



ALI 687: Role of *Salawāt* in *Sahīfah Sajjādiyyah*

We will look at the numerous occurrences of *salawāt* in the *Sahīfah* and the possible role of *salawāt* in the social, political, and spiritual lives of Muslims.

Al-Mahdi Islamic Centre, London, ON

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Du'ā before beginning a class or a lecture

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ * اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ. اللَّهُمَّ
وَفِّقْنَا لِمَا نُحِبُّ وَتَرْضَى، وَلَا تَكِلْنَا إِلَى أَنْفُسِنَا طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ أَبَدًا. اللَّهُمَّ
أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْ ظُلُمَاتِ الْوَهْمِ، وَآكْرِمْنَا بِنُورِ الْفَهْمِ. اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا
أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ، وَأَنْشُرْ عَلَيْنَا خَزَائِنَ عُلُومِكَ. بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ
الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

In the name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. O Allah, grant us the success in (thinking, saying and doing) that which You love and are pleased with. And never leave us to ourselves for the blink of an eye. O Allah: remove from us the darkness of doubt (and error) and favor us with the light of understanding. O Allah: open for us the doors of Your mercy and unfold for us the treasures of Your knowledge. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا

Once a person passed by Imam Hasan al-‘Askari (a) and saw him in tears while he was with fellow children. The man thought that the Imam cried for not having toys like other children. The man offered the Imam to get him toys. The young Imam said, ‘*No! We have not been created for play.*’ The man was astonished and said, ‘Then, what for we have been created?’ The child said, ‘*For knowledge and worship.*’ The man asked the child, ‘Where have you got this from?’ The child said, ‘*From this saying of Allah: **What! Did you then think that We had created you in vain** (Q 23:115).*

The man was astonished and confused. He said to the child, ‘What has happened to you while you are still a sinless little child?’

The child said, ‘Be away from me! I have seen my mother set fire to big pieces of firewood, but fire is not lit except with small pieces, and I fear that I shall be from the small pieces of the firewood of the Hell.’

Faith in Allah was a part of, and a distinguishing element of Imam Al-‘Askari (a). He did not fear but Allah, and this trait remained in him until the last moment of his life. (al-Qurashi, *The Life of Imam al-Hasan al-‘Askari*, p. 21)

Let us count the number of salawāt in Du'ā 20

- 1, What do you know about this Du'ā?
- 2, How many ethical lessons can you list from this Du'ā?
- 3, At your convenience, try to listen to lectures on this Du'ā on YouTube. During my days in the Hawzah, one of our Akhlāq teachers gave 60 lectures on this Du'ā.
- 4, How many salawāt did you find in the entire Du'ā?
- 5, why so many salawāt within one Du'ā?

Total number of salawāt in the *Sahīfah*

The *Sahīfah* has 83 supplications. 54 are considered as the core supplications which are found in all six editions of the *Sahīfah*.

Here is the info on number of salawāt in the first 54 Du'ās:

209 salawāt appear in the 54 Du'ās

Two Du'ās (#20 & 47) have 20 and 21 salawāt respectively

Three Du'ās (#5, 37 & 42) have between 10 – 20 salawāt.

Eleven Du'ās (#6, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24, 27, 31, 44 & 47) have between 5 – 10 salawāt.

Eight Du'ās (#1, 3, 25, 28, 49, 50, 51 & 53) in the *Sahīfa* do not contain any salawāt. These Du'ās are for: Praising & laudation of Allah (#1), Bearers of Throne & Close Angels (#3), his Children (#25), Fleeing to Allah (#28), Repelling the trickery of enemies (#49), Fear (#50), Pleading & abasing to Allah (#51) and Abasing before Allah (#53)

Possible reasons for so many salawāt

1. One of the roles of Imam al-Sajjad (a) after Karbala was to unite the Shī'ah who were scattered the way beads of rosary when the string breaks. He did through 'azā and Du'ās of Sahīfah; salawāt is part of this efforts.
2. To counter the plots of the enemies who worked hard to eliminate the family of the Prophet (s), especially in Karbala. One of the Mustahabāt of the Day of Ashura is to recite as many salawāt as possible
3. Implementing the Hadith which advises us to say salawāt before and after supplications
4. The progeny of the Holy Prophet (s) deserves our blessings because they showed us the *ma'rifah* of Islam.
5. Great emphasis of saying salawāt in the Quran (33:56) and Hadith.
6. Mu'minīn can join in reciting the salawāt.

ارفعوا اصواتكم بالصلاة عليّ فإنها تذهب بالنفاق

Holy Prophet ﷺ on Salawāt

Holy Prophet (s): One who recites thus - May Allah send salutations (salawāt) on Muhammad and his progeny, then Allah, the Almighty says - salutations on you (for reciting thus), then increase your salutations on Muhammad and his progeny. As for the one who invokes salutation on Muhammad but not his progeny, will be deprived of the fragrance of Paradise and its fragrance can be sensed from a distance of five hundred years. [*Al-Āmālī* of Shaikh Sadūq (r) p 379; *Al-Āmālī* of Shaikh Tūsī (r) p 424,813; *Wasā'il al Shia* v.16, p. 335]

Holy Prophet (s) said: “I will stand near Mīzān on the Day of Judgment. If I see a person whose sins are more than his good deeds, I will keep the salutations (salawāt) recited on me by him in the pan of good deeds and make it tilt in his favor.” (*Thawāb al-A'māl*, page 203)

قَالَ النَّبِيُّ ص: مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ مَرَّةً فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ بَاباً مِنَ الْعَافِيَةِ

Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq عليه السلام on salawāt

Imām Ja'far ibn Muhammad al-Sādiq (a) said: “Do you want that I teach you a thing by which your face remains safe from the fire of Hell?” “Yes,” he replied. Imām said, “Recite: *Allaahumma swalli 'alaa muhammadinw wa aali muhammad*, a hundred times after Morning Prayer so that the Almighty Allah keeps your face safe from the fire of Hell.” (*Thawāb al-A'māl*, page 203)

عَنْ الصَّادِقِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ: أَنَّ الصَّلَاةَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْجُمُعَةِ تَعْدِلُ
أَلْفَ حَسَنَةٍ وَتَمْحُو أَلْفَ سَيِّئَةٍ وَتَرْفَعُ أَلْفَ دَرَجَةٍ وَيَسْتَحِبُّ الْإِسْتِكثَارَ فِيهَا
مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِمْ (مَنْ بَعْدَ صَلَاةِ الْعَصْرِ
يَوْمَ الْخَمِيسِ إِلَى آخِرِ نَهَارِ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ)

Shaykh al-Sadūq has, in his book *Āmālī*, narrated authentically that from the Asr time on Thursday, several angels holding books made up of heavenly silver and pens made of heavenly gold come down to the earth and they rise by sunset on Friday. Their only job is to note down the salawāt recited for Muhammad and his Progeny.