

Chapter Five

AD-DU'A (PRAYER TO ALLAH OR CALLING ON ALLAH)

We will discuss the following concepts:

- 1- It is an obligation on those who believe to call on Allah
- 2- There are manners and ethics in calling on Allah
- 3- Our Du'a to Allah is answered unless we transgress
- 4- Examples of proper Du'a from the Qur'an and from the Sunnah
- 5- The benefits of Du'a

It is our obligation to call on Allah and pray to Him

﴿ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي

سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾ [غافر: ٦٠]

And your Lord says: "Call on Me; I will answer your (Prayer): but those who are too arrogant to serve Me will surely find themselves in Hell, in humiliation!"

Ghafir 40 : 60

We are ordered in this Qur'anic verse to pray to Allah and to call on Him, and we are promised that Allah will respond to us and answer our Du'a. Those who feel too high or too arrogant to call on Allah and ask Him are threatened with punishment.

So why do we call on Allah or pray to Him?

The scholars said that Du'a involves two aspects:

- 1- Du'a Al-Masa'la : Asking Allah to remove illness, hardship or adversity; or to ask Allah for some benefit or to help us achieve something that we desire.
- 2- Du'a Al-Ebada : Praying to Allah glorifying Him, praising Him and acknowledging His blessings and thanking Him

Usually Du'a involves both types: Thanking Allah and asking Him. The Qur'an tells us about both types of Du'a:

﴿ ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٥٥]

Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah loveth not those who trespass beyond bounds.

Al-Ara'f 7 : 55

﴿ وَلَا تَفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٥٦]

Do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order, but call on Him with fear and longing (in your hearts): for the Mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good.

Al-Ara'f 7 : 56

We call on Allah because we know that He hears our prayers and knows the difficulty that we are experiencing, and because we know that He can help us and relieve our distress:

On the tongue of Prophet Zakareyya:

﴿ هُنَالِكَ دَعَا زَكَرِيَّا رَبَّهُ قَالَ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ

الدُّعَاءِ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٣٨]

There did Zakariya pray to his Lord, saying: "O my Lord! grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure for Thou art He that heareth prayer!"

Al-Imran 3 : 38

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was told to emphasize that Allah is close and that He hears our Du'a and responds to our prayers:

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

وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴾ [البقرة: ١٨٦]

When My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calleth on Me: let them also, with a will, listen to My call, and believe in Me: that they may walk in the right way.

Al-Baqara 2 : 186

The Qur'an also emphasizes that no one can help us or relieve our distress except Allah:

﴿ وَإِن يَمَسَّكَ اللَّهُ بَصْرًا فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يُرِدْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ لِفَضْلِهِ

يُصِيبُ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾ [يونس: ١٠٧]

If Allah do touch thee with hurt, there is none can remove it but He: if He do design some benefit for thee, there is none can keep back His favour: He causeth it to reach whomsoever of His servants He pleaseth. And He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Yunus 10 : 107

And:

﴿ وَإِنْ يَمَسُّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِنْ يَمَسُّكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴾ [الأنعام: ١٧]

"If Allah touch thee with affliction, none can remove it but He; if He touch thee with happiness, He hath power over all things."

Al-An'am 6 : 17

So when we call on Allah and pray to Him it is an admission of our weakness and a realization of our dependence on Him. Allah has all the control and we need His help and guidance. This is the essence of Du'a:

﴿ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴾ [الفاتحة: ٥]

Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek,

Al-Fatiha 1 : 5

The manners and ethics of calling on Allah

- 1- We call on Allah with humility
- 2- We call on Allah with devotion and certainty that He will answer our prayers
- 3- We call on Allah praising Him and seeking His mercy
- 4- We call on Allah in secret
- 5- We call on Allah seeking what is right
- 6- We never despair of Allah's mercy or say we called but He did not answer our prayers

Calling on Allah with humility

When we understand that Allah is in control of our destiny, and that nothing happens without His permission, we call on Him with humility and in hope:

﴿ ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٥٥]

Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah loveth not those who trespass beyond bounds.

Al-Araf 7 : 55

And:

﴿ قُلْ مَنْ يُنَجِّيكُمْ مِنَ ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ تَدْعُونَهُ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً لِّئِنْ أَنْجَيْنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ لَنُكُونَنَّ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴾ [الأنعام: ٦٣]

Say: "Who is it that delivereth you from the dark recesses of land and sea, when ye call upon Him in humility and silent terror: 'If He only delivers us from these (dangers), (we vow) we shall truly show our gratitude?'"

Al-An'am 6 : 63

Calling on Allah with devotion and sincerity

When we call on Allah, we do so with devotion because we understand that Allah is the only God worthy of worship and service:

﴿ هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾

[غافر: ٦٥]

He is the Living (One): there is no god but He: call upon Him, giving Him sincere devotion. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds!

Ghafir 40 : 65

﴿ قُلْ إِنِّي نُهَيْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَمَّا جَاءَنِيَ الْبَيِّنَاتُ مِنْ رَبِّي وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أُسَلِّمَ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾ [غافر: ٦٦]

Say: "I have been forbidden to invoke those whom ye invoke besides Allah, seeing that the Clear Signs have come to me from my Lord; and I have been commanded to bow (in Islam) to the Lord of the Worlds."

Ghafir 40 : 66

﴿ فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴾ [غافر: ١٤]

Call ye, then, upon Allah with sincere devotion to Him, even though the Unbelievers may detest it.

Ghafir 40 : 14

And:

﴿ فَإِذَا رَكِبُوا فِي الْفُلِكِ دَعَوْا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ فَلَمَّا نَجَّوهُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ إِذَا هُمْ

يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾ [العنكبوت: ٦٥]

Now, if they embark on a boat, they call on Allah, making their devotion sincerely (and exclusively) to Him; but when He has delivered them safely to (dry) land, behold, they give a share (of their worship to others)!

Al-Ankabut 29 : 65

And:

﴿ وَأَصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ ۗ وَلَا تَعْدُ

عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَلَا تُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ

هُوْلَهُ ۗ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرْطًا ﴿٢٨﴾ [الكهف: ٢٨]

And keep thy soul content with those who call on their Lord morning and evening, seeking His Face; and let not thine eyes pass beyond them, seeking the pomp and glitter of this Life; nor obey any whose heart We have permitted to neglect the remembrance of Us, one who follows his own desires, whose case has gone beyond all bounds.

Al-Kahf 18 : 28

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (according to Abou Horaira)

(Call on Allah and be certain that He will answer you; and know that Allah responds not to a heart that is unaware and preoccupied with other things)

Termedhi & Hakim

The prophet (PBUH) also said: (according to Salman Al-Faresi)

(Your Lord is shy and generous, He shies from His servant who lifts his hands up to Him calling on Him that Allah returns them empty handed not responding to him)

Termedhi, Abou Dawood, Hakim & Ibn Majja

Who are the ones whose prayer to Allah is answered?

- 1- The fasting person
- 2- The person who has been wronged

- 3- The Just ruler
- 4- The prayer of a parent on behalf his children
- 5- The prayer of the traveler
- 6- The prayer of the person who remembers Allah often
- 7- Calling on Allah by His names
- 8- Calling on Allah and praising Him when times are good and you are enjoying Allah's blessings
- 9- Seeking Allah's forgiveness
- 10- Calling on Allah during Sojoud (prostration)
- 11- Calling on Allah during the day of Friday
- 12- Du'a on behalf another person in his absence

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Three people their Du'a to Allah is not turned down: The fasting person till he/ she break their fast; and the just ruler; and the Du'a of the person wronged: Allah raises his Du'a above the clouds and the gates of heaven are opened for it, and the Lord says: "With My might I will help you if not now, then after a while")

Termedhi, Tabarani & Ibn Majja

(Three people their Du'a is not turned down: The person who remembers Allah often ; and the Du'a of the one wronged and the du'a of a just ruler)

Baihaqi

(Three prayers to Allah will be answered without a doubt: The Du'a of a parent; and the Du'a of the traveler; and the Du'a of the one wronged)

Abou Dawood, Ibn Majja & Tabarani

(There is one hour on the day of Friday, whenever a Muslim asks Allah something good in it, till his request is granted; and it is one light hour)

Bokhari & Muslim

In another narration:

(On the Day of Friday there is one hour that no servant asks Allah during this time, while he is praying or waiting for prayer, till his request is answered)

Tabarani

(The closest a servant is to Allah is during his prostration, therefore increase your Du'a then)

Muslim

(Whoever wishes that his Du'a to Allah during difficult times will be answered, let him say Du'a often when times are good)

Tabarani & Hakim

Calling on Allah praising Him and seeking His forgiveness

We are ordered to call on Allah, seeking His forgiveness and know that He will accept our Du'a and forgive our sins:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Our Lord descends to the lower heaven in the last third of the night and says: "Who is calling on Me and I will answer his call; who is asking Me and I will give him; and who is seeking My forgiveness and I will forgive him")

Bokhari & Muslim

When we call on Allah asking Him or seeking His forgiveness, we should praise Him and glorify Him. This is what Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us to do. For example he taught us to say when we go to bed:

(Glory be to you O my Lord, I put my side with You and I raise it up by You. If you keep my soul grant it forgiveness, and if you release it safeguard it as You safeguard Your righteous servants)

Bokhari & Muslim.

The Prophet (PBUH) when he woke up at night used to say in his Du'a before he starts his prayers:

(O Allah all praise is to You; You are the light of the heavens and the earth; All praise is to You for You are the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth; and all praise is to You, for You are the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all therein. You are the truth, and Your promise is true, and your word is true and meeting You is true; heaven is true and hell is true and the hour is true. O Allah to You do I submit and in You do I believe, and in You do I put my trust, to You do I turn, in You do I make enemies, and to You do I turn for judgment and take sides. Therefore, forgive me what I have done and what I may do, and what I have declared and what I have hidden. You are my Lord, there is no god but You)

Bokhari & Muslim

We call on Allah in secret

The Qur'an orders Muslims to call on Allah in secret:

﴿وَأَذْكُر رَبِّكَ فِي نَفْسِكَ تَضَرُّعًا وَخِيفَةً وَدُونَ الْجَهْرِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ
وَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْغَافِلِينَ﴾ [الأعراف: ٢٠٥]

And do thou (O reader!) bring thy Lord to remembrance in thy (very) soul, with humility and in reverence, without loudness in words, in the mornings and evenings; and be not thou of those who are unheedful.

Al-Araf 7 : 205

And:

﴿ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخِيفَةً إِنَّهُ لَا يَحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ﴾ [الأعراف: ٥٥]

Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah loveth not those who trespass beyond bounds.

Al-Araf 7 : 55

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told his companions that they do not have to raise their voice in Du'a to Allah and said:

(Be kind to yourselves and lower your voices, for you are not calling on someone who is deaf or absent, you are calling on the One who is all-hearing, all-seeing and is near)

Bokhari & Muslim.

The rational of calling on Allah in secret

- It shows that we understand that Allah hears our prayer to Him
- It shows good manners and respect
- It indicates devotion and submission
- It shows sincerity
- It allows us to concentrate and be focused
- It is a private matter and there is no need for others to know about or listen to what we have to say.

Our Du'a to Allah should involve asking what is right and not what is wrong

We cannot call on Allah asking for something that is sinful, or wronging other people. Our Du'a then will not be considered or answered:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Every Muslim that calls on Allah his Du'a will be answered either as he requested, or some harm will be lifted from his shoulder, as long as he is not calling in sin, or distancing himself from his relations)

Termedhi

We should not despair of Allah's mercy

When we are suffering and going through hard times, we should always remember that Allah knows our plight and that we are not alone. Allah knows what is best for us. If we are patient and persevere, we are rewarded for our faith, patience and resolve. We cannot give up or despair of Allah's mercy.

At the same time, we should not say: "I called on my Lord and He does not listen to me or answer my prayer", then give up or do something wrong. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Your Du'a to Allah will be answered unless you get impatient and say: "I called but my Lord did not answer my prayer")

Bokhari & Muslim.

Saying Du'a on behalf another person in his absence

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (according to Umm Ad-Darda'a)

(The Du'a of a Muslim on behalf his brother in his absence will be responded to: there is an Angel at his head, every time he says Du'a for his brother and wishes him well, the Angel says: "Amen, and you too will get the same")

Muslim, Ahmad & Ibn Majja

Transgression in Du'a

This transgression in Du'a May take several forms:

- 1- Asking for something sinful or not right
- 2- Becoming impatient or loosing faith because our Du'a was not answered
- 3- Calling on Allah in arrogance and not showing humility and devotion
- 4- Calling on Allah in a way that does not show respect or calling on Allah by a name that He did not name Himself with.
- 5- Calling on others besides Allah

Times when Du'a is likely to be answered

- 1- During prostration because we are closer to Allah than at any other time
- 2- When we are in prayer or waiting for prayer
- 3- During the day of Friday especially late afternoon
- 4- When fasting
- 5- In the month of Ramadan
- 6- The first 10 nights of the month of Zul-Hijja
- 7- The last third of the night
- 8- Any time when we are sincere, devoted and humble
- 9- When we praise Allah and call on Him by His beautiful names

The Benefits of Du'a

- 1- Allah will respond to our Du'a and relieve our distress
- 2- Du'a can avert catastrophe and alter our fate
- 3- We feel close to Allah when we call on Him with devotion and humility
- 4- In our Du'a we glorify Allah and praise Him and thank Him for His blessings
- 5- Du'a is a form of worship. It denotes how much we depend on Allah and need His mercy and guidance

Allah responds to our Du'a

﴿ أَمَّنْ تُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ أَلَيْسَ لَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾ [النمل: ٦٢]

Or, who listens to the (soul) distressed when it calls on Him, and who relieves its suffering, and makes you (mankind) inheritors of the earth? (Can there be another) god besides Allah? Little it is that ye heed!

An-Naml 27 : 62

And:

﴿ وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴾ [البقرة: ١٨٦]

When My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calleth on Me: let them also, with a will, listen to My call, and believe in Me: that they may walk in the right way.

Al-Baqara 2 : 186

Du'a may avert catastrophe and change our fate

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (according to Thawban)

(Nothing can avert fate except Du'a (prayer to Allah); and nothing can increase your life except doing good; and your sustenance can decrease or be denied because of your sins)

Termedhi, Ibn Majja & Ahmad

We feel close to Allah when we call on Him with devotion and humility

Most people call on Allah when they are in trouble or facing great difficulty, for they instinctively know that no one can relieve their distress except Allah. Unfortunately once their difficulty is over they forget their Lord and turn away:

﴿ وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلَهُ نِعْمَةً مِّنْهُ نَسِيَ مَا كَانَ يَدْعُوًا إِلَيْهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَجَعَلَ لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا لِّيُضِلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ۗ قُلْ تَمَتَّعْ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا ۗ ﴾

إِنَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ ﴿٨﴾ [الزمر: ٨]

When some trouble toucheth man, he crieth unto his Lord, turning to Him in repentance: but when He bestoweth a favour upon him as from Himself, (man) doth forget what he cried and prayed for before, and he doth set up rivals unto Allah, thus misleading others from Allah's Path. Say, "Enjoy thy blasphemy for a little while: verily thou art (one) of the Companions of the Fire!"

Az-Zumar 39 : 8

And:

﴿ وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا إِلَىٰ ضُرِّ مَسَّهُ ۗ كَذَٰلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ ﴾

[يونس: ١٢]

When trouble toucheth a man, he crieth unto Us (in all postures), lying down on his side, or sitting, or standing. But when We have solved his trouble, he passeth on his way as if he had never cried to Us for a trouble that touched him! Thus do the deeds of transgressors seem fair in their eyes!

Yunus 10 : 12

Those who believe call on Allah during bad times seeking His help, and in good times thanking Him for His blessings.

Sincerity and devotion brings us closer to Allah

﴿ هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُنَزِّل لَكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ رِزْقًا وَمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ إِلَّا مَنْ يُنِيبُ ﴾ [غافر: ١٣]

[غافر: ١٣]

He it is Who showeth you His Signs, and sendeth down Sustenance for you from the sky: but only those receive admonition who turn (to Allah).

GHafir 40 : 13

﴿ فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴾ [غافر: ١٤]

Call ye, then, upon Allah with sincere devotion to Him, even though the Unbelievers may detest it.

GHafir 40 : 14

And:

﴿ قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴾ [الزمر: ١١]

Say: "Verily, I am commanded to serve Allah with sincere devotion;

Az-Zumar 39 : 11

In our Du'a we glorify Allah and praise Him and we thank Him for His blessings

On the tongue of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) we learn how to call on Allah and thank Him:

﴿ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي وَهَبَ لِي عَلَى الْكِبَرِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبِّي لَسَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ ﴾ [إبراهيم: ٣٩]

[إبراهيم: ٣٩]

"Praise be to Allah. Who hath granted unto me in old age Isma'il and Isaac: for truly my Lord is He, the Hearer of Prayer!

Ibrahim 14 : 39

﴿ رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ ﴿٤٠﴾ [إبراهيم: ٤٠]

"O my Lord! make me one who establishes regular Prayer, and also (raise such) among my offspring O our Lord! And accept Thou my Prayer.

Ibrahim 14 : 40

﴿ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ ﴿٤١﴾ [إبراهيم: ٤١]

"O our Lord! cover (us) with Thy Forgiveness, me, my parents, and (all) Believers, on the Day that the Reckoning will be established!"

Ibrahim 14 : 41

In these verses Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) praises Allah for His blessings and acknowledges that Allah indeed hears the prayer of His servants. Then he asks Allah to help him safeguard his prayers, and to help his descendants also hold fast to their prayers. He implores Allah to accept his Du'a and to forgive him and to forgive his parents and the believers, and acknowledges that there is a day of accountability. So he starts by praising Allah and acknowledging His blessings then asks for Allah's help and forgiveness. We too should start our Du'a with praising Allah and stating that we cherish and acknowledge His many blessings. Then we can ask for Allah's help and seek His forgiveness and mercy.

Du'a is a form of worship: It denotes how much we depend on Allah and need His help

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Du'a is Ebada (worship)). Then he recited the verse: "And your Lord says: "Call on Me and I will respond to you" Ghafir 40: 60)

Abou Dawood & Termedhi

Examples of Du'a from the Qur'an

Surat Al-Fatiha (Opening chapter)

﴿ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿٥﴾ [الفاتحة: ٥]

Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek,
Al-Fatiha 1 : 5

Surat Al-Baqara (Chapter 2)

﴿وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾ [البقرة: ١٢٧]

And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (with this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

Al-Baqara 2 : 127

﴿رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِن دُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُّسْلِمَةً لَّكَ وَأَرِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾ [البقرة: ١٢٨]

"Our Lord! Make of us Muslims bowing to Thy (Will); and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (Will); and show us our places for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.

Al-Baqara 2 : 128

﴿وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٠١]

And there are men who say: "Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and defend us from the torment of the Fire!"

Al-Baqara 2 : 201

﴿وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أفرغ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٥٠]

When they advanced to meet Goliath and his forces, they prayed: "Our Lord! Pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm: help us against those that reject faith."

Al-Baqara 2 : 250

﴿ ءَامَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ ۚ وَرُسُلِهِ ۚ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّن رُّسُلِهِ ۗ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا ۗ غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا ۗ

وَالَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٢٨٥﴾ [البقرة: ٢٨٥]

The Messenger believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in Allah, His angels, His Books, and His Messengers. "We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of His Messengers." And they say: "We hear, and we obey, (we seek) Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys."

Al-Baqara 2 : 285

﴿ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا ۚ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا اكْتَسَبَتْ ۗ رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِن نَّسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ۗ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِنَا ۗ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۗ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَارْحَمْنَا ۗ أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا ۗ

فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٨٦﴾ [البقرة: ٢٨٦]

On no soul doth Allah place a burden greater than it can bear. It gets every good that it earns, and it suffers every ill that it earns. (Pray:) "Our Lord! Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error; our Lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which Thou didst lay on those before us; our Lord! lay not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Blot out our sins, and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. Thou art our Protector; help us against those who stand against Faith."

Al-Baqara 2 : 286

Surat Al-Imran (Chapter 3)

﴿ رَبَّنَا لَا تُرِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً ۚ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ ﴿٨﴾

[آل عمران: ٨]

"Our Lord!" (they say), "let not our hearts deviate now after Thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from Thine own Presence; for Thou art the Grantor of bounties without measure.

Al-Imran 3 : 8

﴿ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا ءَامَنَّا فَأَغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴾ [آل عمران: ١٦]

[آل عمران: ١٦]

(Namely), those who say; "Our Lord! we have indeed believed: forgive us, then, our sins, and save us from the agony of the Fire;" –

Al-Imran 3 : 16

﴿ قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءَ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءَ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ ۗ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٢٦]

﴿ قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءَ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءَ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ ۗ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٢٦]

Say: "O Allah! Lord of Power (and Rule), Thou givest Power to whom Thou pleasest, and Thou strippest off Power from whom Thou pleasest: Thou enduest with honour whom Thou pleasest, and Thou bringest low whom Thou pleasest: in Thy hand is all Good. Verily, over all things Thou hast power.

Al-Imran 3 : 26

﴿ تُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَمِيتِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْمَمِيتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ ۗ وَتَرْزُقُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٢٧]

﴿ تُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَمِيتِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْمَمِيتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ ۗ وَتَرْزُقُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٢٧]

"Thou causest the Night to gain on the Day, and Thou causest the Day to gain on the Night; Thou bringest the Living out of the Dead, and Thou bringest the Dead out of the Living; and Thou givest sustenance to whom Thou pleasest, without measure."

Al-Imran 3 : 27

﴿ رَبَّنَا ءَامَنَّا بِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ وَاتَّبَعْنَا الرَّسُولَ فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٥٣]

[آل عمران: ٥٣]

"Our Lord! we believe in what Thou hast revealed, and we follow the Messenger; then write us down among those who bear witness."

Al-Imran 3 : 53

﴿ وَمَا كَانَ قَوْلُهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا

وَأَنْصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿١٤٧﴾ [آل عمران: ١٤٧]

All that they said was: "Our Lord! forgive us our sins and anything we may have done that transgressed our duty: establish our feet firmly, and help us against those that resist Faith."

Al-Imran 3 : 147

﴿ الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ ﴿١٧٣﴾ [آل عمران: ١٧٣]

Men said to them: "A great army is gathering against you, so fear them": but it (only) increased their Faith; they said: "For us Allah sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs."

Al-Imran 3 : 173

﴿ الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَمًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَطْلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿١٩١﴾ [آل عمران: ١٩١]

Men who celebrate the praises of Allah, standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heavens and the earth, (with the thought): "Our Lord! not for naught hast thou created (all) this! Glory to Thee! Give us salvation from the Penalty of the Fire.

Al-Imran 3 : 191

﴿ رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ مَنْ تَدْخِلِ النَّارَ فَقَدْ أَخْزَيْتَهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ ﴿١٩٢﴾ [آل عمران: ١٩٢]

"Our Lord! any whom Thou dost admit to the Fire, truly Thou coverest with shame, and never will wrong-doers find any helpers!

Al-Imran 3 : 192

﴿ رَبَّنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ ءَامِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا

ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ ﴿١٩٣﴾ [آل عمران: ١٩٣]

"Our Lord! we have heard the call of one calling (us) to Faith, 'Believe ye in the Lord', and we have believed. Our Lord! forgive us our sins, blot out

from us our iniquities, and take to Thyself our souls in the company of the righteous.

Al-Imran 3 : 193

﴿ رَبَّنَا وَءَاتِنَا مَا وَعَدْتَنَا عَلَىٰ رُسُلِكَ وَلَا تُخْزِنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ ﴿١٩٣﴾ ﴾

[آل عمران: ١٩٤]

"Our Lord! Grant us what Thou didst promise unto us through Thy Messengers, and save us from shame on the Day of Judgment; for Thou never breakest Thy promise."

Al-Imran 3 : 194

Surat An-Nesa'a (Chapter 4)

﴿ وَمَا لَكُمْ لَا تُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ الظَّالِمِ أَهْلُهَا وَاجْعَل لَّنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ وَلِيًّا وَاجْعَل لَّنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ نَصِيرًا ﴿٧٥﴾ ﴾ [النساء: ٧٥]

And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, women, and children, whose cry is: "Our Lord! rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from thee one who will protect; and raise for us from thee one who will help!

An-Nesa'a 4 : 75

Surat Al-Araf (Chapter 7)

﴿ قَالَا رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾ ﴾

[الأعراف: ٢٣]

They said: "Our Lord! we have wronged our own souls: if Thou forgive us not and bestow not upon us Thy Mercy, we shall certainly be lost."

Al-Araf 7 : 23

﴿ وَإِذَا صُرِفَتْ أَبْصُرُهُمْ تَلَقَّاءُ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٤٧﴾ ﴾

[الأعراف: ٤٧]

When their eyes shall be turned towards the Companions of the Fire, they will say: "Our Lord! send us not to the company of the wrong-doers."

Al-Araf 7 : 47

﴿ قَدْ أَفْتَرْنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا إِنْ عُدْنَا فِي مِلَّتِكُمْ بَعْدَ إِذْ نَجَّيْنَا اللَّهُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَكُونُ لَنَا أَنْ نَعُودَ فِيهَا إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَسِعَ رَبُّنَا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا عَلَى اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا رَبَّنَا أَفْتَحْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْفَاتِحِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٨٩]

"We should indeed invent a lie against Allah, if we returned to your ways after Allah hath rescued us therefrom; nor could we by any manner of means return thereto unless it be as in the will and plan of Allah, our Lord. Our Lord can reach out to the utmost recesses of things by His knowledge. In Allah is our trust. Our Lord! decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide."

Al-Araf 7 : 89

﴿ وَمَا تَنْقِمُ مِنَّا إِلَّا أَنْ آمَنَّا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا لَمَّا جَاءَتْنَا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَتَوَفَّنَا مُسْلِمِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ١٢٦]

"But thou dost wreak thy vengeance on us simply because we believed in the Signs of our Lord when they reached us! our Lord! pour out on us patience and constancy, and take our souls unto Thee as Muslims (who bow to Thy Will)!"

Al-Araf 7 : 126

﴿ وَأَخْتَارَ مُوسَىٰ قَوْمَهُ سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا لِمِيقَاتِنَا فَلَمَّا أَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ قَالَ رَبِّ لَوْ شِئْتَ أَهْلَكْتَهُمْ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَإِيَّيَ أَهْلَكْتُنَا بِمَا فَعَلَ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَّا إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا فِتْنَتُكَ تُضِلُّ بِهَا مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَهْدِي مَنْ تَشَاءُ أَنْتَ وَلِيُّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْغَافِرِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ١٥٥]

[الأعراف: ١٥٥]

And Moses chose seventy of his people for Our place of meeting: when they were seized with violent quaking, he prayed: "O my Lord! if it had been Thy Will Thou couldst have destroyed, long before, both them and me: wouldst Thou destroy us for the deeds of the foolish ones among us? This is

no more than Thy trial: by it Thou causest whom Thou wilt to stray, and Thou leadeest whom Thou wilt into the right path. Thou art our Protector: so forgive us and give us Thy mercy; for Thou art the Best of those who forgive.

Al-Araf 7 : 155

﴿وَأَكْتُبْ لَنَا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ إِنَّا هُدْنَا إِلَيْكَ قَالَ عَذَابِي أُصِيبُ بِهِ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَسَأَكْتُمُهَا لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِآيَاتِنَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾﴾ [الأعراف: ١٥٦]

"And ordain for us that which is good, in this life and in the Hereafter: for we have turned unto Thee." He said: "With My Punishment I visit whom I will; but My Mercy extendeth to all things. That (Mercy) I shall ordain for those who do right, and practise regular charity, and those who believe in Our Signs.

Al-Araf 7 : 156

Surat Yunus (Chapter 10)

﴿وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ يَنْقُومُ إِن كُنتُمْ ءَامَنتم بِاللّهِ فَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلُوا إِن كُنتُمْ مُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٨٤﴾﴾

[يونس: ٨٤]

Moses said: "O my people! If ye do (really) believe in Allah, then in Him put your trust if ye submit (your will to His)."

Yunus 10 : 84

﴿فَقَالُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٨٥﴾﴾ [يونس: ٨٥]

They said: "In Allah do we put our trust. Our Lord! make us not a trial for those who practise oppression;

Yunus 10 : 85

﴿وَجَنِّتْنَا بِرَحْمَتِكَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٨٦﴾﴾ [يونس: ٨٦]

"And deliver us by Thy Mercy from those who reject (Thee)."

Yunus 10 : 86

Surat Yusuf (Chapter 12)

﴿ رَبِّ قَدْ آتَيْتَنِي مِنَ الْمُلْكِ وَعَلَّمْتَنِي مَا تَأْوِيلُ الْأَحَادِيثِ فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنْتَ وَلِيِّ الْإِنْسَانِ فِي الْأُولَىٰ وَالْآخِرَةِ ۚ تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٠١﴾ ﴾

[يوسف: ١٠١]

"O my Lord! Thou hast indeed bestowed on me some power, and taught me something of the interpretation of dreams and events, O Thou creator of the heavens and the earth! Thou art my Protector in this world and in the Hereafter. Take Thou my soul (at death) as one submitting to Thy Will (as a Muslim), and unite me with the righteous."

Yusuf 12 : 101

Surat Al-Isra'a (Chapter 17)

﴿ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ادْخُلْنِيْ مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ وَأَخْرِجْنِيْ مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَاجْعَلْ لِيْ مِنْ لَّدُنْكَ سُلْطٰنًا نَّصِيْرًا ﴿٨٠﴾ ﴾ [الإسراء: ٨٠]

Say: "O my Lord! let my entry be by the Gate of Truth and Honour, and likewise my exit by the Gate of Truth and Honour; and grant me from Thy Presence an authority to aid (me)."

Al-Isra'a 17 : 80

Surat Al-Kahf (Chapter 18)

﴿ إِذْ أَوْى الْفِتْيَةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِنْ لَّدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا ﴿١٠﴾ ﴾ [الكهف: ١٠]

Behold, the youths betook themselves to the Cave: they said, "Our Lord! bestow on us mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way!"

Al-Kahf 18 : 10

Surat Ta Ha (Chapter 20)

﴿ قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ﴿٢٥﴾ ﴾ [طه: ٢٥]

(Moses) said: "O my Lord! expand me my breast,"

Ta Ha 20 : 25

﴿ وَسَيِّرْلِي أَمْرِي ﴾ [طه: ٢٦]

"Ease my task for me;

Ta Ha 20 : 26

﴿ وَأَحْلِلْ غَدَّةً مِنْ لِسَانِي ﴾ [طه: ٢٧]

"And remove the impediment from my speech,

Ta Ha 20 : 27

﴿ فَتَعَلَى اللَّهِ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُقْضَى إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا ﴾ [طه: ١١٤]

High above all is Allah, the King, the Truth! be not in haste with the Qur-an before its revelation to thee is completed, but say, "O my Lord! advance me in knowledge."

Ta Ha 20 : 114

Surat Al-Anbia'a (Chapter 21)

﴿ وَذَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغْتَضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ

إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾ [الأنبياء: ٨٧]

And remember Zul-nun, when he departed in wrath: he imagined that We had no power over him! But he cried through the depths of darkness. "There is no god but Thou: glory to Thee: I was indeed wrong!"

Al-Anbia'a 21 : 87

﴿ وَزَكَرِيَّا إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي فَرْدًا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْوَارِثِينَ ﴾ [الأنبياء: ٨٩]

[الأنبياء: ٨٩]

And (remember) Zakariya, when he cried to his Lord: "O my Lord! leave me not without offspring, though Thou art the best of inheritors."

Al-Anbia'a 21 : 89

Surat Al-Mumenoun (Chapter 23)

﴿ وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَنْزِلْنِي مُنْزَلًا مُبَارَكًا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْمُنزِلِينَ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ٢٩]

And say: "O my Lord! enable me to disembark with Thy blessing: for Thou art the Best to enable (us) to disembark."

Al-Mumenoun 23 : 29

﴿ وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ هَمَزَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ٩٧]

And say: "O my Lord! I seek refuge with Thee from the suggestions of the Evil Ones;

Al-Mumenoun 23 : 97

﴿ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ رَبِّ أَنْ تَحْضُرُونِ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ٩٨]

"And I seek refuge with Thee, O my Lord! lest they should come near me."

Al-Mumenoun 23 : 98

﴿ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِي يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا آمِنَّا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَأَرْحَمْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ

الرَّاحِمِينَ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ١٠٩]

"A party of My servants there was, who used to pray, Our Lord! we believe; then do Thou forgive us, and have mercy upon us: for Thou art the Best of those who show mercy!"

Al-Mumenoun 23 : 109

﴿ وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَعْفِرْ وَأَرْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ١١٨]

So say: "O my Lord! grant Thou forgiveness and mercy! For Thou art the Best of those who show mercy!"

Al-Mumenoun 23 : 118

Surat Al-Furqan (Chapter 25)

﴿ وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا

سَلَامًا ﴾ [الفرقان: ٦٣]

And the servants of (Allah) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "Peace!"

Al-Furqan 25 : 63

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا ﴾ [الفرقان: ٦٤]

Those who spend the night in adoration of their Lord prostrate and standing;

Al-Furqan 25 : 64

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا ﴾ [الفرقان: ٦٥]

[الفرقان: ٦٥]

Those who say: "Our Lord! avert from us the Wrath of Hell, for its Wrath is indeed an affliction grievous.

Al-Furqan 25 : 65

﴿ إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا ﴾ [الفرقان: ٦٦]

"Evil indeed is it as an abode, and as a place to rest in";

Al-Furqan 25 : 66

Surat Ash-Shura'a (Chapter 26)

﴿ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ ﴾ [الشورى: ٨٣]

"O my Lord! bestow wisdom on me, and join me with the righteous;

Ash-Shura'a 42 : 83

﴿ وَأَجْعَلْ لِي لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ فِي الْآخِرِينَ ﴾ [الشورى: ٨٤]

"Grant me honourable mention on the tongue of truth among the latest (generations);

Ash-Shura'a 42 : 84

﴿ وَأَجْعَلْنِي مِنْ وَرَثَةِ جَنَّةِ النَّعِيمِ ﴾ [الشورى: ٨٥]

"Make me one of the inheritors of the Garden of Bliss;

Ash-Shura'a 42 : 85

﴿ وَلَا تُخْزِنِي يَوْمَ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴾ [الشورى: ٨٧]

"And let me not be in disgrace on the Day when (men) will be raised up;

Ash-Shura'a 42 : 87

﴿ يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ ﴾ [الشورى: ٨٨]

The Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail,
Ash-Shura'a 42 : 88

﴿إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ ﴿٨٨﴾﴾ [الشورى: ٨٩]

"But only he (will prosper) that brings to Allah a sound heart;
Ash-Shura'a 42 : 89

Surat An-Naml (Chapter 27)

﴿فَتَبَسَّمَ ضَاحِكًا مِنْ قَوْلِهَا وَقَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ
وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأُدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٩﴾﴾

[النمل: ١٩]

So he smiled, amused at its speech; and he said: "O my Lord! so order me that I may be grateful for Thy favours, which Thou hast bestowed on me and on my parents, and that I may work the righteousness that will please Thee: and admit me, by Thy Grace, to the ranks of Thy righteous Servants."

An-Naml 27 : 19

Surat Al-Qasas (Chapter 28)

﴿قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَغَفَرَ لَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٢١﴾﴾

[القصاص: ٢١]

He prayed: "O my Lord! I have indeed wronged my soul! Do Thou then forgive me!" So (Allah) forgave him: For He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Al-Qasas 28 : 16

﴿فُخِّرَ مِنْهَا خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ قَالَ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٢١﴾﴾ [القصاص: ٢١]

He therefore got away therefrom, looking about, in a state of fear. He prayed: "O my Lord! save me from people given to wrong-doing."

Al-Qasas 28 : 21

Surat Ghafir (Chapter 40)

﴿ الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ ۖ وَكَسَبَتْهُمُ

لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا

سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٧﴾ [غافر: ٧]

Those who sustain the Throne (of Allah) and those around it sing Glory and Praise to their Lord; believe in Him; and implore forgiveness for those who believe: "Our Lord! Thy Reach is over all things, in Mercy and Knowledge. Forgive, then, those who turn in Repentance, and follow thy Path; and preserve them from the Penalty of the Blazing Fire!

GHafir 40 : 7

﴿ رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ ءَابَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ

وَوَدَّرَيْتَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٨﴾ [غافر: ٨]

"And grant, our Lord! that they enter the Gardens of Eternity, which Thou hast promised to them, and to the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their posterity! for Thou art (He), the Exalted in Might, Full of Wisdom.

GHafir 40 : 8

﴿ وَقِهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْ تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَجِمْتَهُ ۚ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٩﴾

[غافر: ٩]

"And preserve them from (all) ills; and any whom Thou dost preserve from ills that Day, on them wilt Thou have bestowed Mercy indeed: and that will be truly (for them) the highest Achievement."

Ghafir 40 : 9

Surat Ad-Dukhan (Chapter 44)

﴿ رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ [الدخان: ١٢]

(They will say:) "Our Lord! Remove the Penalty from us, for we do really believe!"

Ad-Dukhan 44 : 12

Surat Al-Ahqaf (Chapter 46)

﴿ وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا وَحَمَلُهُ وَفِصْلُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَبَلَغَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي ذُرِّيَّتِي إِنِّي تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿١٥﴾ ﴾ [الأحقاف: ١٥]

We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents: in pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the (child) to his weaning is (a period of) thirty months. At length, when he reaches the age of full strength and attains forty years, he says: "O my Lord! grant me that I may be grateful for Thy favour which Thou hast bestowed upon me, and upon both my parents, and that I may work righteousness such as Thou mayest approve; and be gracious to me in my issue. Truly have I turned to Thee and truly do I bow (to Thee) in Islam."

Al-Ahqaf 46 : 15

Surat Al-Hashr (Chapter 59)

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ جَاءُوا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿١٠﴾ ﴾

[الحشر: ١٠]

And those who came after them say: "Our Lord! Forgive us, and our brethren who came before us into the Faith, and leave not, in our hearts, rancour (or sense of injury) against those who have believed. Our Lord! Thou art indeed Full of Kindness, Most Merciful."

Al-Hashr 59 : 10

Surat Al-Mumtahina (Chapter 60)

﴿ قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ إِذْ قَالُوا لِقَوْمِهِمْ إِنَّا بُرءُؤُا مِنْكُمْ وَمِمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ كَفَرْنَا بِكُمْ وَبَدَا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةُ وَالْبَغْضَاءُ

أَبَدًا حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَحَدَهُۥٓ إِلَّا قَوْلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ لَأَسْتَغْفِرَنَّ لَكَ وَمَا أَمْلِكُ لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ۗ رَبَّنَا عَلَيكَ تَوَكَّلْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ أَنْتَبْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٤﴾ [المتحنة: ٤]

There is for you an excellent example (to follow) in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: "We are clear of you and of whatever ye worship besides Allah: we have rejected you, and there has arisen, between us and you, enmity and hatred forever, unless ye believe in Allah and Him alone": but not when Abraham said to his father: "I will pray for forgiveness for thee, though I have no power (to get) aught on thy behalf from Allah." (They prayed): "Our Lord! In Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we turn in repentance: to Thee is (our) final Goal.

Al-Mumtahina 60 : 4

﴿ رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا رَبَّنَا ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٥﴾ ﴾

[المتحنة: ٥]

"Our Lord! Make us not a (test and) trial for the Unbelievers, but forgive us, our Lord! For Thou art the Exalted in Might, the Wise."

Al-Mumtahina 60 : 5

Surat At-Tahreem (Chapter 66)

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يَوْمَ لَا يُخْزِي اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ نُورُهُمْ يَسْعَىٰ بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَبِأَيْمَانِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَتِمِّمْ لَنَا نُورَنَا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ۗ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٨﴾ ﴾ [التحریم: ٨]

O ye who believe! Turn to Allah with sincere repentance: in the hope that your Lord will remove from you your ills and admit you to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow; the Day that Allah will not permit to be humiliated the Prophet and those who believe with him. Their Light will run forward before them and by their right hands, while they say, "Our Lord! Perfect our Light for us, and grant us Forgiveness: for Thou has power over all things."

At-Tahreem 66 : 8

﴿ وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا امْرَأَتَ فِرْعَوْنَ إِذْ قَالَتْ رَبِّ ابْنِ لِي عِنْدَكَ
بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَنَجِّنِي مِنْ فِرْعَوْنَ وَعَمَلِهِ وَنَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿١١﴾ ﴾

[التحریم: ١١]

And Allah sets forth, as an example to those who believe, the wife of Pharaoh: behold she said: "O my Lord! Build for me, in nearness to Thee, a mansion in the Garden, and save me from Pharaoh and his doings, and save me from those that do wrong";

At-Tahreem 66 : 11

Surat Nuh (Chapter 71)

﴿ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَن دَخَلَ بَيْتِيَ مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَلَا تَرِدِ
الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا تَبَارًا ﴿٢٨﴾ ﴾ [نوح: ٢٨]

"O my Lord! Forgive me, my parents, all who enter my house in Faith, and (all) believing men and believing women: and to the wrong-doers grant Thou no increase but in Perdition!"

Nuh 71 : 28

Surat Al-Falaq (Chapter 113)

﴿ قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ﴿١﴾ ﴾ [الفلق: ١]

Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of the Dawn,

Al-Falaq 113 : 1

﴿ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ﴿٢﴾ ﴾ [الفلق: ٢]

From the mischief of created things;

Al-Falaq 113 : 2

﴿ وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ﴿٣﴾ ﴾ [الفلق: ٣]

From the mischief of Darkness as it overspreads;

Al-Falaq 113 : 3

﴿ وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ﴿٤﴾ ﴾ [الفلق: ٤]

From the mischief of those who practise secret Arts:

Al-Falaq 113 : 4

﴿ وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ﴾ [الفلق: 5]

And from the mischief of the envious one as he practices envy.

Al-Falaq 113 : 5

Surat An-Nas (Chapter 114)

﴿ قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 1]

Say: I seek refuge with the Lord and Cherisher of Mankind,

An-Nas 114 : 1

﴿ مَلِكِ النَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 2]

The King (or Ruler) of Mankind.

An-Nas 114 : 2

﴿ إِلَهِ النَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 3]

The God (or Judge) of Mankind.

An-Nas 114 : 3

﴿ مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 4]

From the mischief of the Whisperer (of Evil), who withdraws (after his whisper),

An-Nas 114 : 4

﴿ الَّذِي يُوسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 5]

(The same) who whispers into the hearts of Mankind,

An-Nas 114 : 5

﴿ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ ﴾ [الناس: 6]

Among Jinns and among Men.

An-Nas 114 : 6

Examples of prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Du'a

When he goes to sleep

Al-Barra'a Bin Azib related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) told him:

(When you go to sleep then do your ablution as if you are going for prayer, then lay on your right side, and say: "O Allah to You I submit my soul, and I submit my affairs to You, and I lean my back to You, fearful of You and hopeful in You; for there is no shelter except in You and no one can help against You except You. I believe in the Book that You sent down, and in the Prophet that You sent ".For if you die, you die on pure innate nature. And make these words the last words that you say)

Bokhari, Muslim, Nesa'ee & Ahmad

Hodhayfa related that the Prophet (PBUH) when he went to sleep used to put his hand under his cheek and say: "O Allah in Your name I live and I die". And when he wakes up from sleep, he used to say: "Praise be to Allah who gave us life after He caused us to die, for we shall be resurrected to Him"

Bokhari, Nesa'ee & Ahmad

Du'a in prayer at night

Ibn Abbas related that the Prophet (PBUH) used to say in His Du'a at night: (O Allah give me light in my heart, and give me light in my sight, and give me light in my hearing; and give me light to my right, and give me light on my left, and give me light above me and below me, in front of me and behind me. O Allah make light for me)

Bokhari, Muslim, Abou Dawood & Nesa'ee

Du'a At-Tahajjud

Ibn Abbas related that when the Prophet (PBUH) stood up at night to pray, he used to say this Du'a:

(O Allah all praise belongs to You. You are the light of the heavens and the earth and all between them. And all praise belongs to You, for You are the sustainer of the heavens and the earth and all between them. And all praise belongs to You, for You are the truth, and your promise is true, and Your word is true, and meeting You is true; and heaven is true, and Hell is true, and the Hour is true; and the prophets are true, and Muhammad is true. O Allah to You I do submit and in You I do put my trust and depend. IN You I do believe, and to You I do turn, in You I take sides and make enemies.

Therefore, forgive me what I have done and what I may do later on, and what I have declared and what I have concealed. You are the First and the Last, there is no god but You)

Bokhari

Du'a after finishing our prayers

Al-Mughera Bin Shu'ba related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) used to say after each prayer the following Du'a:

(There is no god but Allah, He is alone with no partners; He has all dominion and to Him belongs all praise; and He has power over all things. O Allah there is none that can prevent what you give, and there is none that can give when you prevent that. No one can help against You except You)

Ahmad & Bokhari

Du'a during times of difficulty and adversity

Ibn Abbas related that the Prophet (PBUH) used to say during adversity and difficulty the following:

(There is no god but Allah the great and the forebearant; there is no god but Allah the Lord of the heavens and earth, and the Lord of the magnificent throne)

Bokhari & Muslim

Du'a when sick, not wishing for death but leaving our fate to Allah

Anas related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) said:

(None of you should make a wish to die because of illness he is suffering from. If he feels he is dying, then let him say: "O Allah let me live if life is good for me; and let me die if death is good for me")

Bokhari, Muslim, Termedhi & Nesa'ee

Du'a seeking Allah's protection from debt and being oppressed by others

Anas related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) used to say the following Du'a frequently:

(O Allah I seek Your protection from being worried or feeling sad, and from infirmity and laziness, and from covetousness and cowardliness, and from being in debt or being oppressed by other men)

Bokhari

Du'a seeking Allah's protection

Aesha related that the Prophet (PBUH) used to say in his Du'a:

(O Allah I seek protection in You from laziness, old age, sinning or being in debt; and from the trial in the grave and from the suffering of the grave; and from the test of the Fire and from the suffering in Hell Fire; and from the trial of being rich;

And I seek Your protection from the trial of the fake Messiah.)

Nesa'ee & Bokhari

Other examples of the prophet's Du'a

(O Allah grant us a good deed in this life and a good deed in the Hereafter)

Bokhari

(O my Lord forgive me my ignorance and my sin, and my transgression in all my affairs; and what You know better than me; O Allah forgive my sins, and what I intend and what I do in ignorance and jokingly; O Allah forgive what I have done, and what I may do, and what I declare and what I hide; You are the First and the Last, and You have power over all things)

Bokhari & Muslim

(Two words that are light on the tongue, but heavy during accountability and loved by the Most-Gracious are: "Glory be to Allah the most great, Glory be to Allah and all praise to Him")

Bokhari, Muslim, Nesa'ee & Termedhi

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