

# Turning to God

Lesson 4: The Etiquette of Divine  
Communion

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **Conditions for the acceptance of dua:**
- **1. Knowing God:**

الإمام الصادق عليه السلام و قد سأله قوم : ندعو فلا يُستجاب لنا ؟ ! : لأ نكم تدعون من لا تعرفونه .

A group of people asked Imam al-Sadiq (a.s), 'We supplicate but are not answered?' the Imam said, 'Because you call upon One whom you do not know.'

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- Before supplicating to God, it is imperative to develop an understanding of Him.
- When ask someone for help, you should first know who you are asking.
- Your perception of God influences the way you interact with Him

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **2. Purity of body and heart**
- Purity of the body and dress is what can be achieved through washing and ritual ablutions like wudhu and ghusl
- Make yourself clean and presentable in the same way you prepare to meet an important personality.

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- More important than physical purity is purity of the heart.
- If my heart is full of spiritual diseases, then I am not ready to ask for help.
- Spiritual diseases range from attachment to the material world, which is among the greatest diseases that can afflict the heart, to vices like arrogance and greed etc.

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- If I possess these qualities, it means that my heart is impure and an impure heart cannot experience the joy of Divine proximity
- What is the proper course of action for someone who has polluted his heart with sin and disobedience?

# Conditions and Etiquettes

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

“Indeed God loves those who repent and He loves those who seek purity.” Quran 2:222

- If you are not طاهر pure, then at least be متطهر, one who seeks purity

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **3. Lawful Income**

أَطْبُ كَسْبِكَ تُسْتَجَبُ دَعْوَتُكَ ، فَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ يَرْفَعُ اللَّقْمَةَ إِلَى فِيهِ  
( حَرَامًا ) فَمَا تُسْتَجَابُ لَهُ دَعْوَةٌ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا

“Make your earnings lawful and your supplication will be answered, for verily when a man raises an unlawful morsel of food to his mouth, his supplication is not answered for forty days.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)



# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **4. Presence of the Heart**

اعلموا أن الله لا يستجيبُ دعاءً من قلبٍ غافلٍ لاهٍ

“Know that God does not answer supplication from a heedless and distracted heart.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)

- The story of Musa and the shepherd in prostration.

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **5. Believing Only God Can Help**

من سألني وهو يعلم أنني أضر وأنفع أستجيب له

“Whoever asks Me knowing that I am the only One who can harm and benefit, I will answer him.” – Hadith Qudsi

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **Some of the etiquettes of dua:**
- **1. The Basmala:**

لا يُردُّ دُعَاءُ أَوَّلِهِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“The supplication that is preceded by "In the Name of God, the all-Beneficent, the all-Merciful" will not be rejected.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **2. Praising God**

إِنَّ كُلَّ دُعَاءٍ لَا يَكُونُ قَبْلَهُ تَمْجِيدٌ فَهُوَ أَبْتَرٌ

“Verily every supplication that is not preceded by praise [of God] is incomplete.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **3. Sending Salutations Upon the Prophet (saw) and his family**

لا يزالُ الدعاءُ محجوباً حتى يُصلَّى على مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

“A supplication remains veiled until the supplicant sends blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.”-Imam Ja’far al-Sadiq (a.s)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

مَنْ كَانَتْ لَهُ حَاجَةٌ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ فَلْيَبْدَأْ بِالصَّلَاةِ عَلَى  
مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ ، ثُمَّ يَسْأَلُ حَاجَتَهُ ، ثُمَّ يَخْتَمُ بِالصَّلَاةِ عَلَى  
مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّوَجَلَّ أَكْرَمُ مَنْ أَنْ يَقْبَلَ  
الطَّرْفَيْنِ وَيَدْعَ الْوَسْطَ إِذْ كَانَتْ الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ  
مُحَمَّدٍ لَا تَحْجُبُ عَنْهُ

# Conditions and Etiquettes

“If anyone has a need from God, then he should begin by sending blessings upon Muhammad and his family, then ask his need. Thereafter he should seal it by sending blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, for verily God is too kind to just accept the two blessings [at the beginning and at the end] and leave the middle, because the request for blessings on Muhammad and his family is never veiled from Him.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **4. Acknowledgment of Sins**

إِنَّمَا هِيَ الْمَدْحَةُ ، ثُمَّ الْإِقْرَارُ بِالذَّنْبِ ، ثُمَّ الْمَسْأَلَةُ

“[In supplication] praise God, then acknowledge your sins, then ask your request.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)



# Conditions and Etiquettes

فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَن لَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

And he (Yunis) called out within the darkneses,  
"There is no god except You; Glory be to You.  
Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers." Quran  
21:87

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **5. Imploring and Begging**

فِيمَا وَعَظَ اللَّهُ بِهِ عِيسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ: يَا عِيسَى ، اُدْعِنِي دُعَاءَ الْحَزِينِ  
الْغَرِيقِ الَّذِي لَيْسَ لَهُ مَغِيثٌ ... وَلَا تَدْعِنِي إِلَّا مَتَضَرِّعًا إِلَيَّ وَهَمَّكَ هَمًّا  
وَاحِدًا ، فَإِنَّكَ مَتَى تَدْعِنِي كَذَلِكَ أَجِبْتُكَ

“Among God’s exhortations to Jesus was, 'O Jesus, call upon Me with a supplication of a sorrowful one, as if he is drowning and has no saviour...and only supplicate Me by imploring Me, with the supplication being your prime concern, for verily if you call Me like that, I will answer you.’”

# Conditions and Etiquettes

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ يَرْفَعُ يَدَيْهِ إِذَا ابْتَهَلَ وَدَعَا كَمَا  
يَسْتَطَعُ الْمَسْكِينُ

“The Messenger of God used to raise his hands and implore and beg [God] just like the poor man begs for food.”- Imam Hussein (a.s)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **6. Performing Two Units of Prayer**

مَنْ أَحْدَثَ وَلَمْ يَتَوَضَّأْ فَقَدْ جَفَانِي ، وَمَنْ أَحْدَثَ وَتَوَضَّأَ ، وَلَمْ  
يَصِلْ رَكْعَتَيْنِ فَقَدْ جَفَانِي ، وَمَنْ أَحْدَثَ وَتَوَضَّأَ ، وَصَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ ،  
وَدَعَانِي وَلَمْ أَجِبْهُ فِيمَا سَأَلَنِي مِنْ أَمْرِ دِينِهِ وَدُنْيَاہِ ، فَقَدْ جَفَوْتَهُ ،  
وَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّ جَافٍ

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- “He who becomes spiritually impure and does not perform wudhu has disregarded Me. And he who has become spiritually impure and performs wudhu without offering a two unit prayer has disregarded Me. He who becomes spiritually impure, then performs wudhu and offers a two unit prayer and asks Me regarding matters of his religion and wordly life and I don't answer him, then I have disregarded Him and I am not a Lord who disregards.” - Hadith Qudsi

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- 7. Not to Regard One's Own Request as Too Much

لَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ سَبْعِ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَأَرْضِينَ سَأَلُونِي جَمِيعًا فَأَعْطَيْتُ كُلَّ  
وَاحِدٍ مِنْهُمْ مَسْأَلَتَهُ ، مَا نَقَصَ ذَلِكَ مِنْ مُلْكِي مِثْلَ جَنَاحِ  
بَعُوضَةٍ ، وَكَيْفَ يَنْقُصُ مُلْكُ أَنَا قِيَمَهُ ؟

# Conditions and Etiquettes

“If the inhabitants of the seven heavens and worlds were all to request from Me and I was to give each one their request, it would not decrease My dominion even the amount of the wing of an insect, and how can My dominion decrease and I am its owner..” Hadith Qudsi

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **8. To Have a High Ambition for What You Seek**

رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ

“Our Lord, and make us Muslims [in submission] to You and from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You.” Quran 2:128



# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **9. Supplicate For Everyone**

إِذَا دَعَا أَحَدٌ فَلْيُعَمِّمْ فَإِنَّهُ أَوْجِبُ لِلدُّعَاءِ ، وَمِنْ قَدَمِ أَرْبَعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ إِخْوَانِهِ  
قَبْلَ أَنْ يَدْعُو لِنَفْسِهِ اسْتَجِيبَ لَهُ فِيهِمْ وَفِي نَفْسِهِ

“When someone supplicates, he should pray for everyone, for it renders his supplication more conducive to being answered, and whoever precedes forty from among his brothers in supplication before supplicating for himself, his supplication for them as well as himself will duly be answered.” - The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **10. Supplicating in Secrecy:**

دَعْوَةٌ فِي السِّرِّ تَعْدِلُ سَبْعِينَ دَعْوَةً فِي الْعَلَانِيَةِ

“A supplication in secrecy is equal to seventy supplications in public.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Condition and Etiquettes

- **11. Supplication in Congregation:**

ما اجتمع أربعة رهطٍ قطُّ على أمرٍ واحدٍ فدعوا الله إلا تفرقوا عن إجابةٍ

“No sooner do four people congregate to supplicate together for one matter than they depart with an answer.” - Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **12. Being Optimistic about the Answer:**

أَدْعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَنْتُمْ مُوقِنُونَ بِالْإِجَابَةِ

“Supplicate to God while being convinced that He will answer you.”- The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **13. Persistence**

رَحِمَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا طَلَبَ مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ حَاجَةً فَأَلَحَّ فِي الدُّعَاءِ ، أُسْتَجِيبَ  
لَهُ أَوْ لَمْ يُسْتَجَبْ لَهُ

“May God have mercy on a servant who seeks a need from Him and insists in supplication, whether it is answered or unanswered for him.”-

The Holy Prophet (saw)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

- **Most Desirable Times to Supplicate:**

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله : خير وقت دعوتكم الله عز وجل فيه الأسحار ، وتلا هذه الآية في قول يعقوب عليه السلام : ( سوف أستغفر لكم ربي ) وقال : أخرهم إلى السحر

# Conditions and Etiquettes

“The Prophet (saw) said, 'The best time to supplicate to God, Mighty and Exalted, is the time before dawn', then he recited the verse which is the saying of Prophet Jacob ؑ . (AS), "I shall plead with my Lord to forgive you" ؑ١ , then he said, 'He postponed [supplicating for them] till the time before dawn.’- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)

# Conditions and Etiquettes

ثَلَاثَةُ أَوْقَاتٍ لَا يُحْجَبُ فِيهَا الدُّعَاءُ عَنِ اللَّهِ : فِي أَثَرِ الْمَكْتُوبَةِ ، وَعِنْدَ نَزُولِ الْقَطْرِ ، وَظُهُورِ آيَةٍ مُعْجَزَةٍ لِلَّهِ فِي أَرْضِهِ

“There are three times when supplication is not veiled from Allah at all: after completion of an obligatory act, during rainfall, and during the manifestation of a miraculous sign from Allah on the earth [like an eclipse].” – Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)



# Conditions and Etiquettes

- Why does God sometimes delay the answering of our supplications?

إن العبد الولي لله يدعو الله في الأمر ينوبه فيقال للملك الموكل به : اقض لبعدي حاجته ولا تعجلها ، فاني أشتهي أن أسمع نداءه وصوته

# Conditions and Etiquettes

“[When] a servant of God who is very close to Him prays to God because of some difficulty that has happened to him, God says to the angel responsible for the affairs of that person, “Fulfill his request, but don’t rush! I love to hear his call and his voice.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s)