



Du‘ā 49

**For Supplication in  
Repelling the Trickery of  
Enemies in the *Sahīfa* with  
two translations**



## Du'ā 49: For Supplication in Repelling the Trickery of Enemies in the *Sahifa* with two translations

Translation by Dr. William C. Chittick	Translation by Ahmad Ali Muhani	Text of the Du'ā in Arabic
<i>His Supplication in Repelling the Trickery of Enemies and Driving away their Severity</i>	<i>To avert the treachery of enemies and to ward off their violence</i>	وَكَانَ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فِي دِفَاعِ كَيْدِ الْأَعْدَاءِ، وَرَدِّ نَأْسِهِمْ
1. My God, You guided me but I diverted myself, You admonished me but my heart became hardened, You tried me graciously but I disobeyed. Then, when You caused me to know it, I came to know that from which You have turned (me) away, so I prayed forgiveness and You released, and I returned and You covered over. So Yours, my God is the praise!	1. My Lord You guided me and I neglected; You advised me and my heart grew hard; and You gave me handsome gifts and I disobeyed! Thereafter I realized what I had committed, when You caused me to know it. So, I begged pardon and You forgave. Then I repeated (the errors) and You concealed (them)! Therefore, my Lord, all praise is due unto You!	(1) إلهي هَدَيْتَنِي فَلَهَوْتُ، وَوَعظْتَ فَفَسَوْتُ، وَأَبْلَيْتَ الْجَمِيلَ فَعَصَيْتُ، ثُمَّ عَرَفْتُ مَا أَصْدَرْتَ إِذْ عَرَفْتَنِيهِ، فَاسْتَعْفَرْتُ فَأَقْلَتَ، فَعُدْتُ فَسَتَرْتَ، فَلَكَ إلهي الْحَمْدُ
2. I plunged into the valleys of destruction and settled in the ravines of ruin, exposing myself to Your punishments!	2. I plunged into the valleys of destruction and penetrated the ravines of ruin, wherein I exposed myself to Your wrath, and by entering which (I exposed myself) to Your chastisement:	(2) تَفَحَّمْتُ أُوْدِيَةَ الْهَلَاكِ، وَحَلَلْتُ شِعَابَ تَلْفٍ، تَعَرَّضْتُ فِيهَا لِسَطَوَاتِكَ وَبَجُلُوهَا عِقُوبَاتِكَ
3. My mediation with You is the profession of unity, my way of coming to You that I associate nothing with You, nor do I take along with You a god; I have fled to You with my soul – in You is the place of flight for the evil doer, the place of escape for him who has squandered the share of his soul and seeks asylum.	3. And my recommendation unto You, is my belief in Your Unity, and my intercession with You (the fact) that I never joined anything with You, and never took with You any other God: And verily, I have fled unto You with my soul, and toward You is the escape of the sinful, and the refuge of him who had wasted his fortune and was in search of shelter:	(3) وَوَسِيَلَتِي إِلَيْكَ التَّوْحِيدُ، وَذَرِيعَتِي أَيْ لَمْ أُشْرِكْ بِكَ شَيْئاً، وَلَمْ أَتَّخِذْ مَعَكَ إِلهًا، وَقَدْ فَرَزْتُ إِلَيْكَ بِنَفْسِي، وَإِلَيْكَ مَفَرُّ الْمُسِيءِ، وَمَمَرُّ الْمُضْيِعِ لِحِطِّ نَفْسِهِ الْمُلْتَجِي

<p>4. How many an enemy has unsheathed the sword of his enmity toward me, honed the cutting edge of his knife for me, sharpened the tip of his blade for me, mixed his killing potions for me, pointed toward me his straight flying arrows, not allowed the eye of his watchfulness to sleep toward me, and secretly thought of visiting me with something hateful and make me gulp down the bitter water of his bile!</p>	<p>4. Thus, many an enemy drew against me the sword of his enmity, and sharpened for me the edge of his knife and whetted for me the keenness of its edge, and mixed for me his most deadly poisons, and aimed at me his unfailing arrows, and his vigilant eye never ceased to watch me, and he resolved to inflict evil upon me, and make me drink its most bitter cup:</p>	<p>4 (4) فَكَمْ مِنْ عَدُوٍّ انْتَصَى عَلَيَّ سَيْفَ عَدَاوَتِهِ، وَشَحَدَ لِي ظُبَّةَ مُدْيَتِهِ، وَأَرْهَفَ لِي شَبَا حَدِّهِ، وَدَافَ لِي قَوَاتِلَ سُمُومِهِ، وَسَدَّدَ نُحُوي صَوَائِبَ سَهَامِهِ، وَلَمْ تَنَمْ عَيْنِي حِرَاسَتِهِ، وَأَضْمَرَ أَنْ يَسُومَنِي الْمَكْرُوهَ، وَيُجَرِّعَنِي زُعَاقَ مَرَارَتِهِ</p>
<p>5. So You looked, my God at my weakness in bearing oppressive burdens, my inability to gain victory over him who aims to war against me, and my being alone before the great numbers of him who is hostile toward me and lies in wait for me with an affliction about which I have no thought.</p>	<p>5. And You looked, my Lord, at my weakness to bear these heavy calamities, and my inability to take revenge from him who aimed at me his hostility, and my loneliness among the host of him who was hostile to me, and was awaiting an opportunity to inflict misery upon me which I had never thought of:</p>	<p>5 (5) فَتَنَظَّرْتَ يَا إِلَهِي إِلَى ضَعْفِي عَنِ احْتِمَالِ الْقَوَادِحِ، وَعَجْزِي عَنِ الْإِنْتِصَارِ مِمَّنْ قَصَدَنِي بِمُحَارَبَتِهِ، وَوَحْدَتِي فِي كَثِيرٍ عَدَدٍ مَن نَآوَانِي وَأَرْصَدَ لِي بِالْبَلَاءِ فِيمَا لَمْ أُعْمَلْ فِيهِ فِكْرِي</p>
<p>6. You set out at once to help me and You braced up my back! You blunted for me his blade, made him, after a great multitude, solitary, raised up my heel over him, and turned back upon him what he had pointed straight. So You sent him back, his rage not calmed, his burning thirst not quenched! Biting his fingers, he turned his back in flight, his columns having been of no use.</p>	<p>6. So, You took the initiative in helping me, and girdled me with Your strength; then, You rendered dull his keenness for me, and reduced him to singleness after his having possessed numerical strength; and gave me the upper hand over him and turned upon him the mischief he had prepared. Thus did You repelled him, his grudge unsatisfied and his rage uncalmed: Verily he bit his hands and beat a retreat, while his hosts deserted him!</p>	<p>6 (6) فَابْتَدَأْتَنِي بِنَصْرِكَ، وَشَدَّدْتَ أَرْزِي بِقُوَّتِكَ، ثُمَّ فَلَلْتَ لِي حَدَّهُ، وَصَيَّرْتَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ جَمْعٍ عَدِيدٍ وَحَدَّهُ وَأَعْلَيْتَ كَعْبِي عَلَيْهِ، وَجَعَلْتَ مَا سَدَّدَهُ مَرْدُوداً عَلَيْهِ، فَرَدَدْتَهُ لَمْ يَشْفِ عَيْظُهُ، وَلَمْ يَسْكُنْ غَلِيلُهُ، قَدْ عَضَّ عَلَى شَوَاهِ وَأَدْبَرَ مُؤَلِّيًّا قَدْ أَخْلَفَتْ سَرَايَاهُ</p>

<p>7. How many an oppressor has oppressed me with his tricks, set up for me the net of his snares, appointed over me the inspection of his regard and lay in ambush for me, the lying in ambush of a predator for its game, waiting to take advantage of its prey, while he showed me the smile of the flatterer and looked at me with the intensity of fury!</p>	<p>7. And many a traitor deceitfully rebelled against me, and set up his snares to entrap me, and set his searching vigilance to watch me, and lay in ambush for me like the beast of prey for his victim, waiting for the opportunity. And he put on for me the cheerfulness of flattery, while he regarded me with intense grudge.</p>	<p>(7) وَكَمْ مِنْ بَاغٍ بَعَانِي بِمَكَائِدِهِ، وَنَصَبَ لِي شَرَكًا مَصَائِدِهِ، وَوَكَّلَ بِي تَفَقُّدَ رِعَايَتِهِ، وَأَضْبَأَ إِلَيَّ إِضْبَاءَ السَّبْعِ لِطَرِيدَتِهِ انْتِظَارًا لَا تَنْتَهَازِ الْفُرْصَةَ لِفَرِيستِهِ، وَهُوَ يُظْهِرُ لِي بَشَاشَةَ الْمَلِكِ، وَيَنْظُرُنِي عَلَى شِدَّةِ الْحَقِّقِ</p>
<p>8. So when You saw, my God (blessed are You and high exalted) the depravity of his secret thoughts and the ugliness of what he harboured, You threw him on his head into his own pitfall and dumped him into the hole of his own digging. So he brought down low, after his over bearing, by the nooses of his own snare, wherein he had thought he would see me; and what came down upon his courtyard – had it not been for Your mercy – was on the point of coming down upon me!</p>	<p>8. So, when You saw O my Lord—blessed are You and exalted—the treachery of his nature and the evil of what he had conceived, You threw him headlong into his pit and drove him back to the depth of his abyss. Thus, after his obstinacy, he fell disgraced into his trap in which he had longed to see me: and the calamity which descended upon him, was very near descending upon me were it not for Your mercy!</p>	<p>(8) فَلَمَّا رَأَيْتَ يَا إِلَهِي تَبَارَكْتَ وَتَعَالَيْتَ دَخَلَ سَرِيرَتِهِ، وَقُبِحَ مَا انطَوَى عَلَيْهِ، أَرْكَسْتَهُ لِأَمِّ رَأْسِهِ فِي رُيْبَتِهِ، وَرَدَدْتَهُ فِي مَهْوَى حُفْرَتِهِ، فَأَنْقَمَعَ بَعْدَ اسْتِطَالَتِهِ ذَلِيلًا فِي رَبْقِ حَبَالَتِهِ الَّتِي كَانَ يُقَدِّرُ أَنْ يَرَانِي فِيهَا، وَقَدْ كَادَ أَنْ يَجُلَّ بِي لَوْ لَا رَحْمَتُكَ مَا حَلَّ بِسَاحَتِهِ</p>
<p>9. How many an envier has choked upon me in his agony, fumed over me in his rage, cut me with the edge of his tongue, showed malice toward me by accusing me of his own faults, made my good repute</p> <p>The target of his shots, collared me with his own constant defects, showed</p>	<p>9. And many an envious fellow got choked up on account of his wrath against me, and got suffocated owing to his rage at me, and harmed me with the keenness of his tongue, and slandered me by throwing out his aspersions, and made my honour a mark for his arrows, and put round my neck charges which perpetually clung to him. And</p>	<p>(9) وَكَمْ مِنْ حَاسِدٍ قَدْ شَرِقَ بِي بَعْصَتِهِ، وَشَجِيَ مِنِّي بَعْيْطِهِ، وَسَلَفَنِي بِحَدِّ لِسَانِهِ، وَوَحَرَنِي بِقَرْفِ عُيُوبِهِ، وَجَعَلَ عِرْضِي غَرَضًا لِمَرَامِيهِ، وَقَلَّدَنِي خِلَالًا لَمْ تَزَلْ فِيهِ، وَوَحَرَنِي بِكَيْدِهِ،</p>

malice toward me with his tricks!	bruised me with (the spear) of his treachery and made me the object of his deceit.	وَقَصَدَنِي بِمَكِيدَتِهِ
10. So I called upon You, my God, seeking aid from You, trusting in the speed of Your response, knowing that he who seeks haven in the shadow of Your wing will not be mistreated, and he who seeks asylum in the stronghold of Your victory will not be frightened. So You fortified me against his severity through Your power.	10. So I invoked You O my Lord, complaining unto You, trusting in the quickness of Your answer, knowing that he who took refuge under the shelter of Your protection could not be oppressed, and that he who took shelter in the stronghold of Your help could have no fear: and with Your power You defended me from his violence!	10) فَنَادَيْتُكَ يَا إِلَهِي مُسْتَعِيثًا بِكَ، وَاتِقًا بِسُرْعَةِ إِجَابَتِكَ، عَالِمًا أَنَّهُ لَا يُضْطَهَدُ مَنْ أَوَى إِلَى ظِلِّ كَنَفِكَ، وَلَا يَفْزَعُ مَنْ لَجَأَ إِلَى مَعْقِلِ انْتِصَارِكَ، فَحَصَّنْتَنِي مِنْ بَأْسِهِ بِقُدْرَتِكَ
11. How many a cloud of detested things You have dispelled from me, a cloud of favour You have made rain down upon me, a stream of mercy You have let flow, a wellbeing in which You have clothed me, an eye of mishap You has blinded, and a wrap of distress You have removed!	11. And many a cloud of evil did You disperse from me, and cloud of blessings did You cause to rain down on me, and river of mercy did You cause to flow, and safety did You clothe me with, and eye of accident did You render blind, and covering of distress did You remove!	11) وَكَمْ مِنْ سَحَابٍ مَكْرُوهٍ جَلَّيْتَهَا عَنِّي، وَسَحَابٍ نِعَمٍ أَمْطَرْتَهَا عَلَيَّ، وَجَدَاوِلِ رَحْمَةٍ نَشَرْتَهَا، وَعَافِيَةِ الْبَسْتَهَا، وَأَعْيُنِ أَحْدَاثٍ طَمَسْتَهَا، وَغَوَاشِي كُرْبَاتٍ كَشَفْتَهَا
12. How many a good opinion You have verified, a destitution You have redressed, an infirmity You have restored to health, and a misery You have transformed!	12. And many a hope did You turn out true, and want did You satisfy, and fall from which You raised, and indigence which You turned away!	12) وَكَمْ مِنْ ظَنٍّ حَسَنٍ حَقَّقْتَ، وَعَدَمٍ جَبَرْتَ، وَصِرَعَةٍ أَنْعَشْتَ، وَمَسْكَنَةٍ حَوَّلْتَ
13. All of that was favour and graciousness from You, and in all of it I was occupied with acts of disobeying You. My evil doing did not hinder You from completing Your beneficence, nor was I stopped from committing	13. You did all this by way of favour and graciousness on Your part, and throughout all this I persevered in disobeying You! My wickedness did not prevent You from accomplishing Your benevolence; nor did this restrain me from	13) كُلُّ ذَلِكَ إِنْعَامًا وَتَطَوُّلًا مِنْكَ، وَفِي جَمِيعِهِ ائْتَمَّاكَ مِنِّي عَلَى مَعَاصِيكَ، لَمْ تَمْنَعَكَ إِسَاءَتِي عَنْ إِتْمَامِ إِحْسَانِكَ، وَلَا حَجْرِي ذَلِكَ عَنْ ازْتِكَابِ

acts displeasing to You. You are not questioned as to what You dost!	committing things hated by You! You are not questioned about what You do!	مَسَاخِطِكَ، لَا تُسْأَلُ عَمَّا تَفْعَلُ
14. You were asked, and You bestowed. You were not asked, and You began. Your bounty was requested, and You did not skimp. You refused, my master, everything but beneficence, kindness, graciousness and favour and I refused everything but plunging into what You have made unlawful, transgressing Your bounds, and paying no heed to Your threat! So Yours is the praise, my God, the All-powerful who is not overcome, and the possessor of patient waiting who does not hurry!	14. And verily You are requested and give, and take the initiative even if not requested, and Your bounty was asked for and You did not stint! You did nothing, O my Lord, save goodness and benevolence, kindness and favour: and I did nothing except plunging into things prohibited by You, and transgressing Your limits, and neglecting Your threat! Therefore, all praise is due to You O Mighty who cannot be vanquished and O Possessor of patience who does not make haste!	14) وَلَقَدْ سُئِلْتَ فَأَعْطَيْتَ، وَلَمْ تُسْأَلْ فَابْتَدَأْتَ، وَاسْتُمِيعَ فَضْلُكَ فَمَا أَكْذَبْتَ، أَيْتَ يَا مَوْلَايَ إِلَّا إِحْسَانًا وَامْتِنَانًا وَتَطَوَّلًا وَإِنْعَامًا، وَأَبَيْتُ إِلَّا تَقْحُمًا لِحُرْمَاتِكَ، وَتَعَدَّيَا لِحُدُودِكَ، وَعَغْفَلَةً عَن وَعِيدِكَ، فَلَكَ الْحَمْدُ إِلَهِي مِنْ مُقْتَدِرٍ لَا يُغْلَبُ، وَذِي أُنَاةٍ لَا يَعْجَلُ
15. This is the station of one who confesses to lavishness of favours, counters them with shortcomings, and bears witness to his own negligence.	15. Such is the situation of him who acknowledges Your abundant favours, and who requited them with disobedience; and bears witness, against himself, of having squandered them.	15) هَذَا مَقَامٌ مَنِ اعْتَرَفَ بِسُبُوحِ النِّعَمِ، وَقَابَلَهَا بِالتَّقْصِيرِ، وَشَهِدَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ بِالتَّضْيِيعِ
16. O God, so I seek nearness to You through the elevated rank of Muhammad and the radiant degree of 'Alī, and I turn to You through them so that You will give me refuge from the evil of (so and so) [mention your enemy or adversary] for that will not constrain You in Your wealth, nor trouble You in Your power, and <i>You are powerful over everything!</i> (Q 3:26)	16. Therefore. O Lord I approach You through the sublime Creed of Mohammad and the Bright Faith of Ali; and pray to You, through them, to shelter me from the mischief of (such and such). For verily this is not difficult for You in Your opulence, nor hard upon You in Your power: and You have power over all things!	16) اللَّهُمَّ فَإِنِّي أَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيْكَ بِالْمُحَمَّدِيَّةِ الرَّفِيعَةِ، وَالْعَلَوِيَّةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ، وَأَتَوَجَّهُ إِلَيْكَ بِهَمَا أَنْ تُعِيدَنِي مِنْ شَرِّ كَذَا وَكَذَا، فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ لَا يَضِيْقُ عَلَيْكَ فِي وُجْدِكَ وَلَا يَتَكَادَّرُ فِي قُدْرَتِكَ وَأَنْتَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

17. So give me, my God, by Your mercy and Your lasting bestowal of success, that which I may take as a ladder with which to climb to Your good pleasure and be secure from Your punishment, O Most Merciful of the merciful!

17. Therefore, grant me, O my God, Your mercy, and Your perpetual grace, which I may lay hold of as a ladder, whereby I may climb to Your approbation, and whereby I may be safe from Your torment O most Merciful!

(17) فَهَبْ لِي يَا إِلَهِي مِنْ  
رَحْمَتِكَ وَدَوَامِ تَوْفِيقِكَ مَا أَتَّخِذُهُ  
سُلَّمًا أَعْرُجُ بِهِ إِلَى رِضْوَانِكَ،  
وَأَمِنُ بِهِ مِنْ عِقَابِكَ، يَا أَرْحَمَ  
الرَّاحِمِينَ