

Duas & hope during difficulties

Sayed Mohammed Baqer Qazwini

Surah Furqaan verse 77:

O Prophet teach your people that if it were not for your duas, Allah would not have given you the mercy and attention that you have right now. Duas change your situation and give you hope.

The most righteous deed is to perform dua and it is considered a pillar of our religion. Salah is also considered a form of supplication. A hadith says that Imam Ali was an excessive supplicator. The Aimmah would say there was no one who would supplicate as much as Imam Ali after the Prophet of Allah.

SOME MISCONCEPTIONS THOUGH ARE:

Is God going to change what he wills and the system of the universe by just our Duas?

The Quran says Allah can fix our situation BUT only if people change themselves first. The change comes from him but only when people change themselves and take the necessary steps. Never underestimate the power of dua and good intentions.

There are people who think negatively of others success, and that bothers them causing jealousy. When you are annoyed at others who are successful, you are bothered by what Allah has done. You are not happy with his will by being jealous of others who have been given more.

On the day of judgement, there will be some who will be showered with rewards just for having good intentions. A believer should always start by changing his intentions to good, then Allah will change your situation.

We believe in something called Bad'a. This means a divine change in divine will. There are two types of divine will, one that is fixed and the other that can be changed. For example, Allah may have decreed that someone will live 30 years. However, because this person engaged in righteous actions such as: charity, dua, and was good to his parents, Allah then will increase his lifespan. However, you need to take the initiative to do these actions.

Therefore, we must believe in the power of supplicating to Allah. This is because if we supplicate to Allah with sincerity, we will reap the benefits Insha'Allah. On the contrary, if we do not believe in duas, it is like we are doubting Allah. Sometimes in life, somethings may not make sense. We may be confused. However, if read the Qur'an:
Sura Hajj verse 18:

"Have you not seen that to Allah prostrates whosoever is in the heavens and whosoever is in the earth, and the sun and the moon, and the stars and the mountains and the trees and animals, and many of the people?"



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The above ayyah mentions that, "many people" also submit to Allah. What does this really mean?

This verse is telling us that everything in the universe is functioning perfectly according to the system set by Allah. However, humans seem to think they can defy the system set for them. By being distracted from their lord and forgetting about the day of judgement.

That is why believers are not confused. The believers do not know what is coming, but inspired by this, they still sleep peacefully. This is because they have trust in Allah and submit to all his wisdom. In today's day and time, the rates of depression and suicide have multiplied. One of the causes of this is, the lack of trust in Allah and his wisdom.

When the 6th Imam was asked, why doesn't God answer our prayer when we supplicate?

He replied by saying, some people do not have Maarefat of Allah. We pray to him, but we do not really know him.

How much time do we spend knowing and understanding Allah and his attributes ?

Instead of taking time to understand Allah, we allow ourselves to be distracted by this world and forget reality. We run after richness, power, and wealth, forgetting that Allah is the source of all richness, power, and wealth.

"Those pious who are saved, when they are swarmed by all these satanic whispers, they remember". (They set up reminders for themselves by reading the verses of the Quran related to these distractions and deceptions)

One of the attributes of Allah is "wakil" or agent. Those who understand Allah (SWT) know they can sleep peacefully at night because they have entrusted their affairs to Allah. They have made Allah (SWT) their agent. The Qur'an also emphasizes on the same. Remember Allah is our agent the next time you cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel. However, we also need to plan because a believer is a good planner and entrusts the outcome to Allah. This will ease our depression and difficulties.

To efficiently supplicate to Allah, we need to understand some of the conditions:

Firstly, when we talk to Allah, we talk like he is our employee, and we are his employer. We make demands and we dictate to him. We should learn to show respect to Allah. We need to humble our selves before Allah. When we supplicate, we need to start by thanking Allah for what he has done for us.



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Secondly, when we do dua, we need to trust that Allah will do the best for us. The Aimmah say that if you do Dua with doubt, then Allah will not accept that dua. We should constantly remind ourselves of his attributes such as his divine mercy and love. Trust in Allah can be developed by, increasing our knowledge on his attributes, system and his reasoning.

A believer is someone who knows that in difficult times, he should remain patient as this could be a test for him. Moreover, this difficulty could also turn out to be good for him. In addition to, difficulty could also prove to be training him/her to increase will power and cleanse them. If we understand why we are given difficulties, then we will appreciate his mercy and start supplicating to him.

Lastly, we sometimes expect immediate gratification. We expect Allah to accept and immediately implement our Duas. However, this is not how Allah's system works. Everything has wisdom behind it.

Thirdly, Imam Ali mentions in Dua Kumail that there are some certain sins that block our duas. Some of these sins include: Using profane language, looking at one's parents with hatred etc.

How can we use the same tongue to do gunnah and expect that our supplications will be answered with this tongue ?

LET US NOW EXAMINE HOW OUR DUAS ARE ACCEPTED:

Sometimes our duas are delayed because Allah wants to give us something better. Secondly, there is a hadith says that some of our duas will be answered on the day of judgement when our need is greater. That is out of his divine mercy of Allah.

In Al - Kafi, the 6th Imam says that many times we pray when we are in the predicament, but if we pray for health for example preemptively then Allah protects us. This is the system of Allah where we should not only pray to him when we need it.

If Allah granted us all our requests the whole system would collapse. For example, if a farmer does dua for a lot of rain and a salt manufacturer does dua for no rain then there is a conflict. Allah knows where to strike a balance and that is why we need to trust him. We do not always know what is best for us as well. We must consider these factors when we trust Allah.



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