

Supplication

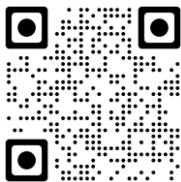
BY

Dr. Abdul Muhsin ibn Muhammad ibn Al-Qasim
Imam and Preacher at the Prophet's Noble Mosque

SUPPLICATION

(Ad-Du‘ā’)

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In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful.

PREFACE

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, upon his family, and all his companions. As for what follows:

Allah created mankind and jinn for His worship, and it is a blessing of Allah upon His creation that He made worship in various forms. Accordingly, certain forms of worship are related to the heart such as reliance on Allah and being fearful of Him while others are physical forms of worship such as performing Salah and giving Zakah. However, the essence and core of worship is supplication (du‘ā’), and it is a matter of religion which carries great significance. Numerous texts are found in the Quran and Sunnah which mention the high status of supplication (du‘ā’), and which encourage one to carry out this worship along with explaining its etiquettes.

Supplication (du‘ā’) is a form of worship that all servants of Allah are in need of, regardless of their circumstances or their status. Whoever supplicates to Allah with sincerity, according to the sunnah of the

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), has indeed carried out a great act of worship, and their supplication will be more befitting of being accepted. However, those who fall short and are negligent in supplicating to Allah or they transgress their limits, or their hearts are attached to other than Allah, then they have surely lost out on a great act of worship, and will not achieve their desired goals. In fact, they will expose themselves to the punishment of Allah.

Due to the importance of supplicating to Allah, and His servants’ dire need for it, I compiled in this book various chapters that revolve around the concept of supplicating to Allah alone. I named this book: **“Supplication (Ad-Du‘ā’)**”.

I ask Allah to make it sincerely for his sake and a source of benefit for His servants.

May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, upon his family, and all his companions.

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This book was completed on 20th Safar, 1444 AH.*

THE REALITY OF THE RELIGION OF ISLAM IS TO SINCERELY WORSHIP ALLAH ALONE

The religion of Allah which he chose for the entirety of His creation, from the first to the last, is Islam. All prophets came with this religion, and all messengers carried its banner. Allah, the Exalted, said:

﴿إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ﴾

“Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.” [Āl-'Imran: 19]

Islam means to worship Allah sincerely, and to submit to Him as the divine Lord who controls all affairs, and the only god worthy of worship who has no partners.

Islam is pure monotheism, the religion of our father Ibrahim.

﴿ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾

“Then We revealed to you [O Prophet, saying]: ‘Follow the faith of Ibrahim, the upright, who was not

of those who associate partners with Allāh.” [An-Nahl: 123]

Islam comprises beliefs and legislations, knowledge and actions, and a way of life in which the outer state (of a person) conforms with the inner.

(The testimony of faith which is) “there is no god worthy of worship except Allah” is the basis and foundation of Islam. It is its beginning and end, its motive and aim, and the dome of its structure that completes and beautifies it.

The connection between its wording and its meaning is like the connection between the body and soul, such that the body is of no benefit without the soul.

Saying it without believing in its meaning will not benefit a person at all.

Also, it is a saying which encapsulates the religion in its entirety. A person who says it while understanding its meaning, acting upon it, and fulfilling its conditions, has truly believed in the oneness of Allah (Tawheed), and whoever has truly believed in the oneness of Allah, as He ordained, will enter paradise without any reckoning or punishment.

THE RELIGION OF ISLAM IS BASED ON SUPPLICATING TO ALLAH ALONE

The clearest evidence of a person’s belief in the oneness of Allah, and the biggest proof of his belief in His uniqueness is supplicating to Him alone. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“If you are going to ask, then ask Allah.”** Narrated by at-Tirmidhi.¹

The religion of Allah (i.e., Islam) is based on supplicating to Allah alone. This is what Allah sent all His messengers with, and is the reason for the revelation of His books. This is His religion which He wants His servants to openly demonstrate even if it displeases those who reject it.

﴿فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

“So invoke Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion, although the disbelievers dislike it.” [Ghafir: 14]

¹ See hadith num: (2516), narrated from Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him).

Allah commanded His Prophet to openly announce to his people that the message he has been sent with is solely based on belief in the oneness of Allah and supplicating to him only.

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَدْعُوا رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ أَحَدًا﴾

“Say, [O Prophet,] ‘I call only upon my Lord, associating none with Him [in worship].’” [Al-Jinn: 20].

PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO ARE TOO ARROGANT TO SUPPLICATE TO ALLAH ALONE

Allah warns those who are too proud to supplicate to Him of punishment and humiliation.

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ﴾

“Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell humiliated.” [Al-Ghafir: 60]

Whoever dislikes supplicating to Allah alone but is pleased with asking the creation, then that is sign of misguidance and negligence of the hereafter. Allah, the Exalted says:

﴿وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ اشْمَأَزَّتْ قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ﴾

“And when Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who disbelieve in the Hereafter are filled with disgust.” [Az-Zumar: 45] In other words, their hearts are filled with hate and pride, and they don’t desire to worship and supplicate to Allah alone.

SUPPLICATION (DU‘Ā’) IS WORSHIP

There is no act of worship related to the heart which has been commanded by Allah except that it requires supplicating to Him.

In fact, all acts of worship, whether outward or inward, are all different forms of supplicating to Allah in its essence and meaning. So whoever prays, fasts, performs Hajj, or gives in charity (to please Allah), is in fact supplicating to his Lord. His worship, humility before his Lord, and his love for Him all show that he is asking Him for acceptance and desire to be close to Him.

Supplicating is indeed worship. It is its essence core and reality. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“Verily, supplication (du‘ā’) is worship.”** He then recited:

﴿وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمُ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ﴾

“Your Lord has proclaimed, ‘Call upon Me, I will respond to you.’” [Ghafir: 60]. Narrated by Ahmad.¹

¹ See hadith num: (18432), narrated from Nu‘man ibn Bashir (may Allah be pleased with him).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUPPLICATING TO ALLAH ALONE

Due to the significance of supplication and its great status, Allah has mentioned it in the beginning of His Book:

﴿أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ﴾

“Guide us to the straight path.” [Al-Fatihah: 6]

Also, He concluded His Book with the Mu‘awwidhatayn (Surah Al-Falaq and Surah An-Nas) in which there are supplications.

When referring to supplication, Allah used the word *deen* (religion). He, the Exalted, said:

﴿فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ﴾

“So invoke Allāh, [being] sincere to Him in religion.” [Ghafir: 14]

Allah also referred to supplication by calling it *‘ibadah* (worship). He, the Exalted said:

﴿ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ ﴾

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴾

“Your Lord has proclaimed, ‘Call upon Me, I will respond to you. Surely those who are too proud to worship Me will enter Hell humiliated.’” [Ghafir: 60]

SUPPLICATING TO ALLAH ALONE IS A SIGN OF IMAN

Supplicating to Allah with sincerity is a sign of *Imaan*, and a clear sign of having conviction. It is a rope for salvation, and a means of success. It is the distinguishing sign of the prophets and the true believers.

Hence, the one who supplicates sincerely to Allah alone is the one who truly worships Allah and has truly recognized and found the path leading to the noblest of truths. Indeed, supplication is a firm pillar that the believers rely on, and a secure place of refuge for the needy to hold on to.

Calamities and hardships make a servant recognize their Lord and makes him sincere in his supplications.

﴿وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنْبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا﴾

“Whenever someone is touched by hardship, they cry out to Us, whether lying on their side, sitting, or standing.” [Yunus: 12]

ALLAH ALONE IS THE ONE WHO ANSWERS SUPPLICATIONS

Our Lord, the Exalted, is invoked alone at all times and in all situations since He is the Creator who is capable of all things. He is the Most Powerful, the Subjugator who is above all things. Sustenance is in His Hand and granting and withholding is fully in His control.

The attributes of perfection, beauty, and majesty are true attributes that are inseparable from Him. Whosoever asks of something by His names and attributes, will be given what he desires.

﴿وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا﴾

“And to Allāh belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.” [Al-A'raf: 180]

Our Lord is indeed near to those who supplicate and worship Him. Whoever of them is in need, He provides for him. Whoever asks Him, He grants him, and whoever relies on Him, He suffices him.

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ﴾

“When My servants ask you [O Prophet] about Me: I am truly near. I respond to one’s prayer when they call upon Me.” [Al-Baqarah: 186]

Allah is the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting. Whoever supplicates to Him has turned to the one True Lord, the Eternal Refuge who is fully capable of removing all difficulties.

﴿هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ ۗ﴾

“He is the Ever-Living. There is no god worthy of worship except Him, so call upon Him, being sincere to Him in religion.” [Ghafir: 65]

His deserving of supplication is a clear proof that He alone is the absolute Truth since supplications made to others besides Him will never be responded to. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿لَهُ دَعْوَةُ الْحَقِّ وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُونَ لَهُمْ بِشَيْءٍ﴾

“Calling upon Him [alone] is the truth. But those [idols] the pagans invoke besides Him [can] never respond to them in any way.” [Ar-Ra'd: 14]

Allah’s generosity amazes the minds, and His kindness is a wonder of wonders. He rewards a simple

good deed with immense goodness. Whoever praises Him and asks in a befitting manner, He will grant him in abundance.

Allah overlooks enormous sins for those who are on the true religion and believe in His oneness without ascribing any partners to Him. Allah, the Exalted, says in a *Hadith Qudsi*: **“Whoever meets Me with sins nearly as great, or, as much as, the Earth, but has not associated anything with me, I shall meet him with a similar amount of forgiveness.”** Narrated by Muslim.¹

¹ See hadith num: (2687), narrated from Abu Dharr (may Allah be pleased with him).

THE PROPHETS SUPPLICATE TO ALLAH ALONE

The most beloved of the creation to Allah are those who ask him the most and do so persistently. The more a servant’s faith increases along with his understanding of the religion and his connection with his Lord, the keener he will be in supplicating to Allah in all his affairs. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“Let one of you ask his Lord for everything that he needs, even for the lace of his shoe if it breaks.”** Narrated by Tirmidhi.¹

Shaykh al-Islam (Ibn Taymiyyah) said: “The prophets and their followers would constantly ask Allah for all their needs pertaining to their religion, this world, and the hereafter. So, who can claim that he is not in need of asking Allah?! Moreover, the distinct characteristic of the servant is that he asks his Lord, and the characteristic of the Lord is that He will respond to him. Thus, the one

¹ See hadith num: (3604-8), narrated from Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him).

who thinks that he can do without asking Him has left the bond of servitude (to Allah).”¹

The way of the prophets was that they would be constantly supplicating to Allah during all circumstances.

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رِعَبًا وَرَهَبًا
وَكَانُوا لَنَا خَاشِعِينَ﴾

“Indeed, they used to hasten to good deeds, and call upon Us with hope and fear, totally humbling themselves before Us.” [Al-Anbya: 90]

Zakariyya (peace be upon him) wanted to have a child so he asked Allah for righteous offspring, and praised Him by saying:

﴿إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ﴾

“You are certainly the Hearer of [all] prayers.” [Āl-Imran: 38]

He then went to his prayer room and that is when the angels gave him glad tings of a prophet who will be a child of his despite his old age and weakness.

¹ See Ar-Radd Ala Ash-Shazili (pg. 57).

As for the people of Nuh, they confronted their prophet by opposing him, and accusing him of lying.

﴿فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَانْتَصِرْ﴾

“So he invoked his Lord, "Indeed, I am overpowered, so help me." [Al-Qamar: 10]

As a result, He drowned everything on the face of the Earth in a great flood except for the believers who followed him.

Allah also mentioned the story of the people of the cave and that they were young men who believed in His oneness and knew that supplicating to Allah alone was the only religion accepted by Him. So, they stood up among their people and said:

﴿رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَنْ نَدْعُوَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَهًا لَقَدْ قُلْنَا إِذَا سَطَطًا﴾

“Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We will never call upon any god besides Him, or we would truly be uttering an outrageous lie.” [Al-Kahf: 14]

For believers, supplicating (to Allah) at both ends of the day, and before dawn should be part of their daily routine.

﴿تَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا
وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ﴾

“They abandon their beds, invoking their Lord out of fear and hope, and donate from what We have provided for them.” [As-Sajdah: 16]

Being in the company of those who excessively supplicate to Allah with sincerity is one of Allah’s commands to His Prophet (may His peace and blessings be upon him).

﴿وَأَصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْعَدْوَىٰ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ ۗ﴾

“And patiently stick with those who call upon their Lord morning and evening, seeking His Face.” [Al-Kahf: 28]

THE BENEFITS OF SUPPLICATING TO ALLAH ALONE

The benefit of supplicating (to Allah) is immense, and its goodness is prevalent since both the dead and living benefit from it. Its blessing is attained by the one who supplicates and the one for whom the supplication is made. It is an effective means just like other means (accessible to us).

A servant supplicates to Allah according to His divine decree, and then the supplication is accepted by the will of Allah. So, supplicating to Allah prevents a calamity if that had preceded in His knowledge. It also brings goodness and, with the permission of Allah, saves one from destruction.

Hence, the matter is fully within the hands of Allah, and there no way for the creation to intervene with it.

Sincere supplication to Allah is like a radiant light. It establishes divinity for Allah alone and removes the possibility of there being an equal or opposite to Allah, or that He has a partner or helper, or that there is a god or deity worthy of worship besides Him. Through

sincere supplication, a person becomes a true servant of Allah, and he singles out Allah by turning to Him, venerating Him, loving Him, fearing Him, and having hope in Him alone. Also, the heart becomes attached to Him in times of prosperity and hardship, and the tongue calls out in supplication to Him in both ease and difficulty.

SIGNS OF A PERSON WHO TRULY BELIEVES IN THE ONENESS OF ALLAH

Whoever wants to know the reality of their belief in the oneness of Allah, should ponder over whom they supplicate. So, whoever sincerely supplicates to Allah has truly believed in the oneness of Allah, and whoever calls upon other than Allah has truly associated partners with Him. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿وَمَنْ يَدْعُ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ لَا بُرْهَانَ لَهُ بِهِ فَإِنَّمَا حِسَابُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ
إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

“Whoever invokes, besides Allah, another go -for which they can have no proof- they will surely find their penalty with their Lord. Indeed, the disbelievers will never succeed.” [Al-Mu'minun: 117]

THE PROPHETS DIDN'T COMMAND ANYONE TO SUPPLICATE TO THEM

Perfection and glory belong to Allah alone and being worshipped is not befitting to anyone but Allah while divine lordship suits His majesty only.

Regardless of how high of a status a person attains, he will never be deserving of being supplicated to regardless of whether it is for something significant or not.

So, if someone is unable to bring into existence the smallest of things then he has no right at all to be worshipped or supplicated to.

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَنْ يَخْلُقُوا ذُبَابًا وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا لَهُ﴾

“Indeed, those [idols] you invoke besides Allah can never create [so much as] a fly, even if they [all] were to come together for that.” [Al-Hajj: 73]

Allah chose some of His creation to be His messengers and elevated their status over others, but despite that none of them ever competed with Allah for divine lordship, nor commanded people to

supplicate to them, and nor were they pleased with such a thing. (The Quran states:)

﴿وَاِذْ قَالَ اللهُ يٰعِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ ءَاَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُوْنِي وَاٰلِيَّيْهِ مِنْ دُوْنِ
 اللهُ قَالِ سُبْحٰنَكَ مَا يَكُوْنُ لِيْ اَنْ اَقُوْلَ مَا لَيْسَ لِيْ بِحَقٍّ اِنْ كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ
 تَعَلَّمْ مَا فِيْ نَفْسِيْ وَلَا اَعْلَمُ مَا فِيْ نَفْسِكَ اِنَّكَ اَنْتَ عَلَّمُ الْغُيُوْبَ﴾

“And [on Judgment Day] Allah will say, ‘O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you ever ask the people to worship you and your mother as gods besides Allah?’ He will answer, ‘Glory be to You! How could I ever say what I had no right to say?’” [Al-Ma‘idah: 116]

Also, they were vulnerable to diseases and weakness. Some of them were even killed while others would become sick and were inflicted with magic. Also, they were humans who would eat and drink. So, how can one be a god when he needs food to sustain himself?!

In fact, the best of creation, our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), one of his incisors was broken¹, his head was

¹ See Sahih Al-Bukhari, hadith num: (2911), and Sahih Muslim, hadith num: (1790), both narrated from Sahl ibn Sa‘d (may Allah be pleased with him).

hit severely, he fell off his horse, and his skin was badly injured. As a result, he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed sitting down due to the injury caused by the severe fall¹.

¹ See Sahih Al-Bukhari, hadith num: (689), and Sahih Muslim, hadith num: (411), both narrated from Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him).

SUPPLICATING TO OTHER THAN ALLAH IS THE GREATEST SIN ON EARTH

Supplicating to other than Allah is a grave sin. Allah addressed His Prophet, saying:

﴿وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ ۚ فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنْ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

“And do not invoke besides Allah that which neither benefits you nor harms you, for if you did, then indeed you would be of the wrongdoers.” [Yunus: 16]

One of its most severe forms is to believe that there are intermediaries between Allah and His creation. Shaykh al-Islam (may Allah have mercy on him) said: “None of the prophets allowed any of the general masses to ask the righteous who have passed away or those not in their presence, or even the angels to supplicate on their behalf or to intercede for them. Rather, this is the root of *shirk* (ascribing partners to Allah) since the mushrikin took their idols as intercessors as well. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شَفَعَاؤُنَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ قُلْ أَتَدْعُونَ اللَّهَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ﴾

“And they worship other than Allah that which neither harms them nor benefits them, and they say, ‘These are our intercessors with Allah.’” [Yunus: 18]¹

However, supplicating to Allah along with others besides Him is the greatest sin that can be committed on the face of the Earth. Abdullah ibn Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “I asked the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him): **‘Which sin is the greatest?’** He said: **‘That you set an equal to Allah while He alone created you.’**” Agreed upon.²

Allah warns those who supplicate to other than him of a severe punishment. He, the Exalted said:

﴿فَلَا تَدْعُ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُعَذَّبِينَ﴾

¹ See Qa‘idah ‘Azimah (1/121).

² See Sahih Al-Bukhari, hadith num: (4477), and Sahih Muslim, hadith num: (86).

“So do not ever call upon any other god besides Allah, or you will be one of the punished.” [Ash-Shu'ara: 213] Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “Allah is in fact warning with this *ayah* other than the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). He (the Exalted) is saying: “You are the most beloved of my creation but even if you were to believe in a god besides Me, I would have punished you.”¹

Salah, and the actions it entails such as bowing and prostrating were not legislated and masajid were not established in the lands of Allah except for the purpose of supplicating to Him alone and that others beside him may never be supplicated to. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿وَأَنَّ الْمَسْجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

“The places of worship are [only] for Allah, so do not invoke anyone besides Him.” [Al-Jinn: 18]

¹ See Tafsir Al-Baghawi (3/480).

THE DEAD CANNOT HEAR THOSE WHO SUPPLICATE TO THEM

A person should only supplicate to his creator and should never supplicate to a creation like himself, nor should he seek assistance from him since they are both servants of Allah. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ عِبَادٌ أَمْثَلُكُمْ
فَادْعُوهُمْ فَلَيْسَ يُجِيبُوا لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ﴾

“Those [idols] you invoke besides Allah are created beings like yourselves. So call upon them and see if they will answer you, if your claims are true!”
[Al-A`raf: 194]

The person buried in his grave does not hear those who call upon him even if they raise him to the status of lordship. Also, a person in his grave does not have the power to benefit those who call upon him even if they claimed that he has divine traits. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْ قِطْمِيرٍ﴾ *

﴿إِنْ تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دُعَاءَكُمْ وَلَوْ سَمِعُوا مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ﴾

“And those [idols] you invoke besides Him do not possess even the membrane of a date seed. If you call upon them, they cannot respond to your calls.” [Al-Fatir: 13-14]

Moreover, the dead are incapable of helping themselves, so it is impossible for them to assist others. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُونَ نَصْرَكُمْ وَلَا أَنْفُسَهُمْ يَنْصُرُونَ﴾

“And those [false gods] you call besides Him can neither help you nor even themselves.” [Al-A`raf: 197]

A PERSON SUPPLICATING TO THE DEAD IS CERTAIN THAT IT CANNOT HEAR NOR BENEFIT

Whoever calls other than Allah is certain that the creation they supplicate to cannot hear them nor benefit them. Allah, the Exalted, mentions that Ibrahim (peace be upon him) asked his people regarding their idols:

﴿قَالَ هَلْ يَسْمَعُونَكُمُ إِذْ تَدْعُونَ * أَوْ يَنْفَعُونَكُمُ أَوْ يَضُرُّونَ *﴾

﴿قَالُوا بَلْ وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا كَذَلِكَ يَفْعَلُونَ﴾

“‘Can they hear you when you call upon them? Or can they benefit or harm you?’ They replied, ‘No! But we found our forefathers doing the same.’” [Ash-Shu'ara: 72-74]

Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) says: “This means they admitted that their idols cannot hear, benefit, nor harm but the only reason they worshipped them was that they saw their forefathers doing so.”¹

¹ See Tafsir Ibn Kathir (6/146).

SUPPLICATING TO THE DEAD RESULTS IN NOTHING BUT TIRING ONESELF AND CORRUPTING ONE’S RELIGEON

Those who call the dead hoping to gain benefit from them or deter harm from themselves will only corrupt their religion and tire themselves. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿يَدْعُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَمَا لَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الضَّلَالُ الْبَعِيدُ *
يَدْعُوا لِمَنْ ضَرُّهُ أَقْرَبُ مِنْ نَفْعِهِ لَيْسَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَلَيْسَ الْعَشِيرُ﴾

“They call besides Allah what can neither harm nor benefit them. That is [truly] the farthest one can stray. They invoke those whose worship leads to harm, not benefit. What an evil protector and what an evil associate!” [Al-Hajj: 12-13]

When a person turns to the creation and seeks the assistance of those alive or dead, they are in reality degrading and humiliating themselves. Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “O Allah, just as you protected my face from prostrating to other than you, protect me from asking others besides you

as well, as none besides you is able to deter harm or provide benefit.”¹

¹ See Jami‘ Al ‘Uloom wa Al-Hikam (1/481).

WHOEVER CALLS OTHER THAN ALLAH TO REMOVE A CALAMITY, ALLAH WILL PUNISH THEM WITH A MORE SEVERE CALAMITY

Any person who supplicates to other than Allah or whose heart turns to other than Allah, or the one whom Shaytan encourages to devote themselves to other than their Lord will surely fall into hardship and calamities through which they will come to realize the weakness and incapability of the being they supplicated to. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنِ اتَّكُمُ عَذَابُ اللَّهِ أَوْ أَتَّتَكُمُ السَّاعَةُ أَعْبَرِ اللَّهُ تَدْعُونَ إِن كُنْتُمْ
صَادِقِينَ * بَلْ إِلَٰهَهُ تَدْعُونَ فَيَكْشِفُ مَا تَدْعُونَ إِلَيْهِ إِن شَاءَ وَتَنْسَوْنَ مَا تُشْرِكُونَ﴾

“Ask [them, O Prophet], ‘Imagine if you were overwhelmed by Allah’s torment or the Hour—would you call upon any other than Allah [for help]? [Answer me] if your claims are true! No! He is the only One you would call. And if He willed, He could remove the affliction that made you invoke Him. Only then will you forget whatever you associate with Him [in worship].’” [Al-An`am: 40-41]

Whoever knows that it is only Allah Who has control over everything and that He is not in need of any of His creation, will know that benefit can only be attained from Him, and thus they will have hope in none but Him.

﴿قُلِ ادْعُوا الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي

الْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَهُمْ فِيهِمَا مِنْ شِرْكٍَ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ ظَهِيرٍ﴾

“Say, [O Prophet,] ‘Call upon those you claim [to be divine] besides Allah. They do not possess [even] an atom’s weight either in the heavens or the earth, nor do they have any share in [governing] them. Nor is any of them a helper to Him.’” [Saba: 22]

THE STATE OF A PERSON WHO SUPPLICATED TO OTHER THAN ALLAH, AT THE TIME OF DEATH

When death comes to a person who worshipped others along with Allah, they will disassociate themselves from what they did.

﴿الَّذِينَ تَتَوَفَّوهُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنفُسِهِمْ فَأَلْقُوا السَّلَامَ مَا كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ مِنْ سُوءٍ بَلَىٰ﴾

“Those whose souls the angels seize while they wrong themselves will then offer [full] submission.” Meaning they will proclaim to listen, obey, and submit and say falsely, “We did not do any evil.” [An-Nahl: 28]

On the Day of Judgement, the curtain will be removed from the eyes of every human being, and they will see the incapability of the creation with the eye of certainty. Also, they will witness that those whom they used to supplicate to will disassociate themselves from them. Allah, the Exalted, says:

﴿حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ نَحْمُرُ رُسُلَنَا يَتَوَفَّوْنَهُمْ قَالُوا أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ

قَالُوا ضَلُّوا عَنَّا وَشَهِدُوا عَلَيَّ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ﴾

“Until Our messenger-angels arrive to take their souls, asking them, ‘Where are those [false gods] you used to invoke besides Allah?’ They will cry, ‘They have failed us.’” [Al-A`raf: 37]

Meaning they left us and hence we have no hope of any benefit or goodness from them. Whoever supplicates to other than Allah, He will be angry with them and will place them in hellfire for eternity. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) said: **“Whoever dies while invoking anything other than Allah as a rival will enter Hell.”** Agreed upon.¹

¹ See Sahih Al-Bukhari, hadith num: (4497), and Sahih Muslim, hadith num: (92), both narrated from Abdullah ibn Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him).

SHAYTAN LOVES SUPPLICATIONS MADE TO OTHER THAN ALLAH

Supplicating to Allah is a powerful form of worship that differentiates a person who believes in the oneness of Allah from other than him. However, it is one of the easiest means through which Shaytan corrupts the religion of the servants of Allah. Ibn Al-Qayyim mentions: “Seeking one’s needs from the dead, asking for their assistance, and seeking their aid is the root of all *shirk* in the world.”¹

A Muslim devotes his heart, worship, and all his dealings solely to his Lord. He differentiates between the Creator and the creation with regards to his knowledge about them, seeking them out, and loving them, and thus he gives the Creator and the creation their due right and status. He does not attribute to one of them what the other deserves.

Hence, only Allah is deserving of worship and supplication. He alone should be feared, and hope should be placed in Him only.

¹ See Madarij As-Salikin (1/353).

As for the righteous among the creation, they deserved to be followed, loved, respected, and praised. Allah, the Exalted says:

﴿فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ
اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“So, direct your face toward the religion, inclining to truth. [Adhere to] the fitrah of Allah upon which He has created [all] people. No change should there be in the creation of Allah. That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know.” [Ar-Rum: 30]

BELIEF IN THE ONENESS OF ALLAH IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING A PERSON OWNS

The most valuable thing given to a servant is their belief in the oneness of Allah, while the biggest blessing is being steadfast upon this belief until they meet Him. Faith with sincerity, even if it is deficient, may save a person from remaining in hellfire for eternity, but when this belief is complete, it prevents a person from entering it.

Shaytan misleads the servants of Allah with all sorts of confusion and doubt in an effort to turn them away from the religion of Islam. There is no doubt that comes to a person’s mind except that it comprises something which makes him want to follow this doubt and believe in it.

Hence, whoever wants to be safe from all doubts should adhere to his belief in the oneness of Allah and his faith by reciting the Quran, contemplating it, and seeking knowledge, whilst distancing himself from all areas of doubt.

We ask Allah for beneficial knowledge, the ability to do righteous actions, and to sincerely

supplicate to Him. May Allah send peace and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad, upon his family, and all his companions.

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- ❖ Duaa' (supplication) is an extremely great act of worship that is important for every Muslim. Sincerity in it shows the level of the slave's Tawheed (worship of Allah alone).
- ❖ Allah (may He be exalted) loves that His slaves call upon Him at all times, and He hates those who call upon other than him.
- ❖ Supplicating to Allah alone is the way of the Messengers, and Allah's righteous allies.
- ❖ Supplicating to anyone other than Allah - from the living or the dead - is shirk (associating partners) with Allah, and the one supplicating does not benefit from it.
- ❖ The greatest sin in the world is calling upon others alongside Allah.
- ❖ The Tawheed of Allah (i.e. worshipping Him alone) is the slave's greatest possession, and whoever supplicates to other than Him has lost Tawheed.

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