

MODEL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Being a selection of choice prayers from the memorable collection of prayers reported from Imam Zainul 'Abidin, the great-grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of God be on him).

BY

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FOREWORD.

Our late lamented friend Mr. Qassim Ali Jairazbhoy and his worthy wife, Mrs. Khurshid Khanum Jairazbhoy who survives him, are among those few Muslims to-day, whom wealth has not made oblivious of their duty to God and His religion. Quite a number of books, calculated to serve the best interests of Islam in modern times, enjoy the honour of their authorship and publication.

The present is a very useful compilation. Imam Muhammad Ibn-i-Hussain, more generally known by his popular title of Zainul-Abidin, is a saint of recognised accomplishments. A worthy great-grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, he manifested great spiritual powers at a time when the Muslims were apt to forget this invaluable treasure of Islam in the midst of their political pre-occupations.

Surrounded on all sides by enormous difficulties the Imam cultivated his attachment to God in a manner, no other Muslim of his time was privileged to do. Deprived of all worldly resources, his sole resort was God. It was on good grounds that he was given the title of "Sajjad" or the most frequent prostrater. Living in the most dismal circumstances, he focussed the whole energy of his life on the light Divine, thus making his whole life a kind of living prayers, which an ideal Muslim life is expected to be.

There are many recorded prayers of the Imam, all of which breathe an inspiring spirit of Islamic surrender. He had a prayer for every thing, it seems. He appears to have no desires, but prayers.

The prayers published in these pages are one for each day of the week. In the field of particularised prayers, they challenge corresponding prayers in any other religion in their complete comprehension of the Divine presence and in the excellence of the other-worldliness of mind's desires. Given proper attention, they are expected to serve as a great help to those who concentrate on the devotional side of life.

May Allah reward our sister-in-Islam with the best of His rewards for this useful addition to Islamic English literature and may she be spared long to serve the cause of Islam. Woking.

Woking,
Surrey, England.

IMAM,
The Shah Jehan Mosque.

FOR FRIDAY.

Praise be to God Who existed before the creation and the giving of life, and Who shall continue to exist after all things shall have perished.

The Knower, Who forgets not him, who remembers Him, and does not diminish¹ him who gives Him thanks and does not disappoint him who prays to Him, and does not frustrate the hope of him who places hope in Him.

O Allah! I call Thee to witness and Thou art sufficient as a witness, and call all Thy angels, and inhabitants of Thy heavens, and bearers of Thy Arsh (Power) and Thy Prophets and apostles whom Thou didst raise and the various creatures whom Thou hast created, to witness, that I bear witness that certainly Thou and Thou alone art God, there being no god but Thee; Thou art alone, there being no associate with Thee nor peer; and there is no failing in Thy word, nor any change.

And that, verily, Muhammad—may God bless him and his Al—is Thy servant and Thy apostle; he delivered to Thy servants what Thou didst charge him with and exerted himself in the cause of God the Honourable as it deserved, and he gave happy tidings of reward which was certain, and warned against punishment which was undoubtedly true.

¹ *i. e.* does not diminish His blessing to the man who renders thanks.

O Allah, keep me firm in Thy religion, as long as Thou keepest me alive; and let not my heart deviate, after Thou hast guided me; and grant me mercy from Thee: verily Thou art the most liberal Giver.

Bless Muhammad and his Al, and make us among his followers and his adherents, and gather me (on the last day) among his band; and enable me to perform the obligations of Fridays, and the duties Thou hast enjoined on me for that day, and to win such of Thy gifts as Thou wilt allot to the deserving (observers of Fridays) on the day of recompense. Verily Thou art the Mighty, the Wise.

FOR SATURDAY.

“Bismillah,” which is the creed of those who seek protection, and the motto of those who guard (against sins).

And I seek refuge in Allah, the Exalted, from the oppression of the tyrants and designs of the envious and injustice of the unjust and praise Him above the praise of all those who praise.

O Allah, Thou art the one without associate, and the King without being made a king.

Thy command is unopposed and Thy sovereignty undisputed.

I pray to Thee to bless Muhammad, Thy servant and Thy apostle, and inspire¹ me with such gratitude for Thy favours, as would take me to the highest of Thy pleasure and with Thy loving kindness, help me to obey Thee, and to fulfil the obligations of service to Thee and to deserve Thy reward.

And favour me by restraining me from acts of disobedience to Thee, as long as Thou keepest me alive, and enable me to do that which would benefit me, as long as Thou sparest me; and enlarge my consciousness² with Thy Book, and remove from me the burden (from my soul) because of my reading it; and favour me by keeping safe my faith and my life; and let not those that love me, be frightened of me; and complete Thy goodness during the rest of my life, as Thou didst good (to me) during my past life, O most Merciful of the merciful ones.

¹ Lit. allot me such etc.

² Lit. expand my breast.

FOR SUNDAY.

With the name of God, except Whose grace I hope for nothing; and I fear nothing save His justice and trust nothing but His word, and do not stick but to His covenant.

Thee do I beg for shelter, O Lord of forgiveness and approbation, from tyranny and hostility, and from the changes¹ of time and succession of griefs, and from termination of life before preparation.²

And Thee do I beg for guidance to that in which there be reformation and improvement.

And Thee alone do I pray for help in that whereby success and satisfaction may approach (me).

And Thee do I request for the garment of safety and its completion and the covering of peace and its permanence.

And I seek Thy protection, O Lord, from the suggestions of devils; and with Thy power, guard myself from the tyranny of kings.

Therefore, accept whatever be of my prayers and fasts, and let my morrow and thereafter be better than my present hour and day; and make me respected in my family and community; and guard me in my waking and my sleep; for Thou art God, the best Preserver, and Thou art the most Merciful of the merciful ones.

¹ Accidents.

² For journey into the next world.

O Lord, in this my day and Sunday to follow, I clear myself in Thy presence, of ascribing partners to Thee and of infidelity; and pray unto Thee sincerely to obtain Thy answer; and persist in (my) obedience to Thee, hoping for Thy recompense.

Therefore, bless Muhammad, the best of Thy creation, the inviter to Thy truth; and honour me with Thy dignity which cannot be diminished, and guard me with Thy eye which does not sleep; and finish my affair so as to make me cut off from others' and rely on Thee alone, and terminate my life in Thy forgiveness—verily Thou art the Forgiving, the Merciful.

† Sever my dependence on others.

FOR MONDAY.

Praise be to God, Who called none to witness when He originated the heavens and the earth, and took no assistant when He created the lives.¹

Never had He any partner² in His Divinity, nor was He ever helped in His Oneness.

Tongues³ fail to describe His attributes to the fullest extent, and reasons⁴ are incapable of knowing His essence in its entirety and the mighty humble themselves before His Majesty, and faces are bent low out of fear for Him and all the great submit to His Glory.

Therefore, unto Thee be all praise in increasing succession and unbroken continuance.

And may His favour be on His apostle eternally, and peace, perpetually, for ever.

O Allah, let the first part of this my day consist in self-reformation, the middle of it in success, and the last of it in achievements.

And in Thee I seek refuge from a day which begins in fear, and the middle of which brings distress and which ends in pain.

O Allah, verily, I seek Thy forgiveness for every vow I have taken and every promise and every covenant I have made with Thee, and then have failed to redeem it.⁵

¹ Living beings are meant. ² Associate. ³ Beings having power of speech.

⁴ Rational beings.

⁵ Lit. covenant I made, then failed to discharge it unto Thee.

And I pray to Thee concerning wrongs done to Thy creatures ; therefore, whichever servant of Thine or maid of Thine has suffered from me any wrong, which I may have done to his person¹ or honour or property or family or children ; or any slander which I may have uttered against him ; or anything I may have inflicted on him on account of bias or passion, or dislike or zealotry or hypocrisy, or party-spirit, he being absent or present, alive or dead ; and thereafter I became powerless and resourceless to make amends to him or obtain his absolution, (in that case) I beg Thee—O Thou Who art the Lord of affairs and they are obedient to Thy will and are quick to follow the same—to bless Muhammad and his Al, and reconcile him² to me in whichever way Thou choolest ; and bestow on me mercy from Thee ; verily pardon causes Thee no loss, nor does bounty injure Thee, O Thou most Merciful of the merciful ones.

O Allah grant me on every Monday two gifts from Thee, *viz.* the good luck of obeying Thee, at the beginning of the day, and the blessing of Thy forgiveness at the end of it.

O Thou Who art the sole object of worship and except Whom none can forgive sins !

¹ The pronouns he and his in this sentence includes male and female both.

² The injured person.

FOR TUESDAY

Praise be to God—and praise is His due, as He deserves it—abundant praise.

I betake myself to Him for refuge from the evil of my personal self, for verily, man's self is wont to command evil except such as my Lord has had mercy on.¹

And I betake myself to Him for refuge from the mischief of Satan who adds for me sin upon sin ; and I guard myself, through Him, from every wicked tyrant, and oppressive king and overpowering enemy.

O Allah! let me be of Thy host, for verily, Thy host is victorious, and let me be of Thy party for, verily Thy party is the successful one and make me one of Thy friends, for surely Thy friends have no fear, nor shall they grieve.

O Allah! reform my faith for me, for, verily, it is the safeguard of my affair, and set right for me my hereafter, for certainly it will be my place of rest, and my retreat from the approach of the wicked.

And let my life be an enhancement of every good to me, and my death a comfort to me from every evil.

O Allah, bless Muhammad, the last of the Prophets, the unit which finished the number of the

¹The Quran, chap. 12., verse 53.

sent ones; and his Al, the pure, the holy: and his chosen companions; and in this third day of the week, grant me three things, *viz.* leave me with no sin unforgiven, and no sorrow unremoved and no enemy unrepulsed by Thee.

With the name of Allah, the best of the names with the names of Allah, the Lord of the earth and the heaven, I seek the driving away of every disaster, the first of which is His displeasure; and desire to achieve every good, the foremost of which is His pleasure. Therefore, let my existence end in Thy pardon, O Lord of goodness.

FOR WEDNESDAY.

Praise be to God who ordained night (to be) a cover, and the sleep (to be a mode of) rest; and made day (to be the time of) dispersion.¹

All praise be to Thee for raising me from my sleep and hadst Thou wished so, Thou wouldst have made it everlasting, a praise perpetual, unceasing, and which the whole creation would be unable to count in figures.

Praise be to Thee, O Allah, for Thou didst create and carried it to completion, and thou didst measure and dispose, and causest to die and to live, and makest sick and restorest to health, and givest safety and dost afflict, and Thou art firm in power and art in full possession of sovereignty.

I pray unto Thee as one whose resources are weak, and whose means are cut off, and whose death has approached and whose hope in the world has shrunk,² and whose want for Thy mercy has become intensified and whose regret for his default has grown acute and whose slips and errors have been too many and whose repentance unto Thee³ is sincere.

Therefore, bless Muhammad, the last of the Prophets and the members of his house, the pure, the holy, and provide for me the intercession of Muhammad—may

¹ For His creatures to seek their nourishment.

² Has diminished, is no longer far-reaching.

Lit. to Thy countenance.

Thy favour be on him and his Al and do not deprive me of his company : verily Thou art the most Merciful of the merciful ones.

O Allah! in the fourth day of the week, grant me four things: employ my strength in obedience to Thee and let my delight consist in Thy service, and let my desire be for Thy reward and cause me to abstain from that which would make me worthy of painful chastisement from Thee : verily Thou art benignant to whomsoever Thou pleasest.'

' Certainly Thou canst do whatever Thou choolest.

FOR THURSDAY.

All praise is due to God, Who removed the dark night, with His power, and brought the bright day, with His mercy ; and clothed me with His ¹ light and gave me His ² blessing.

Therefore, O Allah ! since Thou hast kept me alive for this day, be pleased to spare me for other days similar to it ; and bless Muhammad and his Al, and do not afflict me in it and in other nights and days for my having done things forbidden, and for my having committed guilt ; and confer on me its benefit, and the benefit of what be in it and the benefit of what follows, and turn away from me its evil and the evil of what be in it and the evil of what comes after it.

O Allah ! verily, I seek access to Thee on the security of Islam, and rely on Thee, through the sanctity of the Quran, and seek intercession with Thee, through Muhammad, the chosen, may God bless him and his Al. Therefore, O Allah, recognise my security whereby I hope the satisfaction of my need. O most Merciful of the merciful ones.

O Allah ! in the fifth day of the week, grant me five things, which none has power (to vouchsafe) except Thy generosity and which none can afford save Thy bounty : a soundness, whereby I may gain strength

¹ and ². The pronoun may refer to "day" and in that case "its" should be substituted.

to obey Thee and a service whereby I may deserve Thy magnificent reward ; and an immediate prosperity by means of lawful livelihood, and guard me, on occasions of danger, with Thy security and take me in Thy protection against the troubles of anxieties and grief.

(O Allah) bless Mubammad and his Al and let my access to him for intercession be a beneficial one on the Day of Judgment : verily Thou art the most Merciful of the merciful ones.