

ISTIKHARAH PRAYER

It is a Prayer to seek guidance from God Almighty when one intends to embark upon any important task or project, e.g., trade, journey, marriage, etc. The matter may be religious or otherwise. The purpose of this Prayer is also to seek God's help so that the outcome of the task in hand is successful.

A two Rak'at Prayer is offered, before one goes to bed at night, in which Surah Al-Fatihah is followed by Surah Al-Kafirun in the first Rak'at and Surah Al-Fatihah followed by Surah- Al-Ikhlās in the second Rak'at. During Qa'dah position after reciting Tashahhud and Durud and some other Prayers, the following should be recited:

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
فَاقْدِرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ
أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي
فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ، وَاقْدِرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ
ثُمَّ ارْضِنِي بِهِ-

Transliteration:

Allahumma inni astakhiruka bi'ilmika wa astaqdiruka biqudratika wa as'aluka min fadlikal 'azim. Fa innaka taqdiru wala aqdiru, wa ta'lamu wala a'lamu wa anta 'allamul ghuyub. Allahumma in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal amra khairun li fi dini wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri faqdirhu li wa yassirhu li thumma barik li fih. Wa in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal amra sharrulli fi dini wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri fasrifhu 'anni wasrifni 'anhu, waqdir liyalkhaira haithu kana thumma ardini bih.

Translation:

O Allah, I seek good from Thee out of Thy knowledge and seek power from Thee out of Thy power and I beg of Thee out of Thy boundless Grace, for Thou hast power and I have no power, and Thou hast knowledge and I have no knowledge, and Thy knowledge encompasses the unseen. O Allah! If it be within Thy knowledge that this task is for my good, both materially and spiritually, and in respect of my ultimate end, then make it possible for me and bless me therein, but if it be within Thy knowledge that it is harmful for me in my spiritual and material life and in respect of my ultimate end, then turn me away therefrom, and enable me to attain good wherever it may be and cause me to be blessed therewith. (Bukhari, Kitabud-Da'wat Babud-Du'a indal Istikharah; Also Tirmidhi; Sharah As-Sunnah Vol. 4, page 153). This sequence of Prayer recitation is derived from the practice of the Holy Prophet (sa).