

[In Times of Need: Salat al-Hājah with Du'a](#)

Eid Mubarak again. Allah in the holy Qur'an said:

O mankind, you are poor in relation to Allah. And Allah, He is the Absolute Owner of praise. If He wills, He will get rid of you, and bring instead of you a new creation. This is not a hard thing for Allah. And no burdened soul can bear another's burden. And as one who is heavy laden cries out for help with his load, nothing will be lifted even though he unto whom he cries is his kin.

Subject of my *khutbah* today is of the *Du'ā al-Hājah*, is the supplication of need. The *Salat al-Hājah* should apply to all of us, because all of us in some way find ourselves in need. And of course, Allah has no need. We are the ones who are poor; He is the one who is rich. We are the ones who are weak; He is the one who is strong. We become ill; Allah stays well and heals. Why? Allah does not have the characteristics of human beings. Allah is whole and perfect, and has qualities and attributes of which we only know a tiny, tiny bit of.

What I read to you about being poor in relation to Allah and He is the Owner of Praise, the *ta'wil* of that is to understand that we should not compare ourselves with Allah. We can say that if we are ill, Allah is All Healing. And if we are poor, Allah is All Wealth. If we are weak, Allah is All Strength. We are all in need, there is no doubt. When we find problems before us, we should not turn to our egos, which means that we should not think that just we, alone, are going to solve these problems. We should not turn to assumptions. We should not wait for providence, or luck. Even

though there is \$500 million in the lottery! And we should pray that special prayer, called *Salat al-Hājah*.

The *salat* can be prayed at any time or any place. But it is said the best time for praying it is one hour before *fajr*. Most people are asleep at this time, not so much static going to Allah. Is it that Allah can't take so much? Some people believe that. There are not so many prayers going, so Allah can receive the prayers better. But it is at this time that it is said that Allah looks to Himself, and extends the hand of help to those who are praying for His assistance.

This is a *nafle salat*. A minimum of two *ra'kas* and a maximum of 12 *ra'kas* can be prayed in segments of two, just like the *fajr* prayer, or like the *taraweeh*. After two *ra'kas*, the person makes their *sajdah*, and pleads his case to Allah with sincerity. Where? In *sajdah*. The Prophet Mohammed (sal) taught us a *du'ā* to be recited at this time, or if we are depressed, or in need of help. This *du'ā* was given to the Companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him), and it goes like this:

O Allah! I come unto You as a refuge from anxiety and grief.
And I take Your refuge from indulgence and inactivity.
And I betake Your refuge from cowardliness and niggardliness.
And I take refuge in You from excessiveness of debt, and oppression of people.
O Allah! Suffice legitimate things for me, saving me from those things which are illegitimate. Make me independent in sustenance with Your Grace from everyone but You.
O Allah! I take refuge in You from the chastisement of the grave, and refuge from the seduction of the anti-Christ.
And I have faith in You, and take refuge from hardships in life and from afflictions in life, and at the time of death.
O Allah! I seek refuge from sins and from debt.

We can read during that prayer any *surah*. However, it also says that reading *surah Ya Siin* is very important in that *salat*. *Surah Ya Siin* can be recited for any problem,

as we know. In a *hadith* of the Prophet Mohammed (sal) recited by Ibn Abbas (ra), he said, ***“The Prophet (sal) said there is a heart for everyone, and the heart of the Qur’an is Sura Ya Siin. I wish it is the heart of every person from my ummah.”***

The other *surah* to be recited from Qur’an is Surah Waqiah, The Inevitable. This *surah* is to be recited daily. Any person who recites it will never face a situation indeed to any person in life except Allah and neither will he be struck with poverty. This *hadith* was narrated by Abdul Ibn Maqsood (ar) and found in the book of *tafsir*, ***“Anyone who reads Surah Waqiah every night, he or she never will be hit with poverty.”***

The Qur’an is full of stories and information about prophets and the need to make *Du’ā al-Haājah*. The Prophet Zakariyya prayed for a child, and Allah sent angels to him while he was still in prayer, and informed him that he had accepted his *du’ā*. In Surah Maryam, Allah says:

Kaf, Ha, Ya Ayn, Saad. This is a mention of My mercy of your Lord to My servant, Zakariyya. Behold, he cried to his Lord praying in secret, “O my Lord! I am infirm. Indeed, do my bones and my hair glisten with gray, but never am I unblest. Indeed, I fear what my relatives and colleagues will do after me, but my wife is barren. So give me an heir from Yourself, one that will truly inherit the posterity of Yaqub, and make him my Lord, one with whom you will be pleased.” And Zakariyya was answered by Allah. He said, “O Zakariyya, We give you good news. You shall have a son. His name shall be Yahya, and upon none have We conferred that name of distinction before.” He said, “O my Lord, how shall I have a son when my wife is barren, and I have grown quite decrepit from old age?” And Allah said, “So it will be. This is quite easy for Me. I did indeed create you, or before you had been nothing.”

There are many such stories of Musa (as) and how he helped the two daughters of Shueyb, and the other prophets' relationship with humanity. We have to understand that we are all in need—everyone of us. Allah raises Himself up in front of us, every night before Fajr, and He extends His hand to us. What we need to do is wake up, and plead our cause to Allah, and take His hand. The closest position to speak to Allah is when we are in that state of *sujud, sajdah*, and to remember that whoever raises their hands upward in *du'ā* to Allah, Allah has promised to answer our *du'ā*. In the Qur'an, Allah says:

When My servants ask you concerning me, I am indeed close. I respond to the prayer of every supplicant when he calls to Me. Let them also with the will listen to My call, and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way.

Today is Friday. The doors of heaven are open. Our *du'ās* are accepted by Allah. We have come to the end of Ramadan. We have been purified; we have celebrated. We have spoken with one another with love, and shared food, and we have been present—especially in the retreat, which was so critically important this year, incredibly important. But then, not everyone benefited from it. But Inshallah, some did. Therefore, we are here in the house of Allah, and He is our host. All of us are sitting humbly I hope on the floor, or in a chair.

I encourage all of you to make the special to us for our people, and for yourself, and make *istighfar*. Remember Allah and He will remember you. Ask for forgiveness, and He will forgive you. Be grateful to Him, and He will increase you in your means. Be humble. Follow the path. Accept what you were given in your *ba'īat* and in your heart, and know that Allah will protect you from your own cells, and your own

wrong actions, and your own wrong decisions. And we all have them. But if you see them, it's good to correct them. *Asalaam aleikum.*