

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to teach his Companions to make *istikharah* in all things, just as he used to teach them surahs from the Quran. He said: If any one of you is concerned about a decision he has to make, then let him pray two rak'ahs of non-obligatory prayer, then say:

O Allah, I seek Your guidance [in making a choice] by virtue of Your knowledge, and I seek ability by virtue of Your power, and I ask You of Your great bounty. You have power, I have none. And You know, I know not. You are the Knower of hidden things. O Allah, if in Your knowledge, this matter (then it should be mentioned by name) is good for me both in this world and in the Hereafter (or: in my religion, my livelihood and my affairs), then ordain it for me, make it easy for me, and bless it for me. And if in Your knowledge it is bad for me and for my religion, my livelihood and my affairs (or: for me both in this world and the next), then turn me away from it, [and turn it away from me], and ordain for me the good wherever it may be and make me pleased with it).

(Reported by al-Bukhari, 6841; similar reports are also recorded by al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasai, Abu Dawood, Ibn Majah and Ahmad)



Allahumma inni astakhiruka bi 'ilmika wa astaqdiruka bi qudratika wa as-aluka min fadlika al-'adhim, fa innaka taqdiru wa la aqdir, wa ta'lamu wa la a'lam, wa anta 'allam al-ghuyub. Allahumma fa in kunta ta'lamu hadha'l-amra (then the matter should be mentioned by name) khayran li fi 'ajil amri wa ajilihi (or: fi dini wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri) faqdurhu li wa yassirhu li thumma barik li fihi. Allahumma wa in kunta ta'lamu annahu sharrun li fi dini wa ma'ashi wa aaqibati amri (or: fi 'ajili amri wa ajilihi) fasrifni 'anhu [wasrifhu 'anni] waqdur li al-khayr haythu kana thumma radini bihi.



Istikharah prayer is a Sunnah which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prescribed for anyone who wants to do an action but is hesitant about it. Istikharah means seeking guidance as to what Allah knows is the best and most appropriate choice. Istikharah implies submission to the command of Allah and a practical demonstration that one has no power and no strength of one's own.

Source: islamqa.info



From the Treasures of Islamic Knowledge, Guided by the Sunnah

© 2024 ABDESSALAAM AL-ALESTINI
YOU ARE WELCOME TO SHARE, GIFT, AND USE THIS WORK FOR PERSONAL AND CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSES.

COMMERCIAL USE IS NOT PERMITTED.