Dua Iftitah

It is recommended to recite the following *Du `ā' al-Iftifah* every night in Ramaḍān:

O Allah: I begin the glorification of You with praising You:

اللّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَفْتَتِحُ الثَّنَاءَ بِحَمْدِكَ
And You always guide us to the right out of Your favoring upon us.

وَأَنْتَ مُسَدَّدٌ لِلصَّوَابِ بِمَنِّكَ،
And I am certain that You are the most Merciful of all those who show mercy in situations of pardon and mercy

وَأَيْقَنْتُ أَنْكَ آَنتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ فِي مَوْضِعِ الْعَفْوِ
وَالرَّحْمَةِ,
But You are the very exacting in situations of giving exemplary punishment and chastisement (to the wrongdoers),

وَأَشَدُّ مَعَاقِبَيْنَ فِي مَوْضِعِ النَّكَالِ وَالْنَّقِمَةِ,
And You are the greatest Omnipotent in the domain of absolute power and might.

وَأَعْظَمُ الْمُتَجَبِّرِينَ فِي مَوْضِعِ الْكِبْرِيَاءِ وَالْعَظْمَةِ.
O Allah: You have permitted me to pray and beseech You.

اللّهُمَّ أَذِنْتَ لِي فِي دُعَائِكَ وَمَسَأَلَتِكَ،
So, listen, O the All-hearer, to my words of praise,
فَإِنْ تَسْأَلْ يَا سَمِيعُ مِدْحَتِي،
And please reply my prayer; O the All-merciful.

وَأَجِبْ يَا رَحِيمُ دَعْوَتِي،
And please overlook my slips; O the Oft-Forgiving.

وَأَقِلْ يَا غَفُورُ عُثْرَتِي،
You, O my God, have relieved so many of my griefs,

فَكَمْ يَا إِلهِي مِنْ كُرْبَةٍ قَدْ فَرَجْجَتَهَا،
And You have dispelled so many of my sorrows

وَهُمُومٍ قَدْ كَشَفْتَهَا،
And You have overlooked so many of my slips,

وَعَثْرَةٍ قَدْ أَقَلْتَهَا،
And You have spread over me many of Your mercies

وَرَحْمَةٍ قَدْ نَشَرْتَهَا،
And You have unlocked so many of rings of misfortunes (in which I was detained).

وَخَلْقَةٍ بَلاءٍ قَدْ فَكَكْتَهَا؟
All praise be to Allah Who has not betaken wife or son,

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَمْ يَتَخْذِذْ صَاحِبَةً وَلَا وَلَداً
And Who has no partner in the sovereignty,
nor has He any protecting friend through dependence. And Magnify Him with all magnificence.

All praise be to Allah with full gratitude for all His bounties.

All praise be to Allah Who has no opposition in His rule,

nor there is any challenge to His commands.

All praise be to Allah Who has no counsel to meddle with His operation of creation,

nor there is anything similar to Him in His greatness.

All praise be to Allah Whose commandments are active in the creation and the praising of Whom is incumbent.

His glory is evident through His kindness,
الظاهر بالكرم مجدوه،
His distinct overflowing generosity is freely available,

الباسيط بالجود يداه،
His unlimited bestowals do not exhaust,

الذي لا تنقص خزائنه،
and He does not swell the numerous benefits except because of generosity and kindness.

ولا تزيده كثرة الغطاء إلا الجودا وكرماً
Verily He is Mighty, Generous.

إنه هو العزيز الوهاب.
O Allah, I ask for some from much,

اللههم إني أستالك قليلاً من كثير،
in the midst of my many needs for which I entirely depend on You,

مع حاجة بي إليه عظيمة
and You since eternity, are able to do without them, but for me it is a titanic effort

وعيناك عنه قدريم وهو عندي كثير،
and for You it is very easy and simple.

وهو عليكم سهل يسير.
O Allah, truly, as You pardon my sins,

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّ عَفْوَكَ عَنْ ذَنْبِي،
And You overlook my mistakes;

وَتَجَاوَزَكَ عَنْ خَطِيئَتِي،
And You take a lenient view of my disorderly conduct,

وَصَفَحَكَ عَنْ ظُلْمِي،
And You cover up my foul actions,

وَسِتْرَكَ عَلَى قَبِيحِ عَمَلِي،
And You show consideration in spite of my many transgressions committed willfully or negligently,

وَحِلْمَكَ عَنْ كَثِيرِ جُرْمِي عِنْدَ مَا كَانَ مِنْ خَطَّائِي وَعَمَّدَي
All that tempted me to ask for that which I do not deserve, from You, on account of Your mercy, that You may give me the daily bread;

أَطْمَعَنِي فِي أَنْ أَسْأَلَكَ مَا لَا أَسْتَوْجِبُهُ مِنْكَ الَّذِي رَزَقْتَنِي مِنْ رَحْمَتِكَ،
And You may provide with that which is suitable for me, through Your control;

وَأَرِيَتَنِي مِنْ قُدْرَتِكَ،
And You may distinguish me with favorable reply to my requests.
So, I persist in calling out, believing in You,
and I invoke You, talking familiarly, not afraid, nor shy,
but assured of Your love and kindness whenever I turn to You.

A temporary setback and I, out of ignorance, begin to despair,
although perhaps slowing down may be a blessing in disguise, because
You alone knows (all) the consequences.

I do not know a generous Master who is more accommodating to the
dissatisfied servants than You are to me.

O Lord! You give an invitation but I turn down,
And You become familiar with me but I do not care for You,
and I persist in calling out, believing in You,
And You show affection to me but I do not correspond to You

وَتَتَوَدَّدُ إِلَيْ فَلا أُقْبِلُ مِنْكَ
as if You are overreaching me!

كَأَنَّ لِيَ التَّطَوَّلَ عَلَيْكَ,
Yet You do not abstain from having mercy upon me and doing favors to me

فَلَمْ يَمْنَعْكَ ذلِكَ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ لِيَ وَالإِحْسَانِ إلَيْيَ،
and blessing me out of Your magnanimity and generosity,

وَالْتَفَضْلِ عَلَيْيَ بِجُودِكَ وَكَرَمِكَ،
So, (please) have mercy on Your ignorant servant and bestow upon him with the favors of Your beneficence

فَارْحَمْ عَبْدَكَ الْجَاهِلَ وَجُدْ عَلَيْهِ بِفَضْلِ إِحْسَانِكَ
Verily, You are Generous and Kind.

إَنُكَّ جَوَادٌ كَرِيمٌ:
All praise be to Allah: the owner of the sovereignty,

الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ مَالِكِ الْمُلْكِ
Who sets the course of skies and the stars,

مُجْرِي الْفُلْكِ
Who controls the winds,
Who causes the day break,
and Who administers the authority:
the Lord of the worlds.
All praise be to Allah for His indulgence although He has full acquaintance with all things.
All praise be to Allah for His amnesty although He has full power over all things.
All praise be to Allah for the respite that He allows inspite of provocation.
He is able to do whatever He wills.
All praise be to Allah, the Creator of all the created beings,
الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ خَالِقِ الْخَلْقِ،
Who makes the sustenance freely available,

بَاسِطِ الرَّزْقِ,
Who starts the day,

فَالِقِ الإصْبَاحِ,
Who is the Owner of glory, might, favours, and bounties,

ذِي الْجَلالِ وَالإكْرَامِ وَالْفَضْلِ وَالإِنْعَامِ
And Who is so far away that none can ever see Him,

الَّذِي بَعْدَ فَلا يُرَى,
And, in the same time, He is so near that He is fully aware of even the whispering secrets.

وَقَرُبَ فَشَهِيدَ النَّجَوَى,
Blessed and Exalted be He.

تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى.
All praise be to Allah Who has no equal to challenge Him,

الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ الَّذِي لَيْسَ لَهُ مُنَازِعٌ يُعَادِلُهُ,
nor is there an image comparable to Him,

وَلَا شَبِيهٌ يُشَاكِلُهُ,
nor is there a helper to assist Him.
وَلا ظَهِيرٌ يُعَاضِدُهُ،
He tames the powerful by (His) force,
قوَهَ بِعِز تِهِ الأَعِزَاءَ,
and disgraced are the great ones before His Greatness,
وَتَوَاضَعَ لِعَظَمَتِهِ الْعُظَمَاءُ,
so He, through His power, fulfills that which He wills.
فَبَلَغَ بِقُدْرَتِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ.
All praise be to Allah Who gives answer to me whenever I call Him;
الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ الَّذِي يُجِيبُنِي حِينَ أُنَادِيهِ،
And He covers up my shortcomings, yet I disobey Him;
وَيَسْتَرُ عَلَيْ كُلَّ عَوْرَةٍ وَأَنَا أَعْصِيهِ،
And He gives me the largest part of the bounties, yet I do not show his gratitude.
وَيُعَظِّمُ النُّعْمَةُ عَلَيْ فَلا أَجَازِيهِ،
Many a auspicious favors had He given me;
فَكَمْ مِنْ مَوْهِبَةٍ هَنِئَةٍ قَدْ أَعْطَانِي،
And many a terrible dangers had He turned off,
وَعَظِيمَةٍ مَخْوَفَةٍ قَدْ أَعْطَانِي،
And many a blossoming joys had He made available for me,
وَبَهْجَةٍ مُونِقَةٍ قَدْ أَرَانِي؟
Therefore, I sing His praises and recite His glorifications.

فَأُثْنِي عَلَيْهِ حَامِداً.
And mention Him with exaltation.

وَأُذْكُرُهُ مُسَبَّحاً.
All praise be to Allah Whose screen cannot be penetrated

الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ الَّذِي لا يُهْتَكُ حِجَابُهُ،
And Whose door is not blocked;

وَلا يُعْلَقُ بَابُهُ،
And Whose beseecher is not rejected;

وَلا يُرَدّ سَائِلُهُ،
And one who hopes Him is not disappointed.

وَلا يُخَيَبُ آمِلُهُ.
All praise be to Allah Who secures the frightened ones,

الْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ الَّذِي يُؤْمِنُ الْخَائِفِينَ،
Who comes to the help of the upright ones,

وَيَنَجِي الصَالِحِينَ.
Who promotes the cause of the weak ones,
وَيَرْفَعُ الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ،

annihilates the autocrats,

وَيَضَعُ الْمُسْتَكْبِرِينَ،

Who destroys rulers and appoints others instead.

وَيُهْلِكُ مُلُوكاً وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ آخَرِينَ؛

All praise be to Allah; the Eradicator of the tyrants,

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّهِ قَاصِمِ الْجَبَّارِينَ،

The Terminator of the unjust ones,

مُبِيرِ الظَّالِمِينَ،

The Catcher of the fugitives,

مُدْرِكِ الْهَارِبيِّينَ،

The Punisher of the unjust ones,

نَكَالِ الظَّالِمِينَ،

The aide of the seekers of aid,

صَرِيخٌ الْمُسْتَصْرُخِينَ،

The Settler of the needs of the beseechers,

مَوْضِعِ حَاجَاتِ الطَّالِبِينَ،

And the support of the the faithful believers.
All praise be to Allah! In His awe-inspiring fear the heavens and its dwellers tremble and shiver,

And the earth and its inhabitants shake and quiver,

And the oceans and all that which float and swim in their waters flow together in excitement and tumult.

All praise be to Allah Who has guided us to this. We could not truly have been led aright if Allah had not guided us.

All praise be to Allah Who creates but He is not created;

And He gives subsistence but He needs no provisions;

And He gives food to eat but He takes no nourishment,

And He makes the living dead
And He brings the dead to life,

But He is the Everliving, there is no death for Him,

in His hands is all the good,

and He is able to do all things.

O Allah: (please do) send blessings on Muḥammad, Your servant and Messenger,

And Your confidant, friend, and beloved intimate,

And the choicest of Your created beings,

And the bearer of Your sacraments,

And the quotient of Your Messengers,
With the most superior, the most exquisite, the most handsomer, the most perfect, the most upright, the most prospering, the most pleasant, the most thoroughly purified, the most sublime;
The most and the best blessings, advantages, mercies, affections
And salutations that You have ever made available to anyone of Your servants and Prophets,
And Messengers and choicest people and those honored by You from among Your created beings.
O Allah: (please do) send blessings on `Ali, the Commander of the Believers,
اللّهُمَّ وَصَلِّ عَلَى عَلِيٍّ أمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ،
And the successor of the Messenger of the Lord of the worlds:

وَوَصِيٌّ رَسُولِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ،
Your servant, Your beloved representative, and the brother of Your Messenger,

عَبْدِكَ وَوَلِيٌّكَ وَأَحْيَى رَسُولُكَ
and Your decisive argument over the mankind,

وَحُجَّتِكَ عَلَى خَلْقِكَ،
And Your most important sign,

وَآيَتِكَ الْكُبْرَى،
And the great news (from You).

وَالْبَنَا الْعَظِيمِ;
And (please do) send blessings on the truthful, pure Lady,

وَصَلِّ عَلَى الصِّدِّيqaةِ الطَّاهِرَةِ
Fāṭimah: the Doyenne of the women of the world.

فَاطِمَةَ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ،
And (please do) send blessings on the sons of ‘the mercy to the worlds’

وَصَلِّ عَلَى سِبْطَيِ الرَّحْمَةِ,
And the two leaders of true guidance,
وَإِمَامَيِ الْهُدَى
Al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn,
الْحَسَنِ وَالْحُسَيْنِ
the two Chiefs of the dwellers of Paradise.
سَيِّدَيْ شَبَابِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ،
And (please do) send blessings on the leaders of the Muslims,
وَصَلَّ عَلَى أَئِمَّةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ:
`Ali bin al-Ḥusayn,
عَلِيٌّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ,
Muḥammad bin `Alī,
وَمُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ،
Ja`far bin Muḥammad,
وَجَعْفَرِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدِ،
Mūsā bin Ja`far,
وَمُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ،
`Alī bin Mūsā,
وَعَلِيٌّ بْنِ مُوسَى،
Muḥammad bin `Alī,
وَمُحمَّدٌ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ،
`Alī bin Muḥammad,
َوَعَلِيٌّ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ،
Al-Ḥasan bin `Alī,
وَالْحَسَنِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ،
and the successor, the guide, and the rightly guided
وَالْخَلَفِ الْهَادِي الْمَهْدِيٌّ،
(Those Imams are) Your decisive arguments over Your servants,
حُجَجِكَ عَلَى عِبَادِكَ،
Your trustworthy confidants in Your lands—
وَأُمَانَائِكَ فِي بِلَادِكَ
Blessings that are numerous and non-stop.
صَلاةً كَثِيرَةً دَائِمَةً
O Allah: (please do) send blessings on the custodian of Your commandments,
اللّهُمَّ وَصْلِ عَلَى وَليٍّ أَمْرِكَ
The vigilant guardian, the reliable patron,
القَائِمِ المُؤَمَّلِ،
And the awaited justice.
And (please) surround him with Your favorite Angels,

وَحُفَّهُ بِمَلائِكَتِكَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

And assist him with the Holy Spirit.

وَأَيْدِهٌ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ

O the Lord of the worlds.

يَارَبِ الْعَالَمِينَ

O Allah: (please) choose him to be the caller to Your Book and the for establisher of Your religion,

اللّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ الدَّاعِي إلَى كِتَابِكَ، وَالْقَائِمَ بِدِينِكَ،

and make him succeed in the earth as You caused those who were before him to succeed,

إِفْيَ الأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفْتَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ،

and establish for him his faith which You have approved for him

مَكَّنْ لَهُ دِينَهُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَيْتَهُ لَهُ،

And give him in exchange safety after the fear.

أَبْدِلْهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِ أُمَنَاً

He serves You. He ascribes nothing as partner to You.

يَعْبُدُكَ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِكَ شَيْئًاً.
O Allah: (please) give him power and authority, and through him strengthen the people,

اللَّهُمَّ أُعِزَّهُ وَأَعْزِرْهُ بِهِ،

And give him the necessary assistance, and through him support the people,

وَانْصَرْهُ وَانْتَصِرْ بِهِ،

And help him with a mighty help

وَانْصَرْهُ نَصْراً عَزِيزاً،

And make him prevail over all with easiness

وَافْتَحْ لَهُ فَنْحاً يَسِيراً،

And delegate him Your controlling authority.

وَاجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ لَدُنْكَ سُلْطَاناً نَصِيراً

O Allah: (please) give currency to Your religion and to Your Prophet’s traditions through him

اللَّهُمَّ أَظْهِرْ بِهِ دِينَكَ وَسُنَّةَ نَبِيِّكَ

So that nothing which is just and genuine is kept concealed from anyone of the human beings.

حَتَّى لا يَسْتَخْفِي بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْحَقِّ مَخَافَةٍ أَحَدٍ مِنَ الْخَلْقِ.

O Allah: we ardently desire that You confer upon us a respectful government
اللّهُمَّ إنّا نَرْغَبُ إلَيْكَ فِي دُولَةٍ كَرِيمَةٍ

Through which You may reactivate Islam and stimulate its followers,

تَعَزُّ بِهَا الإسْلامَ وَأَهْلَهُ،

and humble and humiliate the imposters and their double-dealing shams,

وَتُذِلُّ بِهَا النِّفاقَ وَأَهْلَهُ،

and include us among those who invite people to the obedience to You

وَتَجْعَلُنَا فِيهَا مِنَ الدُّعَاةِ إلَى طَاعَتِكَ، وَالْقَادِةِ إلَى

سَبِيلِكَ،

and give us the good of this world and the world to come.

وَتَرْزُقُنَا بِهَا كَرَامَةَ الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ.

O Allah: let us bear out and hold up that which You make known to us

وَمَا عُرَفَنَا مِنَ الْحَقِّ فَحَمِّلْنَاهُ،

and let us be fully aware of that which we fall short of doing.

وَمَا قَصُرْنَا عَنْهُ فِبَلْغَنَاهُ.

O Allah: through him, set in order our disorder;

اللّهُمَّ اْمْمِ بِهِ شَعَنَّا،

gather and unite our flock;
stitch together our ripped open separation;

turn our want and poverty into enough,

lift us up from our degradation;

free us from our misery,

pull us out from our debts,

Set up our poverty

fill the gap created by confusion among us;

let our difficulties be easy to deal with;

refine our substance and style,
untie our ropes and straps;

let our efforts succeed well and secure success;

make us fulfil our promises;

give answer to our prayers;

listen to our requests;

cause us to obtain the good of this world and the Hereafter;

give us much and more than our expectations

O the Best of givers and bestowers;

and cleanse our hearts,
unburden our emotions from hate and anger,

and in the event of dispute in the matter of truth show us the right path,

verily You guides whosoever You wills to the Right Path.

Let us, through him, get the better of Your enemies and our opponents,

O the true God: Be it so!

O Allah: we complain to You

About the departure of our Prophet — Your blessings be on him and on his Household —

And about the absence of our leader,

And about the big numbers of our enemies,
And about our few number,

And about widespread disorder,

And about vicissitudes of time against us.

So, (please do) send blessings on Muḥammad and on his Househod

And help us overcome all that through victory from You that You expedite

And through relieving us from our injurites

And through Your help that You confirm

And through bringing in the rule of justice and fairplay,

And through mercy that You expand over us
وَرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْكَ تُجَلِّلُونَاها
And through good health that You cover us with,

وَعَافِيةٍ مِّنْكَ تُلْبِسُنَاها،
Out of Your mercy, O the most Merciful of all those who show mercy.

بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.