

صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ

English Introduction

Allah Taala says in the Holy Quran, “Verily Allah and His angels pray salawaat upon the Prophet; O ye that believe! Pray ye salawaat upon him, and salute him (pray salaam on him) with all respect” {33:56}. When this aayat was revealed to Rasulallah, people came to him and asked him, “We know how to salute/ pray salaam on you, but how do we pray salawaat? Rasulallah replied, “Say thus: O Allah, pray salawaat upon Mohammad and the progeny of Mohammad as you have prayed salawaat upon (the Prophet) Ibrahim and the progeny of Ibrahim.”

The meaning of salawat is to pray to Allah to bless Rasullullah and his progeny. The deeper meaning of salawat signifies that we are asking Allah that He always continue the silsila of Aimmat tahereen till the day of qayamat. The Prophet and his progeny are the greatest blessings of Allah on us, and we pray that He continue to bless us through them as they, for the guidance they give us, are the only path through which salvation can be attained.

There is great reward in aakherat for those who pray salawaat: Rasullullah has said that whenever someone prays salawaat on me, the firishta (angel) beside me, conveys to me that such and such a person has prayed salawat on you and your progeny. At that time I pray to Allah to bless that person and give him barakat. Imam Ali Zainul Aabedeem, always prays salawaat repeatedly in all his doas, at the beginning and at the end and in between. When a mumin does doa to Allah, and if he prays salawat in the beginning and the end and several times in between, since Allah always accepts salawat, he will also listen to all the wishes that one has prayed for.

Rasulullah says one should pray many salawat on Friday; at least a thousand times. Imam Sadiq has said that Allah Taala sends a number of angels on the eve of Friday, and when the day begins they write down the salawat of all those who pray salawat on the Prophet Mohammad and his progeny on that day until the sun sets, that is their only duty.

We can pray the long salawat (as mentioned above), or the short one:

“اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ”

But it is vital to pray salawat not only on the Prophet, but also his progeny Aimmah Tahereen, as without it the salawat is incomplete and is not accepted by Allah.

There is a riwayat about the sawab of praying salawat: In Rasulullah's time a man was falsely accused of stealing a camel, and there were witnesses who testified to this; so Rasulullah passed the judgement that the 'hand' (literally four fingers) of that man be cut according to the tenets of Sharia. When the man was being taken away to be punished, the camel spoke! It said aloud, this man is innocent! Rasulullah asked the man, what were you praying when you came to me? He replied that he was praying salawat. So because of the barakat of salawat, the man's innocence was revealed and he was set free.

Our Mawali Tahereen say that if you cannot remember something, for example in an exam, praying salawat will help you to remember. There is much barakat in the well-known custom of praying salawat upon mawali tahereen on sweet dishes before eating.

Syedna Taher Saifuddin has written a qasida of salawat "Salla ala Mohammadin Rabbohu" which is regularly prayed every Friday. Every mumín should always pray salawat, do tasbeeh of salawat, to gain sawab and gather bounties for the hereafter.