

A person wearing a white thobe and ghutra is kneeling on a rocky mountain peak. The person's hands are raised in a gesture of prayer or supplication. In the background, a city is visible under a sunset sky. The overall scene is serene and spiritual.

SIGNS OF AN ACCEPTED DU'A

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Signs of an Accepted Du'ā

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Question: What are the signs of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى accepting one's Du'ā?

The fact that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى inspired you to make Du'ā is a great sign that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى will answer your Du'ā. When Allāh سبحانه وتعالى wants to satisfy the hunger of an individual or quench his thirst, He inspires them to eat and drink. When Allāh سبحانه وتعالى wants to forgive an individual, He inspires them to do Tawbah. When Allāh سبحانه وتعالى wants to have mercy on an individual and grant them Jannah, He facilitates good deeds for them to do in this Dunyā to allow them entry into Jannah. And likewise, when Allāh سبحانه وتعالى wants to answer your Du'ā, he inspires you to make the Du'ā, and that's a sign, and a *mighty* sign, of the Du'ā being accepted.

'Umar رضي الله عنه used to say, *"I don't worry about my Du'ā being responded to. I worry about making the Du'ā, because if I've been inspired or guided into making the Du'ā, I know that the response comes with it."* Ibn Al-Qayyim رحمه الله تعالى said something very similar. He said, *"If Allāh سبحانه وتعالى grants one the ability to make the Du'ā, He will grant the answer, because if Allāh سبحانه وتعالى didn't want to answer the Du'ā, He would not have inspired him to make that Du'ā."* More important than the signs is the Promise of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى:

أَدْعُونِي أَجِبْ لَكُمْ

*Call upon Me; I will respond to you.*¹

And Allāh سبحانه وتعالى also said,

¹ [40:60]

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me.²

Allāh سبحانه وتعالى doesn't promise in vain, nor does Allāh سبحانه وتعالى promise without a purpose, nor does Allāh سبحانه وتعالى ever break His promises.

So the first matter is that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى inspiring you to make Du'ā is a sign that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى will accept the Du'ā. There are other signs, and they're not in the Qur'ān nor in the Sunnah. They're somewhat of an Ijtihād by some Ulamā'. Ash-Shawkāni رحمه الله تعالى said they're Tajribīyyah, meaning they're derived through experience, so there's no proof needed he said. Among the signs some Ulamā' mentioned is that when one completes the Du'ā, he feels deep awareness of the Power, Greatness, and Majesty of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى, and one may experience crying or chills or trembling or fainting or even passing out, and it'll be combined with the relaxation of the heart and a cool mind. Some said that one will feel refreshed and rejuvenated internally, with a feeling of outward lightness, as if, for example, a heavy load was taken off their shoulders.

And let me mention a personal story pertaining to this. In the past many years, I've endured many trials Alhamdulillah Rabb Al-'Ālamīn, and there was one more serious than the others, very serious. I was only in contact with a handful of people, and I didn't even have a phone then, so a dear relative called someone else dear to me to let them know of the situation. May Allāh سبحانه وتعالى preserve both of them, honor them, and grant them the best in Dunyā and in Ākhirah. He told her how serious the matter is, the consequences, and the threats. Later on, she informed me that when she got the news, she felt as if a mountain fell on her chest. The following years after that, the matter intensified and it appeared to get

² [2:186]

worse. No one would have imagined a way out. And nearly every other day — sometimes daily, sometimes multiple times a day — she would give the most confident oath by Allāh that they will not do anything, and as she said, by the will of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى, Alhamdulillah, Thumma Alhamdulillah, the matter passed just like a passing cloud. And here's the point: everything was against us — everything was against me. Yet she was so confident, Allāhumma Bārik Lahā, she was so sure. She said when she got the news, she began to make Du'ā, and the bed was in front of her. She said she either passed out on the bed or maybe it was slumber, maybe she fell asleep — but when she woke up, she said she felt like that mountain was lifted off her chest, and she was confident since then. Then she began to mention some of the signs she felt after the Du'ā. She mentioned so many of the ones I just mentioned that I asked her, “*Did you ever read a book on this? Did you ever research this?*” She said never.

In addition to what Ash-Shawkāni said, many of the signs can be deduced or inferred from general proofs. For example, the Du'ā of the Mudtarr, one who sincerely makes Du'ā while he's in distress. The Du'ā that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى specifically promised He will answer. The Du'ā of a person who's drowning or like a person who's drowning. The Du'ā of one who feels alone or helpless and that no one can help him except Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. Aside from the general promise that Allāh سبحانه وتعالى answers Du'ā, this is among the matters that there's a specific promise from Allāh سبحانه وتعالى pertaining to it.

أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ

*Is He [not best] who responds to the desperate one when he calls upon Him and removes evil and makes you inheritors of the earth?*³

In fact, Allāh سبحانه وتعالى answered the Kuffār in distress.

³ [27:62]

a small example: how many supplicate and make Du'ā with a careless, heedless, inattentive heart, or a heart that's occupied in Dunyā matters while they're asking Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. Ar-Rāzi رحمه الله تعالى said that it's by Ijmā', it's by consensus, that the Du'ā from a person with a heedless heart has no effect. Put your effort, and leave the result to Allāh سبحانه وتعالى. *How Allāh answers, when Allāh answers, where* — that's not our business. You left it to 'Allām Al-Ghuyūb, you left it to the One you trust in. What's requested doesn't have to be given at the exact time that you ask, nor in the same form. Sometimes, the Du'ā may be answered in the same essence as what you asked for. Sometimes evil will be averted from an individual. Sometimes, it may be stored for a believer in the Ākhirah. Allāh سبحانه وتعالى knows which one suits us best. How many were desperate in life for something at one point, they probably made extensive Du'ā for it, but as time passed by, they thank Allāh سبحانه وتعالى they never got what they asked for. A wife or a job that one may be desperate for at a certain time may be what ruins one's Dunyā and Ākhirah. So Allāh سبحانه وتعالى either saved them from it or gave them a better replacement.