

The Power of Dua

An Overview of Dua by Saad Yousuf

The word "Dua" is derived from an Arabic word that means to "call out." In Islamic teachings it is an act of supplication, where a person asks Allah for something either for himself or for someone else.

In Quran:

Allah Subhanahu' Wata'la says in the Holy Quran: "Your Lord says: 'Call on Me; I will answer your (Prayer)'." (Chapter 40 Verse 60)

"What happens to Duas I make?"

'Ubadah bin As-Samit (May Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Whenever a Muslim supplicates to Allah, He accepts his supplication or averts any similar kind of trouble from him until he prays for something sinful or something that may break the ties of kinship." Upon this someone of the Companions said: "Then we shall supplicate plenty." The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Allah is more plentiful (in responding)." [At-Tirmidhi].

Avoid Impatience

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "The supplication of every one of you will be granted if he does not get impatient and say (for example): 'I supplicated my Rubb but my prayer has not been granted'." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].



Best times to Supplicate (Make Dua)

Abu Umamah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was asked: "At what time does the supplication find the greatest response?" He (PBUH) replied, "A supplication made during the middle of the last part of the night and after the conclusion of the obligatory prayers." [At-Tirmidhi].

Anas (RA) narrated that Allah's Messenger (SAW) said: 'A supplication made between the Adhan and Iqama is not rejected.' [At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasai, Abu Dawud].

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said; Three supplications will not be rejected (by Allah (SWT)), the supplication of the parent for his child, the supplication of the one who is fasting, and the supplication of the traveler. [al-Bayhaqi, at-Tirmidhi - Sahih]

When is the Abd (slave) nearest to Rub (Allah)?

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "A slave becomes nearest to his Rubb when he is in prostration. So increase supplications in prostrations." [Muslim].

In short, a Muslim must always make supplications to Allah and should never feel shy of making Dua to Allah SWT.

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A Few Etiquettes in Making Dua

The power of dua cannot be emphasized enough. We must utilize this tool to the best of our ability. However, there are certain etiquettes or “rules of conduct” in making dua the correct way. A few of them will be summarized here for your benefit InshaAllah.

1. One of the most important etiquettes in making dua is to have sincerity. Sincerity means believing that Allah SWT is the only one able to meet your needs. **“You call, then, upon Allah with sincere devotion to Him even though the unbelievers may detest it.” (Qur’an 40:14)**
2. If we continue to commit sins it is likely that our duas will not be answered. So another etiquette for us is that we should repent and seek forgiveness for previous sins before making dua. **“I said to them: ask forgiveness from your Lord verily, He is oft-forgiving, He will send rain to you in abundance, and give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers.” (Qur’an 71:10-12)**
3. Another important etiquette is to make dua in a private setting, not showing off, and humbling oneself before Allah SWT. **“Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah does not love those who trespass beyond bounds. (Qur’an 7:55)**
4. We should make dua at times of ease and bliss. Often times we turn to Allah SWT when we are going through hard times but we should not forget Allah SWT when we are happy and at ease. **“Rasulallah SAWS said, “Remember Allah during times of ease and He will remember you during times of hardship” (narrated by Ahmad)**
5. We should call upon Allah SWT by His most beautiful names and attributes in our duas. **“And all the most beautiful names belong to Allah so call on Him by them (Qur’an 7:180)**



“Duas and ta’awwudhaat (prayers seeking refuge with Allah) are like a weapon, and a weapon is only as good as the person who is using it; it is not merely the matter of how sharp it is. If the weapon is perfect and free of faults, and the arm of the person using it is strong, and there is nothing stopping him, then he can lay waste the enemy. But if any of these three features is lacking, then the effect will be lacking accordingly.”

-Imaam Ibn al Qayyim

Quote of the Month *Dua as the weapon of the believer*

In this quote Imaam Ibn al Qayyim is making a very interesting analogy stating that our duas are like a “weapon” for us in life.

When a dua is used in the proper way following all the pre-conditions and etiquettes, it is a powerful weapon indeed. It can be used against our main enemy that distracts us from doing good: shaitan. Utilizing dua and treating it as a weapon will help us through trials and tribulations that we go through in our lives.

However, Imaam Ibn al Qayyim states that a weapon is only as good as the person who is using it. This basically means that the strength of our dua depends on how strong our iman is. A dua is more than just words, it is about the person who is asking, it is about what they are asking, and it is about why they are asking. If all of these things are sound then the chances of our dua being answered are going to be high but if even one of these things is weak then our chances are very low.

The Importance of Dua'a By Manar Mohammad

Dua'a is a way to communicate with Allah (SWT). A way to ask Allah for anything that a person wants or needs. By making dua'a, we show our dependence on Allah and how much we need him in our daily lives. According the Tirmizi, "Dua'a is the essence of worship". Dua'a is a way of worship just like Salah or Zakah, and we must take time and make dua'a to Allah because just like every act of worship, its objective is to recognize Allah.

You may be making dua'a without even knowing it. You may raise your hands every day and ask for something that you wish would come true. And even though we might not always receive an immediate response, our dua'a is kept till the Day of Judgment where Allah will answer our unanswered dua'as. As Allah said in the Holy Qur'an: And when My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I respond to the dua (prayer) of every suppliant when they calleth on Me [Quran 2:186].

Dua'a helps us get through our lives knowing that there is someone great listening to our prayers and to what we want. There are many dua'as that can be said, duas for when we wake up, go to sleep, even when we say As-salamualaikum we are sending a dua'a for the other person. On the right there are a few select dua'as that I have chosen to share with all of you InshaAllah.



A Few Selection of Dua'a

"Allahumma la sahla illama ja-'altahu sahla anta taj 'alu al hazana eza ma shi'ta sahal."

"Oh Allah! Nothing is easy except what you have made easy. If you wish, you can make the difficult easy."

"Subhanalla-thee sakh-khara-lana haatha wa-ma kun-na lahoo muqrineena wa inna ila Rabbina la-mun-qali-boon."

"Glory be to Him (Allah) who has brought this (vehicle) under our control though we were unable to control it. Sure, we are to return to our Lord."

Allahumma In-nee a-toobu ilayka minha la ar-ji-u ilayhaa abada".

" O Allah, I repent before You for all my sins and I promise never to return to the same (again)."

❦ When my servants ask you concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them) I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on me, let them also with a will listen to My call, and believe in Me, that they may walk in the right way. (Qur'an 2:186)

