

Explanation of Du‘ā 17 from the *Sabifa* (part 1)¹

(translation by William Chittick. Alternative tr by Sayyid Ahmad Muhani - SAM)

وَكَانَ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ إِذَا ذَكَرَ الشَّيْطَانَ فَاسْتَعَاذَ مِنْهُ وَمِنْ عَدَاوَتِهِ وَكَيْدِهِ

His supplication when Satan was mentioned so he sought refuge from him and from his enmity and trickery

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ نَزَعَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ وَكَيْدِهِ وَمَكَائِدِهِ وَمَكَائِدِهِ، وَمِنْ الثَّقَةِ بِأَمَانِيهِ وَمَوَاعِيدِهِ وَغُرُورِهِ وَمَصَائِدِهِ وَمَصَائِدِهِ. وَأَنْ يُطْمَعَ نَفْسَهُ فِي إِضْلَالِنَا عَنْ طَاعَتِكَ، وَامْتِهَانِنَا بِمَعْصِيَتِكَ، أَوْ أَنْ يَحْسُنَ عِنْدَنَا مَا حَسَّنَ لَنَا، أَوْ أَنْ يَثْقُلَ عَلَيْنَا مَا كَرِهَ إِلَيْنَا.

1) O Allah! we seek refuge in You from the instigations of the accursed Satan, his trickery, and his traps, from trust in his false hopes, his promises, his delusions, and his snares,

2) and lest he should make himself crave to lead us away from Your obedience and to degrade us through our disobeying You, and lest what he beautifies for us seem good for us and what he abhors for us weighs down upon us.

- Use of *allahumma* (O Allah) as it appears in the HQ as well as in many Du‘ās. He uses it 14 times in this supplication, to emphasize that Allah alone is the best solution to our problems; He should be our focus at all times.
- Use of plural tense, for satan misleads one and all as he is enemy of humanity
- Taking refuge in Allah’s protection is way to remain safe from the mischief of Shaytān. My teacher on why we remember Allah, even in washrooms.
- Satan instigates, tricks & traps the believers; each of this is harmful for us
- How does he mislead? Thru: false hopes, wrong promises, deception & snares
- Imam is praying against all minor or major means employed by Satan
- He thrives on our weakness; so if we’re resolute he will withdraw
- He wishes that we stay away Allah’s obedience (إِضْلَالِنَا عَنْ طَاعَتِكَ)- one reason why we pray at least 10 times in al-Fatiha: *not the path of those who have gone astray*
- Disobeying Allah degrades us but it pleases Satan. He’s directly opposed to all Godly actions & achieving Divine pleasure
- Do not judge on the face value what seems beautiful or detesting to you. In most cases this is satanic trap. Use God-given intelligence to judge & decide course of action to follow. This entails reflection & pondering.

¹ Explanatory notes prepared by H. Kassamali for ALI 137 June 2008

اللَّهُمَّ احْسَأْهُ عَنَّا بِعِبَادَتِكَ، وَكَبِّتْهُ بِدُؤْبَانَا فِي مَحَبَّتِكَ، وَاجْعَلْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُ سِتْرًا لَا يَهْتِكُهُ، وَرَدْمًا مُصَمِّمًا لَا يَفْتُتُهُ.

3) O Allah, drive him away from us through Your worship, throw him down through our perseverance in Your love, and place between him and us a covering that he cannot tear away and a solid barrier that he cannot cut through!

- Again Imam uses plural form- ‘drive him away from us.’ His presence amongst us is dangerous and a liability to all; satan is ‘cancerous’ being
- Now Imam provides us specific ways to drive away Satan: Divine worship, perseverance in Divine love, and building strong veil & solid barrier
- Divine worship & devotion (*ibadah*) is a wide concept: specific prayers, supplications, *dhikr*, and doing all things that pleases Allah.
- It is important that we learn to develop Divine love. HQ uses numerous times that Allah loves certain things and does not love some practices.
- One way of erecting a veil is thru reciting the Qur’an. Ref 17:45

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَاشْغَلْهُ عَنَّا بِبَعْضِ أَعْدَائِكَ، وَاعْصِمْنَا مِنْهُ بِحُسْنِ رِعَايَتِكَ، وَاكْفِنَا خَيْرَهُ، وَوَلِّنَا ظَهْرَهُ، واقطع عَنَّا إِثْرَهُ.

4) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, distract Satan from us with some of Your enemies, preserve us from him through Your good guarding, spare us his treachery, turn his back toward us, and cut off from us his trace!

- Invoking blessing on Muhammad & family is an assurance to supplication being accepted according to a Hadith.
- The Imam invokes *salawat* numerous times in the *Sahifa* (e.g. 20 x in Du‘ā 20) to, perhaps, let the enemy know that your efforts of annihilating the Prophet’s progeny (in Karbala) was futile & temporary.
- Let your enemy (not your friend) deal with Satan. Who got rid of Saddam?
- Divine guarding & protection is always good, trust worthy & enduring
- ‘And preserve/defend/protect us’ (وَاعْصِمْنَا). Each of us have an inherent potential to stay away from evil & satanic insinuations. Imam Ali says in Du‘ā Kumayl اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي الذُّنُوبَ الَّتِي تَهْتِكُ الْعِصْمَ – O Allah, forgive my those sins that tear off my protective veil). So Ma’sūmīn are those who have safeguarded their *‘ismah*.
- Again the Imam prays against satan’s treachery, ability to face us and even his traces and effects – referring to his agents and lasting effects of his actions.
- Satan is your enemy, so take him as your enemy (Q 35:6)

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَأَمْتِعْنَا مِنَ الْهُدَى بِمِثْلِ ضَلَالَتِهِ، وَزَوِّدْنَا مِنَ التَّقْوَى ضِدَّ غَوَايَتِهِ،
وَأَسْأَلُكَ بِنَا مِنَ التَّقَى خِلَافَ سَبِيلِهِ مِنَ الرَّدَى.

5) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, give us to enjoy guidance the like of his misguidance, increase us in piety against his seduction, and make us walk in reverential fear contrary to his path of ruin!

- Satan traps us thru various attractions & joy. No wonder that the Imam prays, “let us enjoy the guidance the like of his misguidance.”
- We need to explore on how to get attracted to guidance & enjoy it.
- For every satanic seduction, we should pray for *taqwa*, for that alone is the best response to satan and his mischiefs & whisperings
- ‘Reverential fear,’ (*al-tuqa* same root word as *taqwa*) is the path to tread instead of walking in the footsteps of satan. Ref Q 2:208, & 2:268.

اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَجْعَلْ لَهُ فِي قُلُوبِنَا مَدْخَلًا وَلَا تُؤْتِنَنَّ لَهُ فِيمَا لَدَيْنَا مَنْزِلًا.

6) O Allah! assign him no place of entrance into our hearts and do not allow him to make his home in that which is with us!

- There should not be any room for satan in our hearts. Why? Imam al-Saādiq has said: *الْقَلْبُ حَرَمُ اللَّهِ، فَلَا تُسْكِنُ حَرَمَ اللَّهِ غَيْرَ اللَّهِ* – *the heart is the sanctuary of Allah, so let none settles in the Allah’s sanctuary other than Allah.*
- Heart is the place where satan settles to mislead us. In Arabic *qalb* is seat for both emotions and thoughts in our minds. This means that evil thoughts and emotional outpours in us is on account of satanic insigations.

اللَّهُمَّ وَمَا سَوَّلَ لَنَا مِنْ بَاطِلٍ فَعَرِّفْنَا، وَإِذَا عَرَّفْتَنَاهُ فَقِنَاهُ، وَبَصِّرْنَا مَا نُكَايِدُهُ بِهِ، وَأَلْهِمْنَا مَا نُعِدُّهُ لَهُ، وَأَيِّقْظُنَا عَنْ سِنَةِ الْغَفْلَةِ بِالرُّكُونِ إِلَيْهِ، وَأَحْسِنْ بِتَوْفِيقِكَ عَوْنَنَا عَلَيْهِ.

7) O Allah! cause us to recognize the falsehood with which he tempts us, and once You have caused us to recognize it, protect us from it! Make us see what will allow us to outwit him, inspire us with all that we can to prepare for [fighting against] him, awaken us from the heedless slumber of relying upon him, and help us well, through Your giving success, against him!

- It is essential to have the ability to separate falsehood from truth. Let not Satan confuse us in this regard by tempting us towards falsehood (*bātil*).
- We need to have the *ma‘rifah* of truth, i.e. enough knowledge and understanding to face the satanic misguidings.
- Not only should we have the *ma‘rifah* but we need to retain it, to be able to implement when required.

- We pray for the insight (*basīrah*) to outwit and win over satan.
- We also pray for Divine inspiration (*ilhām*)
- Muslims never rely and trust Satan – it shows their heedless slumber
- Divine help and success (*tanfīq*) needed against Satan & his trickery.

اللَّهُمَّ وَأَشْرِبْ قُلُوبَنَا إِنْكَارَ عَمَلِهِ، وَالطُّفَّ لَنَا فِي نَقْضِ حِيلِهِ.

8) O Allah! saturate our hearts with the rejection of his works and be gentle to us by destroying his stratagems! (SAM: Be gracious to us in breaking his devices)

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَحَوِّلْ سُلْطَانَهُ عَنَّا، وَقَطِّعْ رَجَاءَهُ مِنَّا، وَاذْرَأْهُ عَنِ الْوُلُوعِ بِنَا.

9) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, turn his authority away from us, cut off his hope from us, and keep him (away) from craving for us!

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَاجْعَلْ آبَاءَنَا وَأُمَّهَاتِنَا وَأَوْلَادَنَا وَأَهَالِينَا وَذَوِي أَرْحَامِنَا وَقَرَابَاتِنَا وَجِيرَانَنَا مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ مِنْهُ فِي حِزْرِ حَارِزٍ، وَحِصْنٍ حَافِظٍ، وَكَهْفٍ مَانِعٍ، وَالْبِسْتُمْ مِنْهُ جُنًّا وَقِيَّةً، وَأَعْطِهِمْ عَلَيْهِ أَسْلِحَةً مَاضِيَةً.

10) O Allah! bless Muhammad and his Household, and place our fathers/ancestors, our mothers, our children, our wives, our siblings, our relatives, and the faithful among our neighbours, male and female, in a sanctuary impregnable to him, a guarding fortress, a defending cave! Clothe them in shields protective against him and give them arms that will cut him down!

اللَّهُمَّ وَاغْمُمْ بِذَلِكَ مَنْ شَهِدَ لَكَ بِالرُّبُوبِيَّةِ، وَأَخْلَصَ لَكَ بِالْوَحْدَانِيَّةِ، وَعَادَاهُ لَكَ بِحَقِيقَةِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَاسْتَظْهَرَ بِكَ عَلَيْهِ فِي مَعْرِفَةِ الْعُلُومِ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ.

11) O Allah! include in that everyone who witnesses to You as Lord, devotes himself sincerely to Your Unity, shows enmity toward him through the reality of servanthood, and seeks help from You against him through knowledge of the divine sciences!

- Satan is your enemy, so take him as your enemy (Q 35:6)

اللَّهُمَّ احْلُلْ مَا عَقَدَ، وَافْتُقْ مَا رَتَّقَ، وَافْسَحْ مَا دَبَّرَ، وَتَبِّطْهُ إِذَا عَزَمَ، وَانْقُضْ مَا أَبْرَمَ.

12) O Allah! undo what he ties, unstitch what he sews up, dislocate what he devises, frustrate him when he makes up his mind, and destroy what he establishes!

اللَّهُمَّ وَاهْزِمِ جُنْدَهُ، وَأَبْطِلْ كَيْدَهُ وَاهْدِمِ كَهْفَهُ، وَأَرْغِمِ أَنْفَهُ.

13) O Allah! rout his troops, nullify his trickery, make his cave collapse, and rub his nose in the ground!

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنَا فِي نَظْمِ أَعْدَائِهِ، وَاعْزِلْنَا عَنْ عِدَادِ أَوْلِيَّائِهِ، لِأَنْطِيعَ لَهُ إِذَا اسْتَهْوَانَا، وَلَا نَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِذَا دَعَانَا، نَأْمُرُ بِمَنْوَاتِهِ، مَنْ أَطَاعَ أَمْرَنَا، وَنَعِظُ عَنْ مُتَابَعَتِهِ مَنْ اتَّبَعَ زَجْرَنَا.

14) O Allah! place us in the ranks of his enemies and remove us from the number of his friends, that we obey him not when he entices us and answer him not when he calls to us! We command everyone who obeys our command to be his enemy and we admonish everyone who follows our prohibition not to follow him!

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ وَسَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَعَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَأَعِدْنَا وَأَهْلِيْنَا وَإِخْوَانَنَا وَجَمِيعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ مِمَّا اسْتَعَدْنَا مِنْهُ، وَأَجْرْنَا مِمَّا اسْتَجْرْنَا بِكَ مِنْ خَوْفِهِ وَاسْمَعْ لَنَا مَا دَعَوْنَا بِهِ، وَأَعْطِنَا مَا أَعْفَلْنَا، وَاحْفَظْ لَنَا مَا نَسِينَاهُ، وَصَيِّرْنَا بِذَلِكَ فِي دَرَجَاتِ الصَّالِحِينَ وَمَرَاتِبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، آمِينَ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

15) O Allah! bless Muhammad, the Seal of the prophets and lord of the emissaries, and the folk of his house, the good, the pure! Give refuge to us, our families, our brothers, and all the faithful, male and female, from that from which we seek refuge, and grant us sanctuary from that through fear of which we seek sanctuary in You!

16) Hear our supplication to You, bestow upon us that of which we have been heedless, and safeguard for us what we have forgotten! Through all this bring us into the ranks of the righteous and the degrees of the faithful! Amen, Lord of the worlds!