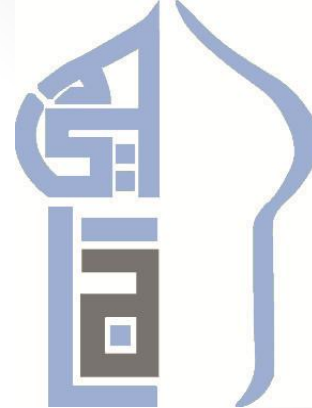


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 217: Du'as No. 17 & 22 from *Sahifa Sajjadiyyah*

وَكَانَ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ عِنْدَ الشَّدَّةِ وَالْجَهْدِ وَتَعَسُّرِ الْأُمُورِ

His supplication during Hardship, Effort and
Difficult Affairs

Hadith on putting efforts

- Holy Prophet (s): Cursed is that person who casts his burden on other people.
- Holy Prophet (s): The supplication of certain people in my *ummah* is not accepted . . . A person who remains at home and, without going out for sustenance, prays for it. In this case Allah says to him: My servant, did I not give you a sound body and organs for you to obtain your necessities, so that you may not have an excuse of disobeying My commands when seeking your livelihood and that you are not a burden on your family.
- Holy Prophet (s): there are seventy branches of worship, the best of which is earning a halal livelihood.
- Imam al-Sadiq (a): toiling to earn for the family is like a soldier who fights in the way of Allah.

Sahifa Du'a 22:Passage 5

- 5) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family, rid me of envy, encircle me against sins, make me abstain from things unlawful, give me not the boldness of disobedient acts, assign me love for that which is with You and satisfaction with that which comes to me from You, bless me in that which You provide me, that which You confer upon me, and that through which You favour me, and make me in all my states safeguarded, watched, covered, defended, given refuge, and granted sanctuary!

Sahifa Du'a 22:Passages 6

- 6) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family and let me accomplish everything which You have enjoined upon me or made obligatory for me toward You, in one of the ways of Your obedience, or toward one of Your creatures, through my body be too frail for that, my strength too feeble, my power not able to reach it, and my possessions and what my hand owns not encompass it, and whether I have remembered it or forgotten it.

Notes on passages 5& 6

- Imam prays to be freed from: envy (*hasad*), sins (*dhunub*), the forbidden (*al-maharim*) & disobedience (*al-ma'aasi*).
- What is the connection between the above vices and facing hardship & difficulty?
- Three possible causes of experiencing difficulties & calamities.
- To love that which is with Allah (and not with people)
- Satisfaction and contentment with what comes from Allah
- Whatever Allah provides & favors is enough if its blessed
- Divine safety, watch, sanctuary etc. is essential in all states
- Fulfill your obligations to Allah & you will be at ease
- Fulfill your obligations toward Divine creatures
- Both of the above to be done under all circumstances; there is no excuse from above obligations.

Sahifa Du'a 22:Passages 7

- 7) It, my Lord, is among that which You have counted against me while I have been heedless of it in myself. Let me perform it through Your plentiful giving and the abundance which is with You - for You art Boundless, Generous - so that nothing of it may remain against me, lest You wouldst wish to settle accounts for it from my good deeds or to compound my evil deeds on the day I meet You, my Lord!

Notes on passage 7

- Our willingness to fulfill the obligation be such that even if Allah has reckoned/counted it against us
- Or when I'm heedless of it
- We need Divine blessings through plentiful giving & His abundance bounties to fulfill the obligations
- Allah is all-Embracing with generosity (*waasi'un kareem*)
- On the day we meet our Lord, Allah we should try to be free of blame & liabilities, for: Allah
 - i) may reduce from our good deeds, or
 - ii) multiply our evil deeds
- Since death can come anytime without warning, we should try not to sleep until we are free from Divine & creatures' obligations
- Bahlul's advice on the etiquette of eating, talking & sleeping

Sahifa Du'a 22: Passages 8 & 9

- 8) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family and provide me with desire to serve You for the sake of my state in the hereafter, such that I know the truthfulness of that [desire] in my heart, be dominated by renunciation while in this world, do good deeds with yearning, and remain secure from evil deeds in fright and fear! And give me *a light whereby I may walk among the people* be guided in the shadows, and seek illumination in doubt and uncertainty!
- 9) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family and provide me with fear of the threatened gloom and yearning for the promised reward, such that I may find the pleasure of that for which I supplicate You and the sorrow of that from which I seek sanctuary in You!

Notes on passages 8 & 9

- We need the passion (*raghba*) to serve Allah
- The service should be for the sake of Hereafter
- Yardstick of honesty is to do things for Hereafter
- Abstinence (*zuhd*) from the world be dominant feature
- We desire & yearn to perform good deeds
- Stay safe from evil deeds, due to its bad consequences
- We need divine light (*noor*) to deal with people, overcome darkness [of ignorance] & light against doubt & confusion
- We pray for fear against dreadful punishment that awaits
- We yearn for the reward that has been promised for good
- My prayers & attitude reflect belief in hope & fear

Sahifa Du'a 22: Passages 10 - 12

- 10) O Allah, You know t what will set my affairs right in this world and the next, so be ever gracious toward my needs!
- 11) O Allah, bless Muhammad and Muhammad's Family and provide me with what is Your right when I fall short in thanking You for that through which You have favoured me in ease and difficulty, health and sickness, such that I may come to know in myself repose in satisfaction and serenity of soul in that which You have made incumbent upon me in whatever states may occur: fear and security, satisfaction and displeasure, loss and gain!
- 12) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family and provide me with a breast safe from envy, such that I envy none of Your creatures and in anything of Your bounty and such that I see none of Your favours toward any of Your creatures in religion or this world, well-being or reverential fear, plenty or ease, without hoping for myself better than it through and from You alone, who has no associate!

Notes on passages 10 -12

- Great profound passage which can be used all the times
- Allah alone knows what's proper for us in both the worlds
- Allah's right over is huge, we need His blessings to fulfill thanksgiving that He deserves
- Lets see Divine favors in difficulty & sickness also
- We need to instill inherent satisfaction & serenity of soul
- Again this should be in all circumstances during: fear, security, satisfaction, displeasure, loss or gain.
- Holy Qur'an 57:23 لِكَيْلَا تَأْسَوْا عَلَىٰ مَا فَاتَكُمْ وَلَا تَفْرَحُوا بِمَا آتَاكُمْ
- No envy at all against any creatures in what Allah has granted
- All favors are from Allah, so we only seek from Him
- He can and will give better
- Allah is One and Unique, without any partner

Sahifa Du'a 22: Passages 13-14

- 13) O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Family and provide me in this world and the next with caution against offenses and wariness against slips in the state of satisfaction and wrath, such that I may remain indifferent toward that which enters upon me from the two states, work toward Your obedience, and prefer it and Your good pleasure over all else in both friends and enemies. Then my enemy may stay secure from my wrongdoing and injustice and my friend may despair of my inclination and the bent of my affection.
- 14) Make me one of those who supplicate You with sincerity in ease with the supplication of those who supplicate You with sincerity in distress! Verily You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.

Notes on passages 13 & 14

- Protection (*tahffuz*) from faults in both the worlds
- Safety (*ihтираас*) from errors & slips in both the worlds
- In states of happiness as well as anger
- My personal happiness & anger is insignificant
- Rather we concentrate in being obedient to Allah & achieve His pleasure over both friends and enemies
- My wrongdoing & injustice should not harm an enemy – subhanallah, how can we ever dream hurting fellow believers or Muslims at large.
- My friends gives up all hopes my partiality & following whims
- Our prayers should be sincere, honest, devoted, & focused even when we are at ease, the way those who are in distressed do.