

Welcome to

ALI 296: Nature in Sahifa Sajjadiyya

Please go through Dua no. 19 of the Sahifa Sajjadiyya;
His Supplication in Asking for Water during a Drought .

What points does Imam mention about rain?

Agenda

- Introduction
- Points from the Dua
 - ◆ Rain as a sign of God
 - ◆ Rain as mercy
 - ◆ Rain and Resurrection
 - ◆ Angels who bring down rain
 - ◆ Description of the process
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Introduction

Imam Sajjad (a) prays for water after a period of drought.

There was very little knowledge of the scientific process behind the falling of rain at that time. But Imam knows and describes the process.

The deserts where Imam lived had very little rain. Yet there is familiarity with water and the properties of rain in Imam's words.

Rain as a sign of God

Do you not see that Allah drives along the clouds
then gathers them together
then piles them up
so that you see the rain coming forth
from their midst?

And He sends down of the clouds that are (like)
mountains wherein is hail
afflicting therewith whom He pleases
and turning it away from whom He pleases;
the flash of His lightning almost takes away the sight.

Sura Nur, 24:43

Rain as mercy

And He it is Who sends down the rain
after they have despaired
and He unfolds His mercy
and He is the Guardian, the Praised One.

Sura Shura, 42:28

Rain and Resurrection

And We send down from the cloud water
abounding in good, then We cause to grow thereby
gardens and the grain for harvest

And the tall palm-trees with shoots of fruit-stalks
closely set one above another

A sustenance for the servants
and We give life thereby to a dead land
thus will be the Resurrection.

Sura Qaf, 50:9-11

Angels who bring down rain

Bless them, . . . the tribes of angels
whom You have singled out for Yourself,
freed from need for food and drink by their calling You holy,
and made to dwell inside Your heavens' layers,
those who will stand upon the heavens' borders
when the Command descends to complete Your promise,
the keepers of the rain, the drivers of the clouds
him at whose driving's sound is heard the rolling of thunder,
and when the reverberating clouds swim before his driving
bolts of lightning flash;
the escorts of snow and hail,
the descenders with the drops of rain when they fall,
the watchers over the treasuries of the winds,
those charged with the mountains lest they disappear,
those whom Thou hast taught the weights of the waters
and the measures contained by torrents and masses of rain;

Sahifa Sajjadiyya, Dua no.3

Description of the process

It is God Who sends the Winds, and they raise the Clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills, and break them into fragments, until you see rain-drops issue from the midst thereof: then when He has made them reach such of his servants as He wills, behold, they do rejoice! (Sura Rum, 30:48)

1ST STAGE: *"It is God Who sends the winds..."*

Countless air bubbles formed by the foaming in the oceans continuously burst and cause water particles to be ejected towards the sky. These particles, which are rich in salt, are then carried away by winds and move upwards in the atmosphere. These particles, which are called aerosols, form clouds by collecting around themselves the water vapor, which again ascends from the seas, as tiny drops by a mechanism called "water trap"

2ND STAGE: *.and they raise the Clouds: then does He spread them in the sky as He wills, and break them into fragments...*

The clouds form from the water vapor that condenses around the salt crystals or the dust particles in the air. Because the water drops in these are very small (with a diameter between 0.01 and 0.02 mm), the clouds are suspended in the air and they spread in the sky. Thus the sky is covered with clouds.

3RD STAGE: *until you see rain-drops issue from the midst thereof.*

Water particles that surround salt crystals and dust particles thicken and form rain drops. So, the drops, which become heavier than air, depart from the clouds, and start to fall on the ground as rain.

Rain of punishment

And certainly they have (often) passed by the town
on which was rained an evil rain;
did they not then see it?

Nay! they did not hope to be raised again.

Sura Furqan, 25:40

One inch of water on 1 square mile is 27.8 million cubic feet of water, which is 260 million gallons of water, and that weighs an amazing 1.6 billion pounds. This weight is literally suspended in the atmosphere and it gets there through a complex system of evaporation (the sun heating water and turning it to vapor) and transpiration (plants expiring vapor). This vapor is electromagnetically attracted to dust particles in the air and this attraction eventually forms larger bodies of vapor. Wind blows the vapor together to form dense clouds of moisture. When the moisture becomes heavy enough it falls to earth as rain. And it's a good thing that it comes down as rain- can you imagine if 1.6 billion pounds of water hit all at once? We'd be constantly complaining about floods, erosion, ruined crops, etc. Along with the electric attraction to dust is electromagnetic attraction of water molecules to each other. This is a very brief summary of the "water cycle", which you should have learned in high school science.

http://www.fbcdesmoines.org/KLMX_Rain.htm

Imam Ali (a) and Rain

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a) narrates that whenever it would begin to rain Imam Ali (a) would stand under the rain until his head, his beard, and his clothes were wet. Someone told him; go and seek shelter. He replied, this is water that has come from close to the *Arsb* [throne of Allah].

Usul al Kafi, Vol. 8, pg 239