

Dua of Istikhara

(Prayer for Seeking Allah's Guidance)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ، وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ،
وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ، فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ،
وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ، وَأَنْتَ عَلَامُ الْغُيُوبِ،
اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ
خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أُمْرِي،
عَاجِلِهِ وَأَجَلِهِ، فَأَقْدِرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي،
ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ
شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أُمْرِي،
عَاجِلِهِ وَأَجَلِهِ، فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ،
وَاقْدِرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ، ثُمَّ أَرْضِنِي بِهِ

Reported by Bukhari

TRANSLITERATION

Allahumma inni astakheeruka bi'ilmika, wa astaqdiruka biqudratika, wa as'aluka min fadlikal-'azeem, fa innaka taqdiru wa la aqdiru, wa ta'lamu wa la a'lamu, wa Anta 'Allamul-ghuyoob. Allahumma in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal-amra khayrun li fi deeni wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri - 'ajilihi wa ajilihi - faqdurhu li wa yassirhu li, thumma barik li feehi. Wa in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal-amra sharrun li fi deeni wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri - 'ajilihi wa ajilihi - fasrifhu 'anni wasrifni 'anhu, waqdur liyal-khayra haythu kana, thumma ardin bihi.

TRANSLATION

O Allah, I seek Your guidance [in making a choice] by virtue of Your knowledge, and I seek ability by virtue of Your power, and I ask You of Your great bounty. You have power, I have none. And You know, I know not. You are the Knower of hidden things. O Allah, if in Your knowledge, this matter (*then it should be mentioned by name*) is good for me both in this world and in the Hereafter (or: in my religion, my livelihood and my affairs), then ordain it for me, make it easy for me, and bless it for me. And if in Your knowledge it is bad for me and for my religion, my livelihood and my affairs (or: for me both in this world and the next), then turn me away from it, and turn it away from me, and ordain for me the good wherever it may be, and make me pleased with it.

WHEN TO RECITE

The Istikhara prayer is recited when a person is uncertain about a decision and seeks Allah's guidance in choosing the best course of action. It is performed after offering two rak'ahs of voluntary prayer, specifically for this purpose, followed by this dua. The name or description of the matter being decided is mentioned silently in place of "this matter."