

Praying for Imam Mahdi atfs

1. Reason for Praying for Imam-e-Asr (a.t.f.s):

As we are aware, Allah has promised to avenge the oppression perpetrated on His Prophets and their Successors (a.s.). Particularly, the transgressions and cruelty inflicted on Imam Husain (a.s), the doyen of martyrs. He has also pledged that finally Islam will be the universal religion and polytheism will be wiped out from the face of the earth. Justice demands that once a promise is made it must be fulfilled and this covenant assumes even more serious proportions considering that it is made by none other than Allah, the Almighty. So for an early and swift fulfillment of this divine promise, it is necessary that we pray for Imam-e-Zamana's (a.t.f.s) well-being and earliest reappearance. Imam (a.t.f.s.) has himself urged the Shias

'Pray for the early reappearance because in it lies your deliverance.'

(Beharul Anwaar vol. 52, p. 29)

Praying for the earliest reappearance of Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) is a very important responsibility of the Shias. Besides, there are numerous benefits that emanate when one supplicates for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s).

2. Benefits of praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s):

There are numerous benefits of praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) in this world as also in the hereafter. Here we enumerate a few of these benefits:

Rewards in this world:

To pray for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) is in fact a way of being attached with the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a). Imam Baqir (a.s) narrates

'Joining relation (Sil-e-Rahm) purifies the actions, increases wealth, wards off calamities, makes accounting easy and postpones death.'

(Beharul Anwaar vol. 47, p. 111)

1. Calamities are turned away and there is an increase in sustenance.
2. Our other supplications are answered because of it (praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s)).
3. It prepares a person for meeting Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) – whether he is awake or asleep.
4. It increases bounties.
5. Allah's Help is always at hand for him and he is able to overpower his enemies. As Allah says in the Holy Quran

'If you help (the cause of) Allah, He will help you'

(Surah Muhammad (42): Verse 7)

6. The Shias will be revived at the time of Imam's (a.t.f.s.) reappearance – as is mentioned in Dua-e-Ahad.
7. The Shias remain steadfast on religion and are secure from the corruptions of the last era.

8. The Shias are protected from divine chastisement.
9. The one who prays regularly for the early reappearance of Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) is considered like the one who has prepared the grounds for his reappearance.

Rewards in the Hereafter

Allamah Syed Mohammed Taqi Isfahani (r.a.), in his book 'Mikyalul Makarim' has written numerous advantages of praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s). We mention a few of them hereunder:

10. The one who prays for the early reappearance of Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) becomes entitled to receive the intercession of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) and his progeny (a.s).
11. He will receive the intercession of Imam Mahdi (a.s) on the Day of Judgment.
12. His sins will be forgiven
13. He will receive the reward of avenging the blood of Imam Husain (a.s).
14. The light of the Holy Quran will guide him.
15. He will get the honour of being among the nearest servants of Allah.
16. Seventy thousand of his sins will be forgiven
17. His heart will be contented on the Day of Judgment
18. He will get the reward of twenty Hajj and Umra.
19. One thousand of his wishes will be fulfilled on the Day of Resurrection.
20. Angels seek forgiveness for the one who prays for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s).
21. Satan becomes fearful and crestfallen
22. The person gets 1/3 reward of the entire mankind
23. He will get glad tidings at the time of his death, in Barzakh and in Qiyamat.
24. He will get the reward of being martyred while being in the army of Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s).
25. The proximate angels attend gatherings in which there are supplications for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s).
26. In the light of authentic traditions, praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s) during occultation is better than praying for him after his (a.s) reappearance.

Special occasions for praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s):

In the same book, particular instances and times have been mentioned for praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s)

27. Day of Arafah (9th Zilhajj)
28. Eid-ul -Fitr
29. Eid-ul -Zoha
30. Dahyul Arz (25th Zilqad)
31. Day of Aashoora
32. Night of 15th Shabaan
33. Day of 15th Shabaan
34. Month of Ramazan
35. 6th night of the month of Ramazaan
36. 12th night of the month of Ramazaan
37. 18th & 19th night of the month of Ramazaan
38. 21st of month of Ramazaan
39. After mourning for Imam Husain (a.s)
40. After reciting the ziarat of Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s)

41. While crying due to the fear of Allah
42. On acquiring a new bounty or when some difficulty gets solved
43. At the time of grief and sorrow
44. At the time of calamities
45. After reciting Tasbeeh
46. Before praying for our family members
47. Day of Ghadeer
48. Throughout the day and night
49. In gatherings (majaalis) where affairs of Ahlul Bait (a.s) are discussed and their enemies are cursed.
50. Praying continuously for forty days.
51. In the month of Moharram
52. Places that have been greatly emphasized for praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s):

Just as special occasions have been mentioned for praying for Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s), likewise, **particular places** have been enumerated for remembering Imam (a.t.f.s.). Some of them are mentioned below:

1. In Masjid-ul -Haraam.
2. In the planes of Arafah.
3. In Sardaab (in the house of Imam Hasan Askari (a.s.) in Saamarraa – Iraq).
4. In those places that are associated with Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s). Like Masjid-e-Sehlah, Masjid-e-Sa'sah, Masjid-e-Jamkaran, Masjid-e-Kufa, etc.
5. Near the holy grave of Imam Husain (a.s)
6. Near the holy grave of Imam Reza (a.s)
7. In Saamarra, near the holy graves of Imam Ali Naqi (a.s) and Imam Hasan Askari (a.s)

Conclusion:

Finally, we pray to Allah that He should accept our humble efforts. We are well aware that our insignificant efforts are of no value. Yet we are hopeful of His Mercy and Forgiveness and pray to Him

'...O King! We and our entire family have been afflicted by distress. And we have brought with us insufficient measure. So give us full measure and be charitable to us. Surely Allah rewards those who are charitable.

(Surah Yusuf (12): Verse 88)

Pens have dried up but tears continue to flow the moment the agony of separation from the beloved is felt in the heart. So much so, that a voice echoes in the ears which says 'Be patient, he will surely come'. Yet a thought keeps crossing our minds, 'But when?' As days keep passing by while praying for Imam (a.s), the vision gets more blurred, the back feels more burdened and the hair gets whiter. Death is hastening towards us at relentless pace and soon will grip us in its clutches. In this silent and dark night, a voice emanates from the heart

'When will you see us and we see you while you are seen hoisting the flag of victory.'

(Dua-e-Nudbah)