



Du‘ā 51

**Supplication in Pleading
and Abasement in the
Sahīfa with two translations**



Du'ā 51: Supplication in Pleading and Abasement 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 Supplication in Pleading and Abasement</i>	<i>His Prayer in Meekness and Humility</i>	وَكَانَ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فِي التَّضَرُّعِ وَالِاسْتِكَانَةِ
1. My God, I praise You, - and You are worthy of praise- for Your benefaction toward me, the lavishness of Your favours toward me, and Your plentiful bestowal upon me, and for showing bounty toward me through Your mercy and lavishing Your favour upon me. You have done well toward me and I am incapable of thanking You.	1. My God, I praise You and You are worthy of praise for Your benevolence to me, for accomplishing Your favour upon me and Your abundant gifts which I have, for the excellence You have given me out of Your Mercy and for Your blessings on me which You have accomplished. For verily, You have done me the goodness for which I cannot thank You enough.	(1) إِلَهِي أَحْمَدُكَ وَأَنْتَ لِلْحَمْدِ أَهْلٌ عَلَى حُسْنِ صَنِيعِكَ إِلَيَّ، وَسُبُوغِ نِعْمَائِكَ عَلَيَّ، وَجَزِيلِ عَطَائِكَ عِنْدِي، وَعَلَى مَا فَضَّلْتَنِي بِهِ مِنْ رَحْمَتِكَ، وَأَسْبَعْتَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ نِعْمَتِكَ، فَقَدْ اصْطَنَعْتَ عِنْدِي مَا يَعْجِزُ عَنْهُ شُكْرِي
2. Were it not for Your beneficence toward me and the lavishness of Your favours upon me, I would not have reached the taking of my share nor would my soul have been set right, but You began with beneficence toward me, provided me sufficiency in all my affairs, turned away from me the toil of affliction, and held back from me the feared decree.	2. Were it not for Your goodness to me and the perfection of Your favors to me, I would neither have achieved the acquisition of my share, nor the reformation of my soul. But You did take the initiative in doing good to me. Gave me help in all my affairs and did turn away from me the bitterness of calamity and did keep off from me a dreadful doom.	(2) وَلَوْ لَا إِحْسَانُكَ إِلَيَّ وَسُبُوغُ نِعْمَائِكَ عَلَيَّ مَا بَلَغْتُ إِحْرَارَ حَظِّي، وَلَا إِصْلَاحَ نَفْسِي، وَلَكِنَّكَ ابْتَدَأْتَنِي بِالْإِحْسَانِ، وَرَزَقْتَنِي فِي أُمُورِي كُلِّهَا الْكِفَايَةَ، وَصَرَفْتَ عَنِّي جَهْدَ الْبَلَاءِ، وَمَنْعْتَ مِنِّي مَحْدُورَ الْقَضَاءِ
3. My God, how many a toilsome affliction which You have turned away from me! How many a lavish favour with which You have	3. My Lord, thus many a bitter calamity did You turn away from me and accomplished many a favour	(3) إِلَهِي فَكَمْ مِنْ بَلَاءٍ جَاهِدٍ قَدْ صَرَفْتَ عَنِّي، وَكَمْ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ

gladdened my eye! How many a generous benefaction of Yours which is present with me!	with which You did cool my eye. Many a noble gift from You do I possess.	سَابِعَةَ أَفْرَرْتَ بِهَا عَيْنِي، وَكَمَّ مِنْ صَنِيعَةٍ كَرِيمَةٍ لَكَ عِنْدِي
4. It is You who responded to my supplication at the time of distress, released me from my slip in stumbling, and took my enemies to task for doing wrong to me.	4. It is You who answered my prayer in my helplessness, and forgave my error when I erred And took for me my due from my enemies.	4 أَنْتَ الَّذِي أَجَبْتَ عِنْدَ الإِضْطِرَارِ دَعْوَتِي، وَأَقْلْتَ عِنْدَ الْعِتَارِ زَلَّتِي، وَأَخَذْتَ لِي مِنَ الْأَعْدَاءِ بِظُلَامَتِي
5. My God, I did not find You a miser when I asked of You nor a withholder when I desired from You. No, I found You a hearer of my supplication and a bestower of my requests; I found Your favours toward me lavish in my every situation and in my every time. So You are praised by me and Your benefaction honoured.	5. I never found You parsimonious when I begged of You nor morose when I resolved (to pray unto) You. Nay, I always found You a listener to my prayers and a grantor of my requests. I found Your Favours on me perfect in every one of my conditions and every moment of my life. Therefore, to my belief, You are praiseworthy and Your goodness to me is vast.	5 إلهي ما وجدتك بخيلاً حين سألتك ولا منقبضاً حين أردتُك، بل وجدتك لدعائي سامِعاً، ولمطالبي مُعْطِياً، ووجدتُ نِعْمَكَ عَلَيَّ سَابِعَةً فِي كُلِّ شَأْنٍ مِنْ شَأْنِي وَكُلِّ زَمَانٍ مِنْ زَمَانِي، فَأَنْتَ عِنْدِي مَحْمُودٌ، وَصَنِيعُكَ لَدَيَّ مَبْرُورٌ
6. My soul, my tongue, and my intelligence praise You, a praise that reaches fulfilment and the reality of thanksgiving, a praise that attains to Your good pleasure with me – so deliver me from Your displeasure!	6. My conscience, my tongue and my reason praise You—a praise which may express loyalty and real gratitude, a praise that would be adequate to Your Approbation of me. Therefore, deliver me from Your Wrath,	6 تَحْمَدُكَ نَفْسِي وَلِسَانِي وَعَقْلِي، حَمْدًا يَبْلُغُ الْوَفَاءَ وَحَقِيقَةَ الشُّكْرِ، حَمْدًا يَكُونُ مَبْلَغَ رِضَاكَ عَنِّي، فَنَجِّنِي مِنْ سُخْطِكَ
7. O my cave when the ways thwart me! O He who releases me from my stumble! Were it not for Your covering my shameful defects, I would be one of the disgraced. O my confirmer through help!	7. O my defender, when the paths perplex me. O forgiver of my error, were You not to cover my nakedness, verily I would have been of the disgraced. O my supporter with Your Help, were there not Your Help for me, verily	7 يَا كَهْفِي حِينَ تُعِينِي الْمَدَاهِبُ وَيَا مُقِيلِي عَثْرَتِي، فَلَوْ لَا سَتْرُكَ عَوْرَتِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمَفْضُوحِينَ، وَيَا مُؤَيِّدِي

<p>Were it not for Your helping me, I would be one of the overcome! O He before whom kings place the yoke of lowliness around their necks, fearing His penalties! O worthy of reverent fear! O He <i>to whom belong the names most beautiful!</i> (Q 20:8) I ask You to pardon me and to forgive me, for I am not innocent that I should offer excuses, nor a possessor of strength that I should gain victory, nor have I any place of flight that I should flee!</p>	<p>I would have been of the vanquished. O You before whom the kings put the yoke of humility on their necks and of whose wrath they are afraid. O acceptor of piety. O Possessor of beautiful names. I beg of You to forgive me and pardon me for I am not innocent so as to make excuse, nor possessor of strength so as to seek redress. There is no escape for me so that I may run away.</p>	<p>بِالنَّصْرِ، فَلَوْ لَا نَصْرُكَ إِيَّايَ لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمَغْلُوبِينَ، وَيَا مَنْ وَضَعْتَ لَهُ الْمُلُوكَ نِيرَ الْمَدَلَّةِ عَلَى أَعْنَاقِهَا، فَهُمْ مِنْ سَطَوَاتِهِ خَائِفُونَ، وَيَا أَهْلَ التَّقْوَى، وَيَا مَنْ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى، أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفُو عَنِّي، وَتَغْفِرَ لِي فَلَسْتُ بَرِيئاً فَأَعْتَذِرُ، وَلَا بِيَدِي قُوَّةٌ فَأَنْتَصِرُ، وَلَا مَفَرٌّ لِي فَأَفِرُّ.</p>
<p>8. I ask You to release me from my stumbles, and before You I disavow my sins, which have laid me waste, encompassed me, and destroyed me! I flee from them to You, my Lord, turning repentantly, so turn toward me, seeking refuge, so grant me refuge, asking sanctuary, so abandon me not, requesting, so deprive me not, holding fast, so leave me not, supplicating, so send me not back disappointed!</p>	<p>8. I ask of You forgiveness for my errors. (I) apologize unto You for my sins which have undone me and have besieged and thus ruined me. From them I flee toward You, O Lord, repenting; therefore, accept my penitence. Seeking shelter; therefore, shelter me; desiring refuge; therefore, do not forsake me; begging; therefore, do not disappoint me. Seeking protection; therefore, do not abandon me. Praying, therefore, do not turn me away hopeless.</p>	<p>8) وَأَسْتَقِيلُكَ عَثْرَاتِي، وَأَتَنَصَّلُ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِي الَّتِي قَدْ أَوْبَقْتَنِي، وَأَحَاطَتْ بِي فَأَهْلَكْتَنِي، مِنْهَا فَرَرْتُ إِلَيْكَ رَبِّ تَائِباً فَتُبْ عَلَيَّ، مُتَعَوِّذاً فَاعْذِنِي، مُسْتَجِيراً فَلَا تَخْذُلْنِي، سَائِلاً فَلَا تَحْرِمْنِي مُعْتَصِماً فَلَا تُسَلِّمْنِي، دَاعِياً فَلَا تَرُدَّنِي خَائِباً</p>
<p>9. I have supplicated You, my Lord as one miserable, abased, apprehensive, fearful, quaking, poor, driven to have recourse to You!</p>	<p>9. I cry unto You, O Lord, in misery, humility, terror, fear, dread, poverty. I turn to You in helplessness.</p>	<p>9) دَعَوْتُكَ يَا رَبِّ مِسْكِيناً، مُسْتَكِيناً، مُشْفِقاً، خَائِفاً، وَجِلاً، فَقِيراً، مُضْطَرّاً إِلَيْكَ .</p>
<p>10. I complain to You, My God of my soul – which is too weak to hurry to that</p>	<p>10. I complain unto You, O my God, that my soul is too weak to be quick to win that</p>	<p>10) أَشْكُو إِلَيْكَ يَا إلهي</p>

<p>which You have promised Your friends or to avoid that against which You have cautioned Your enemies –</p> <p>And of the multitude of my concerns, and of my soul's confusing thoughts.</p>	<p>which You have promised Your friends and to avoid that with which You have threatened Your enemies.</p> <p>I complain of the abundance of my anxieties and misgivings of my soul.</p>	<p>ضَعَفَ نَفْسِي عَنِ الْمُسَارَعَةِ فِيمَا وَعَدْتَهُ أَوْلِيَاءَكَ، وَالْمُجَانِبَةَ عَمَّا حَذَرْتَهُ أَعْدَاءَكَ، وَكَثْرَةَ هُمُومِي، وَوَسْوَاسَةَ نَفْسِي</p>
<p>11. My God, You have not disgraced me through my secret thoughts or destroyed me because of my misdeeds! I call upon You and You respond, even if I am slow when You call upon me. I ask You everything I want of my needs, and I deposit with You my secret wherever I may be. I supplicate no one besides You and I hope for no one other than You.</p>	<p>11. My God, You did not disgrace me on account of my secret intention. (You) did not destroy me for my transgression. I invoke You and You answer me even though I be slow to obey when You call me. I beg of You everything I want. Wherever I be, I disclose my secret unto You. For, I do not invoke anyone besides You, nor do I entertain hope from any other than You.</p>	<p>(11) إِلَهِي لَمْ تَفْضَحْنِي بِسِرِّي، وَلَمْ تُهْلِكْنِي بِجُرَيْرِي، أَدْعُوكَ فَتُجِيبُنِي وَإِنْ كُنْتُ بَطِيئًا حِينَ تَدْعُونِي، وَأَسْأَلُكَ كُلَّمَا شِئْتُ مِنْ حَوَائِجِي، وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُ وَضَعْتُ عِنْدَكَ سِرِّي، فَلَا أَدْعُو سِوَاكَ، وَلَا أَرْجُو غَيْرَكَ</p>
<p>12. At Your service! At Your service! You hear him who complains to You! You receive him who has confidence in You! You save him who holds fast to You! You give relief to him who seeks shelter in You!</p>	<p>12. I am ready! I am ready at Your call! You listen to whomsoever complains unto You, attend to him who trusts in You, deliver him who seeks protection from You and turn away evil from him who begs of You refuge.</p>	<p>(12) لَبَّيْكَ لَبَّيْكَ، تَسْمَعُ مَنْ شَكَا إِلَيْكَ، وَتَلْقَى مَنْ تَوَكَّلَ عَلَيْكَ، وَتُخَلِّصُ مَنْ اعْتَصَمَ بِكَ، وَتُفَرِّجُ عَمَّنْ لَادَ بِكَ</p>
<p>13. My God, so deprive me not of the good of the last world and the first because of the paucity of my thanksgiving and forgive me the sins of mine which You know!</p>	<p>13. Therefore, do not deprive me of the good of the subsequent world and the previous, for meagreness of my gratitude. Forgive me what You know of my sins.</p>	<p>(13) إِلَهِي فَلَا تَحْرِمْنِي حَيْرَ الْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَى لِقَلَّةِ شُكْرِي، وَاعْفِرْ لِي مَا تَعْلَمُ مِنْ ذُنُوبِي</p>
<p>14. If You chastise, I am the wrong doer, the neglecter, the negligent, the sinner, the derelict, the sluggard, the heedless of the share of my</p>	<p>14. If You do chastise me, I admit, I am the unjust, the defaulter, the squander, the sinner, the delinquent, the one wanting in obedience, the</p>	<p>(14) إِنْ تُعَذِّبْ فَأَنَا الظَّالِمُ الْمُفْرِطُ الْمُضْيِعُ الْآثِمُ الْمُقْصِرُ</p>

soul! And if You forgive -
You are the Most Merciful
of the merciful!

negligent of my soul's benefit.
If You do forgive me, verily,
You are the Most Merciful!

الْمُضَجِّعُ الْمَغْفِلُ حَظَّ نَفْسِي،
وَإِنْ تَعْفِرْ فَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ