

Invoking Allah for Muslim Leaders



Invoking Allâh for Muslim Leaders

All praises and thanks are due to Allâh, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, Owner of the Day of Resurrection. All praise and thanks are due to Allâh, Who created creation so that they worship Him. He made His Signs clear and plain to them, so that they know Him, and He made the path to Him easy, so that they reach Him.

I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh Alone without partners. His is the kingdom and He is Worthy of all praise, and He is Able to do all things. I testify that our Prophet, Imam and example, Muhammad, is Allâh's slave and Messenger. Allâh has sent Muhammad with the guidance and the religion of truth to be a Warner for mankind and the jinn. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on the Prophet and on his progeny, Companions and those who followed him with excellence.

Dear Muslims! Remember Allâh always and praise Him in the morning and evening. Know, may Allâh grant you His Mercy, that *Dhikr* (Allâh's remembrance) is the best speech to Allâh. Abu Dhar رضى الله عنه narrated a *Hadith* in which he said that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said to him:

«أَلَا أُخْبِرُكَ بِأَحَبِّ الْكَلَامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ؟ إِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْكَلَامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ: سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ
وَبِحَمْدِهِ».

“Should I tell you about the most beloved speech to Allâh? The most beloved speech to Allâh is, ‘*Subham allâhi wa bi-Hamdahi.*’ (I exalt Allâh above all unsuitable things ascribed to Him, and all the praises are for Him).”

Muslim collected this *Hadith*. *Dhikr* (remembering Allâh) brings life to the hearts, enlightens and purifies them and fills them with happiness. Therefore, remember Allâh always, humble yourselves before Him and invoke Him in *Du'â*, for

«الدُّعَاءُ هُوَ الْعِبَادَةُ».

“*Du‘â* (invocation) is the *Ebadah* (worship),” where *Ebadah* pertains to acts of worship. Invoke Allâh for all your needs, minor and major, the necessary ones and those you can wait to attain. Await Allâh’s relief (and it will surely come). Allâh said:

﴿ اَدْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً ﴾

“Invoke your Lord with humility and in secret.” (7:55)

Know, dear Muslims, that when a Muslim says *Du‘â* for the benefit of his Muslim brother or sister, he or she earns Allâh’s rewards. Allâh said:

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ جَاءُوا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَتِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا
بِالْإِيمَانِ ﴾

“And those who came after them say: Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in Faith.” (59:10)

Further, Abu Ad-Dardâ’ and ‘Uwaimir bin Zaid رضى الله عنهما said that they heard the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ say:

« مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ مُسْلِمٍ يَدْعُو لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ إِلَّا قَالَ الْمَلَكُ: آمِينَ وَلَكَ
بِمِثْلٍ . »

“Every Muslim slave who invokes Allâh for the benefit of his absent brother (in Islam), then the angel will reply, ‘*Amîn*, and for you the same.’”

This *Hadith* was collected by Muslim. Abu Ad-Dardâ’ رضى الله عنه also narrated that the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

« دَعْوَةُ الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ، عِنْدَ رَأْسِهِ مَلَكٌ مُوَكَّلٌ،
كُلَّمَا دَعَا لِأَخِيهِ بِخَيْرٍ قَالَ الْمَلَكُ الْمُوَكَّلُ بِهِ: آمِينَ وَلَكَ بِمِثْلٍ . »

“The invocation of Allâh by a Muslim person for the benefit of his absent brother (in Islam) is accepted. There will be an angel right next to his head who is entrusted with the job of replying, ‘*Amîn*, and for you the same,’ every time he invokes Allâh for his brother to earn all that is good and righteous.”

Also, Muslim collected this *Hadith*. It was reported that Abu Ad-Dardâ' رضى الله عنه used to invoke Allâh for seventy of his companions by name when they were not present with him, thus testifying that his heart was pure towards his brethren.

Therefore, since invoking Allâh for other Muslims carries a reward for the Muslim, then there is no doubt that invoking Allâh for Muslim Leaders to lead Muslims righteously and honestly carries greater reward and bounties from Allâh. Also, invoking Allâh for other Muslims is a part of the sincere advice that Muslims must deliver to their brethren. Tamim bin Aus Ad-Darri رضى الله عنه narrated:

عَنْ تَمِيمِ بْنِ أَوْسِ الدَّارِيِّ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ قَالَ: «الدِّينُ النَّصِيحَةُ» قُلْنَا لِمَنْ؟
قَالَ: «لِلَّهِ وَلِكِتَابِهِ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِأَيِّمَةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَعَامَّتِهِمْ».

“The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘The religion is sincerity.’ We said, ‘To whom?’ He said, ‘To Allâh, His Book, His Messenger and to Muslim Leaders and their common folk.’”

Invoking Allâh for Muslim Leaders becomes more important if they refer to what Allâh has revealed for judgment, call to His Path and warn against defying Him. Therefore, the believing slave should draw closer to Allâh by invoking Him for Muslim Leaders, because when they are righteous, the *Ummah* (Muslim Nation) in general benefits from their righteousness, and the vice versa. We should warn against the practice of those who do not have knowledge and whose habit is to defame their leaders and curse them, thus earning sin because of their ill-mannerism. There is a big difference between advising, and cursing and defaming. Muslims should offer sincere advice to their leaders, but should refrain from cursing them for fear that this might shatter the unity of the *Ummah*, causing a larger evil than the one they seek to remove. This, if it happens, will only please the enemies of Islam and bring comfort to their hearts.

Know that when Muslim Leaders are righteous, the Muslim Nation will benefit as a whole. Abu Umamah رضى الله عنها narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«لَا تَسُبُّوا الْأَئِمَّةَ وَادْعُوا اللَّهَ لَهُمْ بِالصَّلَاحِ فَإِنَّ صَلَاحَهُمْ لَكُمْ صَلَاحٌ» .

“Do not curse your leaders and invoke Allâh to make them righteous, for their righteousness brings about your well-being as well.”¹

This *Hadith* asserts the requirement from Muslims to advise their leaders and invoke Allâh to make them righteous and fair. Also, implementing this *Hadith* serves to unite the *Ummah*, just as the Prophet ﷺ commanded.

Umm Al-Husain Al-Ahmasiyyah رضى الله عنها said that she heard the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ say in a *Khutbah* he delivered at Arafat:

«وَلَوْ اسْتُعْمِلَ عَلَيْكُمْ عَبْدٌ يَقُودُكُمْ بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ فَاسْمَعُوا لَهُ وَأَطِيعُوهُ» .

“Even if a slave is appointed your commander, leading you according to Allâh’s Book, then hear him and obey.”

Abdullah, son of Imam Ahmad, commented:

“I heard my father say, ‘I believe that the Leader has the right on me that I hear and obey him in times of ease and times of hardship, whether I feel vitality or relaxation.’” (*Muslim, Ahmad and Ibn Mâjah* collected this *Hadith*).

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, who is known as the Imam of the *Ahlu-Sunnah wal-Jama‘ah*, used to say:

“If I have an accepted supplication, I will invoke Allâh on behalf of the Muslim Leader.”

This statement from Imam Ahmad indicates his knowledge and understanding in the religion. If the Muslim Leader is righteous and just, the entire country will benefit, righteousness will flourish, Allâh’s blessings will descend on them, the righteous believers will become dominant and the evil ones will be humiliated. Invoking Allâh for

¹ Al-Haithami said, “This *Hadith* was collected by At-Tabarani in his books, *Al-Ausat* and *Al-Kabir*, from his teacher, whom I did not recognize. The rest of his chain of narration is reliable.”

Muslim Leaders is a way of helping one another in righteousness and fear from Allāh it unites the word of the *Ummah*, brings their hearts together and makes their Leader feel kind towards his nation.

Imam Ahmad and Muslim narrated that `Auf bin Malik Al-Ashja'i said:

عَنْ عَوْفِ بْنِ مَالِكِ الْأَشْجَعِيِّ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ يَقُولُ: «حَيَارُ أُمَّتِكُمْ مَنْ تَحِبُّونَهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَكُمْ وَتُصَلُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَيُصَلُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ، وَشِرَارُ أُمَّتِكُمْ الَّذِينَ تَبْغِضُونَهُمْ وَيُبْغِضُونَكُمْ وَتَلْعَنُونَهُمْ وَيَلْعَنُونَكُمْ». قُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَنَابِذُهُمْ عِنْدَ ذَلِكَ؟ قَالَ: «لَا، مَا أَقَامُوا لَكُمْ الصَّلَاةَ، أَلَا وَمَنْ وُلِّيَ عَلَيْهِ أَمِيرٌ وَالِ فَرَاهُ يَأْتِي شَيْئًا مِنْ مَعْصِيَةِ اللَّهِ فَلْيُنْكِرْ مَا يَأْتِي مِنْ مَعْصِيَةِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْزِعَنَّ يَدًا مِنْ طَاعَةٍ».

“I heard the Messenger of Allāh say, ‘The best of your Imams (Leaders) are those who you love and they love you, for whom you invoke Allāh for mercy and blessings and they invoke Allāh for you for mercy and blessings. The worst of your Imams are those whom you hate and they hate you, whom you curse and they curse you.’ We asked, ‘O Allāh’s Messenger! Should we fight them in the latter case?’ He said, ‘No, as long as they establish the prayer for you. Verily, if a commander is appointed over one of you and he witnessed his commander committing Allāh’s disobedience, let him hate the disobedience of Allāh that he is committing, but refrain from rising against him.’”

Therefore, O Allāh’s slaves, fear Allāh and feel His Watch as if He is right in front of your eyes. Invoke Allāh to grant righteousness to us all, and our leaders, and to make our Leaders among those who fear Him, seek refuge with Him, follow His Commandments and seek His Pleasure.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَفُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ۝ يُصَلِّحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا﴾

“O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (ﷺ), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e., he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).” (33:70,71)