi’s plea, “If you are the Helper of only those who are obedient, who will then help those [of us] who are sinful? The mercy of the Most-Merciful is absolute without any restrictions. If none could hope for Your provision other than those who are obedient on Your path, in whom can those [of us] who disobey You seek refuge? For, You are the Guide for those who are astray.” If the elite who have devoted their entire lives to God

implore Him as such, we are reminded of how much more we are utterly dependent on God's mercy and guidance.

The Supplication for Rain by Shaykh 'Umar al-Yāfi

(1759-1818 AD)

دعاء واستغاثة لنزول الغيث

للشيخ عمر اليافي رحمه الله

(1) يَا مَنْ يُغِيثُ الْمُسْتَعِيثَ
وَمَا لَنَا رَبُّ مُغِيثٍ
إِنْ لَمْ تُغِثْنَا مَنْ يُغِيثُ
سِوَاكَ يَا رَبَّ الْعِبَادِ

(2) فِينَا صِغَارٌ رُضِعُ
كَذَا بِهِائِمُ رُتِعُ
فِينَا شُيُوخٌ رَكِعُ
وَأَنْتَ لِلْكَلِّ مُرَادُ

(3) جَهْدُ الْبَلَاءِ حَلٌّ بِنَا
وَكُلُّ ذَا مِنْ دُنِينَا
ضَاقَ الْفَلَا مِنْ كَرْبِنَا
فَهُوَ الَّذِي طَمَسَ الْفُؤَادِ

(4) إِنْ كُنْتَ غَيْثَ الطَّائِعِينَ
رَحِمْتُ خَيْرَ الرَّاحِمِينَ
فَمَنْ يُغِيثُ الْمُذْنِبِينَ
مُطْلَقَةً بِلَا قِيَادِ

(5) إِنْ كَانَ لَا يَرْجُو عَطَاكَ
بِمَنْ يَلُودُ مِنْ عَصَاكَ

إِلَّا الْمُطِيعُ إِلَى هُدَاكَ
أَنْتَ لِمَنْ قَدْ ضَلَّ هَاد

(6) يَا رَبِّ عَامِلِنَا بِمَا
عَوَّدْتَ هَذَا كَرَمًا

أَنْتَ لَهُ أَهْلٌ كَمَا
عَبَيْدَ جُودِكَ يَا جَوَاد

(7) يَا رَبِّ قُلْتَ اسْتَغْفِرُوا
يَأْتِي السَّحَابُ الْمُمَطِّرُ

رَبِّكُمْ فَيَغْفِرُ
يُرْوِي الْعِبَادَ وَالْبِلَادَ

(8) يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّحْمَا
أَفْضُ أَفْضُ غَيْثِ السَّمََا

وَيَا كَرِيمَ الْكُرْمَا
فِي الْأَرْضِ فَهِيَ لَنَا مِهَاد

(9) رَحْمَةُ رَبِّي وَسَعَتْ
عَادَاتُهَا مَا انْقَطَعَتْ

لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ جَمَعَتْ
وَلَمْ تَزَلْ بِالْإِزْدِيَادِ

(10) بِالْمُصْطَفَى جُدْ يَا كَرِيمَ
مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْعِلْمِ الْقَدِيمِ

فَهُوَ الرَّؤُوفُ بِنَا الرَّحِيمِ
مِنْهُ الْوُجُودُ مُسْتَفَاد

(11) صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ مَا
وَقَدْ هَمَّا فَعَمَّمَا
غَيْثَ السَّمَاءِ أَنْسَجَمَا
كُلَّ الْأَبْطَاحِ وَالْوَهَادِ

(12) وَالْأَلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
فَهُمْ غُيُوثٌ سُحْبِهِ
وَرَهْطِهِ وَحِزْبِهِ
لِلْخَلْقِ فِي نَهْجِ السَّدَادِ

(13) فَاغْفِرْ لِلنَّائِمِ يَا تَوَّابَ
عَبْدٌ وَقِيْعٌ فِي الْأَعْتَابِ
أَيْضًا وَالنَّاشِرِ يَا وَهَّابَ
يَرْجُو النَّجَاةَ فِي الْمِعَادِ

TRANSLATION

- 1) O Helper of those who seek succor
If you do not assist us who else can help us?
We have no other lord who can relieve us,
Other than You O Lord of the worshippers
- 2) Amongst us are the young nursing [infants]
And amongst us are the old and hunchbacked
As are the grazing beasts
For You are [the One] desired by all
- 3) The pains of tribulations have afflicted us
The [vast] plains have become constricted due to our troubles

And these are all a consequence of our sins
For they are indeed what kills the hearts

4) If you are the Helper of only those who are obedient,
Who will then help those [of us] who are sinful?
The Mercy of the Most-Merciful
Is absolute without any restrictions

5) If none could hope for Your provision
Other than those who are obedient on Your path,
In whom can those [of us] who disobey You seek refuge?
For, You are the Guide for those who are astray


6) O God, deal with us in the way
Which befits Your [Grace]
In the way which You have provided for Your [other] servants
Who are in need of Your bounty of Most-Generous One

7) My Lord, You have said: “Repent,
and your Lord will forgive”
And the rain-filled clouds of the sky will come
And pour rain over all [Your] servants and lands

8) So O Most-Merciful of all those who are merciful,
And Most-Generous of all those who are generous,
Bring down, bring down the rains from the sky
Onto the earth for it is a resting place for us

9) The mercy of my Lord is ever vast
To everything, it is all-encompassing
Its nature [mercy] has never altered

And it is ever lofty.

10) By [virtue of Your favor] of the Chosen One (*al-muṣṭafā*), be generous with us
For he is the one who is the most kind and compassionate towards us
The one who in [Your] timeless knowledge,
benefited existence (a reference to the tradition that if it was not for the Prophet
, God would not have created creation)

11) God, send prayers upon him
Whenever the rains of the sky and the earth join
And become dispersed throughout
All the deserts and the valleys.

12) And [send prayers] to his family and Companions,
And his group and allies
Indeed they are a rain of his clouds
And to the creation, a path to success

13) So forgive the writer (of this poem) O Oft-Forgiving,
Also its distributor O All-Giving One
[Each is] a servant who stands at Your doorstep
Seeking salvation in the Hereafter