

The Litany of the Sea

By Imam Abū al-Ḥasan al-Shādhili

I seek refuge in Allāh from Satan, the rejected one. In the Name of Allāh, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. O High! O Great! O Clement! O All-Knowing! You are my Lord and Your Knowledge is my sufficiency. So how perfect is my Lord and how perfect is my sufficiency. You give victory to whom You will, and You are the All-Powerful, the All-Compassionate. We ask Your protection in movement and stillness, in words, intentions, and thoughts; from doubts and imaginings, and from illusions that veil hearts from beholding what is unseen. The believers have been tried and shaken with a severe shaking. “And when the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is a sickness, said: ‘Allāh and His Messenger promised us nothing but delusion.’” (Qur’an 33:12) So make us steadfast and help us, and subject to us this sea, as You subjected the sea to Moses, the fire to Abraham, the mountains and iron to David, and the Wind, demons, and jinn to Solomon. And subject to us every sea that You possess; in the earth and the sky, the physical and the spiritual, the sea of this life and the sea of the Hereafter. And subject to us everything, O You in Whose Power is dominion over all things. Give us victory, for indeed You are the Best Helper. Show us fortune, for indeed You are the Best Granter of Fortune. Forgive us, for indeed You are the Best of Forgivers. Have mercy on us, for indeed You are the Most Merciful. Grant us provision, for indeed You are the Best of Providers. Guide us and save us from the wrongdoing people. “Our Lord, give us good

in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.” (Qur'an 2:201) And give us a goodly wind as it is in Your Knowledge. Release it upon us from the treasures of Your Mercy; and carry us upon it with honour, in safety and wellbeing, in our Religion, in this world, and in the Hereafter. Truly, You have power over all things. O Allāh, make our affairs easy for us, bringing ease to our hearts and bodies, with security and wellbeing in our Religion and our worldly life. Be our Companion on our journeys and safeguard our families. Blind the faces of our enemies and change them where they stand, so they can neither move nor reach us. “And had We willed, We could have blotted out their eyes, so that they would struggle for the path – how then could they see? And had We willed, We could have fixed them in their place, so that they could neither move forward nor turn back.” (Qur'an 36:66-67) “Yā-Sīn. By the Wise Qur'an, truly You are among the Messengers, on a straight path, a revelation from the Almighty, the Merciful, that You may warn a people whose fathers were not warned, so they are heedless. The Word has already proved true against most of them, so they do not believe. We have put shackles on their necks up to their chins so they are forced upright. And We have placed a barrier before them and a barrier behind them, and have covered them so they cannot see.” (Qur'an 36:1-9) May the faces be disfigured. “And faces shall be humbled before the Living, the Eternal, and whoever bears wrongdoing will indeed be lost.” (Qur'an 20:111) “Ṭā-Sīn.” (Qur'an 27:1) “Ḥā-Mīm Ayn-Sīn-Qāf.” (Qur'an 42:1-2) “He released the two seas meeting together. Between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Qur'an 55:19-20) “Ḥā-Mīm. Ḥā-Mīm. Ḥā-

Mīm. Ḥā-Mīm. Ḥā-Mīm. Ḥā-Mīm. Ḥā-Mīm.” (Qur'an 40–46:1) The matter has been decreed and the victory has come. Against us they shall not prevail. “Ḥā-Mīm. The revelation of the Book is from Allāh, the Mighty, the Knowing, the Forgiver of sin, the Acceptor of repentance, Severe in punishment, the Possessor of bounty. There is no god but He. To Him is the final return.” (Qur'an 40:1-3) Bismi-Allāh-i is our door. “Blessed be He in Whose Power is the dominion.” (Qur'an 67:1) is our wall. “Yā-Sīn.” (Qur'an 36:1) is our roof. “Kāf-Hā-Ya-Ayn-Ṣād.” (Qur'an 19:1) is our sufficiency. “Ha Mim Ayn Sin Qaf.” (Qur'an 42:1-2) is our protection. “And Allāh will suffice you against them, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.” (Qur'an 2:137) The Veil of the Throne is lowered upon us, the Gaze of Allāh watches over us. By the Power of Allāh we shall not be overcome, and Allāh encompasses them from behind. “No indeed, it is a Glorious Qur'an, upon a guarded tablet.” (Qur'an 85:21-22) “Allāh is better as a Guardian, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.” (Qur'an 12:64) “Surely my Protector is Allāh Who sent down the Book, and He befriends the righteous.” (Qur'an 7:196) Allāh is my sufficiency. There is no god but He. Upon Him I rely, and He is the Lord of the Mighty Throne. (Qur'an 9:129) In the Name of Allāh, with Whose Name nothing in the earth or the sky can cause harm. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. I seek refuge in the complete Words of Allāh from the evil of what He has created. And there is no power or strength except by Allāh, the High, the Most Great. May Allāh send peace and blessings upon our liege-lord Muḥammad, his Family and his companions. “And praise be to Allāh, the Lord of all the Worlds.” (Qur'an 37:182)