

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

PRA YING FOR IMAM MAHDI (A.T.F.S)

Supplication (dua) is a subject that holds a very significant place in Islam. A lot of emphasis has been placed on embracing it. In light of traditions, we find that supplication is referred to as a 'weapon' by which man can repel calamities and difficulties and can combat all kinds of problems and tribulations. This 'weapon' provides him with tremendous strength and power and with its help a believer can pierce through all the curtains in front of him and scale such a lofty status that he becomes the cause of happiness and satisfaction of the Prophets (AS) and Imams (AS).

Traditions of Imams (AS) highlight numerous benefits that one obtains by supplicating. We mention a few of them over here. We will first be discussing the different aspects of supplication (Dua) before moving on to why we pray for the Imam of our time, and the benefits and rewards attached to it.

1. Bonding / Relation:

Whenever man is surrounded by difficulties, he generally finds himself alone to deal with them. At such a time, he needs his Creator the most. So it is necessary that his relation with his Creator is exact and enduring and which manifests his humility and modesty before his Lord.

2. Purpose of Worship:

In times of tribulations, worries, homelessness and such other difficulties, man complains only to his Creator. But it is a human shortcoming that man, in his haste, forgets what Allah desires of him.

Allah has very clearly conveyed to his Prophet (SAWW) that 'I have not created men and jinn except that they should worship Me' (Surah Zaariyaat (51): Verse 56)

Similarly, Ameerul Momineen (AS) says, 'Supplication is the essence of worship'.

But man has become so immersed and polluted in this material world that he has forgotten the sayings of the infallible Imams (AS). He will have to face the consequences of his deeds in this world as well in the hereafter. As Ameerul Momineen (AS) asserts in Nahjul Balagha, sermon no. twenty four (24),

'...today is the day of action and not of accounting while tomorrow is the day of accounting and not of action'.

Therefore, it is imperative that we ponder over our actions and take account of ourselves before death overcomes us.

The Almighty Allah, in His infinite Grace, has shown His weak and frail servant the method of asking from Him so that he is guided to the right path. He says in the Holy Quran 'Call out to me and I shall answer you' (Surah Momin (40): Verse 60).

So, it is necessary for man to know the manner of supplicating before he actually invokes. When man is aware of the right way to beseech Allah, he will most surely succeed in reaching his aim.

3. Guidance towards the Right Path

It is essential to utilize the channel of divine representatives so that our prayers are accepted promptly. These divine representatives are the guides to the correct path. They are also referred to as 'Door of Allah' since Allah is reached (only) through them. Allah mentions about this in the Holy Quran 'And seek a medium to (reach) Him' (Surah Maidah (5): Verse 53)

Prayers are accepted by sending benedictions and blessings upon these venerated personalities, as it is solely due to them that calamities and difficulties are dispelled from the universe.

4. Who are these chaste personalities?

They are the Holy Prophet (SAWW) and his progeny about whom he (SAWW) had willed 'Surely I am leaving among you two weighty things - the Book of Allah and my Ahle Bait (A.S.). If you fasten unto both of them, you will never go astray...'

The Ahle Bait (AS) are those respected personalities who are bestowed with the choicest of divine blessings. In today's era, it is Imam Mahdi (ATFS) who is the link between the Creator and the creatures and is the access to divine pleasure. These chosen individuals are the ones who have taught mankind the method of worship and prayer. Their speech and assertions rank only below the Words of Allah and are far superior to the words of other creatures. It is for this reason that those who hear their sayings are compelled to confess, 'Your words are light'.

In the next issue, we will discuss the subjects and etiquettes of supplication before finally coming to reasons & benefits for praying for the Imam of our time.



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N E W S L E T T E R

