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ETIQUETTES OF DUʿA

Before the Duʿa

1 Adopt Halal Earning and lifestyle

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mentioned a person who pleaded to Almighty Allah, yet his food, drink, clothing, and earnings were all haram. The Prophet ﷺ then said: **“How can his supplication be accepted while he is nourished with haram?”** (Sahih Muslim)

2 Follow the Teachings of Allah and His Prophet ﷺ

The great scholar Ibrahim ibn Adham was once asked, “Why are our supplications not being accepted?” He replied: **"You know Allah, yet you do not obey Him. You know the Messenger ﷺ, yet you do not follow him."** (Tafseer Qurtubi)

3 Be Dutiful to Parents

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once said to the Companions (and in particular to 'Umar ibn al-Khattab) that a man named Uways al-Qarani would come to them. The Prophet ﷺ said: **"He had a mother to whom he was very dutiful**. I**f he were to take an oath in the name of Allah, Allah would fulfil it for him.** If you are able to ask him to seek forgiveness for you, then do so." (Sahih Muslim)

4 Make Repentance Prior To Making Duʿa

The great scholar Ibn al-Jawzi was once asked: "Should we glorify Allah and ask for His favours, or should we begin with repentance?" He replied: **"A dirty cloth is more in need of soap than aloeswood (perfume)."** (Fath al-Bari)

5 Be in A State Of Purity

Abu Musa al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased with him) came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and requested that he make du'a for his uncle, Ubaid. The Prophet ﷺ then called for water, **performed wudhu**, and then raised his hands in supplication. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

6 Face the Qiblah

'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ **faced the Qiblah** and made du'a to Almighty Allah against a group of the tyrants from the Quraysh. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Although this is not necessary for dua’ since there are also examples of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ making dua’ without facing the qiblah, it is nevertheless preferable.

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ETIQUETTES OF DUʿA

Beginning the Du'a

7 Raise Your Hands

Abu Musa al-Ashari (may Allah be pleased with him) came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and requested that he make dua (for his uncle Ubayd). The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) called for water, performed ablution, and then raised his hands in supplication. (Sunan Abi Dawood)

8 Humble Yourself before Almighty Allah

Show Almighty Allah that you are in need of Him and that without His help, you cannot succeed. Almighty Allah says in the Qur'an: **"Call upon your Lord with humility and in private."** (Surah al-A'raaf)

9 Fear Almighty Allah

Almighty Allah mentions regarding Prophet Zakariyya and his wife: "We accepted his prayer and granted them Yahya, and cured his wife for him. Indeed, they used to hasten in doing good deeds and **call upon Us with hope and fear.**" (Sural a;-Anbiya)

10 Accept Your Shortcomings and Sins

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said in a supplication: "I seek refuge in You from the evil of what I have done. I acknowledge the favours You have bestowed upon me, **and I admit my sins**. So forgive me, for indeed no one forgives sins except You." (Sahih al-bukhari)

11 Praise Almighty Allah

Fadalah bin `Ubaid narrated: "While the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was seated, a man entered and performed Salaat, and he said: 'O Allah, forgive me, and have mercy upon me.' The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'You have rushed, **O praying person. When you perform Salat and then sit, praise Allah with what He deserves,** send salutation upon me, then call upon Him.'" (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

12 Send salutations upon The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Fadalah bin `Ubaid narrated: "While the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was seated, a man entered and performed Salaat, and he said: 'O Allah, forgive me, and have mercy upon me.' The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'You have rushed, O praying person. When you perform Salaat and then sit, praise Allah with what He deserves, **send salutation upon me**, then call upon Him.'" (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

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ETIQUETTES OF DU'A

During the Du'a

13 Believing That it is Allah Alone Who Answers Du'a

Allah mentions in the Holy Qur'an: **"Is it not He (i.e. Allah) who responds to the distressed when they call upon Him, and who removes harm, and makes you inheritors of the earth? Is there any god besides Allah?"** (Surah al-Naml: 62)

14 Make Du'a With Full Conviction and Determination

The Prophet ﷺ said: "None of you should say: 'O Allah, forgive me if You wish. O Allah, have mercy on me if You wish.' Rather, **ask Allah with firm conviction**, for Allah does whatever He wills, and no one can force Him." (Sahih Muslim)

15 Do Not Become Impatient

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "The du'a of every person is certainly accepted, **as long as they do not grow impatient**." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

16 Avoid Focusing On Fancy Language When Supplicating

The great Companion 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) advised: "Avoid rhyming prose in your supplications, for indeed I noticed that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions **would avoid intentional rhyming in their du'a.**" (Sahih al-Bukhari)

17 Avoid Making Du'a So Lengthy That it Causes Boredom

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) used to avoid giving religious talks every day. When people asked him why, he explained that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to choose suitable times for religious talks and would consider the audience's feelings, **so that they would not become bored or overwhelmed**. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

18 Avoid Making Du'a For Anything Bad

When making du'a, a person should not ask Allah for anything sinful or harmful. This includes making du'a for a sin to happen or something that breaks family ties. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that a person's du'a will be accepted **as long as he does not ask for sin or breaking the ties of family**. (Sahih Muslim)

For more resources

ETIQUETTES OF DUʿA

During the Du’a

Avoid making Du’a For Anything Harmful or for Punishment

19

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once visited a very sick man who had become extremely weak. The Prophet ﷺ asked if he had made any duʿa, and the man said, “O Allah, whatever punishment You have planned for me in the Hereafter, give it to me now instead.” The Prophet ﷺ was surprised and said, “You won’t be able to handle Allah’s punishment even in this world! **Why didn’t you ask Allah for goodness in this world, goodness in the Hereafter, and protection from the Hellfire?**” Then the Prophet ﷺ made duʿa for him, and he was cured. (Sahih Muslim)

Avoid making Du’a for Death

20

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that **one should not wish for or pray for death** due to any harm or hardship he is experiencing. However, if he feels the need to supplicate concerning death, he should say: "O Allah, give me life as long as life is better for me, and give me death if death is better for me." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Supplicate Quietly And Avoid Shouting

21

Allah says in the Qur’an: "**Call upon your Lord humbly and quietly**."
Abu Musa R.A. said, “We were with the Prophet ﷺ during a journey, and whenever we climbed a high place, we would say takbeer loudly.” The Prophet ﷺ said, “Be gentle with yourselves! **You are not calling a deaf or distant being**. You are calling the All-Hearing, All-Seeing (Allah).” (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Cry While Making Du’a

22

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once recited this verse of Prophet Ibrahim A.S: "O my Lord, they (the idols) have misguided many people. Whoever follows me is from me, and whoever disobeys me, then You are surely Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.” [Ibrahim: 36] He then recited the verse of Prophet Isa A.S: "If You punish them, they are Your servants. And if You forgive them, You are the Almighty, the Wise.” [al-Ma’idah: 118] After reciting these, the Prophet ﷺ **began to cry**, raised his hands, and asked Allah to forgive his ummah. (Sahih Muslim)

Do Not Curse Yourself, Your Family, Or Your Wealth

23

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "**Do not make du’a against yourself, your children, or your wealth**, because it might be a time when du’a is accepted, and your du’a could come true!" (Sahih Muslim)

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ETIQUETTES OF DU'A

دُعَاء

During the Du'a

Do Not Restrict the Mercy of Almighty Allah

24

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once heard a Bedouin making du'a: "O Allah, have mercy on me and Muhammad, and do not have mercy on anyone else besides us." The Prophet ﷺ remarked, "**You have confined something vast: the mercy of Almighty Allah!**" (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Ask for Anything, Even if it Seems Trivial

25

Our beloved mother 'A'ishah R.A. said: "**Ask Almighty Allah for everything (permissible), even if it is only a shoelace. For indeed, if Almighty Allah does not make it easy and possible, it will never come to pass.**" (Musnad Abu Ya'la)

The great scholar Ibn Rajab mentioned that some of the pious scholars of the past would supplicate to Almighty Allah for everything - even for the salt for their dough or the fodder for their sheep. (Jami' al-'Uloom wal-Hikam)

Avoid Making Du'a For This World Alone

26

Almighty Allah says: "Among the people are those who say: 'Our Lord, grant us [good] in this world' - **but they will have no share in the Hereafter**. And among them are those who say: 'Our Lord, grant us goodness in this world and goodness in the Hereafter, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.' They will have a share of what they earned, and Allah is swift in taking account." (Surah al-Baqarah:200–202)

Make Concise and Comprehensive Du'as

27

'A'ishah R.A. narrated: "**The Messenger of Allah ﷺ preferred comprehensive du'as** and would leave aside those that were not." (Sunan Abi Dawood)

Make Du'as From the Holy Qur'an and The Authentic Sunnah

28

The scholars have strongly emphasised the importance of Qur'anic and Prophetic du'as, as these are blessed words chosen by Almighty Allah.

Imam al-Tabarani mentions in the introduction to his book on du'as that he compiled it in order to preserve the Prophetic supplications, as he noticed many people making du'as that were far from the Prophetic way.

Imam al-Ghazali said: "**It is best to supplicate with du'as that are authentically attributed to the Prophet ﷺ and to the earlier pious scholars.**" (Ihya 'Ulum ad-Din)

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ETIQUETTES OF DU'A

During & Ending the Du'a

Start with Du'a for Yourself

29

When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ supplicated for someone, **he would usually begin by supplicating for himself and then for others**. (Sunan Abi Dawood)
Scholars explain that this shows a person's own need before Almighty Allah. If someone only makes du'a for others, it could seem as if they do not need Allah's help. At times, the Prophet ﷺ did make du'a only for others, which shows that it is also allowed. But his normal practice was to begin with himself.

Make Du'a for Other Muslims

30

The prophet Nuh prayed: "O my Lord, forgive me, my parents, everyone who enters my house as a believer, and all Muslim men and women." (Surah Nuh, verse 28)
Almighty Allah also instructed the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: "**Seek forgiveness for your own shortcomings, and for the shortcomings of the believing men and women.**" (Surah Muhammad, verse 19)

Make Du'a in Times of Ease

31

Many people only make du'a when facing hardship, but forget to turn to Allah during times of ease. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that **whoever wants their du'a to be accepted in hardship should increase in du'a during times of ease**. (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)
Scholars explain that this is because du'a is strongest when made with zeal and sincerity. Such sincerity comes through regular practice, so those who are used to making du'a in ease will benefit most when hardship strikes.

Say Ameen at the End of the Du'a

32

The word Ameen means: "O Allah, accept (the du'a)."
The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that **the Jews are most jealous of the Muslims for two things**: the greeting of salaam and the word **Ameen**. (Sunan Ibn Majah)
Scholars explain that this is because they know the great virtue and blessing of both.