



Parenting Advice for Muslim Mothers

Connecting with Allah ﷻ Through *Dua* During Ramadan (Part 5)

In the upcoming posts of this series, we have chosen some Prophetic *duas* that children can easily learn, and have added explanations that will help children understand what they are asking for, and why. We hope that these explanations will help them make these *duas* from the heart rather than merely with the tongue, and will also help them learn about Allah ﷻ, and deepen their connection with Him, in sha Allah.



But first, we must lay the foundation this way

Everything in this world comes to an end when their time is up. Food rots, flowers wither, batteries in our toys run out, the bulb in our lamp fuses. Just like that, each one of us, including you, also has a time limit. **(At this point talk to your children about the way different things come to an end. If a pet or anyone close to the children has died, you can remind them of that).**

When things complete their time limit and we can't use them anymore, we usually throw them away. However, when something is very dear to us (like a special gift) we put it away and plan to keep it forever. Even though it is of no use to us anymore, we love it too much to throw it. Just like that, when our time in this world is finished, if we are dear to Allah ﷻ He does not throw us away; rather, He calls us back to Him and keeps us forever and ever in a special place called *Jannah*.

Jannah is a place where we will be able to do whatever we want, without any restrictions; no one will stop us from doing anything there. All our hearts desires will be fulfilled; we will merely have to wish for something, and we will get it right away (the latest action figure, a swimming pool with the longest slide in the world, our personal theme park, a flying carpet...you name it!). In *Jannah*, no one will hurt our feelings, or make us angry, or make fun of us, or be mean to us. We will stay there forever and ever having limitless fun with our favorite people, close to Allahﷻ. **(At this point mention specifically things that your child enjoys, and get him or her excited about the limitless possibilities in *Jannah*. Paint a detailed picture of what you would like to do in *Jannah*, and get them to visualize and express what they would like to do there too. Also mention specifically what they dislike and emphasize that there will be none of that in *Jannah*).**



How do we become dear to Allah ﷻ (and get to *Jannah*)?

It's simple. We become dear to Allah ﷻ by listening to Him- by doing what He has asked us to do and leaving what He has told us not to do. It's quite the same as with parents; parents are happiest with us when we listen to them, and angriest when we don't. **(At this point, remind your children about times when you were happy with them when they listened to you, and upset with them when they didn't. Perhaps you can also think of and remind them of an occasion where you were happy with the child who listened, and unhappy with the one who didn't)**

We also become dear to Allah ﷻ when we do things that make Him happy. We also earn the love of our parents and other people this way. If we clean our room or clear the table without our mother even asking us to do it, it makes her happy. If we call our grandparents out of the blue just to ask how they are doing, it makes them happy. If our friend is sick and we explain to him what he missed in school, it makes him happy. If we bake a cake and share it with our neighbors, or clean up the common driveway outside, our neighbors are pleased with us.



So what does this have to do with *dua*?

Dua has amazing super-power! Not only does it help you get what you need or want (we already know this), not only does it fight off problems and difficulties that might be coming your way (we've already learnt about this), it also has another special power. Are you ready to hear it?



Some *duas* turn normal, everyday actions into actions that make Allah ﷻ happy, actions that can take us to *Jannah*!

So while we pray and fast and give money to the needy to make Allah ﷻ happy, these good deeds take effort and are not easy to do all the time. But if we just learn and read some *duas* when eating and drinking and sleeping and getting dressed (which we have to do anyway), they will turn these regular deeds into special deeds that make us dear to Allah ﷻ!

It's like baking a plain cake that no one is really interested in eating, but then decorating it with delicious, beautiful frosting and sprinkles so that everyone now wants a piece of it. Or like making a bunch of some simple flowers that you've plucked from your garden, but wrapping them in sparkly paper and with a big red bow around them so that they look really fancy.

So let's get started. Let's learn some easy *duas* that will turn everyday actions into special ones that please Allah ﷻ, and make us dear to Him. So that when our time in this world is up, Allah ﷻ will enter us into *Jannah*, where we will have non-stop fun for ever and ever. And on top of this, we get what we are asking for as well! These *duas* were taught to us by the Prophet ﷺ, because he was the most helpful person in the world, and he always wanted to help people go into *Jannah*. He taught us many, many ways of making Allah happy, and one of those ways was through these special *duas*, packed with super-power!