

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

DUA ISTIKHARA

صلاة الاستخارة

The Prayer of Seeking Allah's Guidance

Salatul Istikhara is one of the most beautiful gifts of Islam — a direct channel to Allah's infinite wisdom. When we are uncertain, confused, or standing at a crossroads, Allah has given us the means to seek His guidance through prayer and supplication. This blessed dua, taught by the Prophet Muhammad , is a means of complete submission, trust, and love for our Creator.

"The Messenger of Allah used to teach us Istikhara in all matters just as he would teach us a Surah from the Quran."

— Sahih Al-Bukhari · Narrated by Jabir ibn Abdullah (R.A.)

اللهم إني أستخيرك بعلمك
وأستقدرك بقدرتك
وأسألك من فضلك العظيم
فإنك تقدر ولا أقدر وتعلم ولا أعلم
وأنت علام الغيوب
اللهم إن كنت تعلم أن هذا الأمر
خير لي في ديني ومعاشي وعاقبة أمري
فاقدره لي ويسره لي ثم بارك لي فيه
وإن كنت تعلم أن هذا الأمر
شر لي في ديني ومعاشي وعاقبة أمري
فاصرفه عني واصرفني عنه
واقدر لي الخير حيث كان
ثم أرضني به

TRANSLITERATION —

*Allāhumma innī astakhīruka bi-'ilmika,
wa astaqdiruka bi-qudratika,
wa as'aluka min faḍlikal-'aẓīm.
Fa-innaka taqdiru walā aqdiru,
wa ta'lamu walā a'lamu,
wa Anta 'allāmul-ghuyūb.*

*Allāhumma in kunta ta'lamu anna hādhal-amra
khayrun lī fī dīnī wa ma'āshī wa 'āqibati amrī,
faqdurhu lī wa yassirhu lī thumma bārik lī fih.*

*Wa in kunta ta'lamu anna hādhal-amra
sharrun lī fī dīnī wa ma'āshī wa 'āqibati amrī,
fasrifhu 'annī wasrifnī 'anhu,
waqdur liyal-khayra ḥaythu kāna
thumma arḍinī bih.*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Part 1 — Seeking Allah's Guidance

"O Allah, I seek Your guidance [in my decision] through Your knowledge, and I seek ability through Your power, and I ask You of Your great bounty. Verily You are capable while I am not, and You know while I do not, and You are the Knower of all that is hidden.

Part 2 — If This Matter is Good

O Allah, if You know this matter to be good for me in relation to my religion, my life and my end, then decree it for me, make it easy for me, and then bless me in it.

Part 3 — If This Matter is Not Good

And if You know this matter to be ill for me in relation to my religion, my life and my end, then distance it from me and distance me from it, and decree for me what is good wherever it may be, and make me content with it."



HOW TO PERFORM —

1

Purify Yourself

Make fresh Wudu (ablution) with the intention of purity. Ensure your prayer space is clean and you are facing the Qiblah.

2

Pray 2 Rak'ahs of Voluntary Prayer

Perform two units (Rak'ahs) of Nafil (voluntary) Salah. In the first Rak'ah, recite Surah Al-Kafirun (after Al-Fatihah). In the second Rak'ah, recite Surah Al-Ikhlās.

3

Send Salawat upon the Prophet

After completing the Tasleem (Salam), send blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad before beginning the dua.

4

Raise Your Hands & Recite the Dua

Raise your hands humbly and recite Dua Istikhara with full presence of heart. When you reach 'this matter' (hādhal-amr), bring the specific decision to mind sincerely.

5

Move Forward with Tawakkul

After making Istikhara, proceed with your decision in whichever direction your heart feels ease. Trust in Allah's plan completely. You do not need to wait for a dream — the answer comes through circumstances, feelings, and Allah's divine arrangement.

6

Repeat If Needed

If you feel no clarity, you may repeat Istikhara on consecutive days, up to 7 times as mentioned by Imam An-Nawawi and other scholars.

IMPORTANT NOTES & COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

No Dream Required

Many people believe a special dream is necessary after Istikhara. This is incorrect. The answer comes through Allah's arrangement of circumstances, a feeling of ease or difficulty, or sometimes a dream — but none of these are obligatory signs.

Permissible Matters Only

Istikhara is performed for matters that are halal (permissible). There is no Istikhara for choosing between halal and haram, as haram is always forbidden.

Combine with Istishara

The Prophet encouraged both Istikhara (seeking Allah's guidance) and Istishara (seeking counsel from wise and knowledgeable people). Both are Sunnah.

Heart Feeling of Ease

Scholars explain that after Istikhara, if your heart feels inclined toward the matter with a sense of peace and expansion, this is a sign to proceed. Unease or constriction of the heart may indicate otherwise.

Any Voluntary Prayer is Valid

According to the majority of scholars, the 2 Rak'ahs of Istikhara can be any voluntary prayer — you do not need a separate special prayer beyond a regular Nafil Salah.

Obligatory Prayers First

The Nafil prayer for Istikhara should not be performed at forbidden times (e.g., at sunrise, directly at midday, at sunset). Pray at appropriate times.



WHEN SHOULD YOU PERFORM ISTIKHARA?

Considering marriage to a potential spouse

Choosing between two or more job opportunities

Making a significant business or financial decision

Deciding whether to travel or relocate

Selecting an educational path or institution

Any important life decision where you are uncertain



May Allah grant you barakah in every decision, clarity in every matter, and always guide you to that which is best for your deen, dunya, and akhirah.

آمين يا رب العالمين

Ameen, O Lord of all the worlds.

This guide is compiled for educational purposes based on authentic Islamic scholarship. · Based on Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No.

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