

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate

The Dua' of Yunus

*But he cried through the depths of darkness, "There is no god but
You
Glory be unto You! I was indeed
among the wrongdoers!"*

Surat Al-Anbiya 21:87

The supplication of Prophet Yunus ibn Matta (upon him and our Prophet peace) is a most powerful supplication, a most effective means for obtaining answer to prayer. The gist of the celebrated story of The Prophet Yunus (Jonah) (upon him peace) is as follows:

He was cast into the sea and swallowed by a large fish. The sea was stormy, the night turbulent and dark, and hope exhausted. But it was while he was in such a situation that his supplication:

"There is no god other than You, Glory be unto You! Indeed, I was among the wrongdoers"

Which acted for him as a swift means of salvation. The secret of his supplication's power was this:

In that situation all causes were suspended, for Prophet Yunus (upon him peace) needed One to save him, whose command should constrain the whale and the sea, and the night and the sky. The night, the sea, and the whale were united against him. Only One whose command might subdue all three of these could bring him forth on the strand of salvation. Even if the entirety of creation had become his servants and helpers, it would have been of no avail. **For causes have no effect.** Since Prophet Yunus (upon him peace) saw with the eye of certainty that there was no refuge other than the Causer of Causes, and unfolded to him was the meaning of Divine Oneness within the light of Divine Unity, his supplication was able suddenly to subdue the night, the sea, and the whale.

Through the light of Divine Unity he was able to:

1. Transform the belly of the whale into a submarine.
2. Transform the surging sea, which in its awesomeness resembled an erupting volcano, into a peaceable plain, a pleasant place of excursion.

3 Sweep the sky's countenance clear of all clouds, and to set the moon over his head like a lantern.

Creation that had been pressing and threatening him from all sides now showed him a friendly face from every direction. Thus he reached the shore of salvation, where beneath the creeping-gourd tree he observed this favour of his Sustainer.

Now we are in a situation one hundred times more awesome than that in which Prophet Yunus (upon him peace) first found himself.

Our night is the future.

When we look upon our future with the eye of neglect, it is a hundred times darker and more fearful than his night.

Our sea is this spinning globe.

Each wave of this sea bears on it thousands of corpses, and is thus a thousand times more frightening than his sea.

Our fish is the caprice of our soul.

This strives to shake and destroy the foundation of our eternal life. This fish is a thousand times more maleficent than his. For his fish could destroy a hundred-year lifespan, whereas ours seeks to destroy a life lasting hundreds of millions of years.

This being our true state, we should in imitation of Prophet Yunus (upon him peace) avert ourselves from all causes and take refuge directly in the Causer of Causes, that is, our Sustainer. We should say:

There is no god but You, Glory be unto You! Indeed I was among the wrongdoers,

and understand with full certainty that it is only He who can repel from us the harm of the future, this world, and caprice of our souls, united against us because of our neglect and misguidance.

For:

- ❖ The future is subject to His command
- ❖ The world is subject to His jurisdiction
- ❖ Our soul is subject to His direction

What cause is there other than the Creator of the Heavens and Earth who can know the most subtle and secret thoughts of our heart; who can lighten the future for us by establishing the Hereafter; who can save us from the myriad overwhelming waves of the world? No, outside that Necessarily Existent One, there is nothing that can in any way give aid and effect salvation except by His consent and command.

This being the case, considering that as a result of his supplication, the whale became for Prophet Yunus (upon him peace) a vehicle, or a submarine, and the sea,

a peaceable plain; and the night became gently lit for him by the moon, so too, we should make the same supplication:

There is no god but You, Glory be unto You! Indeed I was among the wrongdoers.

With the sentence: **“There is no god but You”**
we draw the gaze of mercy upon our **future**;

With the word: **“Glory be unto You!”**
we draw it upon our **world**;

With the phrase: **“Indeed I was among the wrongdoers,”**
we draw it upon our **soul**.

Thus, our future is illumined with the light of belief and the moonlike luminosity of the Qur’an, and the awe and terror of the night are transformed into tranquillity and joy. Then too, embarking on the ship of the truth of Islam, fashioned in the dockyard of the Most Wise Qur’an, we may pass safely over the sea of this earthly abode, which through the alternation of life and death is boarded by corpses unnumbered, borne on the waves of the years and centuries, and cast into nothingness. Once aboard that ship we may reach the shore of salvation and fulfil our life’s duty. The tempest and surging of the sea will appear as a series of pleasing images on a screen, and instead of inspiring terror and dread, will delight, caress and illumine the reflective and the meditative gaze. By virtue of the mystery of the Qur’an, and the effect of that Criterion of Truth and Falsehood, our soul will ride no longer us, but instead become our mount. As we ride it, it will be for us a powerful means for the attainment of life everlasting.

In Short

Man, in accordance with the comprehensive nature of his being, as he suffers and shakes with malaria, so also he suffers from the shaking and tremors of the earth, and the supreme convulsion of all beings of the Day of Resurrection. As he fears the infinitesimal microbe, he also fears the shooting star that appears among the heavenly bodies. As he loves his home, he also loves the wide world. As he loves his little garden, he also ardently loves infinite and eternal paradise. Man’s object of worship, Sustainer, refuge, saviour, and goal then can only be the One in the grasp of Whose power is the whole universe, under Whose command are both atom and planet. Man should therefore constantly say like Prophet Yunus (upon him peace)

*There is no god but You, Glory be unto You! Indeed I was among
the wrongdoers.*

*Glory be unto You! We have no knowledge save that which You
have taught us; indeed, You are All-Knowing, All-Wise.*

Surat Al Baqarah 1:32