Sahifa Sajjadiya 37 — His supplication in giving Thanks

Supplications 28–40 · 66 lines

دُعَاؤُهُ فِي الشُّكْرِ

O God, no one reaches a limit in thanking Thee	أَللَّهُمَّ إِنَّ أَحَداً لاَ يَبْلُغُ مِنْ شُكْرِكَ غَايَةً
without acquiring that of Thy beneficence which enjoins upon him thanksgiving,	إِلاَّ حَصَلَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ إِحْسَانِكَ مَا يُلْزِمُهُ شُكْراً،
nor does anyone reach a degree in obeying Thee, even if he strives,	وَلا يَبْلُغُ مَبْلَغاً مِنْ طَاعَتِكَ وَإِنِ اجْتَهَدَ
without falling short of what Thou deservest because of Thy bounty.	إِلاَّ كَانَ مُقَصِّراً دُونَ اسْتِحْقَاقِكَ بِفَضْلِكَ،
The most thankful of Thy servants has not the capacity to thank Thee,	فَأَشْكَرُ عِبَادِكَ عَاجِزٌ عَنْ شُكْرِكَ
and the most worshipful of them falls short of obeying Thee.	وَأَعْبَدُهُمْ مُقَصِّرٌ عَنْ طَاعَتِكَ،
To none of them is due Thy forgiveness through what he himself deserves	لا يَجِبُ لأَحَدٍ أَنْ تَغْفِرَ لَهُ بِاسْتِحْقَاقِهِ،
or Thy good pleasure for his own merit.	وَلا أَنْ تَرْضَى عَنْهُ بِاسْتِيجَابِهِ،
When Thou forgivest someone, it is through Thy graciousness,	فَمَنْ غَفَرْتَ لَهُ فَبِطَوْلِكَ،
and when Thou art pleased with someone, it is through Thy bounty.	وَمَنْ رَضِيتَ عَنْهُ فَبِفَضْلِكَ
Thou showest gratitude for the paltry for which gratitude is shown to Thee and Thou rewardest the small act in which Thou art obeyed,	تَشْكُرُ يَسِيرَ مَا شُكِرْتَهُ وَتُثِيبُ عَلَى قَلِيلِ مَا تُطَاعُ فِيهِ
so that it seems as if Thy servants' thanksgiving for which Thou hast made incumbent their reward	حَتَّى كَأَنَّ شُكْرَ عِبَادِكَ الَّذِي أَوْجَبْتَ عَلَيْهِ ثَوَابَهُمْ
and made great their repayment	وَأَعْظَمْتَ عَنْهُ جَزَاءَهُمْ

أَمْرٌ مَلَكُوا اسْتِطَاعَةَ الامْتِنَاعِ مِنْهُ دُونَكَ	is an affair from which they could have held back without Thee,
فَكَافَيْتَهُمْ أَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ سَبَبُهُ بِيَدِكَ فَجَازَيْتَهُمْ،	and hence Thou wilt recompense them, and whose cause is not in Thy hand, and hence Thou wilt repay them.
بَلْ مَلَكْتَ يَا إِلهِي أَمْرَهُمْ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَمْلِكُوا عِبَادَتَكَ،	Nay, my God, Thou hadst power over their affair before they had power to worship Thee,
وَأَعْدَدْتَ ثَوَابَهُمْ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُفِيضُوا فِي طَاعَتِكَ،	and Thou hadst prepared their reward before they began to obey Thee;
وَذَلِكَ أَنَّ سُنَّتَكَ الأِفْضَالُ،	and that because Thy wont is bestowal of bounty,
وَعَادَتَكَ الإِحْسَانُ، وَسَبِيلَكَ الْعَفْوُ،	Thy custom beneficence, Thy way pardon.
فَكُلُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ مُعْتَرِفَةٌ بِأَنَّكَ غَيْرُ ظَالِمٍ لِمَنْ عَاقَبْتَ،	So all creatures confess that Thou wrongest not him whom Thou punishest
وَشَاهِدَةٌ بِأَنَّكَ مُتَفَضِّلٌ عَلَى مَنْ عَافَيْتَ،	and bear witness that Thou bestowest bounty upon him whom Thou pardonest.
وَكُلٌّ مُقِرٌّ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ بِالتَّقْصِيرِ عَمَّا اسْتَوْجَبْتَ،	Each admits that he has fallen short of what Thou meritest.
فَلَوْلا أَنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَخْتَدِعُهُمْ عَنْ طَاعَتِكَ مَا عَصَاكَ عَاصٍ	Had Satan not misled them from Thy obedience, no disobeyer would have disobeyed Thee,
وَلَوْلا أَنَّهُ صَوَّرَ لَهُمُ الْبَاطِلَ فِي مِثَالِ الْحَقِّ	and had he not shown falsehood to them in the likeness of truth
مَا ضَلَّ عَنْ طَرِيقِكَ ضَالٌّ.	no strayer would have gone astray from Thy path.
فَسُبْحَانَكَ مَا أَبْيَنَ كَرَمَكَ	So glory be to Thee! How manifest is Thy generosity
فِي مُعَامَلَةِ مَنْ أَطَاعَكَ أَوْ عَصَاكَ،	in dealing with him who obeys or disobeys Thee!
تَشْكُرُ لِلْمُطِيعِ مَا أَنْتَ تَوَلَّيْتَهُ لَهُ،	Thou showest gratitude to the obedient for that which Thou undertakest for him,

and Thou grantest a respite to the disobedient in that within which Thou art able to hurry him.	وَتُمْلِي لِلْعَاصِي فِيمَا تَمْلِكُ مُعَاجَلَتَهُ فِيهِ،
Thou givest to each of them that which is not his due,	أَعْطَيْتَ كُلاًّ مِنْهُمَا مَا لَمْ يَجِبْ لَهُ،
and Thou bestowest bounty upon each in that wherein his works fall short.	وَتَفَضَّلْتَ عَلَى كُلٍّ مِنْهُمَا بِمَا يَقْصُرُ عَمَلُهُ عَنْهُ
Wert Thou to counterbalance for the obedient servant that which Thou Thyself hadst undertaken,	وَلَوْ كَافَأْتَ الْمُطِيعَ عَلَى مَا أَنْتَ تَوَلَّيْتَهُ
he would be on the point of losing Thy reward	لاَوْشَكَ أَنْ يَفْقِدَ ثَوَابَكَ،
and seeing the end of Thy favour,	وَأَنْ تَزُولَ عَنْهُ نِعْمَتُكَ
but through Thy generosity Thou hast repaid him	وَلكِنَّكَ بِكَرَمِكَ جَازَيْتَهُ
for a short, perishing term with a long, everlasting term,	عَلَى الْمُدَّةِ الْقَصِيرَةِ الفَانِيَةِ بِالْمُدَّةِ الطَّوِيلَةِ الْخَالِدَةِ،
and for a near, vanishing limit with an extended, abiding limit.	وَعَلَى الْغَايَةِ الْقَرِيبَةِ الزَّائِلَةِ بِالْغَايَةِ الْمَدِيدَةِ الْبَاقِيَةِ،
Then Thou dost not visit him with a settling of accounts for Thy provision	ثُمَّ لَمْ تَسُمْهُ الْقِصَاصَ فِيمَا أَكَلَ مِنْ رِزْقِكَ
through which he gained strength to obey Thee,	الَّذِي يَقْوَى بِهِ عَلَى طَاعَتِكَ،
nor dost Thou force him to make reckonings for the organs	وَلَـمْ تَحْمِلْهُ عَلَى الْمُنَاقَشَاتِ فِي الآلاتِ
he employed to find the means to Thy forgiveness.	الَّتِي تَسَبَّبَ بِاسْتِعْمَالِهَا إِلَى مَغْفِـرَتِكَ،
Wert Thou to do that to him,	وَلَـوْ فَعَلْتَ ذلِكَ بِهِ
it would take away everything for which he had laboured	لَذَهَبَ بِجَمِيعِ مَا كَدَحَ لَهُ
and all wherein he had exerted himself	وَجُمْلَةِ مَا سَعَى فِيهِ،

as repayment for the smallest of Thy benefits and kindnesses,	جَزَاءً لِلصُّغْرى مِنْ أَيادِيْكَ وَمِنَنِكَ،
and he would remain hostage before Thee for Thy other favours.	وَلَبَقِيَ رَهيناً بَيْنَ يَدَيْكَ بِسَائِرِ نِعَمِكَ
So how can he deserve something of Thy reward? Indeed, how?	فَمَتَى كَانَ يَسْتَحِقُّ شَيْئاً مِنْ ثَوَابِكَ ، لا ، مَتَى؟.
This, my God, is the state of him who obeys Thee and the path of him who worships Thee.	هَذَا يا إلهِي حَالُ مَنْ أَطَاعَكَ وَسَبِيلُ مَنْ تَعَبَّدَ لَكَ،
But as for him who disobeys Thy command and goes against Thy prohibition,	فَأَمَّا الْعَاصِيْ أَمْرَكَ وَالْمُوَاقِعُ نَهْيَكَ
Thou dost not hurry him to Thy vengeance, so that he may seek to replace his state in disobeying Thee	فَلَمْ تُعَاجِلْهُ بِنَقِمَتِكَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَبْدِلَ بِحَالِهِ فِي مَعْصِيَتِكَ
with the state of turning back to obey Thee,	حَالَ الإِنَابَةِ إِلَى طَاعَتِكَ،
though he deserved from the time he set out to disobey Thee	وَلَقَدْ كَانَ يَسْتَحِقُّ فِي أَوَّلِ مَا هَمَّ بِعِصْيَانِكَ
every punishment which Thou hast prepared for all Thy creatures.	كُلَّ مَا أَعْدَدْتَ لِجَمِيعِ خَلْقِكَ مِنْ عُقُوبَتِكَ،
Through each chastisement which Thou hast kept back from him	فَجَمِيعُ مَا أَخَّرْتَ عَنْهُ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ،
and each penalty of Thy vengeance and Thy punishment which Thou hast delayed from him, Thou hast refrained from Thy right	وَأَبْطَأْتَ بِهِ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ سَطَوَاتِ النَّقِمَةِ وَالْعِقَابِ تَرْكٌ مِنْ حَقِّكَ،
and shown good pleasure in place of what Thou hast made obligatory.	وَرِضىً بِدُونِ وَاجِبِكَ،
So who is more generous, my God, than Thou?	فَمَنْ أَكْرَمُ يَا إِلهِي مِنْكَ
And who is more wretched than he who perishes in spite of Thee? Indeed, who?	وَمَنْ أَشْقَى مِمَّنْ هَلَكَ عَلَيْكَ، لا ، مَنْ؟
Thou art too blessed to be described by any but beneficence	فَتَبَارَكْتَ أَنْ تُوصَفَ إِلاّ بِالإِحْسَانِ،

and too generous for any but justice to be feared from Thee!	وَكَـرُمْتَ أَنْ يُخَافَ مِنْكَ إلاّ الْعَدْلُ،
There is no dread that Thou wilt be unjust toward him who disobeys Thee,	لا يُخْشَى جَوْرُكَ عَلَى مَنْ عَصَاكَ،
nor any fear of Thy neglecting to reward him who satisfies Thee.	وَلاَ يُخَافُ إِغْفَالُكَ ثَوَابَ مَنْ أَرْضَاكَ.
So bless Muhammad and his Household, give me my hope,	فَصَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّد وَآلِهِ وَهَبْ لِيْ أَمَلِي،
and increase me in that of Thy guidance	وَزِدْنِي مِنْ هُدَاكَ
through which I may be successful in my works!	مَا أَصِلُ بِهِ إِلَى التَّوْفِيقِ فِي عَمَلِي،
Surely Thou art All-kind, Generous.	إِنَّكَ مَنَّانٌ كَرِيمٌ.