



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

## **PRAYING FOR IMAM MAHDI (ATFS)**

*Continued...*

### **5. Subjects in Supplications:**

It is clearly explained in all Islamic teachings that merely asking from Allah is not sufficient. Rather, the prayers should be accompanied by actions, efforts and steadfastness.

So, the one who is desirous of sustenance, should actually strive for sustenance, along with his supplications. Same is the case with the one who wants to acquire knowledge and repel ignorance.

We find in our supplications various topics connected with ethics and divine laws. For instance, supplications like Jawshan-e-Kabir, Makaaremul Akhlaq are brimming with moral teachings. It is necessary for a true believer that he should adorn himself with the characteristics mentioned in these supplications. Invocations like Abu Hamzah Sumaali highlight the fact that Allah's Mercy and Grace are dominant over His Anger and Displeasure. Dua-e-Nudbah on the other hand exemplifies how divine proofs arrived successively for man's guidance. The supplication makes a mention of the chain of guidance right from the first divine representative - Hazrat Adam (AS) till the Holy Prophet (SAWW) and then continues till his last successor - Imam Mahdi (ATFS).

It also mentions the troubles inflicted upon them. Yet another supplication is Dua-e-Faraj, which states that Imam Mahdi (ATFS) is the (rightful) successor of Holy Prophet (SAWW) and will fill this world with justice and equality like it would have been filled with oppression and tyranny before him.

### **6. Etiquette of Supplication:**

In his book, 'Mishkaat al-Anwaar', the great Shia scholar Allamah Majlisi (RA) writes 'Supplication is a conversation with the One to Whom we present all our needs and wants. Thus, it is necessary that man understands the real meaning of supplication & prays to Allah from the depth of his heart.

Among the things to be kept in mind while supplicating is adopting a feeling of complete humility and helplessness, which are the two traits that we embrace even when seeking our needs from mere mortals. As a result, it is even more important that we hold fast to these priceless traits while seeking our needs in Allah's Court. Secondly, when a person asks for a favour from another servant of Allah, then he (i.e. the seeker) is willing to do everything for that person (i.e. the benefactor) and is not negligent about it, so that the benefactor is satisfied and happy with him. At the same time, the person who requires the favour will not do anything to upset the benefactor. Precisely, the same attitude is necessary while beseeching Allah. The true worshipper will always strive to perform those actions that are the means of Allah's obedience and proximity. In this regard, the Holy Prophet (SAWW) has said 'The one who supplicates (prays) without action is like the archer who shoots without a bow'(Beharul Anwaar, vol. 93, p. 312).

One of the requisites for the early fulfillment of supplications is to have a high level of recognition.

As the person rises in the levels of recognition, his supplications will be accepted that much faster. A person said to Imam Kazim (AS) 'O son of the messenger of Allah! We pray to Allah but our prayers are not being answered' Imam (AS) asked, 'Do you even recognize the one from whom you are asking?'

Another point to be kept in mind while supplicating is that our imploring and beseeching should be accompanied by crying and weeping. The more one expresses his helplessness and humility before Allah's Majesty, the more quickly He will respond. The person should keep his prayers only to himself because Allah, the Honorable and Merciful likes the one who prays to Him in privacy. Imam (AS) says, 'Pray from your heart and be sure that your prayers will be accepted'

While supplicating, one should pray for other believers before he prays for himself. Hence, when a person is eager that his supplications be accepted quickly, he should first supplicate for others, which acts as a means for early acceptance of his own supplications. Imam Sadiq (AS) says in a tradition 'The one who prays for his forty believing brothers before he prays for himself then his supplications for others and himself will (certainly) be accepted.' - (Beharul Anwaar vol. 39, p. 383)

*From these traditions, it becomes clear that if we are desirous of our supplications being accepted by Allah, it is necessary that we pray for the Imam of our time - Hazrat Sahebuz Zaman (ATFS). It is because certainly Imam (a.t.f.s.) has been delegated with the task of distributing divine bounties.*

**HUBB WA 'SALAM**  
**N E W S L E T T E R**

