

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَدْعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَنْتُمْ مُوقِنُونَ بِالْإِجَابَةِ...

DU'A: VERBAL EXPRESSION OF SEEKING REFUGE IN ALLAH

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have read, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **When My servants ask you, o Prophet, about Me: I am truly near. I respond to one's prayer when they call upon Me. So let them respond with obedience to Me and believe in Me, perhaps they will be guided to the Right Way.**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (saw) says, **Call upon Allah with certainty that He will answer you...**²

Dear Believers!

In every condition and situation, in times of scarcity and abundance, in joy and sorrow, our Almighty Lord (swt) has granted us a door of refuge. This door is known as the door of du'a.

Du'a is a verbal manifestation of our faith and servitude to Allah. It is a declaration of the greatness of our Lord (swt) and an acknowledgment that we are always in need of His (swt) help. Du'a is our supplication to Allah (swt) for His mercy and blessings, forgiveness, and guidance, offered alongside our acts of worship. It is an expression of our determination and effort after fulfilling our duties and responsibilities. Du'a is a spiritual power that sustains our vitality. It is a shield that protects us against evil.

Dear Muslims!

Allah the Almighty has bestowed upon us the most exquisite examples of du'a in the Holy Qur'an through the words of prophets.

In Prophet Adam's language, du'a is repentance. He and his wife Hawwa immediately regretted their mistake and sought refuge in Allah (swt) with the following words: **Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You do not forgive us and have mercy on us, we will certainly be losers.**³

In Prophet Ibrahim's language, du'a is submission. Although he faced numerous severe trials, he never wavered in his submission to Allah and made the following supplication: **Our Lord! Make us both fully submit to You and from our descendants a nation that will submit to You.**⁴

In Prophet Ayyub's language, du'a is patience and fortitude. In the face of the relentless illness he endured, he beseeched Allah for healing with the following du'a: **My Lord! I have been touched with adversity. You are the Most Merciful of the merciful.**⁵

Dear Believers!

In Prophet Yusuf's language, du'a is the aspiration to be a righteous individual and to attain an auspicious end. He endured many hardships because of the vile slander he faced for steadfastly guarding his chastity, and he prayed to his Lord: **O Allah! You are my Guardian in this world and the Hereafter. Allow me to die as one who submits and join me with the righteous.**⁶

In Prophet Musa's language, du'a is to beseech Allah (swt) for assistance and ease. He never yielded to the tyranny of unbelieving oppressors, never lost hope, and prayed to Allah (swt), saying: **My Lord! Uplift my heart for me, and make my task easy.**⁷

In Prophet Isa's language, du'a is to seek halal and clean sustenance. He presented the requests of those who believed in him to Allah (swt) with the following du'a: **Our Lord! Provide for us! You are indeed the Best Provider.**⁸

Dear Muslims!

In many hadiths of our Prophet (saw), there are numerous examples of fine supplications for us to emulate. From his du'as, we learn the purpose of our creation and the essence of our existence. We see how we can attain happiness in this world and eternal salvation in the Hereafter through his du'as. In his du'as, we witness the significance of faith, worship, and good morals for a believer. In essence, we see the endeavor to become a good person and a sincere Muslim.

Dear Believers!

Let us not deprive ourselves of the blessings of du'a and the peace and tranquility it gives. Let us pray to our Lord (swt) for the salvation of our families, our nation, and all humanity. Let us pray to Allah the Almighty for the salvation of our brothers and sisters who are facing persecution in Gaza and other parts of the world.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the du'a found in the last verse of Surah al-Baqarah, which we recite every day after the 'isha prayer:

وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

Our Lord! Pardon us, forgive us, and have mercy on us. You are our only Guardian. So grant us victory over the disbelieving people.⁹

¹ Baqarah, 2/186.

² Tirmidhi, Da'awat, 65.

³ A'raf, 7/23.

⁴ Baqarah, 2/128.

⁵ Anbiya, 21/83.

⁶ Yusuf, 12/101.

⁷ Ta-Ha, 20/25, 26.

⁸ Ma'idah, 5/114.

⁹ Baqarah, 2/286.