

Seven Proven Prescriptions For Steadfastness On Deen And Death On Imaan

*Extracted from “Treasures from the Qura’an & Hadith
and Proven Prescriptions for Death on Imaan.”*



Compiled by

Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar (Afaa Alah Ta'ala Anho)

Gulshan Iqbal, Karachi

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SALAAMAT PUBLICATIONS

Prescription 1 — Recite After Every Fardh Salah

رَبَّنَا لَا تُرْغِ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ
الْوَهَّابُ

(Para 3, Surah Ali-Imran : 8)

Translation: “O our Cherisher! Do not steer our hearts away after guiding us, and shower Your Mercy on us. Surely You are the Most Generous.”

In the above Aayat, Allah Ta’ala, who is the King of all Kings, has revealed to His servants the necessity of steadfastness and a good death. When the Supreme King teaches us how to present our request, then why should our request not be accepted? This steadfastness is a great wealth, which is a means for our entrance into Jannah.

Few Important Points from Ruhul Ma’aani:

1. The word رَحْمَةً (Rahmah) in this dua means steadfastness on Deen. Allama Alousi (رحمه الله) says:

الْمَرَادُ بِهَذِهِ الرَّحْمَةِ التَّوْفِيقُ لِلِاسْتِقَامَةِ عَلَى طَرِيقِ الْحَقِّ

2. By revealing the related words لَنَا and لَدُنْكَ after the word وَهَبْ, Allah Ta’ala has enhanced the desire of His servant for the real objective, which is steadfastness on Deen. This can be compared to a father pulling his hand back after showing a sweet to a child to heighten the child’s

desire — the child thereafter jumps up and down to get the sweet eagerly.

(As mentioned in Ruhul Ma'aani)

The reason for simulating this topic with the word وَهَبَ is that the two blessings — steadfastness on Deen and death on Imaan — are dependent on each other. These two great blessings, due to which one gets freedom from Hell and entrance to Jannah, could never be the reward of our limited efforts of our limited life.

Beware! Never even think it to be the reward of any of your deeds.

This steadfastness on Deen cannot be bought, because the worshipping and prayers offered for 80 years and fasting for 80 years should buy Jannah for 80 years, but eternal life in Jannah for our limited efforts could only be due to the benevolence of Allah Ta'ala. Therefore, one should request with وَهَبَ, for it is without a cost — and in bestowal (Wahb), the Giver gives due to His limitless benevolence.

وَفِي الْخَيْبَارِ صِفَةَ الْهِبَةِ إِيدَاءُ أَنَّ هَذِهِ الرَّحْمَةُ أَيْ ذَلِكَ تَفَضُّلٌ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ تَعَالَى

(Ruhul Ma'aani)

Translation: In the clause of وَهَبَ, Allah Ta'ala has simulated it to indicate that this blessing — the power of doing a good deed — is from Allah Ta'ala alone, due to which the servant can strongly hold on to his faith. This is only due to the blessings of Allah Ta'ala, given to whomsoever He wishes. Allah Ta'ala is the greatest Provider and can forgive limitlessly.

Prescription 2 — Make a Habit of Reciting This Dua

For Steadfastness On Deen And Death On Imaan:

يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ

(Mishkaat, pg. 216)

Translation: “O Ever-Living and Ever-Sustaining! I ask for Your help through Your mercy.”

A person can only be protected from the evil of his nafs solely by the Mercy of Allah Ta’ala. The two beautiful names يَا حَيُّ (Ya Hayyu) and يَا قَيُّوْمُ (Ya Qayyum) have the effect of Ism-e-Azam.

يَا حَيُّ — اَيُّ اَزْلًا اَبَدًا وَحَيَاةً كُلُّ شَيْءٍ بِهِ مُرْتَبِطٌ

يَا حَيُّ means the Ever-Living, and everything is sustained through Him.

يَا قَيُّوْمُ — اَيُّ قَائِمٌ بِدَاتِهِ وَيُقُوْمُ غَيْرُهُ بِقُدْرَتِهِ

يَا قَيُّوْمُ means the one who is existing on His own and sustains the whole universe through His dominant and absolute power.

I seek help from Allah Ta’ala.

(Mirqaat, Vol. 5, pg. 231)

The daily recitation of يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ is extremely beneficial for steadfastness, death on Imaan, and relief from all sorrows and griefs.

Hadith

عَنْ أَنَسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ إِذَا كَرِهَهُ أَمْرٌ يَقُولُ يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ

(Mishkaat, pg. 216)

Translation: It has been narrated by Hazrat Anas (رضي الله عنه) that whenever Rasulullah (ﷺ) was confronted with a problem, he would recite: يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ

A person is never secured from the evil of his nafs for a single moment without the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala says in Surah Yusuf:

إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوءِ إِلَّا مَا رَحِمَ رَبِّي

(Surah Yusuf)

Translation (from Bayan-ul-Qur'an): The nafs always leads one towards evil except for the one who is protected by the Mercy of my Rabb.

Translation: Nafs misleads to all kinds of wrong, all the time, except when a person seeks refuge in the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala.

Moulana Jalaluddin Rumi (رحمه الله) says:

If there are thousands of traps of sins in every step of mine, but O Allah Ta'ala! I have no worry, if Your Grace is on me.

Prescription 3 — To Use Miswaak

The Hadith:

صَلَاةٌ بِسِوَاكِ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ سَبْعِينَ صَلَاةً بِغَيْرِ سِوَاكِ

(Shaami, Vol. 1, pg. 84)

Translation: Rasulullah (ﷺ) said that a salaah performed after making wudhu with Miswaak is more superior than seventy salaah without Miswaak.

وَمِنْ مَنَافِعِهِ تَذْكِيرُ الشَّهَادَةِ عِنْدَ الْمَوْتِ بِمَنْتِهِ وَكَرَمِهِ رَزَقَنَا اللَّهُ ذَلِكَ

Translation: One of the benefits of Miswaak is that one is granted the taufeeq of reciting the Kalimah at the time of death.

Method of Holding the Miswaak:

As narrated by Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ood (رضي الله عنه): place the small finger beneath the miswaak while the thumb and the remaining fingers are placed on top.

(Shaami, Vol. 1, pg. 85)

Prescription 4 — Gratitude For One's Imaan

لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ

(Surah Ibrahim)

Translation: “If you express your thanks, I will increase for you (My favours).”

Hence, to show gratitude for one's Imaan will be a means of progress in one's Imaan.

Prescription 5 — Protection From Unlawful Gazes

By protecting one's gaze, one is promised the taste of sweetness of Imaan, and once the sweetness of Imaan enters the heart, it will never be taken back. Thus, by protecting one's gaze, one is given glad tidings of a good death. Rasulullah ﷺ said:

إِنَّ النَّظَرَ سَهْمٌ مِنْ سِهَامِ إِبْلِيسَ مَسْمُومٌ مَنْ تَرَكَهَا خَافَتِ أُنْدُلَّتُهُ إِيْمَانًا يَجِدُ حِلَاوَتَهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ

(Narrated by Ibne Mas'ud in Tabarani; Kanzul Ummaal, Vol. 5, pg. 228)

Definition of Hadith-e-Qudsi:

هُوَ الْحَدِيثُ الَّذِي يُسْنَدُهُ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ بِلَفْظِهِ وَيُنَسِّبُهُ إِلَى رَبِّهِ

Mullah Ali Qari (رحمه الله) explains that a Hadith-e-Qudsi is a Hadith in which Nabi ﷺ utters with his own words and attributes the saying to Allah Ta'ala.

وَقَدْ وَرَدَ أَنَّ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ إِذَا دَخَلَتْ قَلْبًا لَا تَخْرُجُ مِنْهُ أَبَدًا

(Mirqaat, Vol. 1, pg. 74)

Verily, when the sweetness of Imaan enters the heart, it will never depart. This guarantees death with Imaan.

Insight from Arifbillah Hadhrat Moulana Shah Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Saheb (رحمه الله):

“Unfortunately, this great wealth (sweetness of Imaan) is lost particularly in the Bazaars (shopping complexes) and in the streets due to the evil gazes. Therefore, lower your gazes and reap this great benefit.”

Prescription 6 — Dua After Azaan

This dua is also called “The Dua of Intercession.” After the completion of azaan, recite durood sharif, and thereafter recite this dua:

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ هَذِهِ الدَّعْوَةِ التَّامَّةِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْقَائِمَةِ آتِ مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ
وَالْفَضِيلَةَ وَابْعَثْهُ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي وَعَدْتَهُ

(Bukhari)

Translation: “O Allah Ta’ala! Lord of this perfect call and everlasting prayer, grant Muhammad ﷺ the Waseelah and virtue, and raise him to that raised position which You have promised him.”

Note: The words لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ are not narrated in Bukhari Sharif. Imam Baihaqi has narrated them in Sunanul Kubra.

(Hisn-e-Haseen with commentary Fadhile Mubeen)

It is mentioned in Bukhari that whoever recites this dua, the intercession of Rasulullah ﷺ becomes incumbent on him. And when intercession becomes incumbent, then Mullah Ali Qari (رحمه الله) says:

فِيهِ إِشَارَةٌ إِلَى بَشَارَةِ حُسْنِ الْخَاتِمَةِ

There is glad tidings of death with Imaan, because no disbeliever will attain the intercession of Rasulullah ﷺ.

(Mirqaat, Vol. 2, pg. 163, The Chapter of Azaan)

Prescription 7 — Associating With The Friends Of Allah And Loving Them

It has been narrated in a hadith that a person once went to fulfil one of his personal needs. He sat near a gathering of people making Zikr. Allah proclaimed forgiveness of all those who were engaged in His remembrance, including this person. An angel said: “O Allah, this sinful

person did not come to make Zikr but came for some personal need, and perchance joined the gathering.”

Allah Ta’ala replied:

هُمُ الْقَوْمُ لَا يَشْتَقِي بِهِمْ جَلِيسُهُمْ

“This gathering is so blessed that any person who joins it unintentionally will not be deprived of its blessing.” Therefore, غَفَرْتُ — I have also forgiven him.

Hafiz Ibne Hajar Asqalaani (رحمه الله) has written in the commentary of Bukhari Sharief (Fathul Bari):

إِنَّ جَلِيسَهُمْ يُدْرَجُ مَعَهُمْ فِي جَمِيعِ مَا يَتَفَضَّلُ اللَّهُ بِهِ عَلَيْهِمْ

“Those who sit with the friends of Allah will enjoy the same bounties as the Ahlullah do.” (Like the servant of a respected guest who enjoys the same bounties as the guest himself.)

(Fathul Bari, Vol. 11, pg. 213)

Ibne Hajar Asqalaani (رحمه الله) further states: “The Zikr of a human is far superior to the Zikr of the angels, because humans have thousands of engrossments which the angels do not have, and yet they are busy with Zikr — while the angels are able to see Allah, whereas human beings are unable to see Allah, yet they remember Allah.”

Moulana As’adullah Saheb Saharanpuri (رحمه الله) says in his couplet:

*Although duties are countless day and night, Yet, As’ad is never
unmindful of You.*

It is narrated in Bukhari and Muslim that a person who has these three habits will, through their blessings, taste the sweetness of Imaan:

1. He in whose heart Allah and Rasulullah ﷺ are more beloved than the whole universe.
2. He who loves someone for the sake of Allah.
3. He who abhors returning to disbelief after having brought faith, more than being thrown into the fire.

To love someone for the sake of Allah Ta'ala is a great means of attaining death on Imaan. Once the sweetness of Imaan enters the heart, it will never depart — it is a royal gift from Allah Ta'ala which will never be taken back. Thus, death on Imaan is linked to the acquisition of the sweetness of Imaan, which is due to the love one possesses for the friends of Allah.

(Mullah Ali Qari, Mirqaat, Vol. 5, pg. 74)

Five Conditions To Gain The Love Of Allah Ta'ala

Mullah Ali Qari (رحمه الله) says a person will attain a sincere love of Allah Ta'ala when:

لَا يُحِبُّهُ لِعَرَضٍ وَلَا عَوَضٍ وَلَا عَرَضٍ وَلَا يَشْتَوِيهِ حَبَّةُ حَبِّ حَطَّ نَفْسِي

(Mirqaat, Vol. 1, pg. 75)

1. One's love should not be for any ulterior motive.
2. It should not be for any compensation.
3. It should not be for any material gain.

4. It should not be for any worldly pleasure.
5. It should be free from carnal desires.

Five Signs Of The Sweetness Of Imaan

1. One derives pleasure in one's Ibaadat.
2. One prefers obedience to Allah over one's carnal desires.
3. To please Allah, one bears all difficulties.
4. One exercises patience in the face of hardship.
5. One is happy at all times with whatever Allah has pre-destined.

It is narrated in Mahaseni Islam (a lecture delivered by Hazrat Thanwi رحمه الله) that when Hindu Aryans started the movement of converting Muslims to the Hindu religion, those who were ever affiliated with the Ahlullah (friends of Allah) disappointed the Hindus greatly. In the Arya center of Delhi, it was reported that the Aryans could not affect those who were affiliated with Ahlullah.

To spend one moment in the company of a Wali of Allah is better than a hundred years of accepted Nafli Ibaadat.

Hakeem-ul-Ummat Hazrat Thanwi رحمه الله explains that by spending time with the Auliya Allah, one's Imaan becomes so strong that it is unlikely for one to leave the fold of Islam. He could commit a sin but would never leave Islam and become renegade. On the other hand,

Shaytaan worshipped for thousands of years, but his worship could not save him from becoming rejected.

For it is obvious that the thing that saves one from becoming renegade would be better than a thousand years of Ibaadat.

All thanks are due to Allah Ta'ala, Who made it possible to finish the seven prescriptions for death with Imaan. May Allah Ta'ala give us all the ability to practice them. I request the readers of this booklet to pray for me, that Allah Ta'ala through His Mercy bless me with steadfastness on Deen and death on Imaan.

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Dua For Istikhaarah

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ

فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَاقْدُرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ
لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ

وَأِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ وَاقْدِرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ
أَرْضِنِي بِهِ

Translation: “O Allah! I ask You the good through Your knowledge and I ask You to grant me ability through Your power, and beg out of Your infinite bounty. Surely, You have power, and I have none. You are the Great Knower of all things. O Allah! If, in Your knowledge, this matter is good for my Deen, for my livelihood, and for the consequences of my affairs, then ordain it for me and make it easy for me and bless me therein. But if, in Your knowledge, this matter is harmful for my Deen, for my livelihood, and for the consequences of my affairs, then turn it away from me and ordain for me the good wherever it may be, and cause me to be pleased therewith.”

Note on Istikhaarah:

While reciting this Dua, upon reaching the underlined words هَذَا الْأَمْرَ, one should think of one's problem. It is desirable that Istikhaarah be performed seven times. If one is still in doubt, he should continue for seven days. If the matter is urgent, this Dua should be read seven times, once after every two rakaats.

Allama Shaami (رحمه الله) has mentioned a narration reported by Hazrat Anas (رضي الله عنه) that it is desirable that the Istikhaarah be performed seven times. If time does not permit, then perform two rakaats of Nafil Salaah seven times in one gathering and thereafter recite this Dua.

Salaah Of Repentance

If one broke or disobeyed any of the commandments of Allah, one should perform two rakaats of Nafl Salaah, and with a lot of regret, sorrow, and tears, ask for forgiveness from Allah. It comes in a hadith that if one cannot cry, one should imitate a crying person. One must make a firm intention never to repeat the sin again. Insha-Allah, with the grace of Allah Ta'ala, he will be forgiven.

Warning: Importance of the Kalimah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Sheikh-ul-Hadith, Hazrat Sheikh Zakariyya (رحمه الله) quotes Hazrat Faqeeh Abu Laith Samarqandi (رحمه الله) as saying that it is necessary to recite the Kalimah in abundance and to continuously abstain from sin. Many Muslims lost their Imaan at the time of death due to the evils of sins.

The Importance of the Kalimah in One's Last Moments:

During the time of Nabi (ﷺ), a Sahabi who was on his deathbed was unable to recite the Kalimah. Rasulallah (ﷺ) enquired from him as to the reason. He replied: "It seems as if there is a lock on my heart." It was established that his mother was unhappy with him because he used to ill-treat her.

Nabi ﷺ called the mother and asked her if she would intercede on behalf of her son, if it was said that her son would be thrown in the fire. She replied in the affirmative. Rasulullah ﷺ commanded her to forgive her son. No sooner had she done so, the son started reciting the Kalimah.

Warning About Taubah (Repentance):

If a person dies without making Taubah, he will first be punished before entering Jannah, unless Allah forgives him through His Mercy.

Incident:

Recently, a person who was on his deathbed would utter every word, but he could not utter the word “Taubah”, and he died in this condition. This was because he continuously committed sins without making Taubah. This is the evil effect of sins.

Extraordinary Wazifaa

Hazrat Abu Ayub Ansari (رضي الله عنه) narrated that when Surah Fateha, Aayatul Kursi, Shahid Allah, and Allahumma Maalik al Mulk were revealed, they clung to the Throne of Allah and said:

“Are You going to reveal us to such people who are full of sins?”

Allah Ta’ala responded: “By the oath of My Grandeur and Magnificence, whosoever recites you after every Fardh Salaah, We will forgive them and We will grant them a place in Jannatul Firdous. And We will look at

them 70 times daily with a gaze of mercy, and We will fulfil 70 of their needs, the least of which is forgiveness.”

(Ruhul Ma'aani, Vol. 3, pg. 106)

Note:

In some narrations, it is mentioned that the reader of this wazifaa will also be given victory over his enemies.

The Four Recitations

Surah Fateha

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ مُلْكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

Aayatul Kursi

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ
لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ
يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

Shahid Allah (Surah Ali-Imran: 18–19)

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿١٨﴾ إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ﴿١٩﴾

Allahumma Maalikal Mulk (Surah Ali-Imran: 26–27)

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ
وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٢٦﴾
تُؤَلِّجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُؤَلِّجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَمِيتِ
وَتُخْرِجُ الْمَمِيتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَتَرزُقُ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿٢٧﴾

**May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with steadfastness on Deen and
death on Imaan. آمين**

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