

Value and Importance of Dua in Islam

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Dua means supplication, which means communicating with a deity, comes closer than invocation. The word dua in the Arabic language (دعاء) can mean different things. The first meaning is to praise Allah. The second meaning is to seek Allah and beg Him. The third meaning is to call upon Allah. All three of these definitions accurately describe the main objective behind making dua to Allah, which is to call upon Him for whatever it is we need. Prophet Muhammad PBUH had once said: "dua is the brain of worship. It is an important part of our faith and belief. We ask from Almighty Allah for everything that we want in our life no matter it's how big or small. Dua is a means of keeping in touch with Allah and due to Dua, we get closer to our Lord. So, Dua is a source of keeping the supplicant closer to the Almighty Allah.

Dua is a form of prayer and it could be made at any time anywhere there is no fixed time and place of making Dua. It is considered as a weapon with the help of which we can change our situation by asking help from Almighty Allah. Dua can change the destiny so try to make

Dua in every situation because with Dua you will always get closer to Almighty Allah. It maintained a person's belief in One Lord and it rejects all forms of idolatry. **Dua** is essentially a submission to the Creator and a demonstration of a person's need for Allah.

Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran: **وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ**

“When my servants ask you concerning me, (tell them) I am indeed close (to them). I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on me.” (Quran, 2:186). So with this verse, we can say that Allah Almighty listens to us when we make Dua. We should always seek help from Allah.

Dua is a form of Worship

Our beloved Prophet (SAW) said: **“The most excellent worship is Dua.”** (Sahih Al-Jami)

Dua is a form of worship; in fact, our Holy Prophet (PBUH) said it as the best form of worship. When we make Dua in front of Almighty ALLAH for our needs and wants not only our Dua is being answered but we will be rewarded for worshipping also. While making Dua we accept the power and authority of ALLAH and our weakness in front of HIM. With Dua we can never fail; without it, we can never succeed. A person can never become arrogant or proud when he makes Dua; it is a logical result of true worship.

Strength and Power of Dua in Islam

Dua is the conversation with Allah, our Creator, the All-Knowing, and the All-Powerful. This act of making Dua in itself is of exceptional

significance. It is the most, liberating, empowering, and transforming conversation a person can ever have with his Lord. We raise our hands in front of Allah and asked Him everything His help, mercy, and forgiveness and He surely listens to us and fulfills our desires.

Prophet (SAW) said: **“A slave becomes nearest to his Lord when he is in prostration. So increase supplications in prostrations.”** (Sahih Muslim). When making the Dua it is acceptable to ask for good in this worldly life and in the hereafter. Throughout the Quran, Our Lord 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.

Allah says in Quran:

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

“And your Lord says, Call on Me; I will answer your (prayer). But those who are too arrogant to worship Me will surely find themselves in Hell, in humiliation.” (Quran, 40:60). Dua must be addressed to Almighty Allah Alone, who has no partner. Our intention when making the Dua must be to please Allah, obey and trust Him completely. When we make Dua we feel relieved after describing our difficulties to our Creator. In every difficulty, our first action is Dua, as is our last. We ask Allah to show us the way to handle that difficulty; we seek His help in following the path He shows to us; we seek His aid in making our efforts successful. By making Dua we get through the difficult situation that is the power of Dua. We ask guidance from ALLAH at the time of difficulty to show us the way to face this hurdle.

Dua is considered very powerful in Islam as it can change our fate and it can be the most powerful weapon for a Muslim at the time of grief and sorrows. Dua is the belief of all Muslims that ALLAH is the sole provider and creator of everything on earth. So through Dua, we also thank ALLAH for whatever HE has given to us whether it is our heartbeat, our breath, our health or our wealth, all of these things are provided us by ALLAH. Allah is listening to each and every Dua made in front of HIM and answers all the Duas.

We should make Dua at all times, not only during times of distress. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: **“Whosoever desires that Allah answers his Duas in unfavorable and difficult conditions, he should make plentiful Dua in days of ease and comfort.”**

We should make Dua not only for ourselves but also for our parents, brothers and sisters, spouses and children, relatives and friends, and most importantly struggling Muslims everywhere. We should pray for them for the good in this world as well as in the Hereafter. Holy Prophet (SAW) said: **“The Dua of a Muslim for his brother (in Islam) in his absence is readily accepted. An angel is appointed to his side. Whenever he makes a beneficial Dua for his brother the appointed angel says, ‘Ameen. And may you also be blessed with the same.’”** (Sahih Muslim)

Benefits of Making Dua

There are many benefits of making Dua from Almighty Allah some of them we have listed below:

- The loss of arrogance- When we make Dua we submit that Allah alone is the creator and He is The Powerful one and everything is under control Him. We are nothing in front of Him we have to ask from Him.
- The fulfillment of Dua- For the people that sometimes see that their Duas are not being accepted, there is either the option that the Dua will be accepted later on in this life or in the Hereafter or the option that the Dua will be accepted by other means. Holy Prophet (SAW) said about it: **“Whoever does Dua to Allah, Allah fulfills his seeking *or* in exchange averts misfortune until the Dua is not related to sin or breaking some relation.”** (Tirmidhi). So, if we do not see our Dua being accepted immediately, we should not despair because either it will help us against some misfortune, or it might be accepted later.
- Dua has the power to change the destiny- Prophet (SAW) said, **“Dua turns away destiny and good deeds lengthen age.”** (Tirmidhi)
- Dua opened the doors of Mercy- Holy Prophet (SAW) said, **“For whoever the door of Dua opened, for him the doors of mercy are opened.”** (Tirmidhi)

Dua can change our life and our fate. It is the strongest weapon. But it works only for those who try sincerely and seriously to use it. As a Muslim, we should never give up, because we have the ultimate weapon to counter our fears, depression, oppression, and adversity in the shape of Dua.

It doesn't take much to realize how blessed we are as Muslims. Allah (ﷻ) has allowed us to have a direct and open relationship with Him 24/7, with absolutely no middle-man in between. As Muslims, we have

two main ways of communicating with Allah SWT. The first way is through our five daily prayers, which are an obligation upon us. These prayers have certain conditions (arkan) that we must fulfill, for our prayer to be valid. The second way of communicating with Allah (ﷻ) is, by making dua (supplication).

In contrast to prayer, there is no fixed time or place for making dua. Wudu is not obligatory for dua. We don't even need to have wudu to make dua. We are allowed to put our hands up and ask Allah for what we need - at any time and any place. This is a huge mercy from Allah (ﷻ).

Making dua is an important act of worship. By allowing us to make dua to Him, Allah has given us a direct hotline to speak to Allah, literally whenever we want. Think of how merciful and generous Allah SWT is. Who else should we go to with our needs and concerns, other than the One who can solve all our problems in the blink of an eye if He chooses to? Allah loves to give to us. He is Al-Kareem. In a hadith, Prophet Muhammad PBUH said, “Verily your Lord is Generous and Shy. If His servant raises his hands to Him (in supplication) He becomes shy to return them empty.” (Ahmad, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi).

Allah tells us in the Quran

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونَ

“And remember Me – I will surely remember you” (2:152).

Allah (ﷻ) will always keep favoring us and blessing us with His bounties, so long as we keep Him in our remembrance too. Furthermore, duas hold so much power in and of themselves because they can change qadr. Our Prophet PBUH told us that “nothing can change the Divine decree except dua. In addition to this, dua builds a relationship with our Creator. The way you get close to someone is by talking to them more.

Similarly, continuously making dua establishes a strong connection with Allah (ﷻ), because it is making you closer to Him.

Finally, it is vital to mention that there is a sweetness that comes from making dua. Only people who continually make dua will be able to taste that sweetness.

Make Dua For Everything

The sahaba (may Allah be pleased with them) used to make dua for the smallest of things. They used to even ask Allah for salt for their food. In one hadith, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) used to tell them “let one of you ask his Lord for everything that he needs, even a lace for his shoe if it breaks.” This teaches us that nothing is too big or small to ask Allah for.

Another beautiful reminder to hold onto, is that we should strive to make dua like a child. Children make dua for the most trivial of things. They also ask for things with incredible sincerity and detail. This is exactly how we should be when forming our duas. The scholars say that it is better for a dua to be detailed and specific, than undetailed and general. In other words, tell Allah exactly what you want.

Etiquette Of Making Dua

In order to properly make a dua that is more likely to be accepted by Allah (ﷻ), there is a specific etiquette and form we must stick to. You must try to “sandwich” your duas in between the names of Allah and sending blessings or salawat on the Prophet (ﷺ).

Here is how you should form your dua (in order):

1- Start the dua by invoking the names of Allah (ﷻ) that are relevant to your dua. For example: if you are asking Allah to give you something, use the names Al Razzaq or Al Wahhab. If you are asking Allah to heal you from sickness, use the name Al Shafi. Allah (ﷻ) has 99 names. Use them.

2- Mention your request. Remember to make it specific and detailed. You can also make dua for more than one thing at the same time. Allah's power and mercy is limitless.

"Allah has power over all things" (35:1).

3- End your dua by sending peace and blessings upon Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is the master of the universe and the best of all creation. Anything he has touched is blessed. Sending peace, prayers and blessings upon him will give our dua the best and most blessed seal

Conditions for the dua to be accepted

There are two conditions that are crucial to remember, whenever you are making dua.

- Duas have to be sincere
- You must ask the dua with full conviction that Allah is listening to you and will respond at the right time. Do not rush Allah.

Special Times For The Acceptance of Duas

As a result of Allah's never ending showers of mercy upon us - He has also blessed us with extra special times and days, where our duas have a very high chance of getting accepted.

1- On Fridays, during the last hour of Asr before maghrib.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said "Friday is twelve hours in which there is no Muslim slave who asks Allah (ﷻ) for something but He will give it to him, so seek it in the last hour after 'Asr." (Sunan Al Nisa'i)

2- Make dua in sujud.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said “The nearest a slave can be to his Lord (Allāh) is while they are prostrating, so increase in supplication” (Muslim).

3- Make dua at the end of prayer.

Right before saying salam in prayer, after the Salah Ibrahimiyah.

4- Make dua during the last third of the night.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said “Our Lord, may He be blessed and exalted, comes down to the lowest heaven every night when the last third of the night is left, and He says: ‘Who will call upon Me, that I may answer him? Who will ask of Me, that I may give him? Who will ask Me for forgiveness, that I may forgive him?’” (Bukhari)

5- Make dua when it rains and when the time of prayer enters.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said:

“Two will not be rejected, supplication when the Adhan is being called and at the time of the rain’.

6- Make dua during the days and nights of Ramadan.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said “When Ramadan comes, the Doors of Mercy (another narration says Paradise) are opened, and the doors of Hell are closed, and the Shaitans are locked up’ (Bukhari) .

8- Make dua when you travel. Abu Huraira (RA) narrates that the Prophet (ﷺ) said Three supplications are answered, there being no doubt about them; that of a father, that of a traveller and that of one who has been wronged. (Sunan Abu Dawud).

How Allah (ﷻ) responds to your duas:

Guess what? Your Dua **never** goes unanswered. Allah responds to your dua in one of three ways:

1 - Yes

2 - Yes, but not now (It is not good for you, I will avert a calamity for you in lieu of this dua)

3 - I have a better plan for you (you will be rewarded for dua in hereafter)

Allah's wisdom is beyond our comprehension, so he knows what is best for us and when it is best for us to have it. Therefore, in any case, a dua never gets a negative response and never goes unanswered, so stay optimistic, content and hopeful Allah will respond with what is best for you.

We ask Allah to grant you acceptance of all your duas and patience as you wait for them to come into fruition.