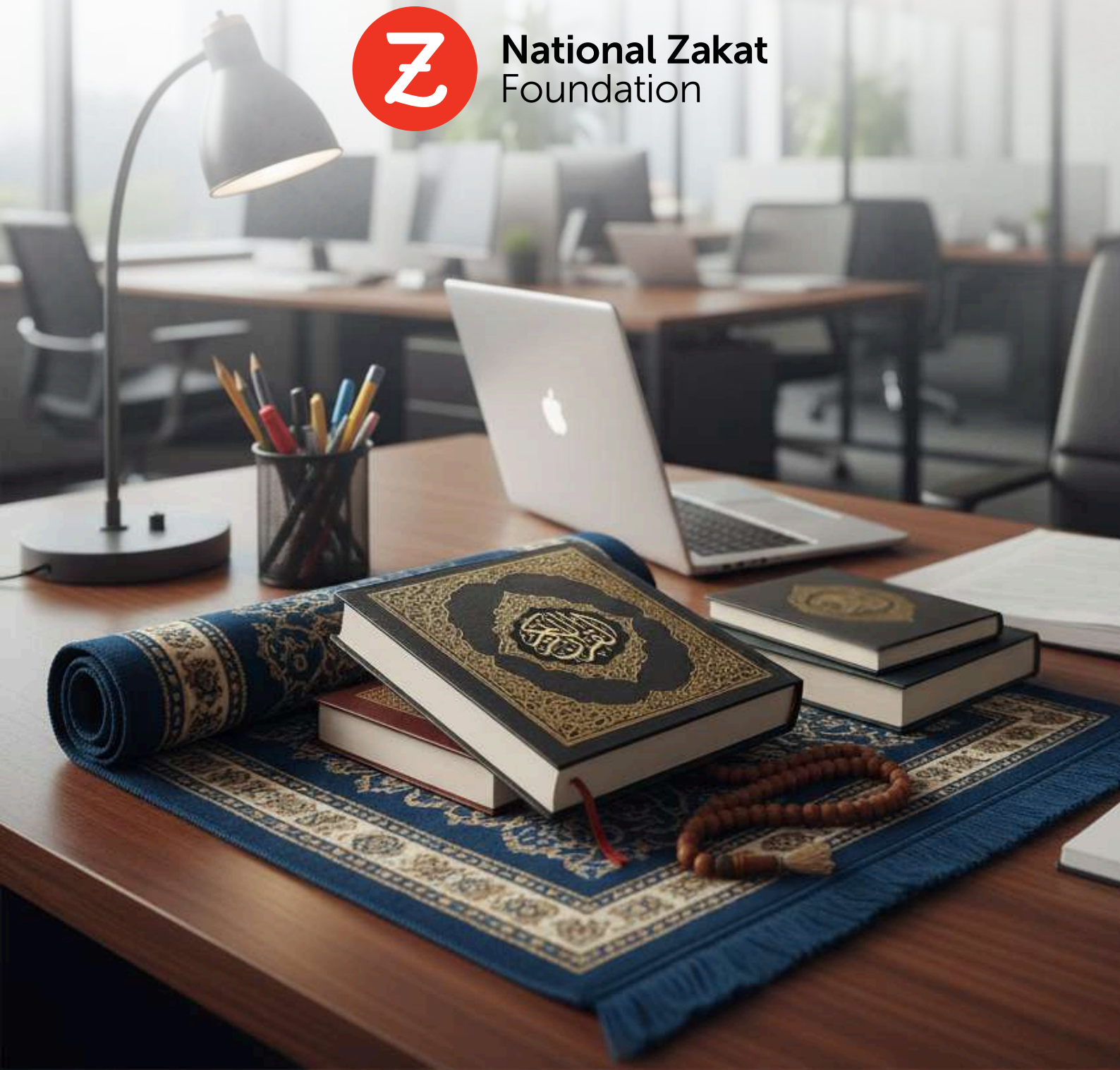


BARAKAH IN BUSINESS

A Guide for Muslim Professionals



National Zakat
Foundation



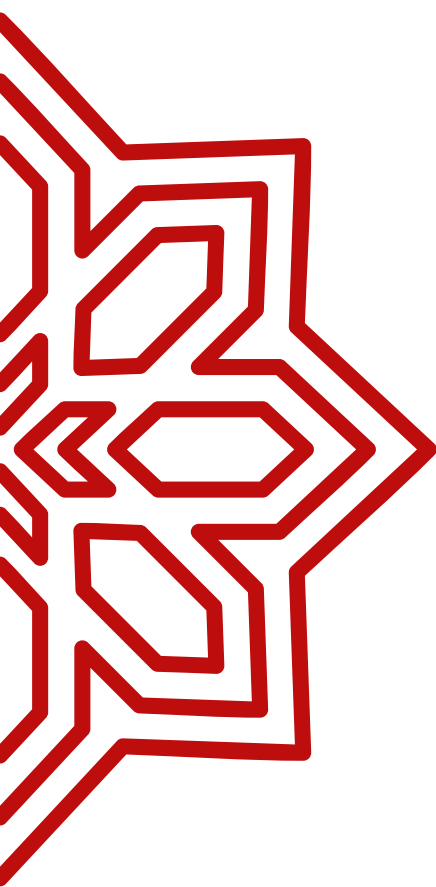


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INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced corporate and entrepreneurial world, many Muslim professionals find themselves chasing success while feeling spiritually depleted. But what if you could grow your career or business without compromising your faith?

This guide helps you understand and apply Barakah in your professional life.

وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرًا وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا

"Whatever good you send ahead for yourselves, you will find it with Allah, better and greater in reward."

(Surah Al-Muzzammil 73:20)

WHAT IS BARAKAH?

The term Barakah, along with related words, appears thirty-two times in the Qur'an and is often translated in English as "divine blessing." Scholars, however, describe it more fully as both the enduring presence of goodness and the continual growth of that goodness.

Linguistically, Barakah carries three meanings: "growth and increase", "continuity", and "something that is stable in its place." It stems from the root B-R-K, which conveys ideas of growth, appreciation, happiness, and excess, while its original sense—"to kneel down," used for camels—was culturally tied to prosperity, as camels resting in the courtyard of the wealthy symbolized status and divine favour.

The companions and scholars have provided rich explanations of Barakah.

The 13th-century scholar Ibn Al-Qayyim defined it as: "The abundance and permanence of goodness."

Ibn Abbas (RA) said: "Barakah means abundance in every auspicious and good deed."

More recently, Mohammad Faris from *"Productive Muslim"* adds another layer of meaning:

"Some scholars describe it as a hidden soldier of the soul. Meaning Allah sends Barakah into something like one of His soldiers. So it might enter your time, or your family, or your laptop, or your sleep, or your food. And it does some kind of spiritual chemical reaction there that leads to a benefit of abundance or goodness that's hard to describe.

There is the scholarly definition, which is 'the attachment of divine goodness to a thing', but it's really a web of meaning, and for us right now we're trying to figure out what's in that web — figure out the different meanings and how we can tap into them."

WHAT IS BARAKAH IN THE WORKPLACE?

In a professional context, it makes your work more productive, your resources go further, and your relationships stronger.

Barakah is not just more, it's quality and positive influence. A small project infused with Barakah can have far-reaching results. A large project, managed with the intention of bringing Barakah, can produce lasting benefit for others. Ultimately, Barakah ensures that our work serves a higher good and aligns with Islamic values.



BARAKAH CAN BE SOUGHT IN EVERY ASPECT OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE:



Time:

Work efficiently, prioritize tasks that truly matter, and make the most of each moment.



Effort and Productivity:

Focus on meaningful work that creates real impact, whether you're in a corporate office, running a business, or working in any field.



Wealth and Resources:

Increase the value of what you earn and manage, ensuring it benefits you and others.



Relationships:

Increase the value of what you earn and manage, ensuring it benefits you and others.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF BARAKAH IN PROFESSIONAL LIFE

1

Growth and Expansion:

Work with Barakah tends to flourish. Projects gain traction, opportunities multiply, and efforts compound over time.

2

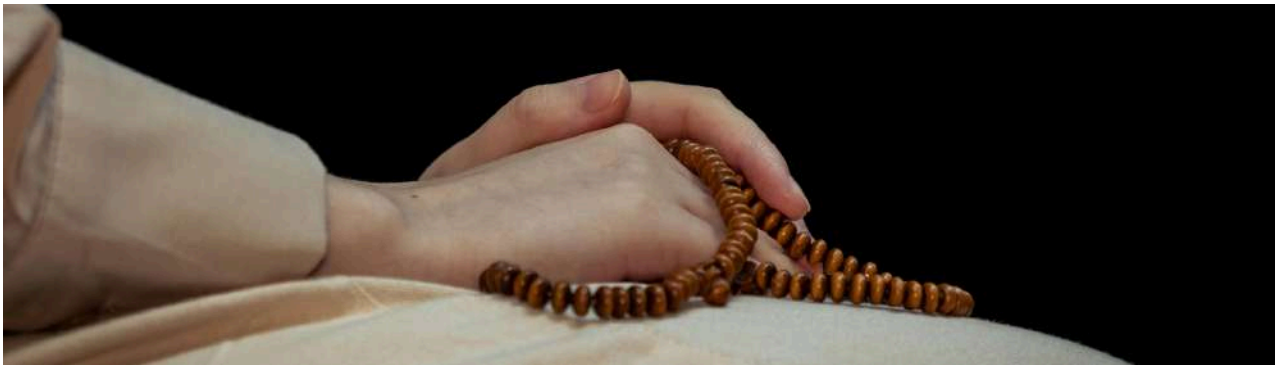
Sustainability and Continuity:

Success is not fleeting. Barakah ensures that the impact of your work lasts, benefiting others even long after your initial effort.

3

Stability and Reliability:

Like a well-rooted tree, work infused with Barakah is steady and dependable. Colleagues, clients, and partners can trust you because your principles remain consistent.



WHY IT MATTERS

In business and careers, many focus solely on speed, numbers, or titles. But Barakah reminds us that true success comes when impact, ethics, and remembrance of Allah intersect.

How you approach your work sets a standard for others around you. Your professional conduct becomes a form of dawah, silently inspiring others to see the beauty of Islamic values in action.

By seeking Barakah in your work, you don't just climb the ladder, you leave a legacy that reflects your faith and positively impacts those around you.

BRINGING BARAKAH INTO YOUR WORK AND CAREER

Barakah in business is intentional and aligned with Islamic principles. Small, conscious changes in how you work and relate to others can multiply your **impact, productivity, and satisfaction.**

1. Start with Intention (Niyyah)

Every task or decision should begin with a clear intention:

- Why am I doing this?
- Will this benefit others?
- Am I seeking to please Allah in my work?

When your intention is aligned with purpose and faith, even ordinary tasks **gain extra weight and value.**

Example: *Completing reports or client work with honesty and integrity becomes more rewarding when approached as a way to benefit others, uphold ethical standards, and seek Allah's pleasure.*

2. Stay in a State of Wudu and Prioritize your Salah

Sins block barakah from entering our lives, while purification opens the door to it. The Prophet ﷺ said: "When a servant washes his face [in wudu], every sin he contemplated with his eyes is washed away... until he emerges purified from sin." (Muslim)

Salah is the greatest safeguard against falling back into sin. Allah says: "Indeed, prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds." (Qur'an 29:45)

Planning our days around Salah timings ensures we pray on time and keeps us in a rhythm of remembrance and dua throughout the day, cultivating a life filled with Barakah.



3. Uphold Integrity and Ethics

Barakah thrives where honesty, fairness, and trust exist:

- Deliver on promises, even when inconvenient
- Avoid shortcuts that compromise quality or values
- Maintain transparency in financial, contractual, and operational matters

Practical Tip: Ask yourself, “*Would I be comfortable if this action were public?*” Ethical decisions invite Barakah.

4. Focus on Quality and Excellence

Barakah multiplies results, not effort alone:

- Do fewer things, but do them exceptionally well
- Constantly improve your skills and knowledge
- Pay attention to details others may overlook

Impact: Quality work done with care attracts opportunities naturally: clients return, teams thrive, and projects grow.

5. Trust Allah and Take Action (Tawakkul + Effort)

Barakah comes when you act, then trust Allah for the outcome:

- Plan, work hard, and follow best practices
- Avoid anxiety over outcomes beyond your control
- Recognize that success combines effort and divine blessing

Example: *Two employees may put in the same hours, but the one balancing effort with ethical intentions, trust in Allah, and thoughtful planning often achieves more with less stress.*



6. Share Your Success (Sadaqah Jariyah at Work)

Giving back amplifies Barakah:

- Mentor colleagues or interns
- Share knowledge and resources generously

By contributing to others' growth, your work becomes an **ongoing source of blessing**

7. Give in Zakat and Sadaqah

The Prophet ﷺ said about Zakat:

“Protect your wealth by paying Zakat, heal your sick with charity, and prepare for trials with supplication.”

(Tabarani)

And about Sadaqah he ﷺ said:

“Charity does not decrease wealth.”

(Muslim)

Zakat purifies your earnings, while Sadaqah multiplies blessings and ensures that your success benefits not just you, but your entire community.

PROPHETIC BUSINESS PRACTICES: LESSONS FOR TODAY

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was also a successful trader and entrepreneur. His business life offers timeless guidance for **ethics, integrity, and Barakah in work.**



HONESTY IN TRADE

The Prophet ﷺ never cheated, misrepresented goods, or deceived clients. His reputation for honesty drew people to do business with him.

Abu Sa'id reported: **Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "The honest and trustworthy merchant will be with the prophets, the truthful, and the martyrs."** (Tirmidhi)

Modern Application: Accurately representing your work, reports, or products builds trust and lasting relationships.



Keeping Promises (Amanah)

He ﷺ always fulfilled agreements, even if circumstances made it difficult.

Anas ibn Malik reported: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, **"When you judge, be just. When you make a covenant, keep it. When your mercy is sought, be merciful. Whoever does not do any of that, the curse of Allah, His angels, and all people will be upon him."** (Tabarani)

Modern Application: Meeting deadlines and honouring commitments strengthens credibility and reliability.



FAIRNESS IN TRANSACTIONS

He ﷺ avoided exploiting anyone, whether a partner, client, or employee.

Jabir reported: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, **“The best of people are those who are most beneficial to people.”** (Tabarani)

Modern Application: Ethical treatment ensures business relationships are sustainable and blessed.



EXCELLENCE IN WORK (IHSAN)

He ﷺ prioritized quality and attention to detail in all dealings.

Abu Ya'la Shaddad bin 'Aus said: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, **“Verily Allah has prescribed Ihsan (proficiency) for everything.”** (Muslim)

Modern Application: Focus on doing fewer things exceptionally well rather than spreading effort thin.



TRUSTWORTHINESS (AL-AMIN)

He ﷺ was widely known as Al-Amin (the Trustworthy) because of his integrity.

Narrated ibn Abbas, the people of Quraysh told the Prophet ﷺ: **“We have not found you telling anything other than the truth.”** (Bukhari)

Modern Application: Trust builds long-term client and partner loyalty, often more than advertising.



PROMPT AND FAIR PAYMENT

He ﷺ emphasized paying workers promptly and fairly.

'Abdullah bin 'Umar said the Prophet ﷺ said: **“Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries.”** (Ibn Majah)

Modern Application: Fair compensation motivates teams and creates a culture of respect and loyalty.



AVOIDING EXPLOITATION

He ﷺ discouraged taking advantage of someone's ignorance or vulnerability in trade.

Narrated Abu Hurairah the Prophet ﷺ: **“He who cheats is not of us.”** (Sahih Muslim)

Modern Application: Transparent contracts and honest communication prevent conflicts and foster trust.



GENEROSITY AND ETHICAL PARTNERSHIPS

He ﷺ encouraged fair sharing in partnerships and generosity in transactions.

Jabir reported the Prophet ﷺ as saying, **“God show mercy to a man who is kindly when he sells, when he buys, and when he makes a claim!”** (Mishkat al-Masabih)

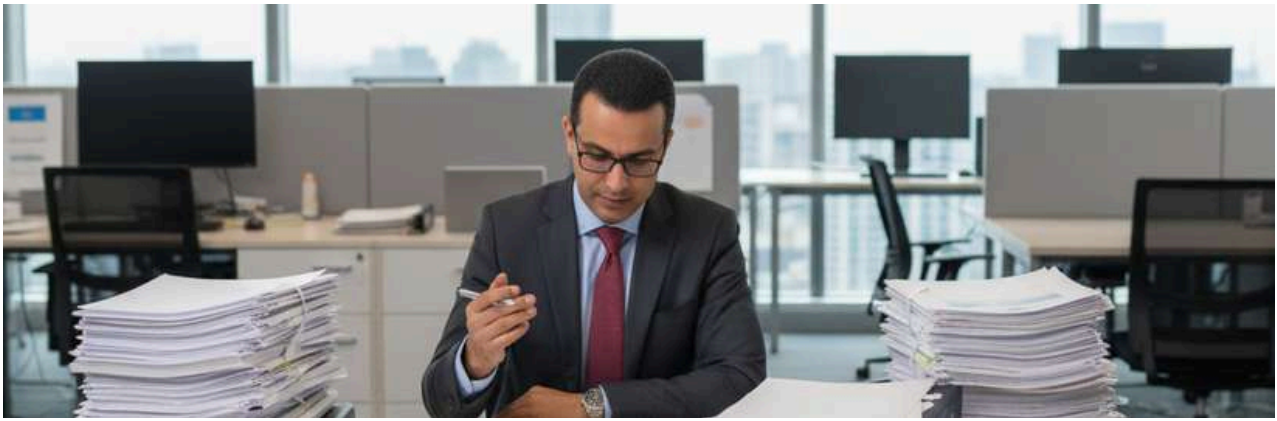
Modern Application: Ethical and generous collaboration leads to Barakah in wealth, reputation, and relationships.

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR PROFESSIONALS TODAY

- Honesty builds trust
- Commitment builds reliability
- Fairness builds sustainable relationships
- Excellence multiplies impact
- Integrity attracts Barakah in earnings and work

Even routine work or small projects can become sources of blessing and lasting impact when aligned with these principles.





DEALING WITH FAILURE AND SETBACKS

In any career or business, setbacks are inevitable. Projects may fail, deals may fall through, or personal goals may be delayed. The key is not to avoid failure but to approach it with the right mindset, guided by intention and reliance on Allah.

1

Understand That Setbacks Are Part of Life

Allah tests us in different ways, and challenges can be opportunities for growth:

“Do not lose hope, nor be sad. You will surely be victorious if you are true believers.” (Surah Al-Imran 3:139)

Failure is not a reflection of your worth, but a moment to learn, adapt, and grow.

2

Reflect and Learn

Every setback carries lessons. Take time to analyze what went wrong and what can be improved:

- Identify the factors you could control vs. those beyond your control.
- Adjust your strategies, skills, or approach based on insights.
- Maintain honesty with yourself about areas for growth.

“And those who, when faced with adversity, say: ‘To Allah we belong, and to Him is our return.’” (Quran 2:156)



3

Maintain Your Intention

Even in failure, ensure your Niyah remains pure:

- Are you acting to please Allah and serve a higher good?
- Are your efforts aligned with ethical principles and integrity?

A setback becomes a source of Barakah when your intention remains aligned with purpose.

4

Trust in Allah (Tawakkul)

After putting in sincere effort, rely on Allah for the outcome:

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” (Quran 13:11)

Trust that what didn't work out is either a protection from harm or a redirection to something better.



5

Remember Your Rizq is Secure with Allah

Setbacks at work — missed opportunities, delays in promotion, or lost clients — can feel discouraging.

But your rizq is never lost. Allah says: **“And there is no creature on earth except that upon Allah is its provision.”** (Quran 11:6)

The Prophet ﷺ assured: “No soul will die until it has received all of its provision, even if it is delayed.” (Ibn Majah), authenticated by Albani.

What Allah has written for you will reach you, no matter the obstacles. A closed door may simply redirect you toward the portion of provision already decreed.

6

Share and Seek Support

Don't face challenges in isolation:

- Discuss lessons learned with mentors, colleagues, or peers.
- Offer support to others who may be facing similar setbacks.
- Build a network that encourages ethical growth and resilience.

DUAS FOR BARAKAH

IN WORK, WEALTH, AND WISDOM

Seeking Barakah in your professional life begins with **turning to Allah through authentic duas**. The Prophet ﷺ encouraged asking for guidance, sustenance, and blessing in all endeavors. Here are key Duas you can incorporate into your workday:

Dua for Good in This Life & Hereafter

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

"Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the punishment of the Fire."

(Quran 2:201)

Dua for Guidance & Self-Sufficiency

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى، وَالتَّقَى، وَالْعِفَافَ، وَالْغِنَى

"O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, chastity, and self-sufficiency."

(Tirmidhi)

Dua for Ease & Confidence

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي

"My Lord, expand for me my chest [with confidence and calmness] and ease for me my task."

(Quran 20:25-26)

Dua for Wisdom

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ

"My Lord! Grant me wisdom, and join me with the righteous."

(Quran 26:83)

Dua for Protection from Worries

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحَزَنِ، وَالْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ، وَالْبُخْلِ
وَالْجُبْنِ، وَضَلَعِ الدَّيْنِ وَغَلَبَةِ الرِّجَالِ

"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from anxiety, sorrow, incapacity, laziness, miserliness, cowardice, debt, and being overpowered by men."

(Sahih Bukhari & Muslim)

Dua For Debt Relief

اللَّهُمَّ اكْفِنِي بِحَلَالِكَ عَنْ حَرَامِكَ وَأَغْنِنِي بِفَضْلِكَ عَمَّنْ سِوَاكَ

"O Allah! Grant me enough of what You make lawful so that I may dispense with what You make unlawful, and enable me by Your Grace to dispense with all but You."

(Sahih Bukhari & Muslim)

Dua when Afflicted by Calamity

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ، اللَّهُمَّ أَجْزِنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي، وَأَخْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا

"We belong to Allah and to Him shall we return; O Allah, reward me for my affliction and give me something better than it in exchange for it."

(Muslim)

Dua for Barakah in Income

اللَّهُمَّ اكْفِنِي بِحَلَالِكَ عَنْ حَرَامِكَ، وَأَغْنِنِي بِفَضْلِكَ عَمَّنْ سِوَاكَ

"O Allah, suffice me with what You have allowed instead of what You have forbidden, and make me independent of all others besides You."

(Tirmidhi)

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