



# Introduction to *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*

ALI 201, 5/6: Dhul Qa'dah 1432/ October 2011

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**Objective:** The course will cover a comprehensive discussion on the significance, role and authenticity of *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*. The contents of the Sahifa will be studied using two approaches: a detailed discussion on a number of supplications individually, and a topical discussion on a few subjects covered in the book.



# The Qur'an on Allah

○ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

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- 2:255 God—there is no god except Him—is the Living One, the All-sustainer. Neither drowsiness befalls Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.  
لَا تُذْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُذْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ وَهُوَ الْأَطِيفُ الْخَيْرُ
- 6:103 The sights do not apprehend Him, yet He apprehends the sights, and He is the All-attentive, the All-aware.  
اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ
- 39:62 God is creator of all things, and He watches over all things.  
وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ
- 81:29 And you do not wish unless it is wished by God, the Lord of all the worlds



## Anecdotes on sickness

- H Prophet (s) left a gathering where a father of a woman whom Prophet had planned to marry said that his daughter never got sick. Later he said:  
*There is no goodness in an entity which, like a zebra, never falls sick. Diseases and misfortunes are God's gifts to His servants that should they ever become negligent of Him, diseases and misfortunes serve to make people mindful of Him*
- Imam Ridha (a) prepared his follower who was about to get sick & stay bedridden for long saying  
*O' Abu Muhammad! Every Mu'min, whom God afflicts with a misfortune and who exhibits patience over it, shall surely come to possess the rank and recompense of a martyr in the eyes of God.*



# Your experiences on facing long sickness

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## Article by S. Saeed Akhtar Rizvi

- Challenges faced by the Imam al-Sajjad (a)

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- Hajar al-Aswad testified him Imamate
- Using Azaa al-Husayn to unite the Shi‘ah
- Using Du‘aa to teach Islam: for e.g.
  - Du‘aa 20 on what are the best & elevated morals
  - Du‘aa 30 on why it is necessary to avoid debts
  - Du‘aa 17 against the mischief of Shaytan
  - Du‘aa 27 for people facing war & opposition
  - Du‘aa 24 on the position of parents
  - And many more supplications



## Du‘aas for the week: answer these questions

- Why does it begin with Sunday?
- ~~○ What role do these Du‘aas play in your life?~~
- What benefits can we derive from them?
- Do we need to recite the entire supplication?
- How can we remember select passages?
- What can we do ensure that we recite these supplications regularly?
- We also need to ensure that we read ziyaarat of the day: Sat – HP; Sun – I Ali & S. Fatima; Mon – Is Hasan & Husayn; Tue – Is Sajjad, Baqir & Sadiq; Wed – Is Kazim, Ridha, Taqi & Naqi; Thu – I. Askari & Fri – I Mahdi (a)



## Du‘aa 63: The Supplication for Monday

- Praise belongs to Allah, who allowed none to witness when He created the heavens and the earth, and who took no helper when He created the spirits! (63:1)
- Allah is totally independent in creation
- *He has no associate in Divinity and no partner in Oneness (63:2)* – Allah is absolute One
- *Tongues fall silent before the limit of describing Him, intellects fail before the core of knowing Him, tyrants fall low in awe of Him, faces are humbled in fear of Him and everything mighty yields to His mightiness! (63:3)*
- *All faces shall be humbled before the Living One (HQ 20:111)*
- *Considering the Creator’s greatness, entails insignificance of a creature in your eyes (NB, M 129)*



## Du‘aa 63: Hamd and Salawaat, all the time

- *So to You belongs praise, again and again, well-measured, continually, methodically! (63:4)*
- Praising Allah has no limits & no restrictions; refer to Qur’anic aayat 33:41 & 42
- *And may His blessings be upon His Messenger endlessly, His salutation everlasting, eternally! (63:5)*
- Qur’anic verse 33:56 on salawaat implemented
- Hadith on salawaat: The Prophet (s): *Verily the most miserly of people is he who hears my name mentioned & does not invoke blessings on me; and Ali (a): every supplication remains veiled [unanswered] until blessing are invoked on the Prophet (s).* (SoW, H. 3673 & 3674)



## Beautiful Du‘aa for having a great day

○ اللَّهُمَّ اجْعِلْ أَوَّلَ يَوْمِي هَذَا صَلَاحًا وَأَوْسَطُهُ

فَلَاحًا وَآخِرُهُ نَجَاحًا وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ يَوْمٍ أَوَّلُهُ فَزَغْ  
وَأَوْسَطُهُ جَزَعٌ وَآخِرُهُ وَجْعٌ

- O Allah, make the beginning of this day of mine righteousness, its middle prosperity, and its end success! I seek refuge in You from a day whose beginning is fright, whose middle is anxiety, and whose end is pain! (63:6)
- Praying for righteousness, prosperity & success
- Refraining from fright, anxiety & pain
- Three timings in a day
- Do we not say 5 prayers in three timings?
- Holy Qur'an 17:78 on three timings of praying



## Fulfill your vows, promises & pledges

- *O Allah, I pray forgiveness from You for every vow I have vowed, every promise I have promised, and every pledge I have pledged and then failed to keep for You* (p. 7)
- Why would the Imam seek forgiveness instead of praying success in fulfilling vow & promises?
- 2:177 وَالْمُؤْفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا
- Importance of keeping your promises: Holy Prophet (s): *He who does not keep a promise has no religion*; and Imam Ali (a): *verily promises are chains on people's necks until the Day of Resurrection. So he who fulfills them is delivered by Allah, and one who forsakes them is forsaken by Allah.* (SoW, H. 4647 & 4648)



# Rights of servants of Allah (swt) - 1

- *I ask You concerning the complaints of Your servants against me: If there is a servant from among Your servants or a handmaid from among Your handmaids, who has against me a complaint because I have wronged him in respect to himself, his reputation, his property, his wife or his child, (63: 8)*
- Why ‘Your servants’ instead of fellow human?
- Need to redress the complaints of others
- Does not matter what the gender is?
- Possible areas where we can wrong others:  
him/herself, reputation, property, wife & child



## Rights of servants of Allah (swt) - 2

- *Evil words I have spoken about him in his absence, an imposition upon him through inclination, caprice, scorn, zeal, false show, bigotry, whether he be absent or present, alive or dead, such that my hand has fallen short and my capacity has been too narrow to make restitution to him or to annul my obligation to him (63:8)*
- Speaking evil in someone's absence
- Imposition upon others thru: inclination, caprice, scorn, zeal, pretention, bigotry
- Does not matter whether the person is present or not, living or not
- Often we are helpless in undoing the wrong



## Redressing the wrong to others

- *I ask You, O He who owns all objects of need - which are granted by His will and hasten to His desire - that You bless Muhammad and the Household of Muhammad, make [the one I have wronged] satisfied with me in the manner that You will, and give me mercy from You! Forgiveness decreases You not and giving injures You not, O Most Merciful of the merciful! (63:9)*
- Why we ask Allah to help us redress?
- Always seek Divine blessings for HP & family
- Important to satisfy the wronged one
- In a manner that is willed by Allah
- We need Divine mercy to redress the wronged
- Allah is the best to address all our problems



## Prep for the next class

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- Qur'anic verses & Hadith on *Qard Hasanah*.
- Discussion on the authenticity of the *Sahifa*.
- Reflections on Du‘aa 30: Effects of having a debt; How to avoid getting into debts; Tolerating lack of wealth and using one’s wealth appropriately.