

Handout 2 - ALI 317: What should be our focus when raising children?

Du‘ā 25: For Children in the *Sahīfa* with two translations

Translation by Dr. William C. Chittick	Translation by Ahmad Ali Muhani	Text of the Du‘ā in Arabic
<i>His (upon him be peace) Supplication for his Children (upon them be peace)</i>	<i>One of his prayers for his offspring</i>	وَكَاَنَّ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ لِوَلَدِهِ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ
1 O Allah, be kind to me through the survival of my children, setting them right for me, and allowing me to enjoy them!	1. O Lord, oblige me by sparing my issue from death, by educating them for me and by blessing me with them.	1) اللَّهُمَّ وَمَنْ عَلِيَّ بِنَقَاءٍ وُلْدِي وَبِإِصْلَاحِهِمْ لِي وَبِإِمْتَاعِي بِهِمْ
2 My God, make long their lives for me, increase their terms, bring up the smallest for me, strengthen the weakest for me, rectify for me: their bodies, their religious dedication, and their moral traits; make them well in: their souls, their limbs, and everything that concerns me of their affair; and pour out for me and upon my hand their provisions!	2. My Allah, prolong their lives for me. Increase their terms of existence for me. Bring up those of tender years for me. Strengthen the weak ones for me. Heal their bodies, faith and morals. Let them be safe in soul and body and in everything I am anxious about concerning them. Let their sustenance flow into my hand.	2) إِلَهِي أَمِدُّ لِي فِي أَعْمَارِهِمْ، وَزِدْ لِي فِي آجَالِهِمْ، وَرَبِّ لِي صَغِيرَهُمْ، وَقَوِّ لِي ضَعِيفَهُمْ، وَأَصِحِّ لِي أَبْدَانَهُمْ وَأَدْيَانَهُمْ وَأَخْلَاقَهُمْ، وَعَافِيَهُمْ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَفِي جَوَارِحِهِمْ وَفِي كُلِّ مَا عُنِيْتُ بِهِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ، وَأَدْرِ لِي وَعَلَى يَدِي أَرْزَاقَهُمْ
3. Make them: pious, fearing, insightful, hearing, and obedient toward You; loving and well-disposed toward Your friends; and stubbornly resistant and full of hate toward all Your enemies! Amen!	3. Let them be virtuous, pious, able to see and hear, obedient unto You, and lovers and well-wishers of Your friends and hostile and implacable to all Your enemies. Amen!	3) وَاجْعَلْهُمْ أَبْرَارًا أَتْقِيَاءَ بُصْرَاءَ سَامِعِينَ مُطِيعِينَ لَكَ، وَلِأَوْلِيَاءِكَ مُحِبِّينَ مُنَاصِحِينَ، وَلِجَمِيعِ أَعْدَائِكَ مُعَانِدِينَ وَبَغْضِيْنَ، آمِينَ
4. O Allah, through them: strengthen my arm, straighten my burdened back, multiply my number,	4. O Lord, strengthen my arm with them and straighten with them my crookedness. Enlarge my	4) اللَّهُمَّ اشْدُدْ بِهِمْ عَضُدِي، وَأَقِمْ بِهِمْ أَوْدِي، وَكَثِّرْ بِهِمْ

<p>adorn my presence, keep alive my mention, suffice me when I am away, help me in my needs, and make them: loving toward me, affectionate, approaching, upright, obedient; never: disobedient, disrespectful, opposed, or offenders!</p>	<p>number because of them. Adorn my society with them. Keep my memory alive by means of them. Make them take care of my affairs in my absence. Help me with them to satisfy my need. Let them love me, be kind unto me, favorable, faithful, obedient, not disobedient, not wicked, nor adverse, nor guilty.</p>	<p>عَدَدِي، وَزَيْنَ بِهِمْ مَحْضَرِي، وَأَحْيِي بِهِمْ ذِكْرِي، وَاكْفِنِي بِهِمْ فِي غَيْبَتِي، وَأَعِنِّي بِهِمْ عَلَى حَاجَتِي، وَاجْعَلْهُمْ لِي مُحِبِّينَ، وَعَلَى حَدِيثِنَ مُقْبِلِينَ مُسْتَقِيمِينَ لِي، مُطِيعِينَ، غَيْرَ عَاصِينَ وَلَا عَاقِبِينَ وَلَا مُخَالِفِينَ وَلَا خَاطِبِينَ</p>
<p>5. Help me in their upbringing, their education, and my devotion toward them; Give me among them from Yourself male children; make that a good for me; and make them a help for me in that which I ask from You!</p>	<p>5. And help me in training them, educating them and in doing good to them, and grant me from You male descendants among them, and let this be a benefit to me, and let them be my helpers in whatever I ask of You,</p>	<p>(5) وَأَعِنِّي عَلَى تَرْبِيَّتِهِمْ وَتَأْدِيبِهِمْ، وَبِرِّهِمْ، وَهَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ مَعَهُمْ أَوْلَادًا ذُكُورًا، وَاجْعَلْ ذَلِكَ خَيْرًا لِي، وَاجْعَلْهُمْ لِي عَوْنًا عَلَى مَا سَأَلْتُكَ</p>
<p>6. Give me and my progeny refuge from the accursed Satan, for You have: created us, commanded us, and prohibited us, and made us desire the reward of what You have commanded, and fear its punishment! You: assigned to us an enemy who schemes against us, gave him an authority over us in a way that You did not give us authority over him, allowed him to dwell in our breasts and let him run in our blood vessels; he is not heedless, though we be heedless, he does not forget,</p>	<p>6. And protect me and my offspring from Satan, the stoned one. For, verily, You did create us, and command us, and put prohibitions upon us, and encourage us with the reward for doing what You did threaten us with punishment for disobedience; and You have made him our enemy who deceiveth us; You have given him dominion over some of us; while over some of them You have not given us dominion: You have established him in our breasts, and made him run</p>	<p>(6) وَأَعِدْنِي وَذُرِّيَّتِي مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ، فَإِنَّكَ خَلَقْتَنَا وَأَمَرْتَنَا وَنَهَيْتَنَا وَرَغَبْتَنَا فِي ثَوَابِ مَا أَمَرْتَنَا وَرَهَبْتَنَا عِقَابَهُ، وَجَعَلْتَ لَنَا عَدُوًّا يَكِيدُنَا، سَلَطْتَهُ مِنَّا عَلَى مَا لَمْ تُسَلِّطْنَا عَلَيْهِ مِنْهُ، أَسْكَنْتَهُ صُدُورَنَا، وَأَجْرِيَّتَهُ مَجَارِي دِمَائِنَا، لَا يَغْفُلُ إِنْ غَفَلْنَا، وَلَا يَنْسَى إِنْ نَسِينَا،</p>

<p>though we forget; he makes us feel secure from Your punishment and fills us with fear toward other than You.</p>	<p>through our blood passages; he is not careless even if we are careless, and he does not forget if we forget; he makes us feel secure from Your torment, and threatens us with (the punishment of someone) other than You;</p>	<p>يُؤْمِنُنَا عِقَابَكَ، وَيُخَوِّفُنَا بِغَيْرِكَ</p>
<p>7. If we are about to commit an indecency, he gives us courage to do so, and if we are about to perform a righteous work, he holds us back from it. He opposes us through passions and sets up for us doubts. If he promises us, he lies, and if he raises our hopes, he fails to fulfil them. If You do not turn his trickery away from us, he will misguide us, and if You do not protect us from his corruption, he will cause us to slip.</p>	<p>7. If we intend some glaring sin. He encourages us in it; if we intend to do any good thing he hinders us; he exposes to us irresistible appetites, and raises for us doubts; if he makes promises to us he lies, and if he holds out hopes to us he disappoints us; and if You do not turn away from us his cunning, he shall mislead us; and if You do not guard us from his corruption, he shall cause us to err.</p>	<p>(7) إِنَّ هَمَمَنَا بِفَاحِشَةٍ شَجَعْنَا عَلَيْهَا، وَإِنْ هَمَمْنَا بِعَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ تَبَطَّنَا عَنْهُ، يَتَعَرَّضُ لَنَا بِالشَّهَوَاتِ، وَيُنْصِبُ لَنَا بِالشُّبُهَاتِ، إِنْ وَعَدْنَا كَذِبْنَا، وَإِنْ مَنَّا أَخْلَفْنَا، وَالَا تَصْرِفَ عَنَّا كَيْدَهُ يُضِلَّنَا، وَالَا تَقِنَّا خِبَالَهُ يَسْتَزِلَّنَا</p>
<p>8. O Allah, so defeat his authority over us through Your authority, such that You hold him back from us through the frequency of our supplication to You and we leave his trickery and rise up among those preserved by You from sin!</p>	<p>8. Therefore, O Lord overthrow his authority over us with Your power, till You completely restrain him from us owing to our diligent prayer to You, so that, we may pass out of the power of his cunning into the group of those defended by You.</p>	<p>(8) اللَّهُمَّ فَاقْهَرِ سُلْطَانَهُ عَنَّا بِسُلْطَانِكَ حَتَّى تَحْبِسَهُ عَنَّا بِكثْرَةِ الدُّعَاءِ لَكَ فَتَنْصِبِ مِن كَيْدِهِ فِي الْمَعْصُومِينَ بِكَ</p>
<p>9. O Allah: grant me my every request, accomplish for me my needs, withhold not from me Your response when You have made Yourself accountable for it to me, veil not my supplication from Yourself, when You</p>	<p>9. O Lord grant me all my desires, and satisfy my needs, and do not refuse me Your answer, whilst You have given surety for it to me; and do not keep off my prayer from You, while You have required it of me;¹ and</p>	<p>(9) اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِنِي كُلَّ سُؤْلِي، وَأَقْضِ لِي حَوَائِجِي، وَلَا تَمْنَعْنِي الْجِابَةَ وَقَدْ ضَمِنْتَهَا لِي، وَلَا تَحْجُبْ دُعَائِي عَنكَ وَقَدْ أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ،</p>

<p>have commanded me to make it, (See Q 2:186 & 40:60) and be kind to me through everything that will set me right in this world and the next, in everything that: I remember or forget, display or conceal, make public or keep secret!</p>	<p>favor me with all that which will do me good in this world and the next, whatever I remember of it, and whatever I have forgotten, or expressed or concealed, or revealed or withheld;</p>	<p>وَأْمَنْنُ عَلَيَّ بِكُلِّ مَا يُصْلِحُنِي فِي دُنْيَايَ وَآخِرَتِي مَا ذَكَرْتُ مِنْهُ وَمَا نَسِيتُ، أَوْ أَظْهَرْتُ أَوْ أَخْفَيْتُ أَوْ أَعْلَنْتُ أَوْ أَسْرَرْتُ</p>
<p>10. In all of this, place me through my asking You among those who set things right, those who are answered favorably when they request from You and from whom is not withheld when they put their trust in You,</p>	<p>10. And let me be (by my imploring You alone) of the righteous, of those who are successful in applying to You, of those who are un-deprived because of their trust in You, of those who are accustomed to seek shelter in You,</p>	<p>(10) وَاجْعَلْنِي فِي جَمِيعِ ذَلِكَ مِنَ الْمُصْلِحِينَ بِسُؤَالِي إِيَّاكَ، الْمُنْجِحِينَ بِالطَّلَبِ إِلَيْكَ غَيْرِ الْمَمْنُوعِينَ بِالتَّوَكُّلِ عَلَيْكَ</p>
<p>11. those accustomed to seek refuge in You, those who profit through commerce with You, those granted sanctuary through Your might, those given lawful provision in plenty from Your boundless bounty through Your munificence and generosity, those who reach exaltation after abasement through You, those granted sanctuary from wrong through Your justice, those released from affliction through Your mercy, those delivered from need after poverty through Your riches, those preserved from sins, slips, and offenses through reverential fear toward You, those successful in goodness, right conduct, and propriety through obeying You, those</p>	<p>11. of those who are accustomed to seek shelter in You, of those who are benefitted by their bargains with You, of those who take refuge in Your majesty of those who have abundance of lawful sustenance conferred on them by Your boundless kindness, Your bounty and generosity; of those who are exalted to honor from disgrace by You; of those who seek shelter from tyranny in Your justice; of those who are safe from calamity with Your grace; of those who are raised to prosperity from poverty by Your endless wealth; of those who are protected from sins and slips and error by fear of You, of those who have grace for goodness and</p>	<p>(11) الْمُعَوِّدِينَ بِالتَّعَوُّذِ بِكَ، الرَّابِحِينَ فِي التَّجَارَةِ عَلَيْكَ، الْمُجَارِينَ بِعِزِّكَ، الْمُوسَّعَ عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّزْقِ الْحَلَالِ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ، الْوَاسِعَ بِجُودِكَ وَكَرَمِكَ، الْمُعَزِّينَ مِنَ الدُّلِّ بِكَ، وَالْمُجَارِينَ مِنَ الظُّلْمِ بِعَدْلِكَ، وَالْمُعَافِينَ مِنَ الْبَلَاءِ بِرَحْمَتِكَ، وَالْمُعْنِينَ مِنَ الْفَقْرِ بِغِنَاكَ، وَالْمَعْصُومِينَ مِنَ الدُّنُوبِ وَالزَّلَلِ وَالْخَطَايَا بِتَقْوَاكَ، وَالْمُؤَفَّقِينَ لِلْخَيْرِ وَالرُّشْدِ وَالصَّوَابِ بِطَاعَتِكَ، وَالْمُحَالَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ الدُّنُوبِ</p>

<p>walled off from sins through Your power, the refrainers from every act of disobedience toward You, the dwellers in Your neighbourhood!</p>	<p>virtue and righteousness owing to their obedience to You: of those having a barrier between them and sins because of Your Power; of those who renounce all sins; of those who dwell in Your neighborhood.</p>	<p>بِقُدْرَتِكَ، التَّارِكِينَ لِكُلِّ مَعْصِيَتِكَ، السَّاكِنِينَ فِي جَوَارِ</p>
<p>12. O Allah: give me all of that through Your bestowal of success and Your mercy, grant us refuge from the chastisement of the burning, and give to all the Muslims, male and female, and all the faithful, male and female, the like of what I have asked for myself and my children, in the immediate of this world and the deferred of the next! Verily You are the Near, the Responder, the All-hearing, the All-knowing, the Pardoner, the Forgiving, the Clement, the Merciful!</p>	<p>12. O Lord, grant us all this with Your Grace and Mercy. Protect us from the torment of hell. Favor all the Muslim men and women and true believers, male and female, with the like of what I have begged of You for myself and my offspring in the present world and the future Verily, You are Nigh, Answering, Hearing, Knowing, Overlooking, Forgiving, Compassionate and Merciful.</p>	<p>12) اللَّهُمَّ أَعْطِنَا جَمِيعَ ذَلِكَ بِتَوْفِيقِكَ وَرَحْمَتِكَ، وَأَعِزَّنَا مِنْ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ، وَأَعْطِ جَمِيعَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ مِثْلَ الَّذِي سَأَلْتُكَ لِنَفْسِي وَلِوَلَدِي فِي عَاجِلِ الدُّنْيَا وَآجِلِ الْآخِرَةِ، إِنَّكَ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبٌ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ عَفُوٌّ غَفُورٌ رَعُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ</p>
<p>13. <i>And give to us in this world good, and in the next world good, and protect us from the chastisement of the Fire!</i> (Q 2: 202)</p>	<p>13. Confer on us good in this world and the next and guard us from the torment of the Fire.</p>	<p>13) وَآتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ</p>

Assignment: Try to find relevant Quranic verses, Hadiths, examples from the lives of the Ma'sūmīn (a), stories and events from the awliyā (friends) of the Almighty and parents who have raised great children to link to qualities that the Imam (a) has mentioned in this Du'ā. For e.g., we read in passage 2, 'My God . . . rectify for me . . . their religious dedication, and their moral traits. . . and everything that concerns me of their affair,' Imam al-Husayn's pleading to Allah (swt) on the Day of 'Āshūrā when his son Ali Akbar was leaving for battle front: O Allah! Be a witness upon these men, that the youth who resembles your Prophet the most in character and speech is proceeding towards them. Whenever we desired beholding the face of your Prophet, we would look at him. In *Risālatul Huqūq* Imam al-Sajjād (a) says: *The right of your child is that you know that he has emerged from you and in this world his right and wrong are attributed to you. You are responsible for his teaching and training, guiding him to his Lord, the Mighty & Sublime, and assisting him to obey Him.* (HK/Sep 2015)