There are several ahadith (traditions) in Tufatuz Za-ir, Safinatun Najat and Mafatihun Najat that the earth of Karbala (from the precinct of the resting place of Imam Husayn), known as khak shifa, cures every ailment save the deadly disease (by which death has been decreed).

Imam Jafar bin Muhammad as Sadiq said: At the time of eating khak shifa [for picking and holding it see (ii) below] for curing a disease say:

In the name of Allah, for Allah, O Allah, the Lord of this sacred, helpful earth, the Lord of the light which is in it, the Lord of the body which is resting in it, the Lord of the guardian angels, let it cure my disease (mention the name of the disease, then kiss the earth and eat it with some water and continue), Allah let this pure earth be a source of abundant means of livelihood, useful knowledge and a remedy for all (my) pains and ailments

بِسُمِ اللهِ وَ بِاللهِ اَللهِ اَللهُ مَربَّ هذهِ التُّرْبَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ الطَّاهِرَةِ وَ رَبَّ النُّورِ الَّذِي انْزِلَ فِيهِ وَ رَبَّ الْجَسَدِ الظَّاهِرَةِ وَ رَبَّ النُّورِ الَّذِي انْزِلَ فِيهِ وَ رَبَّ الْجَسَدِ لِظَّاهِرَةِ وَ رَبَّ النَّورِ الَّذِي الْمُلَاثِكَةِ الْمُوَكِّلِيْنَ بِهِ اللَّهُ لَذِي سَكَنَ فِيهِ وَ رَبَّ الْمُلَاثِكَةِ الْمُوكِلِيْنَ بِهِ الْجُعَلُهُ شِفَاءً مِنْ دَآءٍ

لَا اللهُمَّ اجْعَلُهُ رِزُقًا وَاسِعًا وَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا وَ شِفَاءً مِنُ اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلُهُ وِزُقًا وَاسِعًا وَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا وَ شِفَاءً مِنُ اللهُ عَلَى اللهُ اللّهُ اللهُ الله

Imam Jafar bin Muhammad al Sadiq said: Before picking khak shifa recite: In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, O Allah I beseech You in the name of this earth, in the name of the angel who has gathered it, in the name of the prophet who made it free from anything impure, in the name of (his) vicegerent who stayed here, send blessings on Muhammad and on his family, and let this earth cure and heal all my ailments and keep me safe from all fears.

اللَّهُمَّ اِنِّى اَسْفَلُكَ بِحَقِّ هذِهِ الطِّينَةِ وَ بِحَقِّ الْمَلِكِ
الَّذِي اَخَذَهَا وَ بِحَقِّ النَّبِيِّ الَّذِي تَنَزَّهَا وَ الْمُلِ الْمُوصِيِّ الَّذِي حَلَّ فِيها صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ اَهُلِ الْمُوصِيِّ الَّذِي حَلَّ فِيها شِفَاءً مِنْ كُلِّ دَآءٍ وَ اَمُنَا مِنُ ﴾ بَيْتِه وَاجْعَلُ لِي فِيها شِفَآءً مِنْ كُلِّ دَآءٍ وَ اَمُنَا مِنُ عَلَى خَوُفٍ

Then Imam also said: When you have picked khak shifa recite: Surah al Fatihah, Surah Ya Sin, Surah al Qadr, Surah Al Kafirun, Surah al Ikhlas, Surah al Falag, Surah al Nas & Ayatal Kursi And the following dua: O Allah, in the name of Muhammad, Your servant, Your dearest friend. Your prophet, Your messenger, Your trustee; in the name of Amir al Mumeneen Ali ibn Abi Talib, Your servant, brother of Your messenger; in the name of Fatimah, daughter of Your Prophet and wife of Your Wali; in the name of Hasan and Husayn, in the name of the rightly guided guides; in the name of the guardian angel; in the name of the body covered by it; in the name of all angels and messengers, make this earth cure my disease and also of those who beseech You for removal of ailments, pains, diseases; and keep me (and all the beseechers) protected from all fears. O Allah, for the sake of Muhammad and his family, let this (earth) give me useful knowledge, abundant means of livelihood, let it cure my pains and diseases, let it keep me safe from misfortunes; injuries, all kinds of pains. Verily You have power over all things. O Allah, the Lord of this sacred, blessed earth and the angel who descended on it and the vicegerent who is resting under it, send blessings on Muhammad and on the children of Muhammad, and let it help me and benefit me. Verily You have power over all things.

وَ آمِيُنِكَ وَ بِحَقِّ آمِيْرِ الْمُؤَمِنِيُنَ عَلِيَّ ابُن ب عَبُـدِكَ وَ أَخِيُ رَسُولِكَ وَ بِحَقِّ فَاطِمَةَ نبيَّكَ وَ زَوْجَةِ وَلِيَّكَ وَ بِحَـقَّ الْحَسَنِ وَ حُسَيْنِ وَ بِحَقِّ الْاَئِمَّةِ الرَّاشِدِيْنَ وَ بِحَقَّ الْمَلَكِ الْـمُـوَكُّـل وَ بِـحَقِّ الْجَسَدِ الَّذِّيُ ضَمَّنْتُهُ وَ بِحَقّ ـع مَلَائِكَتِكَ وَ رُسُلِكَ وَ اجْعَلُ هٰذِهِ الطِّيْنَ ءً لِيُ وَلِمَنُ يَسُتُشُفِيُ بِهِ مِنْ كُلِّ دَآءٍ وَ سُقًـ وَ مَرَضٍ وَ اَمُنًا مِنْ كُلِّ خَوْفٍ اَللَّهُمَّ بِحَقَّ مُحَمَّ لِ بَيْتِهِ اجْعَلُهُ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا وَ رِزُقًا وَاسِعًا وَ شِـفَـآءً مِنُ كُلُّ دَآءٍ وَ سُقُمٍ وَ افَةٍ وَ عَاهَةٍ وَ جَ الْاُوْجَاعِ كُلِّهَا إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيْرٌ ٱللَّهُمَّ رَبُّ هٰذِهِ التُّرْبَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ الْمَيْمُونَةِ وَالْمَلَكِ الَّذِي ا وَ الْـوَصِـيِّ الَّـذِيُ هُـوَ فِيُهَـا صَلَّ عَلَى دٍ وَ ال مُحَمَّدٍ وَانْفَعُنِيُ بِهَا اِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ