

Salat-UI-Istikhara

Salat al-Istikhara is a powerful tool that Allah has given us to ask His guidance in all matters. We should not hesitate to pray Istikhara before making any choice in our lives, big or small.

Meaning of salatul istikharah

"Istikhara" means to seek goodness from Allah (Exalted is He), meaning when one intends to do an important task they do istikhara before the task.

The one who does the istikhara is asking Allah Almighty, the Knower of Unseen (Exalted is He) to guide him or her to know whether the task is better for him or not.

When to do Istikhara

If you are unsure about a decision you have to make, then you can do Salat ul Istikharah to ask for Allah's help in making your decision. Should you marry this certain person? Should you move to another country? Should you attend this graduate school or that one? Allah knows what is best for you. So just turn to Allah (s.w.t) and seek His guidance.

Manners of the prayer of Istikharah

- Do this prayer with sincerity, knowing that only Allah can give us the guidance we seek.
- Resolve to follow the guidance He gives us, even if it clashes with our own desires.
- Say the dua with firm conviction, not begging or pleading, but asking Allah clearly for guidance.
- Don't be impatient after your dua. Do not expect some sort of miracle, or a dream full of signs and symbols. These things are not necessary.

- It is better to sleep with ablution after the Istikharah.
- It is Sunnah to sleep facing the direction of the Qiblah.
- It is better to recite Durood on the Prophet (s.a.w) before and after the above Dua.

Description of Salat-I-Istikhara in Hadith:

Narrated Jabir bin 'Abdullah: The Prophet salallahu alaihi wasallam used to teach us the way of doing istikhara in all matters as he taught us the Surats of the Quran. He said, "If anyone of you thinks of doing any job he should offer a two Rakat prayer other than the compulsory ones and say (after the prayer) :

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- أَوْ قَالَ عَاجِلِ أَمْرِي وَآجِلِهِ- فَاقْدُرْهُ لِي
وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي
وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي- أَوْ قَالَ فِي عَاجِلِ أَمْرِي وَآجِلِهِ- فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ، وَاقْدُرْ لِي
الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ أَرْضِنِي بِهِ

Translation of the dua of Istikharah

(O Allah! I ask guidance from Your knowledge, And Power from Your Might and I ask for Your great blessings. You are capable and I am not. You know and I do not and You know the unseen. O Allah! If You know that this job is good for my religion and my subsistence and in my Hereafter--(or said: If it is better for my present and later needs)--Then

You ordain it for me and make it easy for me to get, And then bless me in it, and if You know that this job is harmful to me In my religion and subsistence and in the Hereafter--(or said: If it is worse for my present and later needs)--Then keep it away from me and let me be away from it. And ordain for me whatever is good for me, And make me satisfied with it). The Prophet Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam added that then the person should name (mention) his need.

When making the dua, the actual matter or decision should be mentioned instead of the words "hathal-amra" ("this matter").

Note: The answer to one's istikhara prayer does not come simply in the form of dreams and feelings but in how Allah facilitates and unfolds events for an individual after he or she genuinely strives to do what is best. Take the most effective means, which includes consulting those whose knowledge and wisdom one has confidence in, and place your trust in Allah.

Have any questions?

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