

Insights into 'From Thee Alone We Seek Help'

(PDF version of Candle Posting No. 129)



**Researched and Compiled by:
Noorallah Juma, Ph.D.**

**SalmanSpiritual.com
July 8, 2015**

(This page is intentionally left blank)

Insights into 'From Thee Alone We Seek Help'

(PDF version of Candle Posting No. 129)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

Ya Ali Madad. The 58th anniversary of our beloved NOOR Mowlânâ Shâh Karim Al-Hussaini's (a.s.) accession to the masnat of Imamât will be celebrated on July 11, 2015. As Laylat al-Qadr (The Night of Power and Majesty), the 23rd night of Holy Ramadan, will commence on the Thursday evening, July 9, 2015, we would like to extend our heartfelt felicitations to global Jamat for these auspicious occasions.



May Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam grant peace, prosperity, happiness, barakat, higher spiritual enlightenment, spiritual & luminous tayid (help) and empowerment to you, your family & Jamat, and the worldwide Jamat. Ameen.

Let us first reflect upon the card which was prepared by the Alwaez Rai Amiraly Amlani which was first published in 2002:

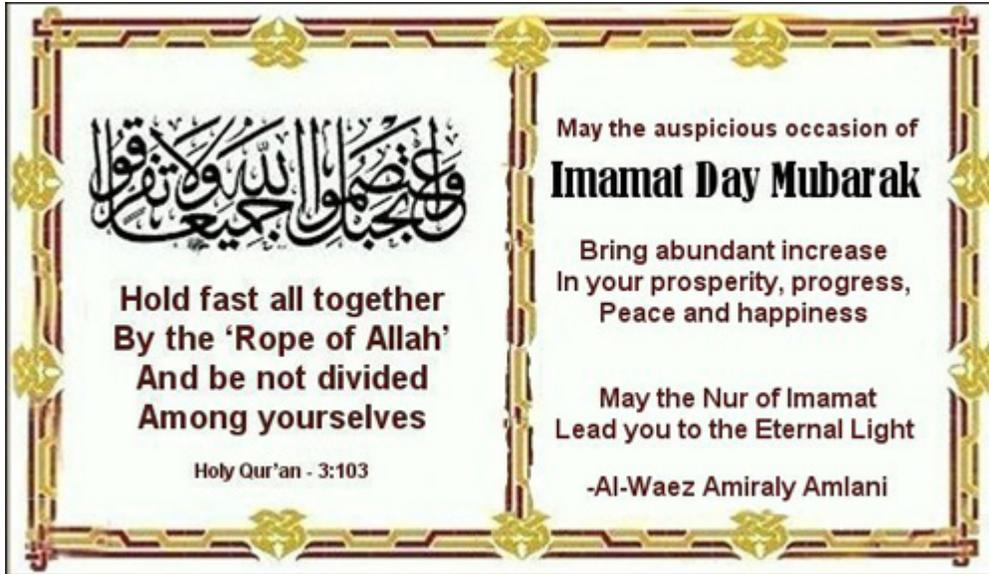


Table of Contents:

1. [From Whom Should We Seek Help? \(Exoteric Answer\)](#)
2. [From Whom Should We Seek Help? \(Esoteric Answer\)](#)
3. [Example from the Fourth Part of our Holy Dua](#)
4. [Second Example from the Sixth Part of our Holy Dua](#)
5. [The Combination of 'Noore Karim' with Tasbis Derived from 99 Beautiful Names of Allah](#)
6. [Links](#)

The fifth ayat of Surah Fatiha is '[Iyyaaka Na'budu wa Iyyaaka Nasta'een](#)' which means 'Thee alone we worship and Thee alone we seek for help'. In this article, let us explore concept of seeking for help which is described in the second half of the above-mentioned ayat.

Part 1: From Whom Should We Seek Help? (Exoteric Answer)

I found a great answer to this question from the book titled 'Spiritual Quest—Reflections on Qur'anic Prayer According to the Teachings of Imam 'Ali' by Reza Shah-Kazemi, Occasional Papers 3, IIS, London (2011):

"From Thee alone we seek help." Does this part of the verse imply that the seeking of help from the Prophets, the Imams and the saints is a form of *shirk*, an 'association' of other beings with the divinity, from whom, alone, all help is to be sought? Not at all. Again, there is an exoteric and an esoteric way of responding to this question. Exoterically, one need only refer to the words of the verse 4:64 to see that God not only permits but encourages the believers to seek the Prophet's prayers of forgiveness for them:

'...If only, when they has wronged themselves, they had come to thee, and pleaded for forgiveness from God, and had the Messenger pleaded for forgiveness on their behalf, they would indeed have found God to be clement and merciful.' (Holy Qur'an 4:64)

God responds mercifully not only to our own prayers of forgiveness, but also to those of the Prophet on our behalf; therefore seeking the Prophet's 'help' is not an infringement of the principle of seeking 'help' from God alone, but is rather an aspect or specific application of this very principle. This is because God Himself has established various means by which He is to be approached, given His utter transcendence: 'seek unto Him a means of recourse (**wasila**)' (5:35). The Qur'an itself, together with all previous Revelations, the Prophet Muhammad, together with all previous Prophets, the Imams and the saints of Islam and indeed all religions—these are so many 'means' by which God can be approached, if the intention is indeed to resort to the means for the sake of the end, rather than be idolatrously fixated on the means as an end in itself. Then the prerogatives of **tawhid** are satisfied and one's seeking the help from these means is fully justified. The famous 'Throne Verse' (*ayat al-kursi*) establishes the legitimacy on **intercession**—both as regards to this world and the next:

'God—there is no God save Him, the Alive, the Eternal. Neither slumber nor sleep overtaketh Him. Unto Him belongeth whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth. Who is he that intercedeth with Him save by His leave? He knoweth that which is in front of them and that which is behind them, while they encompass nothing of His knowledge save what He will. His Throne encompasseth the heavens and the earth, and He is never weary of preserving them. He is the Sublime and the Tremendous' (Holy Qur'an 2:255)." (pp.33-34)

Part 2: From Whom Should We Seek Help? (Esoteric Answer)

The esoteric answer is also presented by Reza Shah-Kazemi as follows:

"Esoterically, while the above reasoning will be confirmed, it will be reinforced by a perspective stemming from the vision of **tawhid** which is an ontological (*wujudi*) and not only theological (*uluhi*). From this ontological point of view, as noted above, at verses 1-3 of the *Fatiha*, there is nothing in being but God; what appears as 'other than God' is a *mazhar*, a locus of manifestation of God and nothing else. When assistance is sought from the Prophets, the Imams and the saints, one is seeking assistance from them as so many manifestations of God, so many *mazahir*, or loci, of the *zuhur* (manifestations) of *al-Zahir*, the Outwardly Manifest. Therefore, the means as well as the end is divine: it is not a question of seeking human means for the sake of attaining a divine need, for one sees through a human form to the divine substance of the *mazhar*. This is the radical mode of *tawhid*, a more penetrating application of the principle: *from Thee alone we seek help*. It also manifests metaphysical fidelity to the principle of divine ubiquity: 'Wherever ye turn, there is the Face of God' (2:115). It is this Face which is sought, both as regards to the means and the end, when one seeks any kind of help from any kind of being: 'Every single good thing (*ni'ma*) you have is [a grace] from God (16:53)." (p.34)

Part 3: Example from the Fourth Part of Our Holy Dua

Let us look at the transliteration and translation of the second paragraph of fourth part of our Holy Dua from the Holy Dua book published by ITREB, Canada:

(Raising hands in invocation)

Allahum-maghfir lana zunoobana, werzuqna, werhamna, bi haqqi rusulikal muqar-rabeen wa a'immatikal mutah-hareen, wa bi haqqi Mawlana wa Imamina Shah Karimil Hussaini

(In prostration)

Allahumma Laka Sujoodi wa Ta-'ati

Translation:

(Raising hands in invocation)

O Allah, forgive us our sins, and give us our bread, and have mercy upon us, in the name of Your closest Messengers, and Your Holy Imams and in the name of our Lord and our Imam, Shah Karim Al-Hussaini.

(In prostration)

O Allah to You is my prostration and obedience

It is possible to recite a simple supplication and go into prostration by just saying:

'Allahum-maghfir lana zunoobana, werzuqna, werhamna, Allahumma Laka Sujoodi wa Ta-'ati' which would mean **'O Allah, forgive us our sins, and give us our bread, and have mercy upon us. O Allah to You is my prostration and obedience'**. This is perfectly acceptable but we would be asking everything based **only** on our strength of supplication.

However, when we recite the supplication and invoke in the names of Allah's closest Messengers and Allah's Holy Imams and the name of our Lord and our Imam, Shah Karim Al-Hussaini, the strength of our supplication increases tremendously. Here we are applying the principle of divine ubiquity: **'Wherever ye turn, there is the Face of God' (2:115)** as described by Reza Shah-Kazemi in section 2 of this article. These Holy personalities were the bearers of Light (Noor) and are the channels through which the Divine Light (Noor) flows.

Since the Light (Noor) of Allah, the Holy Prophets, the Holy Imams and Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam is just one Light, we are seeking everything from Allah with the immense help of the Holy Prophets, Holy Imams and the present Imam, Noor Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini Hazar Imam. Thus, the prayer in the fourth part of the Holy Dua is unique because it also calls upon the Light of Prophets and the Light of Imamate from the time of Noor Mowlana Murtaza Ali (a.s.) to Noor Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini (a.s.), the present and living Imam.

In the above context, let us read an excerpt from Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam's address to both Houses of the Parliament of Canada in the House of Commons Chamber, Ottawa on 27 February 2014, in which he articulated the Ismaili Imamate and his position as follows:

"The Ismaili Imamate is a supra-national entity, representing the succession of Imams since the time of the Prophet. But let me clarify something more about the history of that role, in both the Sunni and Shia interpretations of the Muslim faith. The Sunni position is that the Prophet nominated no successor, and that spiritual-moral authority belongs to those who are learned in matters of religious law. As a result, there are many Sunni imams in a given time and place. But others believed that the Prophet had designated his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, as his successor. From that early division, a host of further distinctions grew up — but the question of rightful leadership remains central. In time, the Shia were also subdivided over this question, so that today the Ismailis are the **only** Shia community who, throughout history, have been led by a **living**, hereditary Imam in direct descent from the Prophet." Source: [Speech of His Highness The Aga Khan](#)

Part 4: Second Example from the Sixth Part of our Holy Dua

In the sixth part of Holy Dua, we first recite Surah Ikhlas and supplicate to Allah in the name of Panj Tan Pak, the 48 Holy Imams and the 49th present living Imam. The key supplication is 'O Allah, have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins. Verily, You are Omnipotent. And All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds'.

The text and translation of the sixth part after the recitation of Surah Ikhlas is as follow:

Allahumma Bi Haqqi	O Allah, in the name of
Muhammadinil-Mustafa	Muhammad - the Chosen
wa 'Aliyyinil-Murtaza	and Aly - the Favorite
wa Fatimataz-Zahra	and Fatima - the Radiant
wal Hasani wal Husayn	and (Hazrat) Hasan, and (Imam) Husayn

Allahumma Bi Haqqi	O Allah, in the name of
01 Mawlana 'Aly	25 Mawlana Jalaliddeen Hasan
02 Mawlana Husayn	26 Mawlana 'Alaiddeen Muhammad
03 Mawlana Zainil 'Abideen	27 Mawlana Rukniddeen Khairi Shah
04 Mawlana Muhammadinil Baqir	28 Mawlana Shamsiddeen Muhammad
05 Mawlana Ja'farinis Sadiq	29 Mawlana Qasim Shah
06 Mawlana Isma'il	30 Mawlana Islam Shah
07 Mawlana Muhammad-Ibni Isma'il	31 Mawlana Muhammad-bini Islam Shah
08 Mawlana Wafi Ahmad	32 Mawlana Mustansiribillah
09 Mawlana Taqi Muhammad	33 Mawlana 'Abdis-Salaam
10 Mawlana Raziyyiddeen 'Abdillah	34 Mawlana Ghareeb Meerza
11 Mawlana Muhammadinil Mahdi	35 Mawlana Abizzar 'Aly
12 Mawlana Qaim	36 Mawlana Murad Meerza
13 Mawlana Mansoor	37 Mawlana Zilfiqar 'Aly
14 Mawlana Mu'izz	38 Mawlana Nooriddeen 'Aly
15 Mawlana 'Aziz	39 Mawlana Khalilillahi 'Aly
16 Mawlana Hakim Bi Amrillah	40 Mawlana Nizar
17 Mawlana Zahir	41 Mawlana Sayyid 'Aly
18 Mawlana Mustansiribillah	42 Mawlana Hasan 'Aly
19 Mawlana Nizar	43 Mawlana Qasim 'Aly
20 Mawlana Hadi	44 Mawlana Abyl-Hasan 'Aly
21 Mawlana Muhtadi	45 Mawlana Khalilillahi 'Aly
22 Mawlana Qahir	46 Mawlana Shah Hasan 'Aly
23 Mawlana 'Ala-Zikrihis-Salaam	47 Mawlana 'Aly Shah
24 Mawlana A'Ala-Muhammad	48 Mawlana Sultan Muhammad Shah

<i>(Raising hands in invocation)</i>	
Wa Bi Haqqi	And in the name of
Mawlana wa Imamina, Hazril Maujood	Our Lord and our present living Imam
Shah Karimil Hussaini	Shah Karim al-Hussaini
Rhamna waghfir lana	have mercy upon us and forgive us (our sins)
In-naka 'ala kulli shai'in Qadir	Verily, You are the Omnipotent
wal-hamdu lillahi Rabbil 'aalmeen	And all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds
<i>(while joining hands)</i>	
"Shah-Jo-Didar"	"May you be blessed with the Holy Didar of our Lord."
<i>(In prostration)</i>	
Allahumma Laka Sujoodi wa Ta-'ati	O Allah to You is my prostration and obedience

From the above, it is clear that we are specifically taking the names of Panj Tan Pak, the 48 Holy Imams and the 49th present and living Imam for harnessing help and seeking barakat of Allah through the channel of Light of the Panj Tan Pak and the Light of Imam. Thus, the prayer in the sixth part of the Holy Dua is also unique because it also calls upon the Light of Panj Tan Pak and the Light of Imam from the time of Noor Mowlana Murtaza Ali (a.s.) to Noor Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini (a.s.), the present and living Imam. We are indeed blessed to say this prayer!

Part 5: The Combination of 'Noore Karim' with Tasbis Derived from 99 Beautiful Names of Allah

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s.) has encouraged all Muslims to recite 99 Beautiful Names of Allah. Each Divine name has its own luminosity, power, blessing and tayid (spiritual help) for believers. The names can also be recited as tasbis, e.g., a Beautiful Name such as 'Al-Malik' can be recited as 'Ya Malik' in a tasbi form.

Earlier in this article, we learned that God Himself has established various means by which He is to be approached, as described in the following ayat: 'seek unto Him a means of recourse (***wasila***)' (5:35). In the Ismaili Tariqah, the centrality of the present and living Imam is of paramount importance. The role of the present and living Imam is defined in article F of the Preamble of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslim constitution as follows:

Historically and in accordance with Ismaili tradition, the Imam of the time is concerned with spiritual advancement as well as the improvement of the quality of life of his murids. The Imam's Ta'lim lights the murid's path to spiritual enlightenment and vision. In temporal matters, the Imam guides the murids, and motivates them to develop their potential.

In the firman made on December 13, 1964 in Karachi, Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam said that 'his Noor has indicated to you where and in which direction you must turn, so as to obtain spiritual and material satisfaction'. I have taken this firman to my heart and am now doing dhikrs which call on the Noor directly because in my heart, [Noor Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini \(a.s.\)](#) is the pillar of Light and is represented by the words 'Noore Karim' in the dhikrs. I firmly hold on to this luminous pillar in my dhikr of selected tasbis from the 99 Beautiful Names as shown in the table below. Laylat al-Qadr Mubarak!

Download [Noore Karim plus 21 Tasbis sound track](#) in mp3 format (4.44 minutes; 6.52 MB)

No.	Tasbis	No.*	Meaning of the Beautiful Name
01	Noore Karim, Ya Ghafuur	34	The Great Forgiver
02	Noore Karim, Ya Ghaffar	14	The Great Forgiver
03	Noore Karim, Ya 'Afuw	82	The Supreme Pardoner
04	Noore Karim, Ya Tawwab	80	The Ever-Acceptor of Repentance
05	Noore Karim, Ya Rahmaan	01	The Beneficent
06	Noore Karim, Ya Rahim	02	The Merciful
07	Noore Karim, Ya Salaam	05	The Embodiment of Peace
08	Noore Karim, Ya Sabuur	99	The Extensively Enduring One
09	Noore Karim, Ya Ash-Shakur	33	The Acknowledging One
10	Noore Karim, Ya Wadud	35	The Loving One
11	Noore Karim, Ya Ahad	67	The Sole One
12	Noore Karim, Ya Samad	68	The Supreme Provider
13	Noore Karim, Ya Ghani	88	The Self Sufficient One
14	Noore Karim, Ya Mughni	89	The Bestower of Sufficiency
15	Noore Karim, Ya Razzaq	17	The Total Provider
16	Noore Karim, Ya Wahaab	16	The Supreme Bestower
17	Noore Karim, Ya Ali	41	The Sublime One
18	Noore Karim, Ya Rabb	**	Lord, Sustainer, Cherisher, Nourisher
19	Noore Karim, Ya Khaaliq	11	The Creator
20	Noore Karim, Ya Baari	12	The Evolver
21	Noore Karim, Ya Musawwir	13	The Flawless Shaper

*According to the list of 99 Divine Names

**Rabb is not one of the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah, but is used extensively in Dhikrs

I would like to present a brief explanation which led to the selection of above tasbis. The first four tasbis (**Ya Ghafuur, Ya Ghaffar, Ya 'Afuw and Ya Tawwab**) are for forgiveness of sins. The next two (**Ya Rahman, Ya Rahim**) are for seeking mercy. These appear in the beginning because the themes for forgiveness and mercy are encountered in numerous places in the Holy Qur'an.

The **Ya Salaam, Ya Sabuur, and Ya Ash-Shakur** tasbis are for developing positive traits which are extremely important in our personal search for higher spiritual enlightenment. These traits also generate humility, devotion and stamina.

The **Ya Wadud** tasbi (number 10) is used to call up the Beloved. In the initial stages of path of love, there is a lover, the Beloved and the path, i.e., there is duality. However, when Beloved engulfs and absorbs the lover, then the lover, the Beloved and the Path become a single entity. Our goal is to grow into unity through the immense love of the Beloved. Our Holy Imam has told us that he loves all of us more than we can ever love him, therefore it is important to increase our love for his Noor.

The **Ya Ahad** tasbi (number 11) shows that Allah is above all else because He is Unique. Thus, this tasbi emphasizes the cardinal principle of Tawhid in Islam.

The **Ya Samad** tasbi (number 12) reminds us that Allah is absolute and the Supreme Provider. The whole creation looks to Allah for support. The **Ya Ghani** tasbi (number 13) is related to **Ya Samad** tasbi. Allah is the Self Sufficient One. The **Ya Mughni** tasbi (number 14) is used to ask for material and spiritual sufficiency because Allah is the Bestower of Sufficiency. The **Ya Razzaq** tasbi (number 15) is for asking for material and spiritual sustenance. The **Ya Wahaab** tasbi (number 16) generates blessings which are bestowed even without asking for them. The **Ya Ali** tasbi (number 17) is for invoking the Sublime or the Most High. The **Ya Wahaab** and the **Ya Ali** tasbis are part of four tasbis which are recited every morning after the recitation of the morning Dua.

The **Ya Rabb** tasbi (number 18) is not one of the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah, but is used extensively in dhikrs because it calls upon the Lord which is the Sustainer, Cherisher, and Nourisher of everything.

The path of spiritual progress and development involves: (1) the creation of human beings; (2) the evolution of human beings through the faith, knowledge, ibadat, and good deeds; and (3) re-creation of human beings into perfect beings. These three functions of Allah are represented by the **Ya Khaaliq**, the **Ya Baari** and the **Ya Musawwir** tasbis (Numbers 19, 20, and 21).

Part 6: Links:

1. [Download](#) to the PDF version of Candle Posting 129 :: Insights into 'From Thee alone we seek help' ::
2. Download [Noore Karim plus 21 Tasbis sound track](#) in mp3 format (4.44 minutes; 6.52 MB)
3. [Download](#) to the PDF version of Candle Posting 127 :: What is unique about the Ismaili Imamat? ::
4. [Welcoming Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam to our Spiritual Houses](#)
5. [Higher Spiritual Enlightenment Indicators](#)
6. [Resources for Holy Ramadan, Lail-tul Qadr & Idd-ul Fitr](#)
7. [Haqqiqati Fasting and the True Spirit of Fasting](#) ::
Teachings of Imam NOOR Mowlana Shah Mustansir bi'l-laah II (a.s.) &
NOOR Mowlana Shah Sultan Muhammad Shah (a.s.)
8. [True and Sincere Repentance :: Teaching of NOOR Mowlana Murtaza Ali \(a.s.\)](#)
9. [MP3 and Real Streaming Audio Files on Audio.SalmanSpiritual.com](#)

Ardent Supplications:

Ya Ali, Ya NOOR Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini Hazar Imam, create Sunshine in our hearts, light in our foreheads, and bless us all with the inner vision of the Truth!

Ya Ali, Ya NOOR Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini Hazar Imam, grant the global Jamat luminous (noorani) and spiritual (ruhani) tayid (help) to advance materially, spiritually and intellectually. Ameen.

Haizinda — Qayampaya
(Our Present Imam is Living and His NOOR is Eternal)

Archives: [Candle Posting Index Vol. 1](#), [Candle Posting Index Vol. 2](#),
[Candle Posting Index Vol. 3](#), [Candle Posting Index Vol. 4](#)

Postings: [1-10](#), [11-20](#), [21-30](#), [31-40](#), [41-50](#), [51-60](#), [61-70](#), [71-80](#),
[81-90](#), [91-100](#), [101-110](#), [111-120](#), [121-130](#)

Rakh Mowla je Noor te Yaqeen (Certainly, we trust in Mowla's Light only),
Noorallah Juma (noor-allah@salmanspiritual.com)

SalmanSpiritual.com

Wednesday, July 8, 2015