

Praying With the Prophets: Du'as for Believers

NAD AMR
Gaby Phillips

Praying with the Prophets: Du'as for Believers

Author: Gabriela Philips

Layout and Design: Conner Coe

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INTRODUCTION

*«Thus says the LORD who made the earth,
the LORD who formed it and established it,
the LORD is His name:
Call to Me and I will answer
and show you great and unsearchable things you do not know.»
(Honorable Tawrat, Jeremiah 33:2-3)*

Could you imagine the connection we could experience if we could pray the prayers (du'as) of the prophets? Just like us, they experienced rejection, came under threat, grieved over their lost sons, and were moved to worship as they looked up to the heavens.

Just like them, we want to walk in sweet fellowship with our Lord (swt) on the Straight Path. Just like them, we want to guide others to a way that is just and beautiful. Just like our beloved Prophets, we yearn to attain the true knowledge of the living God (swt) which surpasses in dignity all earthly glories and bounties.

In this booklet you will find a collection of noble supplications (du'a) on matters pertaining the need for guidance, repentance, protection, prayers for others, and supplications specific for times of crisis. We recommend devoting each day to reflecting on the context, overview, and benefiting from connecting with our Lord (swt) as you read aloud one supplication (du'a).

We may never be called to stand up in front of 450 false prophets like nabi Ilyas (as), but may need moral courage to stand up to our boss when wanting to involve us in oppressive practices. You may

be struggling to have a child, and by echoing Hannah's words, you may enter together into that situation across time and space to meet the Hearer of prayers. Your soul may find solace and purification in the remembrance of our Lord (swt) together with Nabi Dawood (as) or find inexplicable closeness with the Almighty (swt) in the supplication (du'a) that Al Masih Isa (as) left us.

These supplications (du'as) are collected from beautiful narrations from the Honorable Tawrat, the Honorable Zaboor, and the Honorable Injil. We have included a few qur'anic dua's of great value too.

It is our desire that you may find a voice, amidst these powerful voices and that with each prayer (du'a) you may truly experience the presence of the Hearer of Prayers and your faith may be strengthened. The words themselves, do not have power, but in the remembrance of Allah (swt) the heart finds strength and the eyes behold a world that is larger than our problems and cares. We place ourselves under the influence of Allah (swt) and submit to his loving will.

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ
وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*“Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice,
my life and my death, are (all) for Allah,
the Cherisher of the Worlds...”*
(Qur'an Karim, Al An'am 6:161)

1

NABI ADAM

as (ADAM)

QUR'AN KARIM, AL AR'AF 7:23

Context

Nabi Adam (as) was raised by the Almighty (swt) to a high station of honor in the first Garden. But when he disobeyed, he placed himself under the authority and listened to the deceitful whisper of Shaytan. As result he experienced a great loss. In this time of great distress and sensing that he and his wife were no longer in the same loving relationship that existed between them and their Lord (swt), nabi Adam (as) and his wife turned to their Lord (swt) repentant and said,

Du'a

قَالَ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

*“Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves.
If You forgive us not,
and bestow not upon us Your Mercy,
we shall certainly be of the losers.”*

We Respond

Have you ever felt so discouraged that you wonder if it was too late to return? Allah (swt) has a limitless reservoir of mercy that satisfies those who receive it. Come to me, He calls, that you may get rest!

2

NABI IBRAHIM as (ABRAHAM)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, GENESIS 17:18

Context

The first ever recorded prayer from a father comes from the lips of nabi Ibrahim (as). In his old age he was awarded the great joy of having sons: “All praise be to Allah who has given me sons like Isma’el and Ishaq in my old age. (Qur’an Karim, Ibrahim 14:39). On the day that Allah (swt) announced him the good news of Ishaq, this time from his barren wife Sarah, he fell down in prostration. With his face down in gratitude he prayed this powerful du’a.

Du’a

And Abraham said unto God: “Oh that Isma’el might live before Thy face!”

We Respond

Are you a parent? Do we want your sons and daughters to succeed with Allah’s success? Then desire above all that our children would live in the presence/face of the Almighty (swt) every day of their lives. Face, in the Honorable Tawrat, is associated to a close and personal encounter and to blessing. Allah (swt) honored the du’a of his servant, when nabi Isma’el and his mother went into the desert, the Most Merciful heard the boy’s cry and provided water, and “He was with the boy as he grew up.” (Honorable Tawrat, Genesis 21;20).

Context

Indeed, there is an excellent example for you in nabi Ibrahim (as). And remember when he asked his father and his people, “What do you worship? Can your idols hear when you call them? Can they bless you? We may find irrational the thought of anyone bowing down to carved piece of wood. Yet, do we proclaim with our lips “Only Allah (swt) is worthy of worship... while our hearts remain attached to the things of this world? Can they bless us? Can they hear us when we call them in our distress? Nabi Ibrahim (as) asked for wisdom and things of true value that the fire could not devour. This was his du'a:

Du'a

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَالْحَقِيقِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ
 وَاجْعَلْ لِي لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ فِي الْآخِرِينَ
 اجْعَلْنِي مِنْ وَرَثَةِ جَنَّةِ النَّعِيمِ
 وَاعْفِرْ لِأَبِي إِنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الضَّالِّينَ
 وَلَا تُخْزِنِي يَوْمَ يُبْعَثُونَ
 يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ
 إِلَّا مَنْ آتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ

*“My Lord, grant me wisdom and allow me to join with the righteous,
 and grant me a lasting mention
 as one who told the truth among later generations.
 And make me among those who will inherit the Garden of Bliss.*

*Forgive my father, for he has been of those who were misguided,
 and do not disgrace me on the Day they are (all) resurrected,
 the Day when neither wealth nor children will benefit (anyone)
 except the one who comes to God with a clean heart.”*

We Respond

Life in this world is complicated. We need wisdom to discern right from wrong and a clean heart from Allah (swt) to live by it. Do you need wisdom? Asks. What is the definition of a good life? In the previous books, There are three books called “wisdom literature.” These are the book of Proverbs of Nabi Suleiman (as), Job (the scroll of nabi Ayyub), and Ecclesiastes (also by nabi Suleiman as).

Context

Nabi Ibrahim (as), became known as khalilallah (Allah's friend) because he learned to listen and trust. On one occasion he fought against five kings who had kidnapped his nephew (Lut/Lot), upon returning from war, doubts assaulted him about the future. Would they come back to seek revenge? What about his family? Then, Allah (swt), who reads the heart of men, spoke and said, "Do not be afraid, I am your shield, and your great reward." (see Honorable Tawrat, Genesis 15:1). And nabi Ibrahim (as) believed, and fear left him. The following du'a was prayed at a time when the prophet was concerned about his father. This is what he said,

Du'a

رَبَّنَا عَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ
أَبْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ

*"Our Lord, in You we trust,
and to You we repent.*

To You is the ultimate destination.

We Respond

Who have you been trusting lately? Your 'wasta'? Your educational achievements? Your savings? Your family reputation? If our final destination is the meeting with our Lord (swt), are we running towards Him or away from Him? How does it make you feel the thought that we know where we are going?

NABI YAKOUB

as (JACOB)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, GENESIS 48:15-16

Context

This du'a and blessing was pronounced at the time of nabi Yakoub's death. Laying on his deathbed, the old prophet beckoned for his grandchildren: Ephraim and Manasseh. He did not want to leave this world before blessing the two sons of nabi Yusuf (as). With this du'a he wanted to secure them under the divine mantle of Allah's covenant. So that they too, would also be called "his people" and Allah (swt) "their God". This is what nabi Yakoub (as) said at last:

Du'a

*"May the God before whom my fathers
Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully,
the God who has been my shepherd
all my life to this day,
the Angel who has delivered me from all harm
—may he bless these boys.*

*May they be called by my name
and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
and may they increase greatly
on the earth."*

We Respond

Grandfathers, do you bless your grandchildren? Will they remember you because of pointing them towards the straight path?

Grandchildren, do you neglect your grandparents and miss a great blessing? Do you long for special times when they can pass their love for Allah (swt) and wisdom? Do you want to keep their legacy alive?

NABI MUSA

as (MOSES)

QUR'AN KARIM, TA HA 20:25-35

Context

Nabi Musa (as) received the difficult task of returning to Egypt after 40 years. He had left as a man full of vigor and dreams, and now at the ripe age of 80 years old he was tasked with confronting the most powerful king of his time: The Pharaoh. Pharaoh had enslaved the Bani of Isra'el and had control over his people who believed that he was a sort of deputy god, invincible. He ruled by fear. And now nabi Musa (as) needed to go to his very palace and alone announce that Allah (swt) was going to destroy the power base of Egypt and pound his gods. Did nabi Musa (as) even remember the language of his youth? Probably no. Even his tongue had lost the gracious ability to speak the language of the Egyptians and felt heavy to the ear. Sensing his inadequacy, he prayed, that he could overcome his natural challenges and that a helper be provided to go alongside with him. Someone to share his burden with. This was his du'a:

Du'a

*“My Lord, put my heart at ease
and ease my task for me
and untie the knot from my tongue
so that they may understand my speech,
and appoint for me a minister from my family,
Aaron, my brother.*

*Increase my strength through him
and let him share my task
so that we may glorify You much
and remember You much.
You see and know all about us.”*

QUR'AN KARIM, TA HA 20:25-35

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and ease my task for me
and untie the knot from my tongue
so that they may understand my speech,
and appoint for me a minister from my family,
Aaron, my brother.*

*Increase my strength through him
and let him share my task
so that we may glorify You much
and remember You much.
You see and know all about us.”*

We Respond

Have you been entrusted with a responsibility that is larger than life? Nabi Musa (as) more than once felt tired and had to come out to spend time in prayer/conversation with his Lord (swt). In those lonely hours away with Allah (swt), his reservoir of wisdom, patience, and love for an ungrateful people would be replenish. Do you need to take time away too?

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Nabi Musa (as) ask for a team. Do you also need a brother or sister? Often we carry too big of a burden because we work alone. Pray not only to identify such people in your life but that your companion be blessed too.

HONORABLE TAWRAT, EXODUS 4:10-12

Context

Nabi Musa (as) presented his limitations before the Almighty (swt). The fact that he had been commanded to speak to Pharaoh did not result in an immediate miracle that cleared his speech's limitations. Allah (swt) used this opportunity to teach his servant to look at things not from a human and limited perspective, but to see it from above. From what is possible when the Creator (swt) is also our Sustainer!

Du'a

*“O my Lord, I am not eloquent,
neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant;
but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”*

*So, the Lord said to him,
“Who has made man’s mouth?
Or who makes the mute, the deaf,
the seeing, or the blind?
Have not I, the Lord?”*

*Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth
and teach you what you shall say.”*

We Respond

Do you feel powerless? It is when we are weak that Allah's strength is made manifest. When you do something that matches your gifting, you get the praise. But when you do something that those who know you discern you couldn't, unless outside power was given to you, then Allah (swt) gets the credit. Next time you put an excuse... think, find strength by asking help from outside yourself... and believe that Allah (swt) takes pleasure in responding!

HONORABLE TAWRAT, EXODUS 15:1-18

Context

This is the du'a of nabi Musa (as) after he and his people were divinely rescued from the oppressive hands of Pharaoh and his army. The Egyptians with all their pretensions were drowned at the bottom of the Red Sea. The sea opened up to receive the Bani Israel in their way out of 400 years of slavery and the sea devour Pharaoh and his army when he attempted to cross it. Nabi Musa (as) and his sister Miriam sang this du'a in gratitude for such a dramatic rescue. This du'a became very important every time people felt threatened by external forces that sought their destruction.

Du'a *"I will sing to the Lord,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.*

*"The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.
The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.
The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, Lord,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, Lord,
shattered the enemy.*

*"In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.
By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.*

*The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of
the sea.*

*The enemy boasted,
"I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them."
But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.*

*They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.
Who among the gods
is like you, Lord?
Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?"*

*"You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.
In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.
The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.*

4.3.3 Continued

*The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will melt away;
terror and dread will fall on them.*

*By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, Lord,
until the people you bought pass by.
You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.*

“The Lord reigns for ever and ever.”

We Respond

Scientific research has showed that grateful people, those who pause to recognize the power of Allah (swt) in their lives, experience joy and a better quality of life. Whether you stand, or you sit, when you walk or lay down to sleep, teach your children to recount Allah’s blessings and thank Him. This will help them to become aware of the many blessings they already have.

HANNAH, MOTHER OF NABI SAMUEL

HONORABLE TAWRAT, 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

Context

Hannah was infertile. Her husband Elcana had taken a second wife who could give her children. So she experienced much humiliation and shame especially during the Eid period. In her anguish she made a vow, if the Almighty (swt) would open up her womb, she would give Him its fruit. A year later she gave birth to a healthy boy, who later became known as nabi Samuel (as). His name Samu'el meant "heard by God". This beautiful mother's du'a was born from a grateful heart.

Du'a

*"My heart exults in the Lord;
my horn is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.*

*There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.*

*Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.
The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.*

*Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.*

*The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The Lord makes poor and makes rich;*

*he brings low and he exalts.
He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
and on them he has set the world.
"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might shall a man prevail.
The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed."*

We Respond

Hanna said, "the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." The actions of the Merciful One (swt) are the many ways that we can discern that He cares. That he is involved in the daily life of those who are open to see Him (swt). Can you consider a time when you clearly sense that Allah (swt) was real in the life of your family or yours?

6

NABI DAWOOD

as (DAVID)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, 1 CHRONICLES 29:10-18

Context

When Nabi Dawood (as) finally conquered his enemies and his kingdom was in peace, he summoned all the officials as a venerable elder would call all his relatives: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the warriors and all the brave fighting men. It had been his desire to build a house of worship, he lived in a beautiful palace while the ark of the covenant remained in a tent. Allah (swt) said “no, your son nabi Suleiman (as) would build it”.

Then, Nabi Dawood (as) greatly praised God Almighty (swt) before those present as he recalled the ways in which the Almighty (swt) had been faithful generation after generation and prayed:

Du'a

*“Oh God, blessed and exalted is your name
from eternity past and forever and ever,
you who our father Ya`qub worshipped!*

*Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory and the radiance and the exaltation,
Your sovereignty encompasses the heavens and the earth.
Oh God, you are the possessor of glory and powerful rule.*

*You are the giver of wealth and honor and you are King of all.
In your hand is greatness and strength and strong power,
for you raise who you wish and truly increase his status.
God, we acclaim You now with all acclamation, and praise and exalt
Your radiant and glorious name!*

But who am I? And who are my people?

*That we would set apart a house for you, since all its components are from you, God?
For you are the source of all things, and from what you have blessed us with have we
and others spent for Your sake.*

6 Continued

*We are only guests passing through this world, as our forefathers passed through it.
And our days on this earth are a shadow passing to nonexistence,
and we have no hope to remain.*

*So God, our Sustainer, all this wealth that we have gathered is in order to build a house
in which to exalt Your holy name, and all of this wealth is yours and we have received
it from you.*

*God, I know with certainty that you test the hearts,
and are only pleased with the one who takes the honest and straight way.
I have offered to You what I have gathered with a pure upright heart.
And how great was my joy, God, when I saw the people of Your covenant
who are present hastening to present all these goods to You!*

*God, You who were worshipped by Ya'qub, and Ishaq and Ibrahim,
keep these intentions in Your people and their purposes in the hearts,
and cause their hearts to be directed towards You throughout the years.*

*Grant my son Suleïman a sound heart to obey all the commands and ordinances and
teachings.*

*You have commanded him, to erect this house in honor of You,
as I have prepared for him all that he needs for this great edifice."*

We Respond

How would it look like for us to want to build a Temple (Bait Allah) and not just focus on building a comfortable home for our family? Will it mean seeing others with unselfish eyes and wishing that they too will be reach with God's love? Why is it important to face the future while remembering the ways in which Allah (swt) has lead is in the past?

Retell your children the story of your family, with a focus on the mercies of Allah (swt), and let those memories build your home and renew your worship!

Nabi Dawood (as) said: "We are only guests passing through this world, as our forefathers passed through it." What does it mean for the way in which attach ourselves to the life of this world?

NABI DAWUD

as (DAVID)

HONORABLE ZABOOR, PSALM 1

Context

During the first part of his life, nabi Dawood (as) was persecuted by no other than the king: King Saul. Living as a refugee meant that he had to depend constantly on Allah's protection and provision for even his basic needs such as food and water. On one occasion, after an evil spirit (jinn) overtook king Saul, the king threw a spear at him that missed him providentially. No other prophet recorded as many prayers as nabi Dawood (as), prayers that expressed a deep longing for being close to Allah (swt) in times of trouble and in times of victory. And we gave wisdom and knowledge; and We made the mountains, and the birds to celebrate Our praise with Dawud (Al Anbiya21:79)

This is one of more than one hundred beautiful du'as. For more du'as, go to the Honorable Zaboor (Book of Psalms) and be blessed.

Du'a

*Will he not be happy,
that person who does not seek the advice of sinners
who does not walk on the way of sinners
and does not sit around with scoffers
but his delight is in the Book of God
he recites it and repeats it by day and by night*

*He is like a tree planted by a stream of water
giving its fruit at its proper time
and its leaves never wither
he has become successful in all that he does*

*Not so are the infidels
their likeness is like dried up stalks*

7 Continued

*Infidels will not stand firm on the day of reckoning
Nor will sinners assemble with the righteous*

*God watches over the ways of the righteous
but those whose ways will take them to ruin
they are sinners.*

We Respond

Who do you listen to? Today millions of people are shaping their views from reading Facebook and other unreliable sources. Others follow influencers or charismatic leaders who have no wisdom nor fear of the Lord (swt). No wonder there is so much fear! Nabi Dawood (as) delighted spending time with the Book of God (swt). Think of a beautiful tree but moving waters. The tree is healthy, has good fruits (good deeds), so will be with the righteous, the Lord (swt) will establish his roots in the soil of His love.

HONORABLE ZABOOR, PSALMS 51:1-17

Context

Nabi Dawood (as) was raised by Allah (swt) to a noble station and became an example that more than 2,000 years later still reaches us. The secret of such beautiful life was his openness to be cleansed by Allah (swt) even after failing short of the divine righteous standards. This du'a below is perhaps the best known du'a for those seeking forgiveness in repentance. Only a heart that loves Allah (swt) will experience this depth of regret and a strong longing for being reconciled with His Lord (swt).

Du'a

*Have mercy on me, God, in your faithfulness,
wipe out my sin, Oh most merciful
Wash me of my transgression,
and from my sin completely purify me*

*I confess my transgressions,
and I am tormented because my sin remains before me all the time
I have sinned against you, Sustainer
against you alone I have committed evil*

*But as for you, you are in your judgement against me truthful and you are right
when you condemn.*

*My life has been filled with sin since I was born,
and has touched me from the moment my mother conceived me.*

*But you are pleased with honesty in the heart
Will you not plant in my being your wisdom?
Completely purify me from sins
so that I might be pure
wash me so that I would become whiter than snow.*

*Sustainer, will you not make me happy,
so my heart that you crushed will rejoice?
Will you not turn your face away from my sins, Sustainer, and wipe away all
my transgressions.*

7.2.2 Continued

*Will you not purify my heart
and grant me a pure heart, God?
Will you not make my being faithful to you?
Do not cast me out, Sustainer
do not deprive me of the support of your Holy Spirit.*

*Will you not return to me my joy
and save me, Sustainer
Will you not send your Spirit
and in your acceptance take my hand.*

*Then I will guide transgressors to your Straight Path and you will see them
returning to you*

*Will you not forgive me the blood I have shed
You, God are my savior so my tongue continually speaks your praises.*

*Release my tongue, Sustainer
and my mouth will pour out, and praise you.*

*You are not happy with sacrifices
and are not pleased with a sacrifice burned completely, God; or I would not have
hesitated to do so.*

*Rather the sacrifice pleasing to you is a broken spirit and a wounded heart, for
you will not turn away from it, God.*

We Respond

Which part of this du'a speaks to your situation? Nabi Dawood (as) is not making excuses, he comes with complete honesty for only those who hate sin will open themselves to the surgical hand of their Lord (swt) who can remove it. How much do you long to see changes in your life? First step, bring them before the Almighty (swt) and ask with nabi Dawood (as) for a new heart born from above to replace the heart from below.

NABI YUNUS

as (JONAH)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, JONAH 2:2-9

Context

Nabi Yunus (as) was sent to warn the people of Nineveh, a wicked people about to be destroyed. Instead, he took a ship to Tarshish going into the opposite direction. He did not want to go near such wicked people. Unexpectedly he found himself caught into a mighty storm facing death in the face. Discerning that he had been found disobedient, he asked the sailors to throw him into the sea. Even then, Allah's love came unexpectedly: a large fish came to the prophet's rescue. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord (swt), and after three days He (swt) commanded the fish to vomit nabi Yunus (as) onto dry land. This was his du'a:

Du'a

*“In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.
You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.
I said, ‘I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.’
The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.
To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, Lord my God,*

*brought my life up from the pit.
“When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, Lord,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.
“Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.
But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.
What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the
Lord.*

We Respond

Have you been rescued from a deathly situation? What were your thoughts? Why not to pray the du’a of nabi Yunus/ Jonah (as) while you remember His providence? The last line says, “Salvation comes from the Lord” (swt), who needs protection right now that needs to be brought to the Lord (swt)? Who needs rescuing from sin?

Do you live among people who you can’t stand? Do you wish to run away, far away from them? What if such people are the instruments that Allah (swt) can use to show you mercy and build a character that reflects patience and forgiveness?

QUR'AN KARIM, AL ANBIYAH 21:87

Context

This the du'a of nabi Yunus (as). And remember when he went off in anger as he imagined that he had no power over the lost people of Niniveh. He was not a prophet from among such people, and as a foreigner he may have wondered if they would even listen to him. He ran away from the people but not from the watchful view of his Lord (swt). Once trapped inside of an enormous fish from the deep darkness, he called out...

Du'a

*“There is no God except You;
May You be exalted in Your glory.
I have been among the unjust.”*

We Respond

Nabi Yunus (as) ran off, and so do millions of people tasked with inviting others to the Straight Path. By running off he may have found that the one needed healing from fear or anger was Him (as). Was he chosen that he could taste Allah's forgiveness first? Why did nabi Yunus (as) have to spend three days inside a great fish and was not released immediately? How did that experience of danger make him aware of the fragility of the life in this world? Nabi Yunus (as) did not try to pretend that he was right, "I have been of the wrongdoers" (those who sin), he said. What kind of healing can acknowledging one's sin bring?

NABI AYYUB

as (Job)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, JOB

Context

In the ancient scroll of Ayyub (as) there are 28 prayers recorded! His life was one of turmoil and trials. In a matter of days, he had lost all this material wealth and his eight beloved children. All at once. His untarnished reputation and health came under vicious attack too. And his closest friends accused him of harboring a secret sin for which he was coming under severe punishment.

With every blow, he came before his Lord (swt) seeking answers. He never got to know that Shaytan wanted to prove that he was only faithful out of want of reward. Yet, in the end, nabi Ayyub (as) closed this chapter of his life with this du'a. This du'a comes after a powerful speech from the Almighty (swt), in which he is shown the wisdom in creation. In the end nabi Ayyub, expresses his trust in the Lord's wisdom. The outcome of the test is now his eyes had been opened to a profound unveiling of the character of Allah (swt) and he patiently submitted.

Du'a

*“I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

*‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*

*'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.'*

*I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;*

*Therefore, I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes."*

We Respond

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you. I know it is hard to train our eyes to "see" Allah (swt) when we are in the storm, but what if we start right now to see blessing even in disgrace? At the end of his trial, nabi Ayyub (as) was stronger because the eye of his mind and heart was enlarged. What will it take to right now ask the Almighty (swt) to show us not only his will but the greatness of his character? How such vision could enlarge yours? How would that translate in our habits and how we treat others?

If even a prophet who was highly praised by no other than the Almighty (swt) had room to grow from hearing to spiritually seeing his Lord (swt), how can we be satisfied with what we have and not desire more?

Context

Shaytan had afflicted nabi Ayyub (as) with weariness and tiredness (see Sad 38:41), but Allah (swt) granted him a powerful revelation: “And we revealed to Ibrahim, Isma’el, Ishaq, Yakob, the Descendants, of Isa al Masih, Ayyub, Yunus, Haroon, and Suleiman, and to Dawood We gave the book.” (Nisa 4:163). What kind of revelation did he receive? A revelation of Allah’s wisdom in the manner of his creation (see Honorable Tawrat, Job 38 to 41 to read the speeches of the Almighty swt). In the following du’a, nabi Ayyub appeals to mercy, these are his simple yet beautiful words:

Du’a

وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَىٰ
 رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ
 وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

*“Verily, distress has seized me,
 and You are the Most Merciful
 of all those who show mercy.”*

We Respond

Knowing that in a single scroll we can find 28 dua’s, what does it says about the spiritual life of this prophet? Are you turning to Allah (swt) every time a moment of doubt and pain assaults you? Or do you think that you can fix your problems? True growth is learning to trust daily never doubting the goodness of our Lord (swt). Pain and distress are the many ways in which we can grow in we chose to depend on the Almighty as and Him, how do you want this to serve as purifying fire that removed the dross of my character?

10

NABI SULEIMAN

as (SOLOMON)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, 1 KINGS 8:56:63

Context

On the joyous occasion of the dedication of the Bait Allah in Jerusalem, nabi Suleiman (as) offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the Lord (swt), two and twenty thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord.

Then Nabi Suleiman (as) arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven and blessed all the congregation of the Bani Isra'el with a loud voice, saying,

Du'a

*“Blessed be the Lord,
that hath given rest unto his people Israel,
according to all that he promised:
there hath not failed one word of all his good promise,
which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.*

*The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers:
let him not leave us, nor forsake us:*

*That he may incline our hearts unto him,
to walk in all his ways,
and to keep his commandments,
and his statutes, and his judgments,
which he commanded our fathers.*

*And let these my words,
wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord,
be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night,
that he maintains the cause of his servant,*

10 Continued *and the cause of his people Israel at all times,
as the matter shall require:*

*That all the people of the earth may know
that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.*

*Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God,
to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”*

We Respond

History is what we remember, we can remember the bad things that happened and live in the past, sort of trapped. We can go back to recover good things and take courage to face the days ahead by the hand of our forefathers.

The purpose of the temple (Bait Allah) was so that the people could joyful make it known that the Lord is One, and besides Him (swt) there is no one else. Those who believe this to be true will show that faith is real when they will choose obedience over their desires. Do you proclaim that the Lord is One (swt) with your lips when your feet take you to forbidden places? Are your hands and your heart in the same place? The heart finds strength as it remembers the Lord, so plan to spend time listening to the stories of the prophets and ask Allah (swt) like nabi Suleiman (as) an obedient heart!

NABI ILYAS

as (ELIJAH)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, 1 KINGS 18: 36-38

Context

At Mount Carmel, Nabi Ilyas (as) put to the test what was at the time perceived as the most supreme and powerful of all the gods: Baal. The test was simple, 450 false prophets of Baal were to call on their god to send fire from heaven that could burn their sacrifice. After hours of chanting, shouting, praying, and even cutting themselves, nothing happened.

In the afternoon the turn came for nabi Ylyas (as) to pray to the Almighty (swt). Immediately God sent down blazing fire that consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the rocks and the dirt, and even the water that was in the trench around the altar! This was his du'a:

Du'a *“Oh God, Sustainer of Ibrahim and Ishaq and Ya'qub,
prove today that You are the Sustainer of this nation,
and that I am your servant
who has brought about all these things at your command.*

*Oh God, respond to my prayer,
so all those present may know that You are the Sustainer of all
and that You have caused them to repent to You with a penitent heart.”*

We Respond

You may never be in a position where you will need to ask for fire from heaven to prove who is the true Lord (Swt). May you may be in a place where your faith is questioned, or even mocked. It will be easy to become defensive and try to protect the honor of our religion. Yet, nabi Ylyas (as) showed us that the muttaqeen is consumed by the desire to make his Lord (as) known. So that Allah (as) may be revealed and the hearts of those in whom there is unbelief may be turned to back. Next time your faith is tested, seek the help of Allah (swt) so that his name be make great even if it is a great personal cost.

12

NABI ISAIAH

as (ISAIAH)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, ISAIAH 25: 1-5

Context

Nabi Isaiah (as) lived in a period of political and social turmoil in the kingdom of Judah. He announced impending disaster to befall his people who were under Assyrian and Babylonian threat. He warned them to trust that the Almighty (swt) would protect them if they would choose not to seek protection from alliances with nations whose God was not the Lord (swt). So, he prayed to his Sustainer saying:

Du'a

*“Oh God, you are my Sustainer!
I greatly exalt you and lift up your mighty reputation
because you have done wonders
and have fulfilled with truth and trustworthiness
your purposes that you have ordained from ancient times:*

*You have made mighty cities into a pile of rubble
and fortresses into ruins.*

*The Strongholds of foreigners have become desolate
and they will never be rebuilt again.*

*Therefore, powerful peoples will honor you
and nations of tyrants will be in awe of you.*

*For you, Sustainer, are a Stronghold for the poor,
a Stronghold for the wretched in his troubles!*

*Yes, you are a shelter in the storms
and shade from the harshness of heat,*

*You protect us from the evil of tyrants
for they are like the wind of a storm with floods,
and like the scorching heat of the desert,
but you, Sustainer, silence the tumult of the oppressors!*

*Yes, you silence the shouts of victorious tyrants
like a cloud that scatters blazing scorching heat.”*

We Respond

It can be hard to worship in a foreign land, away from the comfort of one's houses of prayer, families, beloved land, and all that which is familiar. Today many people are away from home: refugees, international students, internally displaced people, and those who have to leave their countries to work or those whose homes have been reduced to a pile of rubble by war. Nabi Isaiah (as) speaks through the ages for all of them and gives them a message of hope: no matter where you are, our Lord (swt) is a shelter in the time of storm! He is not attached to any land, for he travels with the traveler and those who are in need. How does it make you feel that you are never alone, even in a land far away, your Lord (swt) is near?

NABI DANIYAL

as (DANIEL)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, DANIEL 9

Context

After almost 70 years in captivity under Babylonia first, and Medo Persia later, nabi Daniyal (as) turned to his Lord (swt) in prayer on behalf of his people. According to the word of prophecy that the Lord had given to nabi Yermiah (as), the captivity of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So nabi Daniyal (as) turned to His Lord (swt) and pleaded humbly with fasting, and dressed in sackcloth and ashes.

Du'a

*“O Lord, the great and awesome God,
who keeps his covenant of love with all who love Him
and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong
We have been wicked and have rebelled;
we have turned away from your commands and laws.*

*We have not listened to your servants the prophets,
who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers,
and to all the people of the land.*

*Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered
with shame—the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel,
both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us
because of our unfaithfulness to you.*

*O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame
because we have sinned against you.*

*The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving,
even though we have rebelled against him;
we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us
through his servants the prophets.*

All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

*Therefore, the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses,
the servant of God, have been poured out on us,
because we have sinned against you.*

*You have fulfilled the words spoken against us
and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster.*

13 Continued *Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done
like what has been done to Jerusalem.
Just as it is written in the Law of Moses,
all this disaster has come upon us,
yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God
by turning from our sins
and giving attention to your truth.*

*The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us,
for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does;
yet we have not obeyed him.*

*“Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt
with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day,
we have sinned, we have done wrong*

*O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts,
turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city,
your holy hill.*

*Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem
and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.*

*Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant.
For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.*

*Give ear, O God, and hear;
open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name.*

*We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,
but because of your great mercy.*

*O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive!
O Lord, hear and act! For your sake,
O my God, do not delay,*

because your city and your people bear your Name.”

We Respond

Nabi Daniyal (as) had been successful in attaining a position of trust under four kings: Nebuchadnezzar first, Belshazzar then, followed by Cyrus and finally Darius, yet he never forget his people. Now as an old man he makes a du'a asking Allah (swt) to show mercy and forgive the sins of his nation. He is tired that pagan nations are mocking the God of the Bani Isra'el while they remain captive. He could have ignored his people and focus on enjoying much authority, but he didn't. How easy is to get busy, especially if one's situation is stable and forget the bigger picture. How easy is to seek the prosperity of one's family and never pray for one's nation and their leaders. Allah (swt) heard the du'a of nabi Daniyal (as), why would he not listen to us, if He is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow?

NABI IRMIYA

as (JEREMIAH)

HONORABLE TAWRAT, JEREMIAH 20:7-13

Context

Nabi Irmiya (as) had the dangerous task of warning the Bani of Isra'el that their idolatry was about to be judged and a king coming from the north (Babylon) would take them into captivity. Even more, it was going to destroy the Bait Allah (Temple of Jerusalem). The nation was in great distress. The temple was like the rope that connected heaven and earth.

God would show mercy for after 70 years, they would be allowed to return to their land again. His message was so unpopular and ill received that even Pashur, a priest at the service of the temple in charge of its security, got the prophet beaten (flogged) and subjected him to an instrument of torture. Pashur cannot silence the prophet, who comes back with the same message before he prays...

Du'a *“Sustainer, you have overcome me, so I have no choice
For I am driven by your will, you who are Powerful and Almighty
and now the people of the city ridicule me night and day,
and mock me.*

*For whenever I proclaim the message
I shout out among them and announce the
coming of affliction and destruction,
until they pour out reproof and disdain on me.*

*But whenever I decide to not mention you, Merciful One,
or proclaim in your name from now on,
Your announcement burns in my heart
and the message trapped between my bones pervades,
so I try to restrain it but quickly I am unable to and collapse.*

*But how many are the rumors that
they spread about me and whisper among themselves,
for they say: “Let us report on him to the king,
he threatens us and suffocates us with terror!”*

*And my companions are waiting for a mistake from me, saying:
"Perhaps he will make a mistake in the sayings he utters
and we uncover his falsehoods!"*

*But you will grant me victory God, for you are the Mighty Victorious One,
and defeat all the evildoers who persecute me,
so they will be overtaken by disgrace forever and ever*

*So Powerful and Mighty
you who examine your faithful servants
who are Knowing of what is in the hearts,
show me your vengeance on all of them
for I have surrendered my case to You.*

*I sing your praises, Most Merciful One,
so save me, your poor servant
and deliver me from the clutches of oppressive evildoers."*

We Respond

Nabi Irmiyah (as) was tortured just because he refused to say what those in power wanted to hear. He loved the truth more than his limbs. Was it easy? Of course not! But his could see beyond the passing life of this world.

If you ever an in position where you need to chose between truth and popularity, consider that you are the child of an hour and that this dunya is fleeting and that no popularity will be of no benefit to you in the grave. Nor will family and powerful friends be of help to you. All these will stay in this world, because they belong here... except your love for Allah (swt) that can travel beyond the grave. Hence, the wise will not forsake eternal life and spiritual happiness for the sake of this transitory popularity.

15

SAYYIDNA ISA AL MASIḤ as (JESUS)

HONORABLE INḤIL, MATHEW 6:9-13

Context

On one occasion the hawariin (disciples) came to Sayyidna Isa al Masih (may his peace be upon us), and they asked him. “Maṣṭer, teach us how to pray?”. They made this request because the companions of nabi Yahyah (as) had been given a special du’a from the lips of their Maṣṭer.

Sayyidna Isa al Masih (sa), granted them their request and gave them this rich and simple prayer. Many miss the blessing of this prayer because they take each one separately: honor, bread, forgiveness... but this du’a becomes a powerhouse when we see how each line is interconnected. Like two sides of one coin, Sayyidna Isa al Masih (sa) previously had said that the whole of the law could be summarized in loving God, which is an action and loving those other humans who we should see as our brothers.

On the first half, we are reminding who are were praying to, what is His beautiful name that we are calling upon: Father. We have three things to remember: Your name, your Kingdom and your will is all that as believers we strive to live for.

On the other half there is a shift to the community of the believers, these are not personal request but we ask for all of us, brothers and sisters. And we have another set of three things to ask: give us today our daily bread, forgive us our debts, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. When we pray for the community, we become aware of others, their needs and this is how we express love: in action.

What is the outcome? The heaven and earth come together, there is mirroring down here that transforms what we think of Allah (swt) and how we strive to make his name holy and be loyal, and also how we act towards one another.

Du'a

*“Oh God our merciful Father in your loftiness,
Blessed and praised is your name,
May your promised Kingdom arise on the earth,
May those on earth strive to please you just as those in heaven do.
Provide for us our daily provision,
and forgive us our bad deeds,
Just as we pardon whoever has done wrong to us,
Keep trials and distress away from us,
and save us from the cunning of Satan the sinful,

For to you alone belongs sovereignty,
power, and glory forever,
amen.”*

We Respond

This du'a is meant to be used daily, why do you think that the only thing that we are commanded to do “every single day” is to forgive others? Why is forgiveness so important? How do we keep the Name of our heavenly Father pure from the defilement of lies? Or from the abuse of religious leaders? How can we move from religion to a personal relationship with God?

As he taught the hawariinun, Sayyidna Isa al Masih (sa) mainly used the name of spiritual “Father” to unveil who is He (swt), the One we worship. He wanted to show us that Allah (swt) was not distant, as Shaytan had portrayed him, and that He wanted to have a close relationship with us, even though He is far superior to any of us. Race, education, riches, gender, health and success do not entitle us to call the Almighty (swt) Father, The Father of light and grace, is made accessible to those who approach him in the name of Al Masih (sa). How does it make you feel calling Allah (swt) Abba, Father? Why not ask approach today the Father and taste his goodness?

A note to our dear readers: Calling our Lord (swt) “Our Father,” does not lead the followers of Sayyidna Isa al Masih (sa) to speak disrespectfully, presumptuously or in a demanding way, for our Father is in heaven. A “holy differentiation” exists despite the very personal relationship marked by pure love. The ruhallah (Holy Spirit) helps us from the temptation to falling into rude familiarity or insolence.