

Five Short Du‘ās

Invocations for Epidemic during Holy Nights

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Introduction

Almighty Allah states in the Holy Quran that *the faithful are only those whose hearts tremble [with awe] when Allah is mentioned* (Q 8:2). He also states that *among the people are those who set up objects of worship besides Allah, loving them as if loving Allah – but the faithful have a more ardent love for Allah* (Q 2:165).

How can we build a relation with the Creator such that we have awe (*khashiyah*) of Allah ﷻ but at the same time have fervent love of God? Undoubtedly, the great heritage received in the form of supplications from the Holy Household (the Ahlul Bayt) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is best in training us to do that. Reciting these du‘ās helps us imbibe Divine awe into our hearts without losing hope in His Mercy and Grace.

Currently the entire world is facing a huge crisis with the coronavirus pandemic which to date has infected over 1.5 million people and claimed 82,000 lives. In this brief publication we present five short du‘ās from the Ahlul Bayt ﷺ which have been recommended by renown scholars and leaders of Shi‘ī Muslims for such times.

The first du‘ā is commonly recited on the eve of 15th Sha‘bān. The second du‘ā is found in the encyclopedia of Hadith, *Bihār al-Anwār* of ‘Allāmah Muhammad Bāqir Majlisī. The last three du‘ās are all found in Shaykh ‘Abbās Qummī’s *Mafātih al-Jinān* and recommended during the present epidemic by Āyatullāh Muhammad Bāqir Tahrīrī of Tehran. These supplications can be recited anytime during the epidemic, but especially on the holy nights of Sha‘bān and Ramadan, on Thursday evenings and on Fridays. May Allah ﷻ bring relief soon

1) Du‘ā to ward off Plague and Epidemic¹:

Recite the following Du‘ā twenty-one (21) times immediately after Maghrib prayers on the eve of 15th Sha‘bān.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ . اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَظِيمٌ ذُو أَنَاةٍ ، وَلَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا لِجُكُمِكَ

يَا اللَّهُ يَا اللَّهُ يَا اللَّهُ ، الْأَمَانُ الْأَمَانُ الْأَمَانُ

مِنَ الطَّاعُونَ وَالْوَبَاءِ ، وَمَوْتَةِ الْفَجْأَةِ

وَسُوءِ الْقَضَاءِ ، وَشَمَاتَةِ الْأَعْدَاءِ

رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ

In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. O Allah You are Mighty of patience and perseverance and we have no strength to bear Your judgment.

O Allah, O Allah, O Allah,

[grant us] safety, safety, safety

from plague, epidemics, accidental death,

and [from] evil ending and the taunting of enemies.

*O our Lord free us from the punishment! Indeed, we are believers*²

O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

¹ ‘Abdullāh Shubbar, *Tibba al-Aimmah*, p. 350; Tayyiba Publishers, *A‘maal of Rajab and Sha‘baan*, pp. 104 & 105.

² (Holy Quran 44:12).

2) Du‘ā for Epidemic³

عَنْ مَوْلَانَا أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (ع): مَنْ قَرَأَ هَذِهِ الْآيَاتِ السِّتِّ فِي كُلِّ غَدَاةٍ

كَفَاهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى مِنْ كُلِّ سُوءٍ وَلَوْ أَلْقَى نَفْسَهُ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَهِيَ

It has been narrated from our Mawlā Amirul Mu‘minīn عليه السلام: *Whoever recites these six verses every morning Allah will protect him from every evil even if he exposes himself to perilous situation. These are:*

قُلْ لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا هُوَ مَوْلَانَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

Q 9: 51 *Say: Nothing will afflict us save what God has ordained for us; He is our Patron, and on God let the believers rely.*

وَإِنْ يَمَسُّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِنْ يُرِدْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ

لِفَضْلِهِ يُصِيبُ بِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Q 10:107 *And if God should afflict you with harm, then there is none to remove it but He; and if He intends good to you there is none to repel His grace; He brings it to whom He pleases of His servants; and He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.*

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا وَيَعْلَمُ مُسْتَقَرَّهَا وَمُسْتَوْدَعَهَا

كُلٌّ فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ

Q 11:6 *And there is no animal in the earth but on God is its sustenance, and He knows its resting place and its depository all are in a manifest book.*

³ ‘Allāmah Muhammad Bāqir al-Majlisī, *Bihār*, v. 83, p. 337.

وَكَايْنٍ مِّنْ دَابَّةٍ لَا تَحْمِلُ بَرْقَهَا اللَّهُ يَرْزُقُهَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ

وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Q 29:60 *And how many a living creature that does not carry its sustenance: God sustains it and yourselves; and He is the Hearing, the Knowing.*

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ

مِنْ بَعْدٍ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Q 35:2 *Whatever God grants to men of (His) mercy, there is none to withhold it, and what He withholds there is none to send it forth after that, and He is the Mighty, the Wise*

قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ

كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّيهِ أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَاتُ رَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ

عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ

Q 39:38 *Say: Have you then considered that which you call upon besides God if God intended to afflict me with harm, could they remove His harm?, or if he intended some Mercy for me, could they withhold His mercy? Say: God is sufficient for me; on Him do the reliant rely.*

[Then the Imam (a) continued reciting]:

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ ،
 وَأَمْتَع بِحَوْلِ اللَّهِ وَقُوَّتِهِ مِنْ حَوْلِهِمْ وَقُوَّتِهِمْ ، وَأَسْتَشْفِعُ بِرَبِّ
 الْفَلَقِ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ، وَأَعُوذُ بِمَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ
 لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ .

God is sufficient for me, there is no god but He; on Him do I rely upon, and He is the Lord of mighty power (Q 9:129), and I block their might and power with God's might and power, and I seek intercession from The Lord of the Dawn (for protection) against the evil of his creatures (Q 113: 1 & 2), and I seek refuge to the will of God, there is no power except with God the high the great.

3) Dū‘ā al-Nūr by Bibi Fātima al-Zahrā عليها السلام

In *Mubaj al-Da‘awāt*, Sayyid Ibn Tāwūs has mentioned a narration quoting Salman as saying, “Bibi Fātima عليها السلام conveyed to me some words that she had learnt from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and she used to repeat them each morning and evening. Moreover, she said that if you would like not to be afflicted by the harm of fever as long as you live in this world, you may say this supplicatory prayer regularly:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. O Allah bless Muhammad and his family

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ التَّوْبِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ نُورِ التَّوْبِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ نُورِ عَلَى نُورِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

الَّذِي هُوَ مُدَبِّرُ الْأُمُورِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ التُّورَ مِنَ التُّورِ

In the name of Allah, the Light, In the name of Allah,
the Light of all light

In the name of Allah, Light upon Light, In the name of
Allah the manager of all the world's affairs

In the name of Allah who created light from the Light

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ التُّورَ مِنَ التُّورِ وَأَنْزَلَ التُّورَ عَلَى الطُّورِ فِي كِتَابٍ

مَسْطُورٍ فِي رَاقٍ مَنُشُورٍ بِقَدَرٍ مَقْدُورٍ عَلَى نَبِيِّ مُحَبُّورٍ

All praise belongs to Allah, who created light from the
Light, and sent down the Light on the mount in a Book
inscribed on an unrolled parchment, in a preordained
measure on the learned Prophet

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هُوَ بِالْعِزِّ مَذْكُورٌ وَبِالْفَخْرِ مَشْهُورٌ وَعَلَى السَّرَّاءِ

وَالضَّرَّاءِ مَشْكُورٌ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ

All praise belongs to Allah, who is mentioned with
honor and might, famed for glory, and thanked in ease
and adversity. May the blessings of Allah be upon our
master, Muhammad, and his immaculate family.

4) Hirz from Imam Muhammad al-Jawād عليه السلام

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ . اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

يَا نُورُ يَا بُرْهَانَ يَا مُبِينُ يَا مُنِيرُ
يَا رَبِّ اِكْفِنِي الشُّرُورَ وَأَقَاتِ الدُّهُورَ
وَأَسْأَلُكَ التَّجَاةَ يَوْمَ يُنْفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. O Light, O Proof, O Manifest, O Illuminator. My Lord! Suffice for me against all evil and the afflictions of time, and I beseech You for safety on the Day the Trumpet is blown. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. (Abbās Qummī, Bāqiyāt al-Swālihāt in the margins of Mafātih al-Jinan, p. 816 in the Arabic version)

5) Du‘ā Sarī’ al-Ijābah

Shaykh ‘Abbās Qummī cites from Kaf‘amī’s *al-Balad al-Amin* that the following Du‘ā has been taught by Imam Mūsa al-Kāzim عليه السلام and says that it is a sublime invocation which is answered by Allah ﷻ promptly.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَطَعْتُكَ فِي أَحَبِّ الْأَشْيَاءِ إِلَيْكَ وَهُوَ التَّوْحِيدُ وَلَمْ أَعْصِكَ فِي
أَبْغَضِ الْأَشْيَاءِ إِلَيْكَ وَهُوَ الْكُفْرُ فَأَغْفِرْ لِي مَا بَيْنَهُمَا يَا مَنْ إِلَيْهِ مَقَرِّي
أُمَّتِي بِمَا فَرَعْتُ مِنْهُ إِلَيْكَ

O Allah, I have obeyed You in that which is dearest to You, which is *tanhīd*, and I have not disobeyed You in

that which is most disliked to You, which is *kufr*. So, forgive me all that lies between the two. O You to Whom is my refuge, protect me from what I have fled to You!

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي الْكَثِيرَ مِنْ مَعَاصِيكَ وَأَقْبَلْ مِنِّي الْيَسِيرَ مِنْ طَاعَتِكَ يَا
عُدَّتِي دُونَ الْعُدَدِ، وَيَا رَجَائِي وَالْمُعْتَمَدَ، وَيَا كَهْفِي وَالسَّنَدَ، وَيَا وَاحِدُ
يَا أَحَدُ، يَا قُلُّ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدُ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

O Allah! Forgive my many disobediences and accept from me my little obedience. O my only Provider, O my Hope and my Resort, O my Refuge and All-reliance. O Single, O One, O [One who has taught] *Say, He is Allah, the One, Allah is the All-embracing, He neither begat, nor was begotten, nor has He any equal* (Quran, Sūra 112).

أَسْأَلُكَ بِحَقِّ مَنْ اصْطَفَيْتَهُمْ مِنْ خَلْقِكَ وَلَمْ تَجْعَلْ خَلْقَكَ مِثْلَهُمْ أَحَدًا

أَنْ تُصَلِّيَ عَلَيَّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَتَفْعَلَ بِي مَا أَنْتَ أَهْلُهُ

I ask from You for the sake of those whom You have chosen from Your creation and You did not make them like any of Your creatures, to bless Muhammad and his family and deal with me in the manner that befits You!

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ بِالْوَحْدَانِيَّةِ الْكُبْرَى وَالْمُحَمَّدِيَّةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ وَالْعَلَوِيَّةِ
الْعُلْيَا وَيَجْمَعُ مَا احْتَجَجْتُ بِهِ عَلَى عِبَادِكَ وَبِالِاسْمِ الَّذِي حَجَبْتَهُ عَنْ
خَلْقِكَ فَلَمْ يُخْرَجْ مِنْكَ إِلَّا إِلَيْكَ

O Allah! I ask You by Your Great Oneness, by the bright station of Muhammad, by the lofty station of Ali, and by all Your testaments over Your servants, and by the Name which You have veiled from Your creation, and which does not get revealed for anyone except You.

صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَاجْعَلْ لِي مِنْ أَمْرِي فَرْجاً وَفُحْرَجاً وَأَرْزُقْنِي مِنْ
حَيْثُ أَحْتَسِبُ وَمِنْ حَيْثُ لَا أَحْتَسِبُ
إِنَّكَ تَرزُقُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Bless Muhammad and his family and bring relief in my affairs which is complete and an exit. And provide for me from where I expect and from where I do not expect. Indeed, *You provide whomever You wish without reckoning*⁴.

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⁴ Quran 3:27