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**احياء علوم الدين
للامام الغرالي**

Revival Circle :: Ihya Ulum al-Din
The Book of Invocations and
Supplications

Book 9.2 :: Lesson 29
Etiquettes and Merits of Supplication (Dua)

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The Merit of Supplication (Dua)

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

{And when My servants ask you, [O Prophet], 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.} [2:186]

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The Merit of Supplication (Dua)

أَدْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً ۚ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ

{Call upon your Lord humbly and secretly.
Surely He does not like those who transgress.} [7:55]

The Merit of Supplication (Dua)

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

{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.”} [40:60]

The Merit of Supplication (Dua)

قُلْ ادْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوْ ادْعُوا الرَّحْمَنَ ۚ أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ ۚ وَلَا تَجْهَرُ بِصَلَاتِكَ وَلَا تُخَافِتْ بِهَا وَابْتَغِ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ سَبِيلًا

{Say, ‘O Prophet, “Call upon Allah or call upon the Most Compassionate [al-Rahman]—whichever you call, He has the Most Beautiful Names.” Do not recite your prayers too loudly or silently, but seek a way between.”} [17:110]

Ten Etiquettes of Supplication

1. Noble times
2. Noble states
3. Physical etiquettes
4. Lowering the voice
5. Avoiding rhymes
6. Begging with humility
7. Asking with certainty
8. Being insistent and asking 3 times
9. Begin with Allah's name and Salawat; end also
10. Inward etiquettes: repentance, restoring rights, zeal...

1. Noble Times

- 'Arafa
- Ramadan
- Friday
- Dawn

2. Noble States

- When in the path of Allah
- During rainfall
- After the obligatory prayer
- Nobility of times relates to nobility of states too: dawn
- In prostration

3. Physical Manners

- Facing the Qibla
- Raising hands till whites of armpits can be seen
- Wiping the face afterwards
- Not looking up at the sky

4. Lowered Voice

- Neither too low nor too high
- {...when he cried out to his Lord privately.} [19:3]
- {Call upon your Lord humbly and secretly. Surely He does not like the transgressors.} [7:55]

5. Avoiding Rhyming Prose

- One should be humble in prayer and rhyming is not conducive to this state
- Preferred not to diverge from the transmitted prayers in the Quran and Sunnah
- Rhymed meaning artificial, not what came naturally, such as in the Sunnah

6. State of Humility

- Humility in a state of awe and hope
- {...Indeed, they used to race in doing good, and call upon Us with hope and fear, totally humbling themselves before Us.} [21:90]

7. Be Categorical and Certain

- One should trust and believe that the response to one's supplication will come true.
- The Prophet ﷺ said, "You should not say when making supplication, 'O Allah forgive me if You will, have mercy on me if You will,' as if conditioning the request, for there is no coercion on Allah." [Bukhari, Muslim]
- And, "When you make supplication you should ask for great things, for there is nothing too great for Allah to give." [Muslim]

8. Be Insistent and Repeat Thrice

- The Prophet ﷺ would repeat his request three times
- One should never think that the answer to one's prayers is late in coming!
- The Prophet ﷺ said, "One shall be answered as long as one does not hasten the answer, saying, 'I have made a supplication, but I was not answered. When you make supplication, ask Allah abundantly, for you are calling upon a Generous One.'" [Bukhari and Muslim]

9. Begin with Praise of Allah, and Salawat at Both Ends of the Prayer

- Do not begin with the request right away, but mention Allah first
- One should start and end the request with salawat [blessings] on the Prophet ﷺ, because Allah will surely accept those, and is too generous to reject what is between them. (Sh. Abu Sulayman al-Darani)

10. Inward Etiquettes

- This is the very foundation of having one's supplications answered
- Consists of repentance (tawba), settling one's outstanding rights owed, and traveling to Allah with zeal.
- Omar would pray for rain invoking the intercession of Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both), as he was the uncle of the Prophet ﷺ.

The Merit of Invoking Blessings on the Prophet ﷺ

- Allah says, {Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. O Believers, you also send blessings on him, and pray for peace.} (33:56)
- Anyone who sends blessings on the Prophet ﷺ is blessed with ten blessings or salutations of peace on them in return!
- Dua after Adhan and Iqama also includes praying for the Prophet ﷺ

The Merit of Seeking Forgiveness

- Allah says, {Who, when they commit an indecency or wrong themselves, remember Allah and pray forgiveness for their sins.} (3:135)
- وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَجْشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ يَتُوبَ إِلَيْهِ
 اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ
- and {Whoever does evil or wrongs themselves, and then prays Allah's forgiveness, he shall find Allah is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate.} (4:110)
- وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ أُوْزَىٰ أَوْ يَظْلِمِ نَفْسًا ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرَ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا

The Merit of Seeking Forgiveness

- The Prophet ﷺ himself would seek forgiveness (istighfar) more than 70 times a day, despite the facts that he was forgiven all past and future sins [ie. had no sins]!
- Sayyid al-Istighfar – the Master of Seeking Forgiveness
- “Seeking forgiveness without abstaining from sin is the repentance of the liars.” (Fudayl ibn Iyad RA)
- “Our seeking forgiveness needs much seeking forgiveness!” (Rabiya al-Adawiyya)