

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



Shaykh Daood Butt

Introduction

- During Ramadan, we aim to increase our worship and draw closer to Allah. Beyond reciting the Qur'an, we can humble ourselves and break our routines by focusing on making sincere du'a.
- Du'as are conversations with Allah. It is important to ensure we keep this conversation going after Ramadan — it's our direct connection to Allah. Drawing closer to Allah brings barakah and blessings into every aspect of life (i.e. time, wealth etc.).
- We tend to treat du'a as a routine, but the prophets treated it as having an intimate conversation with Allah. They sat with Allah and poured their hearts out. Hence, we should try to engage in a heartfelt dialogue, as if directly in His presence.
- Our du'as shouldn't be reserved for our lowest points. The prophets didn't wait for moments of hardship or frustration to call upon Allah. We should cultivate a connection that exists in both ease and struggle.
- The prophets made du'a a constant part of their lives, turning to Allah not just for help, but for divine guidance. The Qur'an shows us many examples of how they opened up to Him in different ways — like when they prayed for their nation and families.
- Our sessions will cover prophetic du'as across different times.

Du'a in Distress and Total Reliance

- These are du'as linked to facing moments of distress, challenges, fear, frustration etc.

Du'a of Prophet Ayyub (AS)

- Among the prophets, Ayyub (AS) is known as one of the calmest, most patient, steadfast, and trusting in Allah.
- He faced some of the most severe tests. Though Shaytan was permitted to distract from the remembrance of Allah, he never stopped submitting.
- His story teaches us that no matter how severe the test, we must never lose hope, as Allah only burdens us with what we can handle.
- The following were his tests:
 - 1. Loss of wealth and property:
 - He was initially a very wealthy man but suddenly lost all his possessions, reducing him to poverty.
 - 2. Loss of children:
 - He lost all his children when their home collapsed.
 - 3. Loss of health:
 - He was afflicted with a serious, long-term illness, described as skin disease/boils, which affected his entire body.
 - 4. Social isolation and exile:
 - He was cast out of the city due to his repulsive disease. Everyone except his wife stayed to care for him.
 - 5. Extreme hardship:
 - After being shunned by the community and living in a dump, his wife reached a breaking point of exhaustion and despair.
- After being shunned by the community and living in a dump, his wife reached a breaking point of exhaustion and despair.
- His wife questioned him after being overwhelmed. She asked him to pray for relief, or to make him stop thanking Allah in such a state.

- In times of trial, some draw closer to Allah while others drift away. He responded to his hardship by calling upon Allah with this du'a:

رَبِّ إِنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

Rabbi inni massaniya al-durru wa anta arhamur- raahimeen

Meaning: My Lord, indeed adversity has touched me, and You are the Most Merciful of the merciful (21:83)

- He acknowledged his suffering while focusing on Allah's mercy. He submitted when he was entirely alone, recognizing he had no one else except Allah.
- This du'a highlights pure reliance on Allah and absolute submission to Him when nothing and no one remains.

Du'a of Prophet Yunus (AS)

- Out of frustration with his people, he abandoned his mission and left them behind, fearing either that Allah's help wouldn't arrive or that destruction would strike while he was still among them.
- Despite this incident, the Prophet (ﷺ) taught Muslims to respect all prophets equally and not to elevate him above Yunus (AS).
 - Narrated Abu Hurairah: The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

" لَا يَنْبَغِي لِعَبْدٍ أَنْ يَقُولَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِنْ يُونُسَ بْنِ مَتَّى "

"None should say that I am better than Yunus bin Matta." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

- He was swallowed by a whale after leaving his people, finding himself in darkness upon darkness: the darkness of the fish's belly, the deep ocean, and the night.
- Even while feeling that he had betrayed Allah, he still called out to Him:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

Laa ilaaha illa Anta, Subhaanaka inni kuntu minaz-zalimeen.

Meaning: There is no deity except You; glory be to You! Indeed, I was among the wrongdoers (21:87)

- Allah made it possible for him to survive in the whale's belly; we accept this miracle entirely.
- When he was ejected from the belly of the whale, his skin was badly damaged. Allah provided a tree (yaqteen) to shade him and the plant served as a source of healing for his skin.
- His story reminds us that we are all sinners prone to mistakes, and highlights the importance of seeking Allah's forgiveness immediately.
- This du'a serves as a profound admission of one's shortcomings and wrongdoing, emphasizing that we are all sinners in need of Allah's mercy.
- The Prophet (ﷺ) advised believers to renew their faith by often repeating "La ilaha illallah" (There is no god but Allah) — especially after experience thoughts or statements that might constitute shirk.
- A sincere declaration of "La ilaha illallah" demonstrates our submission to Allah. He loves accepting our good deeds and forgiving our sins when we testify to our belief in His oneness.

Du'a of Prophet Yaqub (AS)

- In Surah Yusuf, Yaqub (AS) makes a beautiful du'a, demonstrating unwavering trust in Allah despite his struggles with his children.
- Despite the circumstances of losing his son Yusuf (AS), he recognized the goodness destined for his son through the dream, and patiently waited for it to come true.
- He shares with his children of his reliance on Allah during his deep grief and longing for Yusuf (AS). This is the du'a he makes when he calls out to Allah:

إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَثِّي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

Innamaaa ashkoo baththee wa huzneee ila Allahi wa a'lamu minal laahi maa laa ta'lamoona.

Meaning: I only complain of my suffering and my grief to Allah, and I know from Allah that which you do not know (12:86)

- Even in the depths of despair, he had full conviction in Allah's promise. This teaches us that we must have absolute certainty in Allah's plan.
- Our du'a is always answered. We trust that Allah will either grant our request now, protect us from it, or save it for the Hereafter.
- He complained of his grief and sorrow only to Allah instead of sharing it with others, finding solace in Him.
- He never asked 'why'. We should avoid questioning 'why' regarding Allah's decree and instead uphold a high opinion of Him.
- When making du'a, we should turn to Allah, sharing our pain and invoking Him by His names that match our requests.

Du'a of Prophet Nuh (AS)

- He preached for 950 years, yet fewer than 80 people followed him. His own wife and son refused to submit, resulting in their death by the great flood.
- Having reached his limit after tireless effort, he turned to Allah in total surrender with this short but powerful du'a:

رَبِّ إِنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَانْتَصِرْ

Rabbi inni maghluboon fantasir

Meaning: My Lord, indeed I am overpowered, so help (me) (54:10)

- فَانْتَصِرْ (Fantasir) — Means so help me. It is a command to Allah to help him in his struggles.
- This du'a should be made as part of our lives whenever we feel helpless, overwhelmed, defeated by trials, challenges etc.
- It is essential to recognize that the Allah invoked by the prophets is the very same One we call upon. Just as He provided for them — He provides for us He is the Creator and Sustainer of us all.