

We are coming to the end of Ramadan. Let us see how to make our dua more powerful. Rasoolullah ﷺ taught us 5 ways. Let's practice them.

### 1. Crying when making dua.

*Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al-'Aas (RA2) reported that Rasoolullahﷺ recited these two Ayaat and wept:*

رَبِّ إِهْنِ أَضْلَلْنَا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ فَمَنْ تَبِعَنِي فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي وَمَنْ عَصَانِي  
فَإِنَّكَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

*Ibrahim 14: 36. "O my Rabb! They have indeed led astray many among mankind. But whoso follows me, he verily is of me. And whoso disobeys me, - still You are indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

إِنْ تُعَذِّبْهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ عِبَادُكَ وَإِن تَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

*Ma'aida 5: 118. "If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if You forgive them, verily You, only You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise ."*

*Rasoolullahﷺ wept and kept saying: Rabbi Ummati, Rabbi Ummati*

*Allahﷻ sent Jibreel (AS) and said: Ask him why he is grieved. Rasoolullahﷺ said, 'Ya Jibreel what will happen to my Ummah?' Allahﷻ said, 'Tell him, we will make him happy with respect to his Ummah.' And said:*

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَى

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*Duha 93: 5. And verily, your Rabb will give you (all i.e. good) so that you shall be well-pleased.*

Rasoolullahﷺ said, 'Then I will not be pleased if even one of my Ummah is in Jahannam.' Ali bin Abi Talib (RA) used to say to the people of Iraq, 'You think that the Ayah of greatest hope in the Qur'an is:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ  
اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

*Zumar 39: 53. Say: "O 'Ibadi (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, verily Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

*But we (Sahaba, Ahlul Bayt) consider the Ayah of greatest hope to be (Muslim)*

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَىٰ

*Rasoolullahﷺ said, "Two eyes will never be touched by the fire of Hell; an eye which weeps out of Fear of Allahﷻ and an eye which spends the night in guarding in the Cause of Allahﷻ." (Tirmidhi)*

*Ibn 'Umar (RA2) used to say: "It is dearer to me to shed one drop of tear than to give out in charity one thousand (gold) Dinar."*

*'Aisha (RA) reported: "Once he (Rasoolullahﷺ) was sitting and started crying until his beard was wet. He continued to cry until he wet the ground under his feet.*

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When it was Fajr time, Bilal came informing him that it was due. Upon seeing him crying this hard he exclaimed: `Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ! Why do you cry so much while Allah ﷻ has forgiven whatever you might have done wrong in the past and what you might do wrong in the future?

He replied, "Should I not then be a grateful slave? An Ayah was revealed upon me tonight, woe to him who recites it and does not reflect on its meaning.

Then he recited:

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لآيَاتٍ  
لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ  
الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ  
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ  
النَّارِ  
رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ مَن تُدْخِلِ النَّارَ فَقَدْ أَخْزَيْتَهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ  
رَبَّنَا إِنَّنا سَمِعنا مُنَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ  
لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ

*A'al Imraan 190-193* Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alteration of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding. Who

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*remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], “Our Rabb, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire. Our Rabb, indeed, whoever You admit to the Fire-You have disgraced him, and for the wrongdoers there are no helpers. Our Rabb, indeed, we have heard a caller [Rasoolullah ﷺ] calling to faith, [saying], “Believe in your Rabb,” and we have believed. Our Rabb, so forgive our sins and remove from us our misdeeds and cause us to die with the righteous ... and fear Allahﷻ that you may be successful.*

Ramadan came to help us to repair that connection which is the only connection which is eternal and will never break. The only one we need.

## **2. Confession of sin.**

Perhaps the first dua made on earth was the Istighfaar of our father and mother, Adam (AS) and Hawwa (AS). They were sent down from Jannah and given the key to return to their real home, our real home.

قَالَ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

*A'araf 7: 23 They said: Our Rabb! We have wronged ourselves. If You don't forgive us, and don't bestow Your Mercy on us, we shall certainly be of the losers.*

The beginning of all turn arounds is to accept the need to turn around.

Allahﷻ asked us a question 14 centuries ago. He asked, “Fa aina tadh-haboon – So where are you going?” But we were too busy to answer Him. Our

routines, the compulsions that we yoked ourselves to in pursuit of material wealth, the totally crazy society we created based on only one value – self-indulgence and then we forced everyone to fall in line, our deliberately pursuing a collision course with Allahﷻ, blatantly and shamelessly violating His Will. Even when He declared war against those who do that; I mean dealing in interest-based finance; we accepted that declaration of war while pretending to follow Islam. We thought if we built beautiful Masaajid and spent some money in charity, that would suffice.

We tried to throw money at Allahﷻ to propitiate Him, like people try to do with idols. We did everything except answer the question that Allahﷻ asked, “Fa aina tadh-haboon – So where are you going?” So, Allahﷻ stopped us in our tracks. And demonstrated His Power and His contempt for our arrogance by using a virus. Something so minute that it can’t even be seen with our naked eyes. And boy! did we stop? We walked into a wall. And we are still reeling with the concussion of it. If we won’t obey, Allahﷻ can force us to obey. If we won’t answer, Allahﷻ can force us to answer. If we won’t change, Allahﷻ can force us to change. But that is never easy nor painless. That also we discovered. The time has come therefore, to acknowledge Allahﷻ’s supremacy and to bow in submission before Him and revert to Islam. I know I am talking to Muslims. It is we who must revert to Islam. That is the cure for Covid; Istighfaar.

Allahﷻ gave us the greatest Bashara (good news) when He promised:

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَأَنْتَ فِيهِمْ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

*Anfaal 8:33 And Allah would not punish them while you (Muhammad ﷺ) are amongst them, nor will He punish them while they seek (Allah's) Forgiveness.*

What must we do to invoke this promise of Allahﷻ that He will not punish us? Make sure that Rasoolullahﷺ is with us. Today that means through us following his Sunnah and sending lots of Salatu-was-Salaam on him. And by making lots of Istighfaar. Let's seek Allahﷻ's forgiveness while we have a chance. Allahﷻ told us what Nuhﷺ said to his people:

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا  
يُرْسِلُ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا  
وَيُمْدِدْكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا

*Nuh 71: 10. "I said (to them): 'Ask forgiveness from your Rabb; Verily, He is Oft-Forgiving; 11. 'He will send rain to you in abundance; 12. 'And give you increase in wealth and children and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers.'*

Istighfaar and Tawba changes the path of destiny. And Allahﷻ in his infinite mercy kept that door open until we see the angels. But since that can happen at any time, let us not relax and get lazy about repenting and changing the course of our lives. We have only until we meet death.

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We must repent and try to make amends where we sinned. Istighfaar is an essential precondition for acceptance of dua. Those who continue to disobey Allahﷻ deliberately may like to read the rest of the Sura to see what dua Nuhﷺ made for those who refused to make Istighfaar. Israar ala-al-ma'asee huwa sabab-us-soo al Khaatima – Insisting on sin is the cause of a bad ending (without Iman).

*Shaddad bin Aws (RA) narrated that Rasoolullahﷺ said, "The supreme way of asking for forgiveness, is to say: 'O Allah, You are my Rabb, There is none worthy of worship but You, You have created me, and I am Your slave. I am committed to my covenant and my promise to You as much as I can. I seek refuge with You from the evil I have done. I acknowledge before You all the blessings You have bestowed upon me, and I confess to you all my sins. So, grant me forgiveness for no one can forgive sins except You.'" Rasoolullahﷺ added, "If somebody says it during the day with firm faith in it and dies on the same day before the evening he will be among the people of Jannah. And if someone says it at night with firm faith in it and dies before the morning, he will be among the people of Jannah." (Bukhari)*

### **3. Dua by reference made to previous good deeds.**

This has been mentioned in the story of three people who entered a cave to shelter from heavy rain, and its entrance was blocked by a huge rock that slid down the mountainside and sealed the cave. They invoked Allahﷻ by their most sincere deeds, and He responded to them (and released them). [Bukhari & Muslim]. Let us reflect on what deeds we have done which we

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can use as our Waseela for our dua before Allahﷻ. Do something in secret and keep it with you to use as your Waseela to ask Allahﷻ. One of the most effective ways in which Shaytaan has deceived us today is through Social Media and its demand that we make every private thing, public. Don't ruin whatever good you do by talking about it. Let Allahﷻ make visible what He wills. But you keep your good deeds secret. And definitely don't post them on social media. Get out of social media, especially FB and Instagram. They are the most powerful of Shaytaan's tools.

#### **4. Asking Allahﷻ to bless Rasoolullahﷺ (Durood and Salaam)**

This is a requirement for the acceptance of dua. Rasoolullahﷺ said, *“Every dua is suspended until the blessing of Allahﷻ is conveyed upon the Prophet.”* (Sahih Al-Jami)

This, as I said, is our means of keeping Rasoolullahﷺ in our midst. Making dua for Rasoolullahﷺ, sending Salaam on him and following his Sunnah in our lives in all that we say, do, or allow is to keep Muhammadﷺ in our lives. People must remember Muhammadﷺ when they see, talk to, or deal with us. The fact that this will automatically make us the most beloved, influential of people and role models for others, is a bonus. The Sunnah of Rasoolullahﷺ is like fragrance. It benefits even the one who didn't buy it, provided the one who bought it, is wearing it. Let us wear it with pride. Let us be identified with it and because we follow it. And while we decide to follow the Sunnah, let us remember that the biggest Sunnah is kindness and gentleness. Not harshness.

**5. Facing the Qibla**, raising both hands and being in a state of Wudhu.

Whereas we can make dua in any state and any situation, it is preferable to be in a state of Wudhu, face the Qibla and raise both hands when making dua.

Abu Musa Al Ashari (RA) reported, “When Rasoolullah ﷺ had finished from the battle of Hunayn he sent Abu ‘Amir to lead an army to Atwas, and he sent me with him. Abu ‘Amir was struck in his knee by an arrow which a man from Jusham had shot, and it lodged in his knee. I removed it, and water oozed out of it.

He said, ‘O son of my brother, convey my greetings to Rasoolullah ﷺ and request him to ask Allah’s forgiveness for me.’ He survived for a short while then died. I returned and called on Rasoolullah ﷺ at his house and found him lying in a bed made of the stalks of date palm leaves knitted with ropes and on it there was bedding. The strings of the bed had left their marks on his back and sides. I told him about our and Abu ‘Amir’s news, and his request (to tell him to ask Allah’s forgiveness for him). Rasoolullah ﷺ asked for water, performed ablution, and raised his hands saying, ‘O Allah forgive Your slave Abu ‘Amir.’ I saw the whiteness of the Prophet’s underarm. He continued, ‘O Allah make him on the Day of Resurrection superior to many of Your human creatures.’ I said, ‘Would you ask Allah’s forgiveness for me as well?’ He said, ‘O Allah, forgive the sins of Abdullah ibn Qays and admit him to a good entrance on the Day of Resurrection.” *Hafiz ibn Hajr Al-*

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*Athqalani said in "Al-Fath Al-Bari" 8/35, "Making dua in a state of Wudhu is desirable (Mustahab)."*

As the month of Ramadan draws to a close, let us beg Allahﷻ to forgive us, cover us with His mercy and grant us Jannah.

***Narrated/Authority of Safwan bin Muhriz Al-Mazini (RA):*** *While I was on my way along with Ibn Umar (R.A) taking (holding up) his hand in mine. Suddenly a man appeared to him and said: What did you hear Rasoolullahﷺ saying about confidential talk (secret conversation)? He said: I heard Rasoolullahﷺ saying: (On the Day of Resurrection) Allahﷻ will draw near to a believer and put His forgiveness over him and screen him (his sins) then Allahﷻ will say: Did you do such and such sin? Did you do such and such? He will say: Yes, my Rabb! This conversation will continue) until Allahﷻ will make him confess his sins, and he thinks that he is ruined. Then Allahﷻ will say: I concealed your sins in the world and I do forgive you today. Then he will be given the record book containing his good deeds. As regards, the infidels and hypocrites, the witnesses will say: These are the people who have disbelieved their Rabb. Behold! Allahﷻ' s Curse is upon transgressors. (Bukhari, Muslim and Ibn Majah - Sahih)*

Finally let me remind myself and you that we are in the period, one of the nights of which is Laylatul Qadr. A night, the worship during it, is better in reward than continuous worship for 1000 months. This is Allahﷻ' s take-away gift to us. This is Allahﷻ' s booster for us to fill our Book of Deeds with the best of deeds, which is Ibaadah (worship of Allahﷻ). Let us not neglect that night and waste it in socializing and other useless activities. Let us seek

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Allahﷻ's forgiveness which is the biggest treasure we can get and ask Him for His Mercy and repent our sins. Repent to Allahﷻ and where our actions hurt anyone, seek their forgiveness, compensate them if we transgressed their rights and make sure our account is clear before we meet Allahﷻ. Give lots of charity because it cools the anger of Allahﷻ.

Sayyida Aisha Siddiqa (RA), asked Rasoolullahﷺ, "Ya Rasoolullahﷺ, If I find Laylatul Qadr, what should I ask Allahﷻ?"

Heﷺ said: Say: Allahumma innaka afuwwun tuhibbu al afwa fa'fu anni.

*(O Allah You are forgiving, and love forgiveness so forgive me.) (Ibn Majah)*