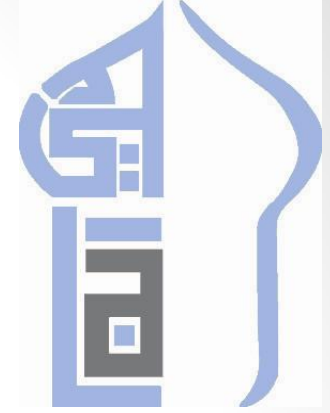


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 217: Du‘ās No. 17 & 22 from *Sahīfa Sajjādiyyah*

وَكَانَ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ إِذَا ذُكِرَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَاسْتَعَاذَ مِنْهُ وَمِنْ عَدَاوَتِهِ وَكَيْدِهِ

His supplication when Satan was mentioned so he sought refuge from him and from his enmity and trickery

Shaytān in Hadīth

- Imam Ali (a): Be on your guard against the enemy who covertly penetrates into your hearts and secretly whispers into your ears. [*Ghurar al-Hikam*, H. 2633]
- Imam al-Sādiq (a): Satan was ordered to bow down to Adam. He replied: O Lord! If You forgive me for not prostrating to him, I would worship You the kind of worship that no one else could match. God Almighty said: I wish to be obeyed the way I have decreed (*Bihar*)
- Imam al-Sādiq (a) has been quoted as saying, “The angels’ prostrating to Adam was a sign of submission to God and out of love for Adam (*Tuhaf al-’Uqul*)
- Abu Basir asked Imam al-Sādiq (a), “Did the angels perform the prostrating act by putting their foreheads on the earth? He said: *Yes, as a mark of glory to God Almighty.*”

Shaytān in *Nahjul Balāgha*

- So take a lesson from how Allah dealt with Iblis [Satan], when He thwarted his great works and his extensive efforts [because of the vanity of a single moment] even though he had been worshipping Allah for six thousand years, each hour of which was so long that it is not known whether they were years by the reckoning of this world or the next.’[Sermon 192]
- I praise Allah and seek His aid against the acts that led to Satan's banishment and his eviction, and [I seek] His protection from his snares and his deceitful ways.[Sermon 151]
- When condemning those who follow Satan: They have taken Satan as the controller of their affairs, and he has in turn adopted them as his partners. He has laid eggs and hatched them in their bosoms, and creeps and crawls onto their laps, until he sees through their eyes and speaks with their tongues. Thus does he lead them to commit errors and glamorizes their own foolish deeds to them, like the act of one whom Satan has made partner in his domain, speaking lies through his tongue.’ [Sermon 7]

Sahīfa: Du‘ā 17, Passages 5 & 6

5) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, give us to enjoy guidance the like of his misguidance, increase us in piety against his seduction, and make us walk in reverential fear contrary to his path of ruin!

6) O Allah! assign him no place of entrance into our hearts and do not allow him to make his home in that which is with us!

Notes on Passage 5

Satan traps us thru various attractions & joy. No wonder that the Imam prays, “let us enjoy the guidance the like of his misguidance.”

We need to explore on how to get attracted to guidance & enjoy it.

For every satanic seduction, we should pray for *taqwā*, for that alone is the best response to satan and his mischiefs & whisperings

‘Reverential fear,’ (*al-tuqā* same root word as *taqwā*) is the path to tread instead of walking in the footsteps of satan. Ref Q 2:208, & 2:268.

Notes on Passage 6

There should not be any room for satan in our hearts. Why? Imam al-Sādiq has said:

الْقَلْبُ حَرَمُ اللَّهِ، فَلَا تُسْكِنُ حَرَمَ اللَّهِ غَيْرَ اللَّهِ – *the heart is the sanctuary of Allah, so let none settles in the Allah's sanctuary other than Allah.*

Heart is the place where satan settles to mislead us. In Arabic *qalb* is seat for both emotions and thoughts in our minds. This means that evil thoughts and emotional outpours in us is on account of satanic instigations.

Sahīfa: Du‘ā 17, Passages 7 – 10

7) O Allah! cause us to recognize the falsehood with which he tempts us, and once You have caused us to recognize it, protect us from it! Make us see what will allow us to outwit him, inspire us with all that we can to prepare for [fighting against] him, awaken us from the heedless slumber of relying upon him, and help us well, through Your giving success, against him!

8) O Allah! saturate our hearts with the rejection of his works and be gentle to us by destroying his stratagems!

9) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, turn his authority away from us, cut off his hope from us, and keep him (away) from craving for us!

10) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, and place our fathers/ancestors, our mothers, our children, our wives, our siblings, our relatives, and the faithful among our neighbors, male and female, in a sanctuary impregnable to him, a guarding fortress, a defending cave! Clothe them in shields protective against him and give them arms that will cut him down!

Notes on passage 7

It is essential to have the ability to separate falsehood from truth. Let not Satan confuse us in this regard by tempting us towards falsehood (*bātil*).

We need to have the *maʿrifah* of truth, i.e. enough knowledge and understanding to face the satanic misguidings.

Not only should we have the *maʿrifah* but we need to retain it, to be able to implement when required.

We pray for the insight (*basīrah*) to outwit and win over satan.

We also pray for Divine inspiration (*ilhām*)

Muslims never rely and trust Satan – it shows their heedless slumber

Divine help and success (*tawfīq*) needed against Satan & his trickery.

Notes on Passages 8 -10

- ‘O Allah saturate our hearts (*washrib quluban*)’ – fill our heart, the way we fill our fill when quenching our thirst
- ‘With the rejection of his deeds (*inkaara ‘amalib*)’ – abandoning satanic acts in their totality; no room for compromise!
- We need Divine grace (*lutf*) to break satanic tricks.
- Whatever is authority is, ‘O Allah, turn it away’ from us
- The Satan should not hope from us: to receive help, cooperation in his deeds nor ability to misguide us. This way the devil would not covet into misguiding us.
- Imam explains who were included in first line when he prayed: we seek refuge in Allah from Satan. He prays for relatives as well as for neighbours who are believers – male and female.
- Satan is pervasive that Imam prays for strong fortification and a defensive stronghold.
- Believers should have sharp weapons to defend against Satan.

Sahīfa: Du‘ā 17, Passages 11 - 14

- 11) O Allah! include in that everyone who witnesses to You as Lord, devotes himself sincerely to Your Unity, shows enmity toward him through the reality of servant-hood, and seeks help from You against him through knowledge of the divine sciences!
- 12) O Allah! undo what he ties, unstitch what he sews up, dislocate what he devises, frustrate him when he makes up his mind, and destroy what he establishes!
- 13) O Allah! rout his troops, nullify his trickery, make his cave collapse, and rub his nose in the ground!
- 14) O Allah! place us in the ranks of his enemies and remove us from the number of his friends, that we obey him not when he entices us and answer him not when he calls to us! We command everyone who obeys our command to be his enemy and we admonish everyone who follows our prohibition not to follow him!

Notes on passages 11-14

- Imam includes every believer in God in his prayers. Satan is an enemy to everyone who believes in God sincerely.
- Showing servant-hood (*'ubudiyyah*) to Allah and knowledge of divinity are ways to fight the devil.
- Pray and work for doing things diametrically opposing to Satanic insinuations, for he takes us away from Godliness & Divinity.
- Yes, Satan has many troops and hosts. The Qur'an says: *and the army of Satan will be thrown headlong into hell* (26:95).
- Imam prays against all forces and agents of Satan.
- We should be open & active enemies of Satan, and never befriend him. Active role against Satan is needed to fight him.
- The Imam commands his followers to seek animosity against the devil and desist from Islamic prohibitions.
- Doing the prohibitions is pleasing Satan.

Sahīfa: Du‘ā 17, Passages 15 & 16

- 15) O Allah! bless Muhammad, the Seal of the prophets and lord of the emissaries, and the folk of his house, the good, the pure! Give refuge to us, our families, our brothers, and all the faithful, male and female, from that from which we seek refuge, and grant us sanctuary from that through fear of which we seek sanctuary in You!
- 16) Hear our supplication to You, bestow upon us that of which we have been heedless, and safeguard for us what we have forgotten! Through all this bring us into the ranks of the righteous and the degrees of the faithful! Amen, Lord of the worlds!

Notes on passages 15 & 16

- This is the 5th time the Imam has invoked blessings on Prophet and his family. Importance of *salawat* in Du‘as.
- Muhammad is the seal of the Prophets & chief of the Messengers (*sayyidul mursaleen*)
- The Ahlul Bayt are *tayyibeen* and *tahireen* (virtuous & pure)
- Du‘a for all should include: our families, our brothers, and all believing men and women; did not overlook women.
- Generic phrases: *wa-’idhnaa* & *wa-ajirnaa*; for refuge & protection
- Closing statements that can be a summary of most Du‘as: listen to our supplication, give us that which we are heedless about, preserve for us that which we forget.
- Through all these grant us ranks of *salibeen* and stages of believers

More Hadīths on Shaytān

- Imam al-Kāzim (a) was once asked who one's archenemy is that one must fight, to which he replied, 'It is he who is closest to you and yet harbors the most enmity towards you ... and he who provokes all your enemies against you, and he is Iblis [Satan]. [*Tuhaf al-'Uqul*]
- Imam Zaynul 'Abidin (a): Were it not for the fact that Satan misleads them from Your obedience, no disobeyer would have ever disobeyed You, and were it not for the fact that he portrays falsehood to them in the likeness of truth, no strayer would have ever strayed from Your path.' [*Sahifa Du'a* 37, p.9]
- Imam al-Sādiq (a): Iblis [Satan] addresses his troops saying, 'Sow jealousy and dissention between them, for verily these are tantamount to polytheism in the sight of Allah.' [*al-Kafi*]
- Imam Ali (a): أَكْثِرِ الدُّعَاءَ تَسَلَّمَ مِنْ سَوْرَةِ الشَّيْطَانِ - Do a lot of supplications and you will be safe from satanic forces.