Unpublished Versions of the Sahifah Sajjadiyah

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Introductions

The spirit of Shi't faith shines through the Sahifah, the legacy of the fourth Imam 'All ibn Husayn al-Sajjād (d. 95/713), the great grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (s). The Shi'l community has from earliest times transmitted the Sahlfah generation after generation as a prayer book for worship, an outline of major themes of the faith, and as a guide of the duties of individual Sh1'1 Muslims towards their Lord, the exciety in which they live, and each other. Thus the Sahtfah touches on a variety of topics, such as praise of God and worship of Him, prayers for help and protection in times of stress and difficulty, pleas for God's forgiveness, and petition for His grace and blessing. The two main reporters of the Sahlfah are the two sons of the fourth Imam, al-Baqir (d. 114/732) and Zayd al-Shahid (d. 122/739). The chain of Isnad of all the manuscripts discovered so far goes back to 'Umayr, son of Mutawakkil al-Thaqaff al-Balkhi who reports from both Yaḥyā son of Zayd (d. 126/743) and Ja'far al-Şādiq (d. 148/765). The reporters of the Sahlfah from Mutawakkil, however, are many and the manuscripts vary greatly in the number, length, and the arrangement of the invocations. The main aim of this discussion is to describe the variant manuscripts of the Sahtfah which I was able to examine. First, however, it will be useful to shed some light on the devotional works of the Sh1'1 faith. We shall then speak of the author of the Sahlfah, the origin of its title, and its composition, and finally proceed to a comparison between the three available manuscripts of the Sahlfah.

The Merit of Invocation:

"Du'a" is a term derived from the Arabic root "Du'a", that is, to call. In Islamic literature, when "Du'a" is used with the preposition "lah", it refers to the direct call, addressed to God alone, requesting blessings, or cursing whomever deserves it when it is used with the preposition "la". The term has been rendered variously as invocation, supplication, and spoken prayer. Thus, Du'a' differs from Salat, the ritual prayer, and also from Dhikr, the remembrance of God. Du'a' may be used as a liturgy in a congregational gathering, or individually as a private prayer. Shi'ls consider, "Du'a" an important source of spiritual guidance in accordance with the Qur'anic injunction: "Call upon me, I will reply." (Qur'an, 40:60). Many sayings of the Prophet and the Imams on the merit and significance of invocations are reported in Shi'l collections of Hadtth. For instance, the Prophet says, "Invocation is the essence of worship."; and Imam 'Alt says, "Invocation is the key to mercy and success."

Shi'i scholars, furthermore, have specified many conditions for Du'a' such as being in a state of purity, eating lawful foods, facing the Qiblah (the direction of the ritual prayers), and most importantly, being obedient to God's commands. (For details see: Ibn Fahd, 'Uddat al-da'i, p. 24 and Majlist II, Bihār al-'anwār, v. 93 pp. 299-394).

Aqā Buzurg Tehrānt lists 126 books on Du'ā' (See Tehrānt, Dhart'ah v. 8 pp. 177-206). The following are some sources of Du'ā' commonly used by the Sht't community today:

- 1. Kāmil al-ziyārah by Ja'far ibn Muḥammad ibn Qūlawayh, (d. 367/977), Najafr:Murtadawiyyah Press, 1356/1974.
- 2. Mişbah: al-mutahajjid by Muhammad b. Hasan al-Tüsi (d. 460/1067), Ed. Ismā il Anşāri Qum: 1401/1980.
- 3. Iqbāl al-'a'māl by 'Alf b. Mūsā ibn Tāwūs (d. 664/1265). Tehran: Dār al-kutub al-Islāmīyyah, 1390/1970.
- 4. Al-Balad al-'amin by Ibrāhim Taqi al-Din Kafami (d.c. 895/1489), Iran: 1382/1962.
- 5. 'Uddat al-dā't by Ahmad Ibn Fahd al-Hilli (d. 841/1437), Qum: Wujdani Bookstore, 1392/1972.

- 6. Tuḥfat al-zā'ir by Muḥammad Bāqir Majlisi II (d. 1111/1699).
- 7. Taḥiyyat al-zā'ir by Mirzā Ḥusayn Nūrī (d. 1320/1902).
- 8, Miftah al-jannat by Muhsin Amin al-'Amili (d. 1371/1951).
- 9. Mafatth al-jinan by Shaykh 'Abbas Qummi (d. 1359/1940).

These popular books of prayer and liturgy have always been widely in use by the Shiff communities of Iraq and Iran and have appeared in many editions. They are mainly concerned with the life of the infallible Shiff Imams, in particular the martyrdom of Imam Husayn. In fact, it is the commemoration of the mrtyrdom of Imam Husayn which has given rise to much Shiff devotional terminology such as Ziyārah (liturgy), Majālis (memorial services), and Qārī in Arabic, Rawz-e-khān in Persian, and Dhākir in Urdu for the one who recites the events of the tragedy of Karbalā'. Several of these liturgies list the names and biographies of those who took part in the events of Karbalā'. The author of the Sahifah was an eyewitness to this tragedy from its beginning to its end.

The Author of the Sahifah:

Al-'Imam al-Sajjād, 'Alī ibnal-Husayn ibn 'Alī (d. 95/713) also known as Zayn al-'Abidin is considered the author of the present Sahifah. It is said that he dictated the work to his two sons al-Baqir d. 114/732 and Zayd (d. 122/739). Al-Imām al-Sajjād was born in Medinah, 38/658, and grew up under the direct supervision of his father, al-Imam al-Husayn, the grandson of the Prophet (s). In 61/680, he witnessed the tragedy of Karbala'. His father and other male relatives and followers were massacred; al-Sajjād was the only male who was saved, for his illness kept him from taking an active part in the battle. After the events of Karbaia' and captivity in Damascus, the Imam returned to his residence in Medinah, where he stayed until his death in 95/713. In Medinah, he kept totally aloof from politics and devoted himself exclusively to worship. Worship was the only means to teach his children and the followers the principles of spiritual growth which were so greatly needed in those times. The fourth Imam was dedicated to educating his children as a living example of resistance to the oppressive rulers of his time by dictating these

invocations. The Sahtfah was also intended as a vehicle of repentance, providing the means to purify the Shi'is of any guilt they may have felt for not participating in the events of Karbala'. The fourth Imam left the Sahlfah as a legacy for generations of Shi'i to come; it is a true mirror of Shi'i thought in the aftermath of Karbala'.

The Title of the Sahtfah:

Imam Sajjad's collection of devotions has been referred to by various descriptive titles:

- 1. Al-Kāmil, i.e. the perfect [devotion]. In manuscript no. 2, Ibn 'Umayr reports from al-Şādiq saying that his father, al-Bāqir, used to worship by reciting this collection of devotions and used to call it "al-Kāmil". Manuscript no. 3 also uses the word "al-Kāmil" as an adjective for the devotion (see: p. 6). Some Yemeni manuscripts have the title, Şahtfat al-Kāmil, that is the book of the perfect [author] (see; 'Isawi manuscript no. 57 p. 364).
- 2. Du'a' al-Şahtfah. The early Shi'i bibliographical sources refer to this collection as Du'a' al-Şahtfah. Both Najāshi (d. 450/1058), and Tūsi (d. 460/1067) refer to it by this title (see: Najāshi, al-Rijāl p. 301, and Tūsi, al-Rijāl p. 489, and al-Fihrist p. 199). Ibn Shahrāshūb (d. 588/1192) also mentions this title (Ma'ālim al-'ulamā' p. 112). Here devotion is used in the singular, indicating the unity of the whole collection with one chain of Isnad back to the Imām. Tustari, however, believes that this title is not accurate since the collection in fact contains more than one Du'a' (Tustari, Qāmūs al-rijāl 7:38).
- 3. Zabūr Al-Muhammad, i.e. Psalms of the House of Muhammad. The earliest source to refer to the Sahifah by this title is Ibn Shahrashūb (d. 588/1192) (Ma'alim al-'ulamā' 112, also note the misreading of the editor as Ibn Nūr Al Muhammad). A comparison between this collection and The Psalm of David in the Old Testament seems to justify this title, for there is a common theme and a similar style.
- 4. Injtl Ahl. al-Bayt (the Gospel of the people of the House). Ibn Shahrāshūb (d. 588/1191) in the biography of Yahyā b. 'Alī al-Riqqī refers to a collection by this title (see: Ibn Shahrāshūb, Ma'ālim al-'ulamā' p.

118). Majlist I, Muhammad Taqî (d. 1070/1659) and Muhammad Bâqir Dāmād (d. 1041/1631) are of the opinion that this title refers to the Sahifah. However, Effendi questions the accuracy of this opinion and believes that this title refers to one of the Imām's Du'ā's known as al-Munājat al-injtliyyah, (the Evangelical fervent prayer) and not to the Sahifah collection (See: Effendi p. 102). A comparison between the collection and the commonly used Gospel of today shows this title to be unjustified since the Sahifah and Gospel have entirely different themes and styles.

5. Al-Sahlfah al-kāmilah, i.e. the perfect or complete collection of papers. The earliest reference to this title is by Ibn Shahrashub (d. 588/1192) in his biographical source, Ma'alim al-ulama' (p. 3). The word Sahtfah as it is used here means a collection of leaves of devotional literature. Manuscript no. 3 uses this title because it is the popular title of the collection since the time of Majlist I (d. 1070/1659). The collection also has been referred to as al-Sahtfah al-Sajjādiyyah or al-Şahifah al-kāmilah al-Sajjādiyyah. Obviously, al-Sajjādiyyah indicates the attribution of the work to its author, Imam Zayn al-'Abidin, also known al-Sajjad. The adjective al-kamilah bears two possible meanings. It could mean "perfect", indicating the perfection of the devotion, or it could mean complete, meaning that nothing is missing from it. Sayyid 'All Khan Madani (d. 1120/1708) is of the first opinion (See: Madani, Riyad al-sālihin, p. 13), while Sayyid Mar'ashi (d. 1411/1990) seems to support the second. Mar'ashi says that Jamal al-Din Kawkabani of Yemen had told him that an incomplete version of the Sahlfah is in use among Zaydis (Mar'ash1, p. 29). Comparing the three manuscripts available at hand proves the second opinion. Manuscript no. 3 is the complete version, while both mss. 1 and 2 are incomplete. They have fewer and shorter invocations.

The Zaydi Version:

The Zayd1 school of thought honours the Sahtfah Sajjādiyyah in the same manner as the Ja'far1 school does. The Zayd1s made the Sahtfah a text-book to be studied by their Imāms. The earliest Zayd1 Ijāzah of the Sahtfah discovered so far is by Ahmad b. Jamāl al-Nahad1 in 606/1209. It

indicates that he had read Sahifah with his teacher Yahyā b. Ismā'il b. 'Ali al-Husyni. This teacher narrates from Shaykh Hasan b. 'Ali al-'Alawi from 'Ali b. Ahmad al-Mughathi, in 597/1200 (Miswari p.152). All the Zaydi manuscripts at the al-Maktabah al-Gharbiyya in Şan'ā', Yemen seem to be identical with the popular Shi'i version, judging from their description in the catalogue of the library (see: 'Isawi, p. 364). Mar'ashi is thus absolutely correct when he says that the word kāmilah means a complete version of the Şahifah in contrast to the incomplete version. The incomplete version, however, is not necessarily the Zaydi version as the description of these manuscripts indicates.

The Composition of the Sahtfah:

All extant manuscripts of the Sahtfah agree that it was dictated by Imam Zayn al-'Abidin al-Sajjād. Manuscript no. 1 mentions that he dictated the Sahifah to his son al-Baqir (d. 114/732). Al-Baqir, in turn, dictated to his son al-Şādiq (d. 148/765), and al-Şādiq dictated it to his companion 'Umayr b. al-Mutawakkil, Manuscript no. 1 does not give details about how the Sahlfah was transmitted between these three generations. Manuscripts no. 2 and 3, however, contain prefaces in which it is described how the Sahtfah was kept safe with Mutawakkil b. Umayr and was transferred to the next generation. According to these manuscripts the Imam also dictated to his other son, Zayd al-Shahid, (d. 122/739) after Zayd, his son Yahya of Juzjan (d. 126/743) inherited the Sahtfah. Subsequently, Mutawakkil met Yahyā and during a dialogue between the two, 'Umayr revealed that al-Sadiq had dictated the Sahifah to him. Mutawakkil further mentioned the concerns of al-Sadiq about this collection of Du'a' for fear of it being lost or confiscated by the Ummayyads. Likewise, Yahyā revealed to Mutawwakkil that he had inherited a Sahlfah from his father Zayd, which was dictated by his grandfather, Imam Sajjad. When the two manuscripts were compared, they were found to be identical. Yahya, according to the prefaces in manuscripts 2 and 3, then entrusted Mutawakkil with the return of the Sahifah to Medinah and its safekeeping with his relatives, due to the same fear that al-Sadiq had. The number of invocations of the Sahlfah were 75,

but Mutawakkil lost 11. The third manuscript relates the same episode but with additional details. Neither manuscripts 1 nor 2 have any addenda; the third one, however, adds several invocations of the Imam known as the addenda of the Sahlfah as well as other invocations. All of the three manuscripts agree that the compositon of the Sahlfah was by Imila', that is, by dictation. The word Imila' is used here in its primary meaning. It means to dictate orally to others, with the author being the one who dictates and not the one who records. Therefore, it is logical to consider al-'Imam al-Sajjad as the author of this collection, as it is likewise logical to regard variations in number and length of invocations as stemming from the nature of the process of dictation.

Supplements to the Ṣaḥīfah:

Shi'i scholars have made serious attempts to find the missing eleven invocations of the original Sahifah lost by Mutawakkil b. Umayr as well as the other ten invocations lost for unknown reasons. Thus, there are found in Shi'i libraries a series of works of devotional literature known as al-Sahifah al-Sajjādiyyah with additional numbers, such as second, third, and so on. They are as follows:

The First Santfah is the original Sahifah.

The Second Sahtfah by Muhammad b. Hasan al-Hurr al-'Amili, (d. 1104/1692) also known as Ukht al-Sahtfah published in Bombay in 1311/1893 (See: Dhart'ah, v. 15 p. 20).

The Third Şahifah, also known as al-Durr al-manthur by Mirzā 'Abd Allāh b. 'Isā Isfahānt al-Effendt (d. c. 12th/18th) Qum: Maktabat al-Thaqalayn, 1400/1979.

The Fourth Sahtfah by Mirzä Husayn b. Muhammad Taqi al-Ndri (d. 1320/1902). Qum: Maktabat al-Thaqalayn 1398/1977.

The Fifth Sahtfah by Sayyid Muhsin b. 'Abd al-Karîm al-'Amîn al-'Amîn (d. 1371/1951). Damascus: 1330/1911. al-'Amîn found 52 additional invocations attributed to Imām Sajjād. This edition contains all of the supplements mentioned in the previous works and has a total of 182 invocations.

The Sixth Şahtfah by Muhammad Şalih al-Ha'iri al-Mazandarani.

This title is mentioned in the list of his works (see Dhart'ah v. 15 pp. 18-21).

Effendi indicates that it was his intention to find the missing invocations (Effendi p. 90). The aim of other scholars, on the other hand, seems to have been to collect whatever invocations could be attributed to al-'Imam al-Sajjad, regardless of their authenticity or style. There scholars did not consider the distinctive style of the Sahlfah in searching for its supplements. They simply basically compiled whatever invocations they were able to find attributed to the Imam which did not appear in the original popular version of Sahlfah. Some of these devotions are very different from the length and style of composition of the authentic Sahlfah.

Addenda to the Şahlfah:

The popular edition of the Sahtfah today has several addenda which do not match the length and style of the Sahifah. Manuscripts 1 and 2 do not have any addenda. Manuscript 3, however, has a few. Even Sayyid 'Alf Khān Madani's commentary, however, does not contain any commentary to these addenda. Manuscript no. 3 is the oldest manuscript with addenda dated 1079/1668. It contains at the end many added Du'ās. They are as follows:

- a. Du'ā' al-Simāt pp. 124-128.
- b. Khātam al-Nubuwwah, the diagram of the seal of prophethood, p. 129.
 - c. 15 Addenda to Sahifah pp. 130-136.
 - d. Weekly prayers pp. 137-140.
 - e. Munājāt (Fervent Prayers) pp. 141-166.
 - f. and Sabah Invocation by Imam 'All pp. 167-173.

Obviously, these addenda were not in the original manuscript and the writer of this manuscript, Muhammad 'Alf, copied them as he saw fit. The oldest manuscript containing a number of Munajat Zayn al-'Abidin, i.e. Fervent Prayers, dated 722/1322 preserved at Ankara 'Umumt Kutub O. 324 pp. 117-130. It has been published by 'Afif 'Asiran, Catholic Press,

Beirut: 1960. This edition is based on a manuscript at Ankara 'Umumī Kutub. O. 324 pp. 117-130.

Authenticity of the Sahlfah:

Ibn Shahrashub (d. 588/1192) considers Sahlfah Sajjadiyyah the sixth book written in Islam (Ma'alim al-'ulama' p. 1). Muhammad Taqi Majlisi I d. 1070/1659 says, "There is no doubt that the Sahifah Kāmilah belongs to Imam Zayn al-'AbidIn (the master of worshippers). Ibn Shahrashub supports his view on the basis of the content and the style of the Sahlfah. He says, "It cannot be but of an infallible person." (See: Majlisl ii, Bihār al-'anwar v. 110, p. 66). In general, Shi'i scholars after Majlisi I agree with his opinion. Effendi says that Sahtfah is "mutawātir", a historical fact, and does not need any chain of Isnad to prove its authenticity (see Effendi p. 5). Şāḥib al-Jawāhir (d. 1266/1849) says, "The attribution of the Sahtfah to the Imam is certain." (See: Najafi, Jawahir al-kalam, 11:158). Burdjerd! (d. 1380/1960) says, "It is obvious that the Sahlfah is of the Imam." He, then mentions the Isnad of others as well as his own Isnad (See: al-Badr al-zāhir, p. 25). Aqā Buzurg (d. 1389/1969) says, "Sahtfah i s mutawatir" according to the Shf'f scholars, through their special Ijazah narration, generation after generation down to the Imam (see: Dhari'ah 15:18).

In accord with a strong belief in Sahlfah's authenticity, some Sh1's scholars attempt to prove theories which are not related to religious matters. Bahrani (d. 1186/1772), also known as Sahlb al-Hada'iq, comments on a phrase in the Sahlfah which reads "Laka wahdaniyyt al-'adad": to You [O' God], belongs the oddness of the number one and the property of eternal power (see Chittik p. 101 invocation no. 28). Bahrani explains in detail that the number one is not a number, but rather a basic element which composes other numbers. For example, two is composed of two ones and so on (see: al-Durrah al-Najafiyyah p. 76). al-Kha'i, (d. 1413/1992) explains a natural phenomenon based on two sentences of the Sahlfah describing the day and night. He quotes the Imam as saying: "He makes each of them [day and night] to enter in its companion and causes its companion to enter into it." (Sahlfah invocation

no. 6 see Chittik p. 32), al-Khū'i further explains that this phrase proves that the Earth is round and not flat. Otherwise, he says, one of these two sentences "Yūliju kulla wāḥidin ft ṣāḥibih", and "Yūliju ṣāḥibahu fthi" would be redundant. According to Khū'i, both phrases refer to a natural phenomenon happening simultaneously. It is impossible that it be both day and night at the same place. Therefore, day and night must be at two different places opposite to each other; only then can both day and night exist at the same time. This can only happen when the earth is round, in which case, the place where it is day is opposite to the place where is night (see: al-Bayan p. 76). Khu'l reconciles between this statement and the scientifically proven theory that Earth has been shaped by the mighty force of its own gravity. Because of a pull of the heavy interior and outer parts of the planet, the surface tends to settle as near the center as possible. As a result, it is held as a curving shape around the centre. Al-Khū'i's explanation indicates the highest opinions that he has on the authenticity of the Sahifah. Ironically, he does regard al-Mutawakkil, the main narrator of the Sahlfah, as a reporter not proven to be reliable. (See: Khū'l, Mu'jam rijāl al-Hadith 14:187). That is to say that technically the chain of Isnad of the Sahtfah is considered to be weak for the biography of Mutawakkil, the main narrator of all the Sahifah's versions, is not known. Therefore, Imam Khumayni (d. 1410/1989) says, "The honoured Sahifah Sajjadiyyah has a weak Isnad though its great contents and eloquence make us have some degree of confidence that it has been narrated from Imam. But this does not prove the authenticity of each phrase of the Sahlfah." (see: Khumayni, al-Makasib al-muharramah, 1:320). He, however, does not hold the same view regarding other Shi'l literature which is less important than the Sahlfah.

The popular manuscript of the Sahifah was in the hands of Majlist I d. 1070/1659. He mentions the traditional argument to prove the authenticity of the Sahifah through chains of Ijaza, and he adds that the chains of the Sahifah are endless (See: Rawdat al-muttaqqin, v. 14 p. 422). Further, Majlisi I mentions an episode which sheds some light on the popularity of manuscript no. 3, the popular version of Sahifah. Majlisi I says that it was revealed to him at the beginning of the age of maturity in a dream while half asleep that Sahib al-zamān al-Mehdi was standing at the

old masjid of Işfahān. Majlist asks the Imām about some personal and scholarly questions for which he receives the answer. Then, Majlisf I asks him for a reference book to consult whenever is needed. The lmam in reply says, "I have given a book for you to Mawlana Muhammad al-Taj. Go and take it." In his dream, Majlis1 goes to the man and takes the book. When he wakes up, Majlisi says, "I thought that the man called Taj must be Shaykh Muhammad [i.e. Bahā' al-Din al-'Amili d. 1031/1621]. Majlisi says, "I went to his school and saw him editing the Sahlfah Sajjadiyyah with Sayyid Salth Am'tr Dhulfigar. When I told him my dream, he interpreted my dream as a good news; that is to obtain some divine knowledge. I left him to the destination to which I went in my dream. I met a man called Agha Hasan Tājā and after introduction, he gave me the same book which I saw in my dream. I came back to the Shaykh [Bahā' al-Din al-'Amil1]." Majlisf I further says, "I started to copy with him manuscripts which his grandfather had copied from the manuscript of Shahid. Shahid had copied his manuscript from the manuscript of 'Alf b. 'Amid al-Sadid. 'All copied his from Ibn Sakun and compared it with the manuscript of Ibn Idr1s, directly or indirectly". Majlist adds that the manuscript which Sahib al-zaman gave me was copied from the manuscript of Shahid. [They were] totally identical in the style of writing. People began to copy the Sahifah from me. Now the Sahifah is distributed in all cities, especially in Işfahan (see: Majlist I, Rawdat al-muttaqtn v. 14: p. 431). This long episode explains in part why manuscript no. 3 of the Sahtfah is popular today and not the other two versions. According to Majlist I (since the beginning of his age of maturity) in approximately c. 1018/1509 [Majlisf I was born in 1003/1595; the Shi'l school of thought considers 15 to be the age of maturity for males, there was a serious attempt on the part of these two scholars of the Safavid era, namely Majlisi I and Shaykh Baha' al-Din al-'Amili (d. 1031/1621), to distribute manuscript no. 3. The efforts of these two scholars in particular resulted in the popularity of the Sahlfah version which is commonly in use today.

Manuscripts of the Sahlfah:

A comparison between the three manuscripts at hand answers many

questions. Manuscript no. 1 lacks any. It contains only one Isnad to the Imam, while manuscript no. 2 has a short preface with one Isnad to the Imam. And manuscript no. 3 is the most complete with a long preface and two Isnads to the Imam. As a result, there are three versions of the Sahtfah at hand: those of al-Muţahhart's, Ibn al-'A'lam's and Ibn Mālik. Only two of these three versions, those of al-Muṭahhart and Ibn al-'A'lam, constitute the popular Sahifah commonly known as al-Sahifah kāmilah.

Manuscript no. 1, al-Muṭahhari's Version:

This manuscript has 41 invocations; its Isnad is short. It has no preface and was written by Husayn b. Muhammad b. Husayn Shirazi on 11th Rabi' al-'Akhir 695/1295 in 73 folios (see: Husayni, 10:81). The Isnad of this manuscript goes back to Ja'far al-Ṣādiq as follows:

- 1. Abū al-Mufaddal.
- 2. Muhammad b. al-Ḥasan b. Rūzbeh b. Abī Bakr al-Madā'inī.
- 3. Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Musallim al-Muţahhari.
- 4. [His father].
- 5. 'Umayr b. Mutawakkil b. Harun al-Balkhi.
- 6. [His father].
- 7. al-Sadiq.
- 8. al-Bāqir.
- 9. al-Sajjād.

Names 5-9 are common with the other manuscripts. The first name, Abu al-Mufaddal refers to Muhammad b. 'Abd Allah b. 'Abd al-Muftalib al-Shayban' (d. 387/997), as comparison with the other two manuscripts indicates. Both Najashi (d. 450/1058) and Tusi (d. 460/1067) have mentioned their Isnads to Mufahhari's version in their bibliographical works (see: Najashi, al-Rijāl p. 301, and Tusi, al-Rijāl p. 489, and al-Fihrist p. 199).

Manuscript no. 2, Ibn Mālik's Version:

This manuscript contains 37 invocations. In the preface, there is a reference to the two manuscripts of Zayd and al-Ṣādiq. This manuscript has no date and the name of the copyist is not known; however, on page 12 a reference to Bahā' al-Millah wa al-Dīn appears. The manuscript is in 78 folios at the Mar'ashī Library, in Qum, # 198 (see: Husaynī, v. 1 p. 230). This name most likely refers to Muhammad al-'Āmilī (d. 1031/1621) who advocated the popular version of the Ṣaḥīfah. If this reference is correct, Bahā' al-Dīn popularized his version for an unknown reason. Following the third page, two pages are missing, as the contents clearly indicate. The Isnad of this manuscript reads as follows:

- 1. Abū 'Alī b. Humām b. Suhayl al-'Iskāf in Baghdad [d. 332/943].
- 2. 'Alt b. Mālik [Tust d. 460/1067 mentions this version in Rijāl p. 485].
- 3. Aḥmad b. 'Abd Allah [? Ibn Marwan al-'Anbart see: Tust, Rijāl p. 428].
- 4. Muḥammad b. Ṣāliḥ [? b. Mas'ūd al-Jadali al-Kūff, see: Ṭūsī, Rijāl p. 291.
 - 5. 'Umar b. al-Mutawakkil b. Härün al-Thaqaff al-Balkhi.
 - 6. Al-Mutawakkil [His father].
 - 7. Yaḥyā and al-Şādiq.
 - 8. [Their fathers] al-Bāqir and Zayd.

Beat away and the second of

9. Al-Sajjād.

The editor of al-Rijal by al-Tusi believes that Tusi's Isnaa refers to only one Du'a', namely invocation no. 3 (see: Tusi, Rijal p. 480). This not correct. On the contrary, this manuscript proves the unity of all invocations in one Isnaal. There is a great discrepancy between this version and the popular version of the Sahifah as the following examples clearly prove. In the popular Sahifah, invocation no. 27, the invocation for the

fifth of the booty which they gain. Indeed, it is a compensation for what you have forbidden to us, according to the statement of your Prophet, of the sadaqah, which is intended [to wash] the sins of people. [This is] to purify Your Prophet, his family, his progeny, his children, and his kin. And [also inspire the people of the frontiers to know] the sins and the great faults of those who prevent it from us and Your revenge, whether it comes sooner or later, upon those who have treated us unjustly. O, God, purify the Muslims' frontiers through Your might, support the defenders through Your strength..." (Invocation no. 17 manuscript 2, pp. 31-32). This first paragraph is totally missing from invocation no. 27 of the popular Sahlfah. (See: Chittick, p. 94). The popular Sahtfah begins directly with the second paragraph, with the additional commonly used phrase: "Allahumma Sallt 'ala Muhammad wa Ale Muhammad", that is, O' God, bless Muhammad and his Household. The missing paragraph refers to several important aspects of Sh1'1 thought, such as the principle of Khums. The Imam in this paragraph shows his intention to send his message to a remote place and important audience: the warriors at the frontiers of the Islamic territories.

Another Du'a', no. 36 of manuscript no. 2, is also entirely missing from the popular Sahtfah. The first paragraph of this Du'a' reads as follows:

(Among his invocations is the invocation of acceptance)

"O' God, indeed, appeal is difficult and means also very difficult except with You. The channels are narrow, the objectives impossible [to obtain], such desires are rarely realized, and all avenues are cut off except to You. [All] hopes are in vain, all the expectations are cut off but of You. And trust is failing and good opinions are disappointed but of You..." (\$ahtfah Ms. no. 2, invocation no. 36).

The entire invocation is a contrast between the mercy of Almighty God and the true nature of humans. By the contrast between the two, the Du'ā' identifies the only path to salvation as total reliance on God alone.

Effendi refers to an old Sahtfah which he has seen and says, it was known as al-Ma'samah, that is, the infallible book, meaning that it was the most correct version of the Sahtfah (Effendi p. 57). It is quite possible that Effendi refers to this version of Sahtfah manuscript no. 2, for it seems to be more correct than the popular version. For example, the word

al-Ṣaqālibah, referring to the Slavic race has been written, incorrectly, with Stn in the popular version, (See: Chittik $Du'\bar{a}'$ no. 27 p. 97 line 3). In a manuscript no. 2, it is written with $Ṣ\bar{a}d$ not Ṣtn (see $Du'\bar{a}'$ no. 36 p. 77 line of Ms no. 2).

Manuscript no. 3, Ibn al-'Å'lam Version:

This is the popular version of the Sahtfah. It consists of 123 folios written by Ghulam 'Al1, known as Muhammad Amin, son of Muhammad 'Al1, in 10 Dhul Hijjah 1079/1668. It was copied from a manuscript written by Muhammad b. Makki also known as al-Shahid al-'Awwal in 11 Sha'bān 772/1370. His manuscript was copied by 'Al1 b. Aḥmad al-Sadid in 642/1244. Al-Sadid in turn made his copy from a manuscript of 'Al1 b. Sakūn. At the end of this manuscript, many Du'a's are included such as Mashlūl, Ṣabāh, and al-I'tisam and others. Also on the margin of this manuscript Fayd al-Kāshāni (d. 1091/1680) has written some notes, (see: Monzavi, p. 167). This manuscript was the basis for the edition of the Ṣaḥtfah edited by Mishkat, Tehran 1361/1942.

The Isnad of this manuscript of the Sahifah reads as follows:

- 1. Najm al-Din Bahā' al-Sharaf Abū al-Ḥasan Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. Ahmad b. 'Alī b. Muḥammad b. 'Umar b. Yaḥyā al-'Alawī al-Ḥusaynī.
 - 2. Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Shahrayār al-Khāzin, in 516/1122.
- 3. Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Ahmad b. 'Abd al-'Azîz al-'Ukbarî al-Mu'addal [d. 472/1079].
- 4. Abū al-Mufaḍḍāl Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-Muṭṭallib al-Shaybanf [d. 387/997].
- 5. Ja'far b. Muḥammad b. Ja'far b. Ḥasan b. Ja'far b. Ḥasan b. Ḥasan b. Amir al-Mu'minîn 'Alî b. Abî Tālib [d. 308/920].
 - 6. 'Abd Allah b. 'Umar b. Khat tab al-Zayyat in 265/878.
 - 7. His uncle, 'Alf b. Nu'man al-'A'lam [al-Nakhā't al-Kūff].
 - 8. Umayr b. al-Mutawakkil al-Thaqafi al-Balkhi.
 - 9. His father Mutawakkil b. Harun.
 - 10. Yahya and Ja'far from their father.
 - 11. Al-Baqir and Zayd.
 - 12. Al-Sajjad.

Names 8 to 12 are common with the Isnad of the manuscript no. 2. This manuscript has 54 invocations. It is the most complete version of all three manuscripts. The preface to this manuscript is longer than that of no. 2. What makes this manuscript unique is that someone in the chain of Isnad has combined two versions of the Sahtfah into one. These are the versions of Ibn al-'A'iam and Mutahhari. The result of this combination is manuscript no. 3, which is known as al-Sahtfah al-kamilah. Most likely, the one who is responsible for this combination is Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Ahmad al-'Ukbari d. 742/1079. The line on page 13 of manuscript 3 reads, "wa haddathana Aba al-Mufaddal". This obviously belongs to the first Isnad mentioned on page 2. In the first Isnad, the one who reports from Aba al-Mufaddal is described as al-Shaykh, the truthful, Muhammad b. Muhammad al-'Ukbari al-Mu'addal [d. 472/1079 see: al-'Ansāb by Sam'ānī [9:246 Hyderabad, 1928].

By comparing these three manuscripts, we find a new meaning for the phrase "Wa bag! al-'abwab" (and the rest of the chapters) in the preface of the popular Sahtfah (see: Chittick, The Psalm of Islam p. 15). Surely, this phrase refers to the other version of the combined manuscripts. Apparently, 'Ukbari had a copy of Ibn al-'A'lam's version, which he then combined with Mutahhari's version. Whatever additional invocations were in Ibn al-'Alam's version were referred to as "Baq! al-'abwab". Further, he mentioned the table of contents of al-Mutahhari's version in order to distinguish the two versions. Someone must have failed to understand this and included in the table of contents all the headings of the invocations, whether in Mutahhari's or Ibn al-'Alam's version. In other words by adding Mutahharf's version to Ibn al-'Alam's version, the Sahlfah became complete. This fine point makes the meaning of the phrase "Baqt al-'abwab" very clear; it means the rest of the invocations. Madani seems to miss this fine point. He believes that the phrase "Baat al-'abwab" refers only to the heading title of each invocation within the Şahtfah (See: Madant, Riyad al-şalihin p. 31). The English translation picks up this opinion and translates the phrase as, "The remaining chapter headings." (See: Şahtfah al-Sajjādiyyah Trans. Chittick, 15).

The Şaḥifah up to the Present Time:

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The Sahtfah has been since its completion in the 1st/7th century in use by scholars of both the Sht's and Zayds schools. We can identify the following phases in its history:

Dictation: Madella Market and Mar

In the first phase, from the time of al-Imam al-Sajjad up to the generation of 'Umayr b. Mutawakkil, The Sahtfah was transmitted by dictation. Ibn al-Mutawakkil reports the Sahtfah from Yahya and al-Sadfq, both of whom report it from their fathers, then, from their grandfather al-Sajjad, (see: Ms. 1, p. 1; Ms. 2 p. 2; and Ms. 3 p. 5).

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Narration:

In the second phase, Mutawakkil receives the Sahtfah by narration using the term "Haddathand", that is, (reported to us), rather than by dictation. Most likely he transmitted Sahtfah by reading the text to others. The earliest manuscript of the Sahtfah written by Yaqut al-Musta'simi in 694/1294 indicates that the copy was read to Abu al-Mufaddal Muhammad b. 'Abd al-Muttalib al-Shaybant at his residence in the quarter of Marta'at Khaqan, (See: Atabai, p. 787). Judging from the little information given in this catalogue, this manuscript seems to be the same as Ibn al-'A'lam's version.

Transmission by Ijāzah:

During the third phase, the Sahtfah was transmitted by a Shaykh. He usually permits his students to attribute a book to a name in the list of his chain of Isnad. Ijāzah usually does not accompany imla'; that is, dictation, as it was the case during the first phase, nor reading, which was the case during the second phase. The transmission is rather accomplished by permission, either orally or in writing. The purpose of the Ijāzah is to attribute a text to its author, or to enable oneself be included in the chain

of Isnad for the sake of blessing. Apart from these two points, there is no significance in such Ijazah. The one who most advocated this method was Majlisi I (d. 1070/1659). He calculated the Isnad of the Sahifah to be 56, 100 Isnads (see Majlisi ii, Bihār al-'anwār v. 110 p. 51).

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starting, that the district of the same to be of the Sall land.

Commentary: 10 ale had file and Cold form by show in arms desiring a file.

In the fourth phase, the main objective of the scholar becomes to write commentaries on the Sahlfah, explaining the text by Shanh, (commentary) or Hashiyah, (marginal notes), or Tallqah, (short separate notes). Tehrant lists 64 commentaries on the Sahlfah (Dharl'ah v. 13 pp. 309-340) and 16 marginal notes (Dharl'ah v. 4 pp. 111-113). Mahfaz further lists 14 translations, (Mahfaz p. 70). The earliest commentary listed is of Shaykh Taqt al-Din Idrahim Kafami (d.c. 895/1489), and the most comprehensive commentary in use is of Sayyid 'Alf Khan Madani, d. 1120/1708, known as Riyad al-salihin (printed in Iran 1334/195 and reprinted afterwards, by Mu'assasat Ahl al-Bayt Qum n.d.

The following commentaries should also be added to the list:

- 1. Ft dilal al-Şahtfah by Mühammad Jawad Mughniyyah (d. 1400/1979). Beirut: Där al-Ta'aruf, 1979
 - 2. Sharh al-Sahifah by Ali Naqi Fayd al-'Islam, Tehran: 1376/1956.
- 3. Sharh ul-Şahlfah by Sayyid Muhammad al-Shirāzi. Najaf: Nu'mān Press, 1387/1967.

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4. Shrah al-Şahtfah by 'Izz al-Din Jazā'irī, Beirut: 1402/1982.

Publication:

Of the manuscripts of the Sahlfah, preserved at public and private libraries, I was able to locate 141 manuscripts of the Sahlfah. This is not, by any means, a comprehensive list, this will need much further research. The oldest manuscript of the Sahlfah found is written by Yaquthi Abd al-Allah al-Musta's Im I in 694/1294 is preserved at the kitalikhan e-Saltanati Tehran, Iran (See: Atabai, p) 787). It is invoice that with 30 many manuscripts of the Sahlfah, no manuscript of the Sahlfah has been

Unpub. Versions of the Şahîfah Sajjādiyah

mentioned in the lately published catalogue by the Royal Institute for Islamic Research of Amman, Jordan. Only one manuscript of the Sahtfah is listed and is wrongly attributed to Imam Alt b. Abt Talib (See: al-Fihris al-shāmil li al-turāth al-'Arabī al-'Islāmī al-makhṭūṭ, i.e., The Comprehensive Catalogue of the Arabic Islamic Manuscript v. 2 p. 1049).

The earliest edition was printed 1262/1845 in Tabriz, lithograph (see: Mushar p. 588). Purther, Mushar lists 16 editions of the Sahtfah (see: Mushar p. 588). Mahfuz lists 5 Indian editions and 11 Iranian editions (see: Mahfuz p. 71). However, the following editions should be added to the list:

- 10 Şahtfah Kâmilah mutarjam wa muhashshā with Urdu translation by Muhammad Hārūn Zangipūr, Delhi: Matba' Yusuf Dehli 1333/1914.
- 2. Cairo by Ahl al-Bayt Society, Gilani press, with a foreword by Dr. Ahmad Wa'ilf n.d.
- 3. Beirut, Där al-Ta'āruf with a foreword by Muhammad Bāqir al-Şadr.
- 4. Tehran with an introduction by Muhammad Mishkät, 1361/1942. This edition is so far considered the most authoritative edition of the *Sahtfah*. It was published based on Manuscript no. 3.
 - 5. Damascus, 1405/1984 edited by 'All Ansariyan. It includes:
 - a. the text of the popular Sahtfah, p. 1-232,

b. subject index by Muhammad Husayn Muzaffari pp. 233-336, and a

c. word index by 'Alf Akbar Qurayshi; pp. 336-589.

This edition is the most elaborately illuminated of all editions.

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All the editions I was able to examine are of the popular version being almost identical to manuscript no. 3.

English Translations:

So far there are two English translations of the Şaḥtfah available:

- al-'Ulum Association, Lucknow, (see: Mahfuz, p. 70). This translation has also been published by Imam Sahe-bu-Zaman Association, New Jersey, 1405/1984.
- 2. Psalm of Islam by William c. Chittik with a foreword by S.H. Ja'farl, published by the Muhammadi Trust of the U.K., 1988. This translation is based on "The modern Iranian editions" as the translator

indicates (see: p. xxi).

Final Note:

Constance E. Padwick says that Sahtfah Kāmilah Sajjādiyyah is in use in Iran and Syria as the sister book in use in India (Muslim Devotions p. xv). The author seems to suggest that the Indian edition in use in India is somehow different from the edition in use in Iran and Syria. This is not an accurate description of the following Indo-Pakistani editions I was able to examine:

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- 1. Sahtfah Kāmilah mutarjam wa muhashshā with Urdu translation by Muhammad Harun Zangipur, Dehli: Matba'at Yūsuf Dehli: 1333/1914.
- 2. Şahifah Kamilah ya'nı Zabür-e 'Āl-e Muhammad with Urdu translation by Sayyid Qasim Riza Nasım Amr Dehiwi, Pakistan, Lahore: Shaykh Ghulam 'Ali Publishers n.d.
- 3. Şahîfah Kamilah with Urdu translation by Sayyid 'Alf. Saheb, Pakistan, Lahore: Maktabah Razawiyyah n.d.

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Conclusion:

Examination of the three manuscripts at hand leads us from speculation closer to certainty, at least on three points:

- 1. There are basically three variants of the Sahlfah, those of Ibn al-'A'lam, al-Mutahharl, and Ibn Malik. Some scholar, most likely al-'Ukbarl (d. 472/1079), combined two of these versions—those of Ibn al-'A'lam and Mutahharl, in one volume. This is the provenance of the popular version of the Sahlfah in use today in the Shl'l community worldwide. It is because of this combination that the Sahlfah is called al-Kamilah i.e the complete one (see Chart 1).
- 2. There is a difference between the two versions of Ibn al-'A'lam and Ibn Mālik of 18 invocations. The unpublished manuscript no. 2 has 37 invocations, while the popular one has 54 invocations. The following invocations are included in the popular version, but missing from the other: 2, 3, 4, 5, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 38, 42, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, and 53. (See: Chart # 2).

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3. The addenda of the published Sahtfah are not part of the work itself. These definitely do not share the chain of Isnad of the three manuscripts and are moreover vary in style of composition. Despite this, manuscript no. 3 has at the end a few additional invocations, such as the Du n'. Shabur and Sabah but these are presented as addenda and not as part of the work itself:

In short, the Sah Ifah has gone through phases of dictation, narration, ijazah transmission, commentary, publication, and translation. The popularity of the combined version of the SahtIfah in use is due in part to the diligent work of two scholars, Baha' al-Din Muhammad al-'Amili (d. 1031/1621), and Majlist I (d. 1070/1659). Other versions of the SahtIfah received attention during the first and the second phases, but not afterwards. Regrettably, so far there is no scholarly edition of the complete versions of this masterpiece of Shi'i devotional literature.

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Ma. # 2 Sequence: Ma. # 3:

Chart # 1 The Origin of the Popular Sahifah

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The 4th Imam 'Alī b. Husayn Zayn al-'Abidīn al-Şajjād d. 95/713 The 5th Imam al-Bagir d. 114/732 Zavd al-Shahid d. 122/739 The 6th Imam Ja'far al-Sādiq d. 148/765 Yahvā al-Shahid d. 126/743 Mutawakkil b. Hārūn al-Baikhī al-Thaqafī [His son 'Umayr] (Both Najāshī d.450/1058 and Tüsī (only Tusi mentions this Ms.) d. 460/1067 have Isnad to the Ms. # 1 Ms. # 1 Muhammad b. Sālih Muhammad b. Ahmad 'Ali b. Nu'mān al-'A'lam b. Muslim al-Mutahhari Muhammad b. Hasan 'Abd Aliah b. 'Umar b. Khat tab Ahmad b. 'Abd b. Rūzbah al-Madā'in i al-Zayvāt in 270/883 Pitter of the collection of the collection of the collection Abū 'Abd Allāh Ja'far b. Muh. b. 'All b. Malik al-Hasan al-'Alawi in 380/990 THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF TH Abū 'Alī Muhammad b. Humām b. Suhayl al-'Askāf Lie York Ostport I mented they all all a Abū al-Mufaddal-Muhammad b. 'Abd Allāh d.332/943 b. 'Abd al-Mut talib al-Shaybani d. 380/990

Abū Manşûr Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-'Ukbarī d. 472/1079.

Abū 'Abd Allāh Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Shahrayār al-Khāzin in 516/1122.

Najm al-Dîn Bahā' al-Sharaf Abū al-Ḥasan Muḥammad b. Ḥasan b. Aḥmad al-ʿAlawī.

(This is the popular version of Sahifah identical to Ms. no.3.)

Chart # 2

(A comparison between Ms. no. 3 of Sahifah, the popular version and the two unpopular Mss. no. 2 and 3)

The following chart indicates the sequences and the missing invocations in both manuscripts. Ms. no. 2 has one invocation which is not in the popular manuscript. The popular one has 18 invocations more. They are 2, 3, 4, 5, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25 38, 42, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, and 53. The common invocations between the two, however, differ in their texts and their length.

Ms. # 2 Sequence: Ms. # 3:

43. # Z	sequence: Ms. # 5:	Mis. # 2 Seq	ucuce. Ma. 4 3.
1	= 1	20	= 31
2	= 37	21	= 13
3	= 8	22	= 14
4	= 9	23	= 16
5	= 10	24	= 6
6	= 11	25	= 7
7	= 12	26	= 35
8	= 39	27	= 43
9	= 28	28	= 17
10	= 41	29	= 15
11	= 29	30	= 18
12	= 40	31	= 36
13	= 30	32	= 34
14	The second secon	33	= 33
15	= 24	34	= 46
10	= 26	35	= 54
13	= 27	36	Missing
18	= 44	37	= 51
19	= 45		
		37	= 36

أَبْلُ عِسَدَ أَنْ مُنْ إِلْمُلْهِمَ رَى قَالَ عَنْ فَالْعَالِمُ الْعَلَمَ وَيُ قَالَ عَنْ فَالْعَالِمُ الْعَلَمَ وَيُعْلِمُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْ عَلَيْهِ عَلَّهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَلَّهِ عَلَّهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْهِ عَلَيْ

كتابخاه عمو سي أيت الله العظمي

A Facsimile of the beginning of Sahtfah Ms. no. 1 dated 695/1295.

A Facsimile of the end page of Sahlfah Ms. no. 1 dated 695/1295.

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A Facsimile of the beginning of the undated Sahtfah Ms. no. 2.

A Facsimile of the beginning of invocation no. 17 of the undated Sahlfah Ms. no. 2.

The first paragraph is missing from the popular Sahtfah cf. Chittick p. 94.



A Facsimile of the beginning of invocation no. 35 of the undated Sahlfah

Ms. no. 2.

The entire invocation is missing from the popular Sahlfah.