

Du‘a’ — how to ask

The invitation is unconditional and the response is promised. What the texts add is manners: how to open, what to avoid, when the asking is least likely to be turned away.



★ He is near

فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

“I am near. I respond to the call of the caller when he calls Me.”
The verse comes with no intermediary in it.

Qur'an 2:186

★ An order, not a permission

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

“And your Lord has said: call upon Me, I will respond to you.” The rest of the verse treats not asking as a kind of arrogance.

Qur'an 40:60

★ Quietly, and low

ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً

“Call upon your Lord in humility and in privacy.” Two words that rule out performance.

Qur'an 7:55

★ Use His names

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا

“And to Allah belong the best names, so call Him by them.” Ask for mercy by ar-Rahman, for provision by ar-Razzaq — the name fits the request.

Qur'an 7:180

★ How to open it

إِذَا صَلَّى أَحَدُكُمْ فَلْيَبْدَأْ بِتَحْمِيدِ اللَّهِ وَالثَّنَاءِ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ لِيُصَلِّ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثُمَّ لِيَدْعُ بَعْدَ بِمَا شَاءَ

A man supplicated without sending peace on the Prophet: “This one has hurried.” Then: praise Allah, send salawat, then ask.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3477 • hasan sahih (at-Tirmidhi)

★ Ask firmly

لَا يَقُولَنَّ أَحَدُكُمْ اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي، اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي، إِنْ شِئْتَ لِيَعْزِمَ الْمَسْأَلَةَ، فَإِنَّهُ لَا مَكْرَهَ لَهُ

“Let none of you say: O Allah forgive me if You wish, O Allah have mercy on me if You wish. Let him be firm in the request, for nothing can compel Him.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 6339

★ Do not rush Him

يَسْتَجَابُ لِأَحَدِكُمْ مَا لَمْ يَعْجَلْ يَقُولُ دَعَوْتُ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِبْ لِي

“One of you is answered so long as he is not hasty, saying: I asked and was not answered.” The impatience, not the delay, is the problem.

Sahih al-Bukhari 6340

★ What blocks it

إِنَّ اللَّهَ طَيِّبٌ لَا يَقْبَلُ إِلَّا طَيِّبًا، وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِمَا أَمَرَ بِهِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

“Allah is good and accepts only what is good.” He then described a man raising his hands after a long journey — while his food, drink and clothing are unlawful.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab az-Zakah

★ When to ask

الدُّعَاءُ لَا يَرُدُّ بَيْنَ الْأَذَانِ وَالْإِقَامَةِ

“The supplication between the adhan and the iqamah is not turned away.” And the last third of every night, where Allah invites the asking by name.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3595 • sahih • Sahih al-Bukhari 6321