

# Dhu'l-Qi'dah 2, 1440 - Concept of Duaa'

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا، من يهده الله فلا مضل له، ومن يضل فلا هادي له، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله.

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم " يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ " يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا " يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا (70) يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا" اما بعد ،،  
فإن أصدق الحديث كتاب الله وخير الهدى هدى محمد (ص) وشر الأمور محدثاتها وكل محدثة بدعة وكل بدعة ضلالة وكل ضلالة في النار

Dear brothers and sisters, Today's topic is about an important act of worship which unfortunately becomes neglected by some Muslims these days. It is the most powerful mean of Muslim of achieving righteousness, success, receiving continuous blessings, and removing misfortunes and distress. It is the act of supplication or prayer to Allah <sup>سبحانه و تعالٰى</sup> and the Arabic word is *Duaa'*.

*Duaa'* or supplication is an act of worship as mentioned by the prophet (ﷺ) who said:

" إِنَّ الدُّعَاءَ هُوَ الْعِبَادَةُ " صحيح. رواه أبو داود (1479)، والنسائي في " الكبرى " (6 / 450). والترمذي (3247)، وابن ماجه

Which means: “Verily supplication is worship.”

And when something is declared to be worship, then it is not permissible for it to be directed to other than Allah. *Duaa*’ is the most beneficial act of worship. Despite the fact that Supplication is itself the worship as mentioned by the prophet SAW, people seem to neglect *Duaa*’. People seem to have forgotten the power of *Duaa*’ or supplication. People are overwhelmed by the advances made in science and technology and they begin to believe that they have become masters of their own destinies.

It is not that we have forgotten *Duaa*’ completely, but our attitude, and practices regarding *Duaa*’ have become somehow distorted.

The problem is that *Duaa*’ for many people has become a ritual and a final option after all options and means have been exhausted. In the proper scheme of things, *Duaa*’ should be the first and last course of the believer, with all his plans and actions coming in between.

As human beings, our life in this world is characterized by fluctuating conditions making us happy and sad. Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (و تعالی) says in Surat Al-Anbiya:

وَنَبَلُوكُمْ بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً ۗ وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

“And We test you with evil and with good as trial; and to Us you will be returned.”

Pleasant and favorable conditions demand us to be grateful and humble.

Adverse conditions require us to be patient and to seek Allah’s help. *Duaa*’ is

a Muslims way of feeling that connection to Allah throughout the day and

night. We raise our hands in supplication and ask for His help, mercy, and

forgiveness. Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (و تعالی) says in Surat Al-Naml:

أَمَّن يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ ۗ أَلِلَّهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ ۗ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾

“Is He [not best] who responds to the desperate one when he calls upon Him

and removes evil and makes you inheritors of the earth? Is there a deity with

Allah? Little do you remember.” *Quran 27:62*

In another location in the Quran, Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (و تعالی) says in Surat *Albaqara*:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۗ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۗ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I

am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me.

So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.” *Quran 2:186*

*Duaa'* can be made for the individual, their family, friends, strangers, those in dire circumstances, for the believers, and even for the whole of humanity.

When making the *Duaa'* it is acceptable to ask for good in this worldly life and in the hereafter.

While there are certain opportune times, places and circumstances when *Duaa'* are accepted, there are hardly any restrictions or specifications on the act of *Duaa'*. It can be made at any time, in any place, in any language, and in any state.

There are certain times *Duaa'* is more likely to be accepted by Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (و تعالی) as mentioned by Prophet (ﷺ). There are tens of these times but am going to mention the times that are more common in our daily life.

Among these favorable times of *Duaa'* is the Last third of the night.

In the Hadith

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " يَنْزِلُ رَبُّنَا تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا حِينَ يَبْقَى ثُلُثُ اللَّيْلِ الْآخِرِ يَقُولُ مَنْ يَدْعُونِي فَأَسْتَجِيبَ لَهُ مَنْ يَسْأَلُنِي فَأُعْطِيَهُ مَنْ يَسْتَغْفِرُنِي فَأَغْفِرَ لَهُ " اخرجه البخاري

The messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Our Lord, the Blessed, the Superior, comes every night down on the nearest Heaven to us when the last third of the night remains, saying: "Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?"

In another Hadith, the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"إِنَّ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ سَاعَةً، لَا يُوَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ، يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ خَيْرًا، إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ إِيَّاهُ" رواه مسلم

“There is an hour during the night in which no Muslim will ask Allah for good in this world and the next but He will grant it to him.”

*Duaa’* is more recommended between *Adhan* and *Iqamah*.

فعن أنس قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم " لَا يُرَدُّ الدُّعَاءُ بَيْنَ الْأَذَانِ وَالْإِقَامَةِ " صحيح الألباني

'A supplication made between the *Adhan* and *Iqama* is not rejected.'

Today, there are a special hour of accepting *Duaa’* and it is on every Friday.

فَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ذَكَرَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ فَقَالَ " فِيهِ سَاعَةٌ لَا يُوَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ، وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي، يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى شَيْئًا إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ إِيَّاهُ " أخرجه البخاري

The Prophet (ﷺ) talked about Friday and said, "There is an hour (opportune time) on Friday and if a Muslim gets it while praying and asks something from Allah, then Allah will definitely meet his demand."

In addition, making *Duaa'* during prostration is highly recommended. Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that Allah's Messenger (SAW), said:

"أقرب ما يكون العبد من ربه وهو ساجد، فأكثرُوا الدعاء" رواه مسلم

"A slave becomes nearest to his Lord when he is in prostration. So increase supplications while prostrating."

Dear brothers and sisters, there are tens of other opportune times for supplications recommended by the prophet (ﷺ) such as fasting during Ramadan, Haj, while suffering injustice, during travel, and the supplication of a Muslim for his absent brother or sister Muslim.

All of these situations indicates that Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) encourages the believers to call on Him, He asks us to lay our dreams, hopes, fears and uncertainties before Him and to be sure that He hears every word and will respond to our supplication.

There are also supplications that are never answered. These are the supplications from those who eat Haram food or unlawful food. In the Hadith the prophet (ﷺ) mentioned a case of a man

"يُطِيلُ السَّفَرَ أَشْعَثَ أَغْبَرَ يَمُدُّ يَدَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ: يَا رَبِّ! يَا رَبِّ! وَمَطْعَمُهُ حَرَامٌ، وَمَشْرَبُهُ حَرَامٌ، وَمَلْبَسُهُ حَرَامٌ، وَغُذِيَ بِالْحَرَامِ، فَأَنَّى يُسْتَجَابُ لَهُ؟" رواه مسلم

“who, having journeyed far, is disheveled and dusty, and who spreads out his hands to the sky saying “O Lord! O Lord!,” while his food is haram (unlawful), his drink is haram, his clothing is haram, and he has been nourished with haram, so how can [his supplication] be answered?”

Dear brothers and sisters, do we seek Allah’s help when we need His help or are we too arrogant to ask? Do we show gratitude for His blessings or are we too proud of our own achievements? We should pray to Allah because He alone can give. Allah gave us life and everything that we possess. Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> <sub>(ونعالي)</sub> Says in Surat Al-Nahl:

وَمَا بِكُمْ مِّنْ نِّعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فَإِلَيْهِ تَجْأَرُونَ ﴿٥٣﴾

“And whatever you have of favor - it is from Allah. Then when adversity touches you, to Him you cry for help.”

Dear brothers and sisters, *Duaa'* can change our life, our outlook, and even our fate. We should keep praying for whatever we need because Allah is answering our prayers, and He is with us when we call upon Him.

May Allah help us remember Him, thank Him, and worship Him in the best of manners. Ameen!

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Ask Allah SWT for forgiveness. Truly, He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ، وَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَلِي الصَّالِحِينَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ إِمَامَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَأَفْضَلَ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَسَلَامُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

Dear brothers and sisters, there are certain etiquettes when making *Duaa'* to Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (وَتَعَالَى). These etiquettes are mentioned in the Quran and the Sunnah of the prophet (ﷺ). The first and absolute manner of supplication is to ask with absolute resolve, and believe with certainty that your *Duaa'* will be answered. In the Hadith,



عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " لَا يَقُولُ أَحَدُكُمْ اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي إِنْ شِئْتَ اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي إِنْ شِئْتَ لِيَعْزِمَ الْمَسْأَلَةَ فَإِنَّهُ لَا مُكْرَهَ لَهُ " حديث حسن صحيح (جامع الترمذي 3497)

The prophet (ﷺ) said: “None of you should say: ‘O Allah forgive me if You wish. O Allah have mercy on me if You wish.’ Let him be firm in asking, for there is none that can compel Him to do things.”

Our attitude to *Duaa*’ should be in line with what is taught to us in the Qur’an.

Allah (سبحانه و تعالي) says in Surat Al-A’raf:

ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴿٥٥﴾

“Call upon your Lord in humility and privately; indeed, He does not like transgressors.” *Quran 7:55*

Humility is equivalent to submission to Allah. We should abandon all selfishness and pride in our human power while making *Duaa*’. Supplication with humility proves that we are weak creatures, despicable, has no power, and always ask help from Allah (سبحانه و تعالي).

Another important etiquette of *Duaa*’ is to praise Allah and ask Him by His most beautiful names. In Surat Al-A’raaf, Allah (سبحانه و تعالي) says:

وَاللَّهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا ۖ

“And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.” *Quran 7:180*

Start your *Duaa*’ by praising Allah, Acknowledge His attributes of being the Most Merciful and Forgiving, acknowledge your need of Him and His Power to fulfill your desires.

Surat Al-fateha provides us a great example of praising Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) before *Duaa*’. The Surah starts by stating:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿١﴾ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢﴾ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿٣﴾ مَالِكِ يَوْمِ  
الدِّينِ ﴿٤﴾ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿٥﴾

All of these statements are statements of praising Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) before the *Duaa*’ of اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ (Guide us to the straight path) which is mentioned in Surah Al-Fateha.

Another important etiquette when making *Duaa*’ is to send blessings upon the Prophet (ﷺ). In the Hadith:

عَنْ فَضَالَةَ بْنِ عُبَيْدٍ، قَالَ بَيْنَمَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَاعِدًا إِذْ دَخَلَ رَجُلٌ فَصَلَّى فَقَالَ  
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي . فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " عَجِلْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمُصَلِّي إِذَا صَلَّيْتَ  
فَقَعَدْتَ فَأَحْمَدِ اللَّهَ بِمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَصَلِّ عَلَى نَبِيِّكَ ثُمَّ ادْعُهُ " . قَالَ ثُمَّ صَلَّى رَجُلٌ آخَرُ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَحَمِدَ اللَّهَ  
وَصَلَّى عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ لَهُ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَيُّهَا الْمُصَلِّي ادْعُ  
تُحِبُّ " حديث حسن صحيح (جامع الترمذي 3476)

While the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was seated, a man entered and performed *Salat*, and he said: 'O Allah, forgive me, and have mercy upon me.' The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'You have rushed, O praying person. When you perform *Salat* and then sit, then praise Allah with what He is deserving of, and send *Salat* upon me, then call upon Him.'" He said: "Then another man performed *Salat* after that, so he praised Allah and sent *Salat* upon the Prophet (ﷺ). The Prophet (ﷺ) said to him: 'O praying person! Supplicate, and you shall be answered.'"

Dear brothers and sisters, the last thing I want to mention is that when a person makes *Duaa'*, there are three different versions of Allah's response. The first version of accepting *Duaa'* is by giving you what you asked for. There are also two other versions of Allah's response and most of people do not pay attention to this and they think that their *Duaa'* was rejected. The second version of accepting your *Duaa'* is when Allah (سبحانه و تعالي) stores up what you have asked for, for the Hereafter. And the third version of accepting your *Duaa'* is that Allah diverts a harm that is greater than the thing you asked for. In the Hadith:

عن أبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنه- أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: "مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَدْعُو بِدَعْوَةٍ لَيْسَ فِيهَا  
 إِثْمٌ وَلَا قَطِيعَةٌ رَجِمَ إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ اللهُ بِهَا إِحْدَى ثَلَاثٍ: إِمَّا أَنْ يُعَجَّلَ لَهُ دَعْوَتُهُ، وَإِمَّا أَنْ يَدَّخِرَهَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ، وَإِمَّا  
 أَنْ يَصْرِفَ عَنْهُ مِنَ الشُّؤْمِ مِثْلَهَا" (رواه أحمد والحاكم، وصححه الألباني)

“There is no Muslim who supplicates to Allah without sin or cutting family ties in it but that Allah will give him one of three answers: he will hasten fulfillment of his supplication, he will store it for him in the Hereafter, or he will divert an evil from him similar to it.”

Dear brothers and sister, in conclusion, Allah <sup>سبحانه</sup> (و تعالی) has commanded us to call upon Him and He has promised to respond to our call. We should keep asking Allah from all we need. Supplication is desired and recommended at all times. It is an act of worship for which the Lord grants the supplicant the greatest of rewards. It also serves to have all the needs fulfilled: private and public, religious and worldly, in this life and in the hereafter.

I ask Allah SWT to give us from all we ask. Ameen!

يقول الله تعالى: (إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا) اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ .. اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ .. اللَّهُمَّ أَصْلِحْ لَنَا دِينَنَا الَّذِي هُوَ عِصْمَةُ أَمْرِنَا .. وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا دُنْيَانَا الَّتِي فِيهَا مَعَاشُنَا .. وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا آخِرَتَنَا الَّتِي إِلَيْهَا مَعَادُنَا .. اللَّهُمَّ آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ .. سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ .. وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ \* وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ