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with Ustazah
Samah A.

DUA: THE WEAPON OF A BELIEVER

ON GETTING OUR DUAS ACCEPTED



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Dua is an act
of worship



Pillar of Faith

- Wherever we are and in whatever state of purity we are in, we can always make a Du'a.
- Du'a, like prayer, is the pillar of our Deen.
- **الدعاء هو العبادة**: An-Nu'man bin Bashir (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Du'a (supplication) is worship." [Abu Dawud].
- Abu Huraira reported: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Nothing is more honourable to Allah Almighty than supplication." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 3370)
- Du'a is not just about asking Allah SWT for Dunya and Akhirah things - it also includes Dhikr and remembrance of Allah SWT.

Allah is Bigger

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to say when he was in distress: "La ilaha illallahul-Azimul-Halim. La ilaha illallahu Rabbul-'Arshil-'Azim. La ilaha illallahu Rabbus-samawati, wa Rabbul-ardi, wa Rabbul-'Arshil- Karim.

(None has the right to be worshipped but Allah the Incomparably Great, the Compassionate. None has the right to be worshipped but Allah the Rabb of the Mighty Throne. None has the right to be worshipped but Allah the Rabb of the heavens, the Rabb of the earth, and the Rabb of the Honourable Throne)."

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

- When we glorify Allah SWT, we will realise that Allah SWT is so big and our problems are small in comparison, i.e. Allah SWT can solve anything. It gives us a mind shift in perspective.
- When we are going through difficulties, we think that our problems are so big that it makes us feel hopeless. But Rasulullah ﷺ focused on the Greatness of Allah SWT, and that shrunk his problems, SubhanAllah.

A Never-Ending Communication

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي
سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾

Your Lord has proclaimed, "Call upon Me, I will respond to you. Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell, fully humbled." (Ghafir 40:60)

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

When My servants ask you 'O Prophet' about Me: I am truly near. I respond to one's prayer when they call upon Me. So let them respond 'with obedience' to Me and believe in Me, perhaps they will be guided 'to the Right Way'.

(Al-Baqarah 2:186)

- There are no exceptions; Allah SWT WILL respond to us. But we also need to respond to Allah SWT. by going back to the Quran, by reading His Words and by obeying what He tells us to do and not to do.

When we call on
Allah SWT,
He Responds.
But do we respond
to Allah SWT when
He calls?

Why do we
not make
Dua?



Du'a is a great form of Ibadah

- But, even when we know all of these, we are still not make Du'a. :(
- **1) It could be because of arrogance - we feel like we don't need Allah SWT and we only rely on ourselves in situations.**
- Du'a shows that we are poor and in need of Allah SWT . It is also a great form of Ibadah because:
 1. It includes remembering Allah SWT - He is present in our minds when we call upon Him.
 2. It shows that we know Allah SWT. Because we know His Capabilities in answering our Du'a and our requests, hence we ask. We won't go to Him otherwise.
 3. It shows our need for Allah SWT - our relationship as Master and Servant is manifested in our asking from Him.

We are always
in need of
Allah SWT



﴿١٥﴾ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿١٥﴾

O humanity! It is you who stand in need of Allah, but Allah 'alone' is the Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy.

(Fatin 35:15)

﴿٦٠﴾ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾

Your Lord has proclaimed, "Call upon Me, I will respond to you. Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell, fully humbled."

(Ghafir 40:60)

His Love For Us

- Even the means and tools that we think we already are given by Allah SWT in the first place.
- How is the state of our heart when we are making du'a? Notice that it is harder to make Du'a when our hearts are in an ungrateful state as we are too preoccupied with what we don't have.
- **2) Another reason we may not be making Du'a is that there is a block between us and Du'a. We may have a previous experience where our Duas are "not answered".**
- But to remember that Allah SWT knows everything. If something is not good for us, He knows better not to give it to us out of His Love for us!
- We make Du'a because we want to form a connection with Allah SWT, not just for our requests to be achieved. It is because we want Him as our Companion <3 and who can be the best Companion to us other than Allah?



Du'a of Istikharah

Jabir bin Abdullah (RA) said:

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to teach us to seek Allah's Counsel in all matters, as he used to teach us a Surah from the Qur'an. He would say: When anyone of you has an important matter to decide, let him pray two Rak'ahs other than the obligatory prayer, and then say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ،
وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ، فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ
وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ،

O Allah! I seek Your counsel from Your knowledge and power from Your might, and I ask for Your great blessings, You are capable and I am not, You know and I do not, and You are All-knowing of the unseen (hidden),

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي
وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي - أَوْ قَالَ عَاجِلِ أَمْرِي وَآجِلِهِ
، - فَاقْضُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ

O Allah! If You know that this matter is good for me in my religion, my livelihood and my affairs in the Hereafter, if it is better for my present and later, then ordain it for me and make it easy for me, and then bless it for me,

وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي
وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي - أَوْ قَالَ فِي عَاجِلِ أَمْرِي
وَآجِلِهِ - فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ، وَاقْضُ لِي
الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ أَرْضِنِي

And if You know that this matter is harmful (bad) for me in my religion, my livelihood and my affairs in the Hereafter, or if it is bad for my present and later, then ward it off from me and keep me away from it. Then ordain for me with whatever is good for me wherever it may be found, and help me be content with it.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Allah Wants Good For Us

- We should make Istikhara for everything, not just in "big" matters like marriage, careers, etc.
- We should ask Allah SWT first before we ask people for recommendations and tips and try other means. Similarly, we should consult Allah SWT first before agreeing to any projects or requests.
- Istikhara reminds us that Allah SWT will only give us what is good for us.
- Umar Ibn Al Khattab RA said: I am not worried about whether my dua will be responded to, but rather I am worried about whether I will be able to make dua or not. So if I have been guided by Allah to make dua, then (I know) that the response will come with it.

Every time we raise our hand to ask from Allah SWT, it is either:

1) He grants the Du'a

2) He delays it for good

3) He prevents us from harm and gives us something that is better.

All He wants
is for us to
raise our
hands and
ASK!

Starting Early

- 3) Another reason why one doesn't ask from Allah SWT is because one doesn't know Allah SWT.

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا ۖ وَذَرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ
مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٨٠﴾

Allah has the Most Beautiful Names. So call upon Him by them, and keep away from those who abuse His Names. They will be punished for what they used to do. (Al-A'raf 7:180)

- The Attributes and Characteristics of Allah SWT are way more than the Names of Allah SWT that we know.
- When we love someone, we don't want to stop learning about them. That should apply to our journey of getting to know Allah SWT too.
- *Thabit narrated from Anas, who said "The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'Let one of you ask his Lord for his every need, even until he asks Him for the strap of his sandal when it breaks.'" (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3604i)*

Ask from
Allah for
both the BIG
and small
things.

Conditions of making Du'a

1) We need to have sincerity, certainty, trust and khusyu' when making Du'a, even if we are waiting for a taxi in the streets.

How is the state of our hearts when we make Du'a?

2) Be confident that Allah SWT will respond

Reasons
Duas are not
answered



Types of people whose Duas are not answered

1) Someone who has a Haram source of income

On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (ra): The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “Allah the Almighty is Good and accepts only that which is good. And verily Allah has commanded the believers to do that which He has commanded the Messengers.

So the Almighty has said: “O (you) Messengers! Eat of the tayyibat [all kinds of halal (legal) foods], and perform righteous deeds.” [23:51] and the Almighty has said: “O you who believe! Eat of the lawful things that We have provided you.” [2:172]”

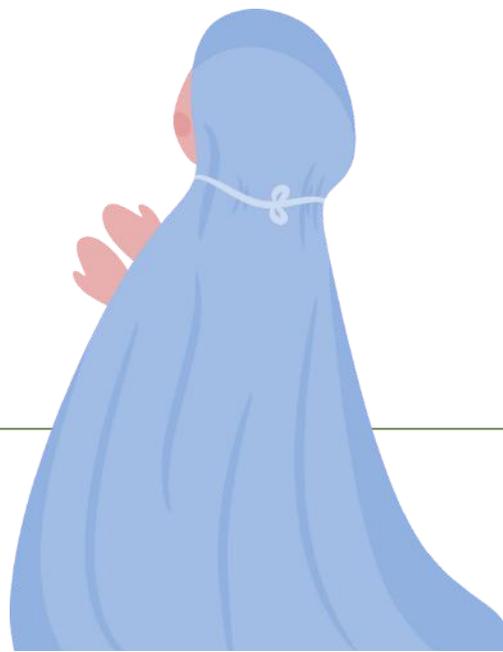
Then he (ﷺ) mentioned [the case] of a man who, having journeyed far, is disheveled and dusty, and who spreads out his hands to the sky saying “O Lord! O Lord!” while his food is haram (unlawful), his drink is haram, his clothing is haram, and he has been nourished with haram, so how can [his supplication]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

(Muslim)

- It is hard to be completely away from Haram these days, with Riba (interest) in banks for example.
- We need to take time to review if there is anything Haram and Shubha in our lives, that is obstructing our Duas from being answered.

2) Someone who rushes for their Du'a to be answered

When it doesn't happen in the time that one expects to happen, one says that Allah SWT is not answering her Dua and she stops making Dua altogether. This is a sign of both ingratitude and impatience.



3) Someone who neither enjoins good nor forbids evil

Hudhaifah bin Al-Yaman narrated that the Prophet (s.a.w) said: "By the One in Whose Hand is my soul! Either you command good and forbid evil, or Allah will soon send upon you a punishment from Him, then you will call upon Him, but He will not respond to you." (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2169)

We should be responding to Allah SWT by obeying what He asks us to so that when we raise our hands to Him, He responds to us.

4) Someone who asks for something sinful, or something that causes kinship to be broken

Du'a should always be for a good cause.



Duas that are
never rejectd



He Responds to Us

- A sinful person is every single one of us. We should not stop making Du'a just because we sinned and we assume our Du'a won't be answered.

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



When My servants ask you 'O Prophet' about Me: I am truly near. I respond to one's prayer when they call upon Me. So let them respond 'with obedience' to Me and believe in Me, perhaps they will be guided 'to the Right Way'. (Al-Baqarah 2:186)

- Allah responds to those who call Him - not just Muslims, believers or those who have strong faith only. To anyone who sincerely calls to Him!



Duas that are answered

1) Someone who makes Dua for another person in their absence

This is the fastest type of Dua to be answered and the person must not know that you are making Du'a for them, even if they are in the same room as you!

2) Someone who is wronged or oppressed

3) Someone who is travelling

4) Dua of a parent for their child

5) A just ruler

6) A fasting person

“There are three whose supplication is not rejected: The fasting person when he breaks his fast, the just leader, and the supplication of the oppressed person; Allah raises it up above the clouds and opens the gates of heaven to it. And the Lord says: ‘By My might, I shall surely aid you, even if it should be after a while.’”

(Jami` at-Tirmidhi)

7) Someone who makes the Du'a of Prophet Yunus

“The supplication of Dhun-Nun (Prophet Yunus) when he supplicated, while in the belly of the whale was:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

So indeed, no Muslim man supplicates with it for anything, ever, except Allah responds to him.” (Jami' at-Tirmidhi)

8) Someone who is in any type of need

أَمَّن يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ
الْأَرْضِ أَإِلَهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ قَلِيلًا مَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾

Or ‘ask them,’ “Who responds to the distressed when they cry to Him, relieving ‘their’ affliction, and ‘Who’ makes you successors in the earth? Is it another god besides Allah? Yet you are hardly mindful!”

(An-Naml 27:62)

9) Blessed times when Du'a are answered such as during Laylatul Qadr where we read in abundance the following dua:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

Allahumma innaka `afuwwun tuhibbul `afwa fa`fu
`annee

“O Allah, You are Pardoning and you love pardon, so pardon me.” (Tirmidhi)

- The Prophet ﷺ has a Du'a for anything and everything! One such du'a is as follows:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحَزَنِ، وَالْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ،
وَالْبُخْلِ وَالْجُبْنِ، وَضَلَعِ الدَّيْنِ، وَغَلَبَةِ الرِّجَالِ

Allāhumma 'innī 'a`udhu bika, minal ḥammi wal-ḥuzn,
wal`ajzi wal-kasal, wal-bukhli wal-jubn, wa ḍala`iddayn

“O, Allah! I seek refuge with You from worry and grief, from incapacity and laziness, from cowardice and miserliness, from being heavily in debt and from being overpowered by (other) men.” (Bukhari)

- If we find it overwhelming to recite all the Duas in one day, we can get a book of Prophetic Adhkar and just read one Dua daily. It's a way for us to slowly build our list of Duas.
- Other blessed times Duas are answered include the time after Solah and during Tahajjud:

Abu Umamah narrated: "It was said: 'O Messenger of Allah, which supplication is most likely to be listened to?' He (ﷺ) said: '(During) the last part of the night, and at the end of the obligatory prayers.'"

[Jami` at-Tirmidhi]

- *Narrated Anas ibn Malik: The supplication made between the adhan and the iqamah is not rejected.*
[Sunan Abi Dawud]
- *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying: When you listen to the crowing of the cock, ask Allah for His favour as it sees Angels and when you listen to the braying of the donkey, seek refuge in Allah from the Satan for it sees Satan. (Sahih Muslim)*

- *Jabir said he heard Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) say: There is an hour during the night in which no Muslim individual will ask Allah for good in this world and the next without His giving it to him; and that applies to every night. [Sahih Muslim]*
- The Prophet (ﷺ) says: "Whoever gets up at night and says:

إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ، وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى
كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَاللَّهُ
أَكْبَرُ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

La ilaha il-lallah Wahdahu la Sharika lahu Lahu-lmulk,
waLahu-l-hamd wahuwa 'ala kullishai'in Qadir. Al hamdu lil-
lahi wa subhanal-lahi wa la-ilaha il-lal-lah wa-l-lahu akbar wa
la hawla Wala Quwata il-la-bil-lah.'

None has the right to be worshipped but Allah. He is the Only One and has no partners. For Him is the Kingdom and all the praises are due for Him. He is Omnipotent. All the praises are for Allah. All the glories are for Allah. And none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, And Allah is Great And there is neither Might nor Power Except with Allah).

And then says: **اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي**, he will be responded to and if he performs ablution (and prays), his prayer will be accepted." [Sahih Muslim]

- It's as if Allah SWT is waking us up to make Du'a to Him, Ma Sha Allah!
- There are so many things that can bring us away from making Du'a from Allah SWT during the middle of the night, but the fact that we choose to remember Allah - this is special.
- Just like Laylatul Qadr is the best night, the Day of Arafah is the best day of the year. But unlike Laylatul Qadr, we know exactly when is the Day of Arafah. Knowing this is out of the Kareem of Allah SWT. <3
- With so many blessed times and opportunities for Duas to be answered, we would be at a loss to not make Du'a to Him.
- Allah SWT gifts us with Ibadah seasons such as Ramadan because we need them to pull ourselves back to Him.

Duas of the Prophets



كَهَيْعَصَ ۝١ ذِكْرُ رَحْمَتِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدَهُ، زَكَرِيَّا ۝٢
 إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ، نِدَاءً خَفِيًّا ۝٣

Kāf-Ha-Ya-'Aīn- Şād. 'This is' a reminder of your Lord's mercy to His servant Zachariah, when he cried out to his Lord privately, (Maryam 19:1-3)

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَهَنَ الْعَظْمُ مِنِّي وَأَشْتَعَلَ الرَّأْسُ شَيْبًا وَلَمْ أَكُنْ
 بِدُعَائِكَ رَبِّ شَقِيًّا ۝٤

saying, "My Lord! Surely my bones have become brittle, and grey hair has spread across my head, but I have never been disappointed in my prayer to You, my Lord!

(Maryam 19:4)

وَإِنِّي خِفْتُ الْمَوَالِيَ مِنْ وَرَائِي وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا فَهَبْ لِي
 مِنْ لَدُنْكَ وَلِيًّا ۝٥

And I am concerned about 'the faith of' my relatives after me, since my wife is barren. So grant me, by Your grace, an heir, (Maryam 19:5)

يَرِثُنِي وَيَرِثُ مِنْ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ ۖ وَأَجْعَلْهُ رَبِّ رَضِيًّا ۝٦

who will inherit 'prophethood' from me and the family of Jacob, and make him, O Lord, pleasing 'to You'!"

(Maryam 19:6)

Check Your Intention

- This is a reminder for us to check our intention and purpose when making dua to Allah SWT - is it to please Allah SWT or for other reasons?

يَزَكِّرِيَا إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ اسْمُهُ يَحْيَى لَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ سَمِيًّا



‘The angels announced,’ “O Zachariah! Indeed, We give you the good news of ‘the birth of’ a son, whose name will be John—a name We have not given to anyone before.”

(Maryam 19:7)

قَالَ رَبِّ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا وَقَدْ بَلَغْتُ
مِنَ الْكِبَرِ عِتِيًّا



He wondered, “My Lord! How can I have a son when my wife is barren, and I have become extremely old?”

(Maryam 19:8)

قَالَ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَقَدْ خَلَقْتُكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَمْ
تَكُ شَيْئًا



An angel replied, “So will it be! Your Lord says, ‘It is easy for Me, just as I created you before, when you were nothing!’” (Maryam 19:9)

How to make dua?

- If any of you prays, he should mention the exaltation of his Lord in the beginning and praise Him; he should then invoke blessings on the Prophet (ﷺ); thereafter he should supplicate Allah for anything he wishes. [Sunan Abi Dawud]
- Salawat Ibrahimiya is the best format of prayers on the prophets

لَلّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ * كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرٰهِيْمَ
 وَعَلٰى آلِ اِبْرٰهِيْمَ * اِنَّكَ حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ * اللّٰهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ
 وَعَلٰى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ * كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلٰى اِبْرٰهِيْمَ وَعَلٰى آلِ اِبْرٰهِيْمَ * اِنَّكَ
 حَمِيْدٌ مَّجِيْدٌ

O Allah, send prayers upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad just as You have sent prayers upon Ibrahim and upon the family of Ibrahim, verily You are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad just as You have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim, verily You are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious.

This
Ramadan,
take your
time when
making your
duas.





Du'a when breaking fast

The Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) used to say when he broke his fast:

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُومْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

O Allah, for Thee I have fasted, and with Thy provision I have broken my fast.

" ذَهَبَ الظَّمَاُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ وَثَبَتَ الْأَجْرُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ "

Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist, and the reward is sure, if Allah wills.

(Sunan Abi Dawud)