

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 381: Brief Explanation of Du'ā No. 2 from *Sahīfa Sajjādiyya*

SESSION 1:

1 وكان من دعائه (عليه السلام) بعد هذا التَّحْمِيدِ
الصَّلَاةَ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ)

After praising God, he (a) would supplicate by
sending blessings upon God's Messenger (s)

Interesting articles on the *Sahīfa*

Read the following articles during the course. You will find them interesting & highly beneficial; they talk about the circumstances that led to the compilation of the work.

1. A H Sheriff, “Saheefa Al-Kamilah: The Perfect Epistle” from *The Light* magazine, available at:

<https://www.academyofislam.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ALI-201-Intro-Sheriff.pdf>

2. “Introduction to Al-Sahifa by the martyred Imam Āyatullāh Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr, available at:

<https://www.academyofislam.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Sahifa-Intro-Sadr.pdf>

3. Seyyid Saeed Akhatar Rizvi, “The Illustrious Imamat-period of Imam Zaynal ‘Abidin,” found online at:

www.al-islam.org/al-serat/Illustrious.htm

Beautiful recitations of the Du'ās with Urdu translations

Click on the Du'ā you would like to listen.

https://www.academyofislam.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Sahifa_Sajjadija_Recitation-1-to-54.pdf

Dua 2 Rasool e Akram par Duroodo Salaam (AL-SAHIFAT AL-SAJJADIYYA)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7N0QD5Be3Q&feature=player_detailpage#t=2

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS: To this day, the *Sahīfa Sajjādiyya* has been translated into English only twice. Once in 1930s by Ahmad Muhani from Lucknow and in 1984 by William C. Chittick. We will provide both translations for you to understand the passages well

Important points from A H Sheriff

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1. A researcher accepted Islam due to *Sahīfa*. Her observation: *no other book would surpass this as it contained the supreme possible human approach towards the Creator Allah.*

2. Quotation from Shaykh al-Islam Tantawi of Egypt. His remarks: *I was deeply impressed by the value and magnificence of these invocations. I wonder how the Muslims have all along been ignorant of such a valuable treasure. They have been in deep slumber for these centuries. They could not even feel that Allah has supplied them with such a precious store of knowledge.*

3. Gift from the 12th Imam (af): *In a dream once, the Allāmah requested the 12th Imam for a gift of a book from which he could constantly benefit. The Imam recommended Sahīfa telling him that it was a gift from him and he should go and collect the book from a person named at a particular place. Allāmah confirms that in accordance with the advice of the Imam, he collected the Sahīfa from which he benefited a great deal in his exercises of self-purification. The book was cherished as an invaluable gift from the Imam and circulated round among the believers of the place.*

Hadiths on Salawāt

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We are all aware of Quranic verse 33:56 in Which Allah says that He and His angels bless the Prophet; *O you who have faith! Invoke blessings on him and invoke Peace upon him in a worthy manner.*

Holy Prophet (s): *Wherever you may be, invoke blessings on me for verily your blessings reaches me.*

The invocation of blessings on me is a light on the Sirāt.

Whoever invokes blessings on me, writing it on a paper, the angels continue to seek forgiveness on his behalf as long as my name remains written on the paper.

Verily the most miserly of people is he who hears my name mentioned and does not invoke blessings on me.

Imam Ali (a): *Every supplication remains veiled [unanswered] until blessings are invoked on the Prophet.*

(The Scale of Wisdom, pp. 644 & 45)

Passage 1 from Du'ā 2

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي مَنَّ عَلَيْنَا بِمُحَمَّدٍ نَبِيِّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ دُونَ
الْأُمَمِ الْمَاضِيَةِ وَالْقُرُونِ السَّالِفَةِ، بِقُدْرَتِهِ الَّتِي لَا تَعْجِزُ عَنْ شَيْءٍ وَإِنْ
عَظُمَ، وَلَا يَفُوتُهَا شَيْءٌ وَإِنْ لَطُفَ

Chittick: Praise belongs to God who was kind to us through Muhammad (God bless him and his Household) to the exclusion of past communities and bygone generations, displaying thereby His power, which nothing can render incapable, though it be great, and nothing can escape, though it be subtle.

⁶Muhani: Praise be to God, who favored us with Muhammad, may the peace and mercy of God be upon him and his Āl (family), in preference to the past nations and bygone centuries, with His Power which fails in nothing, however great, and from which nothing escapes, however small it be.

Notes on passage 1

The first sentence is similar to what we find in Q 3:164 where Allah says: *Certainly did Allah confer [great] favor upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, except that in the verse Muhammad is referred to as a Messenger (rasūl) and in the Du‘ā he is referred to as a Prophet (nabī). The Imam invokes Divine blessings (salawāt) on the Prophet and his family – a practice which unfortunately many Muslims have discontinued. It was a special favor on this ummah that Allah preferred it over past nations and people.*

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Notes on passage 1 cont.

Commissioning Prophet Muhammad required the great Divine Power (*qudrah*) which nothing can frustrate, and from which nothing can escape however small or subtle it may be. To be part of Prophet's ummah is better than to be follower any other previous prophet. We have been asked to thank Allah for 4 blessing every morning. One of them is

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being part of the ummah of Prophet Muhammad (s). So we say regularly:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَنِي مِنْ أُمَّةٍ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ. Question: what are the other three blessings?

Passage 2 from Du'ā 2

فَخَتَمَ بِنَا عَلَى جَمِيعِ مَنْ ذَرَأَ، وَجَعَلَنَا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى مَنْ جَحَدَ، وَكَثَّرَنَا
بِمَنِّهِ عَلَى مَنْ قَلَّ

Chittick: He sealed through us all He created, appointed us witnesses over those who deny, and increased us by His kindness over those who are few.

9 Muhani: So He made us the final ones among all His creatures and appointed us witnesses against those who denied Him. By His Grace, He multiplied us over those that were few.

Notes on passage 2

Allah (swt) created us at the end of His creations which enabled us to witness the outcome of those who belied, challenged and denied the previous prophets. We have with us so many interesting and lesson deriving examples to learn and change from the events and stories of the Past prophets. Allah says in the Quran. See for example Q 11:49, 12:109; **30:9**, 42.

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Have they not traveled through the earth and observed how was the end of those before them? They were greater than them in power, and they plowed the earth and built it up more than they have built it up, and their messengers came to them with clear evidences.

Passage No. 3 from Du'ā 2

اللَّهُمَّ فَصِّلْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ أَمِينِكَ عَلَى وَحْيِكَ، وَنَجِّبِكَ مِنْ خَلْقِكَ،
وَصَفِيَّكَ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ، إِمَامَ الرَّحْمَةِ، وَقَائِدَ الْخَيْرِ، وَمِفْتَاحَ الْبَرَكَةِ

Chittick: O God, bless Muhammad, entrusted by You with Your revelation, distinguished by You among Your creatures, devoted to You among Your servants, the imam of mercy, the leader of good, the key to blessing,

11 Muhani: Therefore O God, bless Muhammad and the descendants of Muhammad, the trustee of Your Inspiration, the elect of Your creatures, the chosen one from Your servants, the master of grace, the leader of goodness, the key of affluence,

Notes on passage 3 - 1

Now the Imam enumerates the great qualities of Prophet Muhammad (s). (1) He was trustful regarding Divine revelation; that is why all Muslims believe that the Holy Quran is the verbatim word of Allah – nothing has been missed out, nor has the Prophet added anything from himself. When the revelation was stopped for some time, the enemy gloated over it and used to say that his God is upset with him. The Prophet still did not add anything from himself, instead he waited until Allah responded to the propaganda by revealing: *By the morning brightness, by the night when it is calm! Your Lord has neither forsaken you, nor is He displeased with you* (Q 94: 1-3).

Notes on passage 3 - 2

(2) Prophet Muhammad was a distinguished and select from His creation. Although he was a human being, but he possessed great and unmatched qualities, the like of which has never been witnessed. ‘Allāmah Tabātabā’ī states in his book *Sunan an-Nabī*, “Indeed, following in his (i.e. Prophet Muhammad) footsteps and adopting his traits is the true perfection and final goal and it is this that one can achieve success in this world and the next” (p. vii). (3) Chosen due to his devotion from among the servants of God. (4) The imam of mercy who was sent as *mercy to all the worlds* (Q 21:107). (5) The leader of the good and virtue who should be followed in all aspects of life style for he is the *best model and exemplar for those who look forward to Allah and the Last Day* (Q 33:21).

Notes on passage 3 - 3

(6) The key to Divine blessings. Even as a child he attracted God's blessings and bounties. We read in the books of Sīrah, "from the very day he entered Halima's house, good fortune and blessings entered with him. Her life, which had been filled with poverty and destitution, suddenly changed into a happy and prosperous one. The pale faces of Halima and her children became rosy and full of life. Her dry breasts swelled with milk, and the pasture of the sheep and camels of the region turned fresh and green (*A Glance at the Life of the Holy Prophet of Islam*, p. 21).

Simple Quiz on the *Sahīfa*

1. What is the meaning of *Al-Sahīfa al-Sajjadiyya*?
2. Why is it also known as *Al-Sahīfa al-kamilah*?
3. Give other three honorific titles given to this book?
4. How many Du'ās are included in the *Sahīfa*?
5. Why is it that some of the sites and publications only include 54 supplications in the *Sahīfa*?
6. Which Du'ās are recited regularly from the *Sahīfa*?
157. Which *Sahīfa* Du'ās are recited during Holy Ramadan?
8. What did the author do to ensure that the book reaches the Shī'ah world?
9. The experts of Hadith believe that the *Sahīfa* is *mutawatir*. What is meant by this?