

The Quran and its Message

The articles on this website may be reproduced freely as long as the following source reference is provided:

Joseph A Islam www.quransmessage.com

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

DARUD SHAREEF PRAYER

Joseph A. Islam

Copyright © 2009 Joseph A Islam: Article last modified 24th December 2011

This is a common prayer known to the majority of Muslims and is recited as a two section prayer in the latter portion of the daily prayers. The 'Darud Shareef' prayer is also known as the 'Darud-e-Ibrahim'. This particular prayer is absent from the text of the Quran which is replete with numerous other prayers. **Please see related article [1] below.**

FIRST SECTION

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Translation

"O God, let your blessings come upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad (including his progeny), as you have blessed Abraham and his progeny. Truly, you are Praiseworthy and Glorious"

SECOND SECTION

وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Translation

"O God, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad (including his progeny), as you have blessed Abraham and his family (including progeny). Truly, you are Praiseworthy and Glorious".

The first part of the section refers to and addresses Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) **requesting blessings** for him, his family and his progeny. The second part of the prayer section **confirms** the blessings that have already been granted to Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) and his family (including progeny).

The second section is similar to the first in construct.

Please note the Arabic term: 'Al' circled in red

There is a clear distinction in Arabic between the Arabic term 'Ahl' and 'Al', the latter being used in the prayer above. 'Ahl' is a reference to relationships of nearer kinsfolk whereas 'Al' has a wider purport which encompasses the 'Ahl' of a person **but also includes grandchildren and other progeny. The significance of this difference will be highlighted later in the article.**

We note the following from classical lexicons:

by saying that it signifies] the أَهْلُ of a man, and the أَهْلُ of a house; as also أَهْلَةٌ : (S:) [see also آل; in the explanations of which, certain distinctions between it and أَهْلُ will be found mentioned:] the pl. is أَهْلُونَ, [like أَرْضُونَ, a form

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [1]

The word used in the Darud Sharif is AL (Which includes not only family but grandchildren and all related progeny).

(Msb.) — أَهْلُ النَّبِيِّ The [family or] wives and daughters of the Prophet, and his son-in-law 'Alee: or his women; and (as some say, 'TA) the men who are his آل; (K, TA;) comprising the grandchildren (أحفاد) and [other] progeny:

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [2]

The above 'Darud Shareef' prayer is consistent with the prayer of Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) which has been captured **in the Quran** and is a narrative most Muslims are familiar with through their daily prayers:

014:040

O my Lord, cause me and of my offspring to remain constant in prayer! "And, O Lord, accept this my prayer"

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ

wa-min dhuriyati

Illustration - Joseph Islam

014:041

O our Lord! grant me protection and my parents and the believers on the day when the reckoning shall come to pass!

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

Please note the mention of the Arabic '**wa-min dhuriyati**' which translates to 'from my offspring' in verse 14:40. There is a strong connection with this request and God's response in verse 2:124 where Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) is informed that God's covenant does not extend to evildoers out of his progeny.

002.124

And remember that Abraham was tried by his Lord with certain commands, which he fulfilled: He said: "I will make thee a leader (**Arabic: Imaman**) to the Nations." He pleaded: "And also from my offspring?" He answered: "**My covenant is not within the reach of evil-doers.**"

It is clear from the above verse that not all of Prophet Abraham's ^(pbuh) progeny would be righteous, nor can one appeal to righteousness on account of their lineage.

Please see related article [2] below.

There are a few significant points to be noted.

- It is worth considering that if Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) and his family were descendants of Prophet Abraham, ^(pbuh) why are they excluded from the 'Al' of Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) in the 'Darud Shareef' prayer which is clearly dealing with two separate progenies?

Please note again the relevant text of the Darud Shareef prayer. **“O God, let your blessings come upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad (including his progeny), as you have blessed Abraham and his progeny. Truly, you are Praiseworthy and Glorious”.**

If as claimed by the majority of Muslims, Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) was part of the progeny of Prophet Abraham, ^(pbuh) then Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) would have automatically been included as part of the mention of Prophet Abraham's ^(pbuh) progeny. A separate mention of Muhammad ^(pbuh) and his family would therefore become superfluous. Unless of course, these are separate, unlinked lineages.

- These prayers are consistent with God’s direction of showing no distinction between the messengers of God (See verses 2:136; 2:253; 2:285; 3:84; 4:152; 37:181; 38:45; 38:46; 38:47; 38:48; 7:44).

Please see related article [3] below.

- There is no automatic recognition in these prayers that Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) is ranked higher than all the other prophets. If this was the case, these prayers would not be necessary. In such a case, one would not be asking God to bless the prophet in the same manner as other prophets **had already been blessed.**

FINAL THOUGHTS

It is quite plausible that this prayer possibly due to its perpetual propagation within the sphere of Muslim daily prayer en masse has captured a more consistent understanding of the Quran's directives which include:

- (i) Not to make any distinctions between God's messengers.
- (ii) Not linking the lineage of Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) with that of Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh).
Please see related article [4] below.
- (iii) Resonating the prayer of Prophet Abraham ^(pbuh) from the Quran

Related Articles:

- [\(1\) Some Prayers From the Quran](#)
- [\(2\) Appeal to Righteousness based on lineage, relationship, companionship and proximity](#)
- [\(3\) Do not make distinctions between the messengers of God](#)
- [\(4\) Are the Arabs and Prophet Muhammad ^{\(pbuh\)} Really Descendants of Prophet Abraham? ^{\(pbuh\)}](#)

REFERENCES

[1] LANE. E.W, Edward Lanes Lexicon, Williams and Norgate 1863; Librairie du Liban Beirut-Lebanon 1968, Volume 1, Page 121

Highlights marked in red on the lexicon excerpt are my own insertions. They have no bearing on the original text other than they emphasise relevance to the topic at hand. These are merely illustrations and have solely been utilised for educational and explanatory purposes.

[2] Ibid.

[Joseph Islam](#)

© 2010 Quransmessage.com All Rights Reserved