



ALI 697: Merits of Sahar and Suhūr in Ramadan

March 2025/ Ramadan 1446 – Session 10

Description: In this **online** course, we will *inshāAllāh* discuss the *ādāb* of how to spend the time of *sahar* in Holy Ramadan. We will cover a few passages from the Du'ās of sahar and discuss Hadith on taking suhūr before dawn.

Schedule: March 3 – 7, 2025 at 6 am in NY, 11 am in UK, 2 pm in East Africa.
March 10 – 14, 2025, at 7 am in NY, 12 noon in UK, and 2 pm in East Africa.

Instructor : Sh Hasanayn Kassamali.

Note: Alhamdu lillah, this is the last session of this course. Please keep the Academy in your prayers during this holy month. InshaAllah, see you for future courses that we plan to offer in Spring and Summer of 2025.

Reflection on Du‘ā # 2 at Sahar_2

يا مَنْ يَقْبَلُ الْيَسِيرَ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ الْكَثِيرِ، اِقْبَلْ مِنِّي الْيَسِيرَ وَاعْفُ عَنِّي الْكَثِيرَ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ
اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ إِيمَانًا تُبَاشِرُ بِهِ قَلْبِي، وَيَقِينًا حَتَّى أَعْلَمَ أَنَّهُ لَنْ يُصِيبَنِي إِلَّا مَا كَتَبْتَ لِي،
وَرَضِيَنِي مِنَ الْعَيْشِ بِمَا قَسَمْتَ لِي يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

O One who accepts little, and pardons much accept from me my few [good deeds] and forgive me my many [sins]. Surely You are the Forgiving, the Merciful.

O Allah I ask you for a faith which lightens my heart and a certainty so that I know that nothing will afflict me except that which You have written for me .

And make me pleased with the sustenance You have allotted to me. O the Most Merciful of the merciful.

يَا عُدَّتِي فِي كُرْبَتِي وَيَا صَاحِبِي فِي شِدَّتِي، وَيَا وَلِيَّيَ فِي نِعْمَتِي وَيَا غَايَتِي فِي رَغْبَتِي،
أَنْتَ السَّاتِرُ عَوْرَتِي وَالْمُؤْمِنُ رَوْعَتِي وَالْمُقِيلُ عَثْرَتِي
فَاغْفِرْ لِي خَطِيئَتِي يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

Discussion on the acceptance of Du‘ās _1

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ is reported to have said:

مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَدْعُو بِدَعْوَةٍ لَيْسَ فِيهَا إِثْمٌ وَلَا قَطِيعَةٌ رَحِمَ إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ بِهَا إِحْدَى ثَلَاثَ: إِمَّا أَنْ يُعَجِّلَ دَعْوَتَهُ وَإِمَّا أَنْ يُدَخِّرَهَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَإِمَّا أَنْ يَكُفَّ عَنْهُ مِنَ الشَّرِّ مِثْلَهَا.

No Muslim who supplicates—unless it is for committing sins and severing kinship ties—is given by Allah one of these three things: He grants his request; He reserves it for him in the hereafter; or in lieu of it, He repels calamity to befall him. (Majlis, Bihar, 93:366, h 16)

It is mentioned in some traditions that those who abandon the duty of “enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil” shall be afflicted with two calamities. Firstly, their supplications will not be accepted and secondly, the vilest and most corrupt of people will rule over them.)

Discussion on the acceptance of Du'ās _2

Some people complained to Amirul Mu'minīn عليه السلام that their supplications were not being accepted. The Imam stated the following eight reasons behind it:

قَالَ لِأَنَّ قُلُوبَكُمْ خَانَتْ بِشَمَانِ خِصَالٍ أَوْلَاهَا أَنَّكُمْ عَرَفْتُمْ اللَّهَ فَلَمْ تُؤَدُّوا حَقَّهُ كَمَا أُوجِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَمَا أَغْنَتْ عَنْكُمْ مَعْرِفَتَكُمْ شَيْئاً
وَالثَّانِيَةَ أَنَّكُمْ آمَنْتُمْ بِرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ خَالَفْتُمْ سُنَّتَهُ وَأَمْتُمْ شَرِيعَتَهُ فَأَيْنَ ثَمَرَةُ إِيمَانِكُمْ وَالثَّلَاثَةَ أَنَّكُمْ قَرَأْتُمْ كِتَابَهُ الْمُنزَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَلَمْ تَعْمَلُوا بِهِ
وَقُلْتُمْ سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا ثُمَّ خَالَفْتُمْ وَالرَّابِعَةَ أَنَّكُمْ قُلْتُمْ إِنَّكُمْ تَخَافُونَ مِنَ النَّارِ وَأَنْتُمْ فِي كُلِّ وَقْتٍ تُقَدِّمُونَ أَجْسَامَكُمْ إِلَيْهَا بِمَعَاصِيكُمْ فَأَيْنَ
خَوْفِكُمْ وَالْخَامِسَةَ أَنَّكُمْ قُلْتُمْ إِنَّكُمْ تَرْغَبُونَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَأَنْتُمْ فِي كُلِّ وَقْتٍ تَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُبَاعِدُكُمْ مِنْهَا فَأَيْنَ رَغْبَتِكُمْ فِيهَا وَالسَّادِسَةَ أَنَّكُمْ
أَكَلْتُمْ نِعْمَةَ الْمَوْلَى وَمَنْ تَشْكُرُوا عَلَيْهَا وَالسَّابِعَةَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَكُمْ بِعَدَاوَةِ الشَّيْطَانِ وَقَالَ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَآخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا
فَعَادَيْتُمُوهُ بِلَا قَوْلٍ وَوَالْيَتِيمُوهُ بِلَا مُخَالَفَةٍ وَالثَّمَانِيَةَ أَنَّكُمْ جَعَلْتُمْ عَيْبَ النَّاسِ نُصْبَ أَعْيُنِكُمْ وَعَيْبَكُمْ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِكُمْ تَلُومُونَ مَنْ أَنْتُمْ
أَحَقُّ بِاللُّؤْمِ مِنْهُ فَأَيُّ دُعَاءٍ يُسْتَجَابُ لَكُمْ مَعَ هَذَا وَقَدْ سَدَدْتُمْ أَبْوَابَهُ وَطَرَفْتُمْ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَأَخْلِصُوا سَرَائِرَكُمْ وَأَمُرُوا
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ فَيَسْتَجِيبُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ دُعَاءَكُمْ رُوِيَ هَذَا الْحَدِيثُ فِي كِتَابِ التَّنْبِيهِ (علام الدين في صفات المؤمنين، ص: 270)

Your hearts have committed treachery in eight things (and for this reason, your supplications are not being accepted): (1) You recognize God, but you do not give His due right; (2) You believe in His Messenger, yet you violate his Sunnah; (3) You read His Book, but you do not act upon it; (4) You say that you are afraid of God's punishment or wrath, but you commit acts which draw you closer to it; (5) You say that you yearn for His reward, yet you do things which keep you away from it; (6) You enjoy His blessings, but you do not express your gratitude; (7) You are commanded to be enemies of Satan, but you befriend him; (8) You place the defects of people before your eyes but are negligent of your own defects. Given this, how can you expect your supplications to be accepted when you have closed their doors? Be wary of God; reform your actions; purify your intentions; enjoin what is good; and forbid what is evil so that your supplications might be accepted.” (Majlisi, *Bihar*, p. 376). (<https://al-islam.org/presence-beloved-muhammad-taqi-misbah-yazdi/part-1-introduction-discussions-about-supplication>)

Do not miss Du'ā Abu Hamza Thumālī

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said in his farewell sermon: *One who sheds tears fearing Allah will get the reward equal to the weight of the mountain of 'Ubud on his scale.* Reciting Du'ā Abu Hamza al-Thumālī with understanding and reflection at the time of Sahar will surely result in shedding tears. Ayatullah Misbah Yazdi (d.z) has said that Du'ā Abu Hamzah al-Thumālī is recited before dawn, during the month of Ramadan, is one of the noble and substantial supplications transmitted from Imam 'Ali ibn al-Husayn عليه السلام. Abu Hamzah al-Thumālī, was a companion of Imam al-Baqir عليه السلام and Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام recorded this supplication from Imam al-Sajjad عليه السلام. Abu Hamzah was called “the Salman of his time”. This great supplication bespeaks of al-Sajjad’s knowledge and personality. Although the supplications transmitted from the Imams (a) are sometimes expressed in simple terms, they contain sublime points, and everyone is supposed to reflect on and benefit from them. The higher a person’s spiritual state is, the more he will benefit from these supplications. Shaykh M A Shomali has said: The Supplication of Abu Hamza al-Thumālī is narrated from Imam Sajjad (a) and is one of the most precious and well-known of prayers, enjoying a high status amongst great scholars. One of the major ideas mentioned in this supplication is how to find a balance between hope and fear. Throughout the supplication, this idea is often repeated and focused on in beautiful and eloquent ways.

Visit www.al-islam.org for its commentary and reflections on the contents of this supplication.