



Fatwa no. (7366):

Q: Is there any one other than Allah (may He be Exalted) who has the ability to relieve hardship, distress or can ward off affliction? This question implies a further ten questions as many people belonging to various Madh-hab (School of jurisprudence) ask the same question.

This question is crucial but no answer was provided for it. This matter may lead someone to think about the different means that

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enable any one other than Allah (may He be Exalted) to relieve hardship. This question has different forms and we hope that our scholars can provide us with a clear answer. For example, is it wrong if a person has some difficulty and asks some one other than Allah (may He be Exalted) to drive his grief away?

1- If any one other than Allah (may He be Exalted) can relieve hardship, then who can hear and respond at a distance that is not known except by Allah in the life of the one who asks Him and in the grave after his death?

2- Supposing that a person can hear from that far distance, another question arises: Can he (that person) understand the languages of all the people who are calling on him and invoking him, such as English, German or any other language?

3- If the answer is in the affirmative it means that he understands the languages of all people on earth, so another question arise: If millions of people having various languages and various needs put forward their demands and requirements, can he hear them and respond to them at the same time, or does he need to appoint a specific time for every request successively?

4- Is the person they ask overtaken by slumber or sleep? If yes, then we must have a schedule showing his rest hours or does he have the ability to hear while sleeping?

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5- And if there is a questioner who can not clarify his needs by speaking and so asks with his heart, does he (the said person) respond to that heart-based question?

6- From birth to death, man faces minor and major problems and if Allah is the One Who resolves these problems, then there is no need to resort to any one other than Him. However, if any one other than Him can relieve these afflictions, then what is the use of resorting to Allah (may He be Exalted)?

7- If no one other than Allah is able to solve all kinds of problems and it is said that some problems can be solved by the Lord of the Worlds and others can be solved by other than Him, then people in need must have a list of what is for Allah and what is for other than Him so as to avoid submitting a problem that is not for Allah and vice versa.

8- Can the one who has the ability to remove adversity from people bring it to people? Or can he only remove it without bringing it? If the latter is true, then who is the one with the ability to bring about harm?

9- In brief, supposing that Allah is the One Who brings about harm and there is another who removes it, yet, if Allah wishes to bring about harm and the other one wants to ward it off and both of them insists on his position, then who will win in the end?

10- If he (the person in need) wants to grant blessings to a good-doer or a wrong-doer, then who is to be appealed to for forgiveness?

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A: Allah (may He be Exalted) is the Only One that neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him, and He Alone is the One Who hears the invocations of those who supplicate wherever they are and whichever language they use. Moreover, He answers them in respect to their conditions, whether they are sane or insane, and He (may He be Exalted) is the Only One Who can bring about benefit or harm. However, what is done by other than Him is from the normal causes with which He (may He be Exalted) empowers His servants and enables them to do by means of His support (may He be Exalted) and He arranges all the results accordingly. For example, the doctor diagnoses a disease and prescribes medication with the support of Allah (may He be Exalted) and the cure comes only from Him. Also in plowing, the farmer spreads the grains and waters the land and this is done by His support, and Allah is the One Who arranges the results of the plowing and planting of crops and trees and He creates seeds and fruits.

1- Therefore, no one but Allah (may He be Exalted) removes adversity, but there may be someone whom He renders as a cause for removing it; like the previous example of the doctor and the plowman. The only one who can hear someone who calls from a far distance and answer him is Allah (may He be Exalted) and the dead can never hear the supplication and beseeching of a person and even if they hear they will not answer, for Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ Such is Allâh, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmîr (the thin membrane over the date-stone). ﴾ If you invoke (or call upon) them, they hear not your call; and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad peace be upon him) like Him Who is the Well-Acquainted (with everything). ﴾

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2- Only Allah (may He be Exalted) can know the languages of all creatures and no creature can hear every questioner and understand what he says to respond to his requirement.

3- Supposing that some one knows all the languages of all the people in the world - which is impossible - he will not be able to hear and fulfill their numerous supplications if they all ask at the same time. Everyone is far from each other.

4- Human beings are characterized by forgetfulness, negligence, weakness and sleepiness so they can not listen to recurrent questions and the need of questioners and reply to them at all times. The only one who can do that is Allah Al-Hayyul-Qayyum (the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists), the One that neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him.

5- No one can ever know the hidden needs and requirements of others except Allah (may He be Exalted); hence, how it can be possible for any one other than Him to fulfill their needs if they do not ask by speaking?

6-10 As previously mentioned, it is obvious that no one can remove adversity or harm except Allah (may He be Exalted) and no one can provide welfare and goodness but Him.

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He (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ And invoke not besides Allâh any such that will neither profit you nor harm you, but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers). ﴾ ﴿ And if Allâh touches you with harm, there is none who can remove it but He, and if He intends any good for you, there is none who can repel His Favour which He causes it to reach whomsoever of His slaves He wills. And He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. ﴾

May Allah grant us Success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions!

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