

SUMMER IMMERSION

DIVINE ADDRESS



Mufti Abdul Rahman Waheed

SESSION 1

Introduction

- When Allah commands the Prophet (ﷺ) with قُل "Qul" (Say) in the Qur'an, it introduces diverse messages, including statements, dua's, commands, and instructions.
- The word "Qul" adds a strong emphasis, signaling that the following message is crucial. Thus, Allah explicitly directs the Prophet (ﷺ) to proclaim it.
- The word "Qul" is mentioned 332 times in the Qur'an. It appears in 57 of the 114 Surahs, with Surah Al-An'am containing the highest number of these occurrences.
- Out of the 332 occurrences of the word "Qul" in the Qur'an, only four are exceptions not directed to the Prophet (ﷺ). The remaining 328 instances are direct commands to him. The four exceptions appear in verses regarding Prophet Nuh (twice), Prophet Musa, and children making a du'a for their parents.

Qul Used Before Du'as

- Du'a is the essence of worship:
 - Anas ibn Malik reported: The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

الدُّعَاءُ مُخُّ الْعِبَادَةِ

"Supplication is the essence of worship." (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

- The fact that Allah tells the Prophet (ﷺ) to begin these prayers with "Qul" underscores their immense significance. As a result, we should memorize and recite them frequently.
- Asking for increase in knowledge:
 - The Prophet (ﷺ) was instructed by Allah to say:

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

Rabbi zidnee 'ilmaa

My Lord, increase me in knowledge. (20:114)

- The previous verse before this du'a reminds us that the Qur'an is a source of mercy, not an overwhelming burden. Although the Deen can sometimes feel heavy (i.e., learning Arabic), Allah designed it to be accessible; we just have to be willing to put in the effort.
- Knowledge is the only thing Allah explicitly commanded the Prophet (ﷺ) to seek an increase in, and it is a pursuit we must continue throughout our lives.
- Allah commanded the most knowledgeable of men to continually ask for an increase in knowledge. If the Prophet (ﷺ) never outgrew the need to learn, then we certainly have no right to assume we have learned enough.
- Ibn Abbas noted that because Allah never told the Prophet (ﷺ) to seek an increase in anything except knowledge, it proves that the pursuit of learning has no end.
- Allah encourages human growth and advancement rather than stagnation. However, this progress should elevate our Deen not just our dunya (worldly success).
- Learning is a continuous pursuit:
 - زِدْ (Zid) — Means increase. It refers to continuous, steady progression, regardless of it being slow or little.

- Through this du'a, Allah reminds the Prophet (ﷺ) that every day should be a step forward, ensuring that each day of his life is better than the day before.
- Husayn ibn Ali used to say: "The greatest loser on this earth is the one whose two days are equal [in good deeds]."
- This is why the Prophet (ﷺ) would make this du'a:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ خَيْرَ عُمْرِي آخِرَهُ، وَخَيْرَ عَمَلِي خَوَاتِمَهُ، وَخَيْرَ أَيَّامِي يَوْمَ أَلْقَاكَ فِيهِ

Allahummaj'al khayra 'umri akhirahu, wa khayra 'amali khawatimahu, wa khayra ayyami yawma alqaka fih.

O Allah, make the best of my life the end of it, the best of my deeds the final ones, and the best of my days the day I meet You.

- By asking the teaching Prophet (ﷺ) this du'a, Allah is telling us to prioritize our pursuit of constantly learning knowledge (ilm) instead of increasing in our number of actions (amal).
- It teaches us the importance of continuously seeking beneficial knowledge and incorporating it into our lives on a scheduled basis. Thus, we should establish a consistent routine and stick to it.
- Knowledge increase love for Allah and the Prophet (ﷺ):
 - Knowledge is a gateway to Jannah. Learning about Allah deepens your love for Him, and a deeper love inspires greater sacrifice for His sake.
 - As we study the Deen, our understanding of the Prophet (ﷺ) grows, and our love for him blossoms alongside it.
 - For example, out of that deep love, every detail of his life including his preferences, his actions, and his habits — becomes personal, driving us to honor and emulate his example.

- Asking for beneficial knowledge:
 - The Prophet (ﷺ) broadened the du'a for increased knowledge, transforming it into an all-encompassing plea for knowledge that brings true benefit.

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْفَعْنِي بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وَعَلِّمْنِي مَا يَنْفَعُنِي وَزِدْنِي عِلْمًا، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى كُلِّ حَالٍ
Allahumman-fa'ni bima 'allamtani, wa 'allimni ma yanfa'uni, wa zidni 'ilman, wal-hamdu lillahi 'ala kulli hal.

O Allah, benefit me with what You have taught me, teach me what will benefit me, and increase me in knowledge. And all praise belongs to Allah in every circumstance.

- Breakdown and explanation:
 - "O Allah, benefit me with what You have taught me..."
 - This denotes that knowledge alone is not enough. Sometimes we know things but fail to benefit from them. Therefore, this is a prayer asking Allah to make the knowledge we already possess a source of true benefit.
 - "...and teach me that which will benefit me..."
 - This part acknowledges the vastness of information in the world. A lot of the time what we learn is unbeneficial. Hence, we are asking Allah to guide us specifically toward learning things that will bring us benefit and to protect us from acquiring useless or harmful knowledge.
 - "...and increase me in knowledge..."
 - This is a humble request for continuous learning of knowledge and growth.
 - "...and all praise belongs to Allah in every circumstance."

- It concludes showing complete submission and gratitude to Allah. It is a statement of acceptance and unwavering trust, praising Him whether the situation appears good or bad to us, we are pleased with His decree. We should be grateful in every capacity, we can still use it to support the Deen.
- The connection between increase in knowledge and humility:
 - True humility comes from continuous learning. The most humble people we will find are the ones who are always seeking knowledge. That's because the more they grow, the more they realize how little they actually know.
 - For example, Allah humbled Musa (AS) through Khidr to show him that no human possesses all knowledge. This story teaches us recognizing the vastness of Allah's knowledge makes us realize just how limited our own understanding truly is.
 - It is highly recommended to recite 'Rabbi zidnee 'ilmaa' before beginning any lesson. It serves as a reminder that Allah is the ultimate teacher and that true understanding is rooted in taqwa (God-consciousness).
 - As our awareness of Allah grows, our worship deepens, refining our character and helping us steer clear of sins.
 - Scholars emphasize that true knowledge should transform a person in two primary ways:
 - 1. The increase of taqwa
 - It acts as a shield, guiding a believer to align their choices with Allah's commands and avoid what is forbidden.
 - 2. The increase iman
 - It allows a believer to deepen love for Allah and feel a deeper spiritual connection during acts of worship.