

Requirements, times and etiquettes of Duaa

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Dearly beloved in Allah,

The talk today is about requirements, etiquettes and best times to make *Duaa*, this is in order for Allah to answer those *Duaa* or prayers. In addition, the talk will cover whether a Muslim is permitted to participate with the Christians in their festivities.

Dearly beloved in Allah, if you would like your prayers to be answered, and to be heard then all you have to do is make sure that you fulfil the requirements for *Duaa*. Make sure that you have the right etiquette or code of conduct for it. Requirements or conditions of *Duaa* (or prayers) are:

1. Sincerity of the intention, and
2. Purity and honesty of earned food which you eat, and
3. Certainty or confidence or trust into Allah.
4. Avoiding the rushing and hurrying of response
5. The heart is to be conscious or aware during *Duaa*.
6. Avoiding violating *Duaa* (or a prayers). Some wonder about how a *Duaa* or a prayer can violates. Well, listen to this, Abdullah ebn Mugffal heard his son making *Duaa* to Allah saying: “O Allah I ask You a white palace on the right side of

paradise as go in”. His father said to him: “My son, if you ask Allah then ask Him for paradise, and ask for His protection from hellfire. For I heard the messenger ppbu saying that :**there will be people from my followers who will go beyond what is lawful and beyond the wise and norm (in other words: go overboard) when they do purity (*tahoor*)**. Violating *tahoor* or purification is over exaggeration beyond the normal limits. This is taken a measure for other cases such as ***Duaa* (or asking Allah)**.

Regarding the times and conditions during which Allah will respond and answer to prayers (or *Duaa*) are thankfully many. This is due to the grace of Allah upon this nation.

1. Out of the months, there is the month of Ramadan. The messenger ppbu said: {**There are three kinds of people whose prayer (or *Duaa*) that will not be turned back unanswered, (one of them is:) the *duaa* of a fasting person at the time of fast breaking**}.
2. Out of the days; is the day of *Arafa*. The messenger ppbu told us that the most honoured *Duaa* (or prayer) is that which is made on the day of *Arafa*, and it is an answered prayer.
3. Also the day of Friday, the messenger ppbu was frequently reported saying that on the day of Friday there is an hour during which if a slave makes a prayer (or a *Duaa*) and asks his God

something then Allah will answer and give him what he asked.

4. Also of the times during which answers to *Duaa* are certain; is the night of Friday. It is just the same as the day of Friday.
5. Among the times when *Duaa* are certain to be answered are the hours of the last third of the night. The messenger ppbu said: **{every night Allah comes to the nearer heavens as the first third of the night passes. Allah says: {I am the King, I am the King. is there a caller; then I will respond to them, Is there anyone who asks me; then I will give them, is there any who is asking for My forgiveness then I will forgive them}. This goes on until dawn lights appear}**.
6. Times during which prayers made are answered include the times between *Azan* (a call to prayer) and *Eqama* (starting of the same prayer). The messenger ppbu said: **{*Duaa* (or prayers) made between *Azan* and *Eqama* are not turned back unanswered}**. They asked: then what shall we say (messenger of Allah)? He said: **{Ask Allah for well-being in this life and the next}**. That means make *Duaa* (make a prayer) with this inclusive prayer: **“O Allah I ask you the well-being in this life and the next life”**.

7. Also, some of the hours during which prayers are answered are when you prostrate (or make *sujood*) with your head on the ground between the hands of your Lord may He be praised. That is because the messenger ppbu said: **{the nearest a slave can be to his Lord is while he is prostrating. So make plenty of *Duaa* then}**.

Dearly beloved in Allah's sake, are we as Muslims allowed to congratulate Christians on their festivals?

Listen to what our scholars have said: none of the Muslims is allowed to congratulate or participate with them in their festivals. That is because their festival is associated with their faith, religion and history. Their festival has rituals, ceremonies and some big significance with the Christianity. You would see some of the Muslims exchanging greetings with them and yet they fail to understand that this is the big case is the case where Muslims differ completely from Christians.

Some people might say that we do not participate or join them; we merely give congratulations to them on their festival because they congratulate us in our feasts. Listen to what the Lord says: **{they would have liked if you compromise, that they may compromise.}** 68:9. Allah also says: **{Unto you your religion, and unto me mine.}** 109:6. Do not congratulate them, and do not participate with them because this is admission, acknowledging and affirming. And do not be over confident with yourself, keep away and be careful. And

do not follow their desires and take care that they do not have you enticed or tempted.

You should know that celebrating their festival is imitation of the Christians in something which is specific to them and is a ritual of disbelief. This is one of the greater sins for which we were warned against, and the person who does it; is strongly criticized. The messenger ppbu said: **{whoever imitates some people then he is one of them}**. Exterior imitation necessitates the interior imitation, and also necessitates love and affection between the imitator and the imitated. The faith has blocked each mean or method that can lead a Muslim to admire or feel impressed by the disbelievers, or makes him contented with their faith, and follows them accordingly.

It is for all this that it is forbidden for a Muslim to join the Christians festival, that is celebrating or attending it or participating in it in any manner, shape or form. That includes exchanging presents or messages of congratulations or doing business which would contribute or help them in that activity, or marketing it or advertising for it.