



**LANTURNA**

## **SEEK AND YOU SHALL BE FOUND**

A word-by-word analysis of:

the prayer seeking absolution

*sayyid al-istighfār* سيد الاستغفار

the prayer seeking goodness

*du‘ā’ al-istikhārah* دعاء الاستخارة

the prayer seeking succour

*du‘ā’ al-tā’if* دعاء الطائف

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With the name of Allah, compassionate in essence, compassionate in decree...

Allah says اذْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً “Call upon your Lord, broken, whispering” (*al-a‘rāf* 7:55). Our beloved Prophet ﷺ was made to endure arduous circumstances to evoke timeless prayers that would abide with his *ummah* until the Day we drink from his noble hand. The following are three prayers of the Prophet ﷺ, bequeathed to the *ummah* as articulations of the heart should its circumstance be disorienting:

- I. سيد الاستغفار *sayyid al-istighfār* (the prayer for absolution);
- II. دعاء الاستخارة *du‘ā’ al-istikhārah* (the prayer for goodness);
- III. and دعاء الطائف *du‘ā’ al-ṭā’if* (the prayer for succour),

three orisons to deliver us from disfavor, disarray, and disadvantage, respectively. The Prophet ﷺ once said, “*Du‘ā’* is the essence of worship.” “Prayer” derives from the root دعو (*d ‘ w*) which, through metathesis, is a cognate of وعد (*w ‘ d*) or, “promise.” Behind every *prayer* is Allah’s *promise* that it is already answered. Yes, the fact that Allah inspired the *prayer* is His very *promise* to grant it.

Seek and you shall be found.

## The Prayer for Absolution سيد الاستغفار (sayyid al-istighfār)

Whoever utters it after nightfall and happens to die that night shall enter Heaven, and whoever utters it after daybreak and happens to die that day shall enter Heaven.

—related by al-Bukhārī from Shaddād b. Aws

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ  
أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ أَبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ وَأَبُوءُ لَكَ بِذُنُوبِي فَاعْفِرْ لِي فَإِنَّهُ لَا  
يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ عَنْ شَدَادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ

Allah! You are my Lord. No god has the right of worship except You. You created me, and I am in Your thrall, and I am utmost upon my covenant and pledge. I seek sanctum with You from the evil that I wreak. I return unto You by Your grace upon me; I return to you with my sin. Then forgive me, for no one forgives sins except You!

*allāhumma anta rabbi lā ilāha illā anta khalaqtanī wa anā ‘abduka wa anā ‘alā  
‘ahdika wa wa’dika ma·s taṭa’t · a’ūdhu bika min sharri mā ṣana’t · abū’u laka  
bi ni‘matika ‘alayya wa abū’u laka bi dhanbī fa·ghfir lī fa innahu lā yaghfiru  
dh·dhunūba illā ant*

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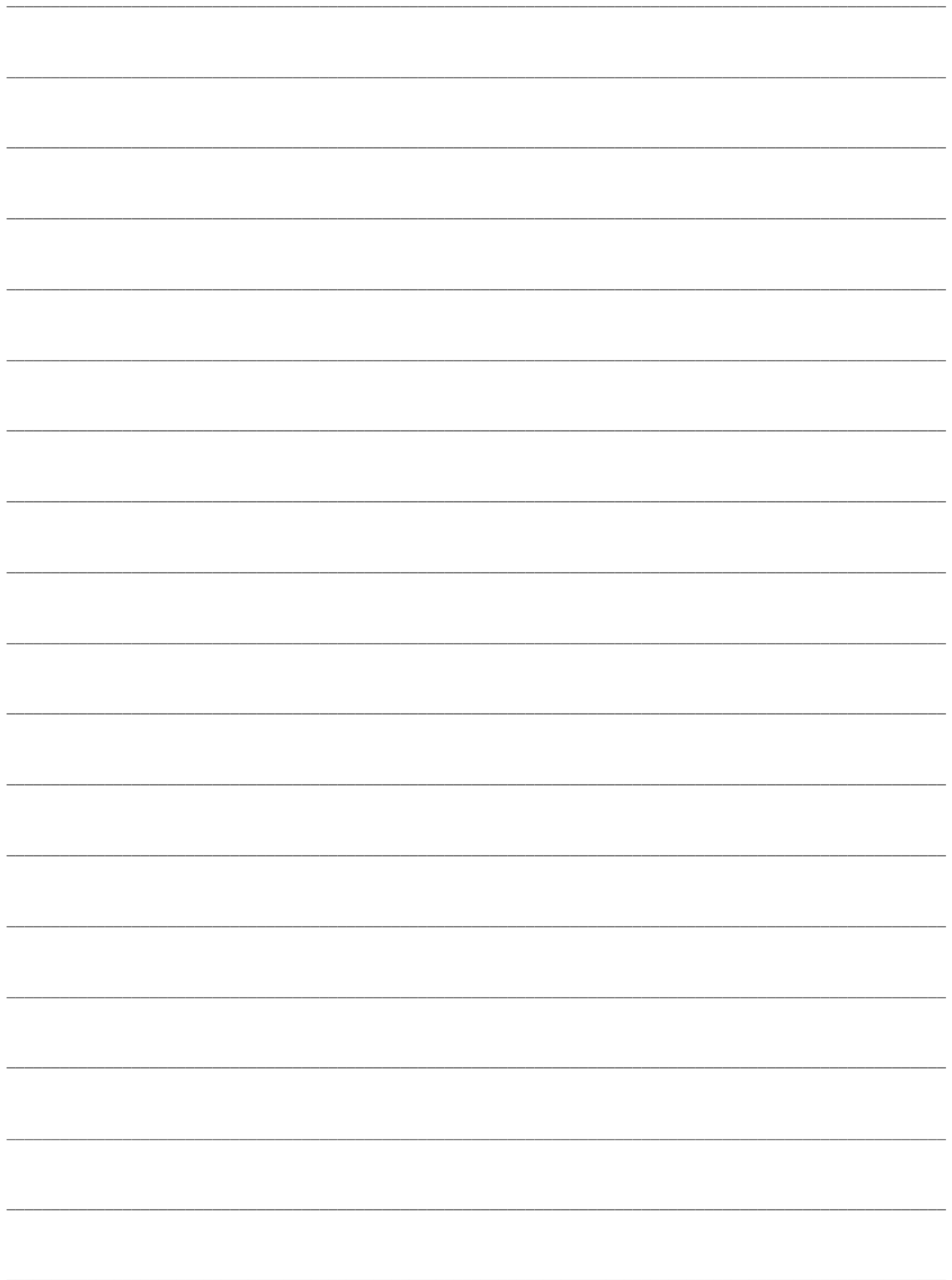
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## The Prayer for Goodness *دعاء الاستخارة (du‘ā’ al-istikhārah)*

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to teach his companions the prayer for goodness in all affairs, just as he would teach them a chapter from the Qur’an.

—related by al-Bukhārī from Jābir b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Sulamī

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ (\_\_\_\_\_) خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَاقْضُ لَهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ (\_\_\_\_\_) شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ وَاقْدِرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ رَضِّنِي بِهِ رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ عَنْ جَابِرٍ

Allah! I seek the best course through Your knowledge, I seek means through Your power, I ask of Your immense bounty—for You are possessed of power while I am powerless; You are possessed of knowledge while I know not, and You know all in the unseen. Allah! If You have known that... is better for me regarding my religion, my living, and the consequences of my affair, then decree it for me, facilitate it for me, then bless me in it. And if You have known that... is worse for me regarding my religion, my living, and the consequences of my affair, then avert it from me, avert me from it, and decree goodness for me wherever it may be, and give me contentment therewith.

*allāhumma innī astakhīruka bi ‘ilmika wa astaqdiruka bi qudratika wa as’aluka min faḍlika l-‘azīm · fa innaka taqdiru wa lā aqdiru wa ta‘lamu wa lā a‘lamu wa anta ‘allāmu l-ghuyūb · allāhumma in kunta ta‘lamu anna (\_\_\_\_\_) khayrun lī fī dīnī wa ma‘āshī wa ‘āqibati amrī fa·qdurhu lī wa yassirhu lī thumma bārik lī fīh · wa in kunta ta‘lamu anna (\_\_\_\_\_) sharrun lī fī dīnī wa ma‘āshī wa ‘āqibati amrī fa·ṣrifhu ‘annī wa·ṣrifnī ‘anhu wa·qdur lī l-khayra ḥaythu kāna thumma raḍḍinī bih*

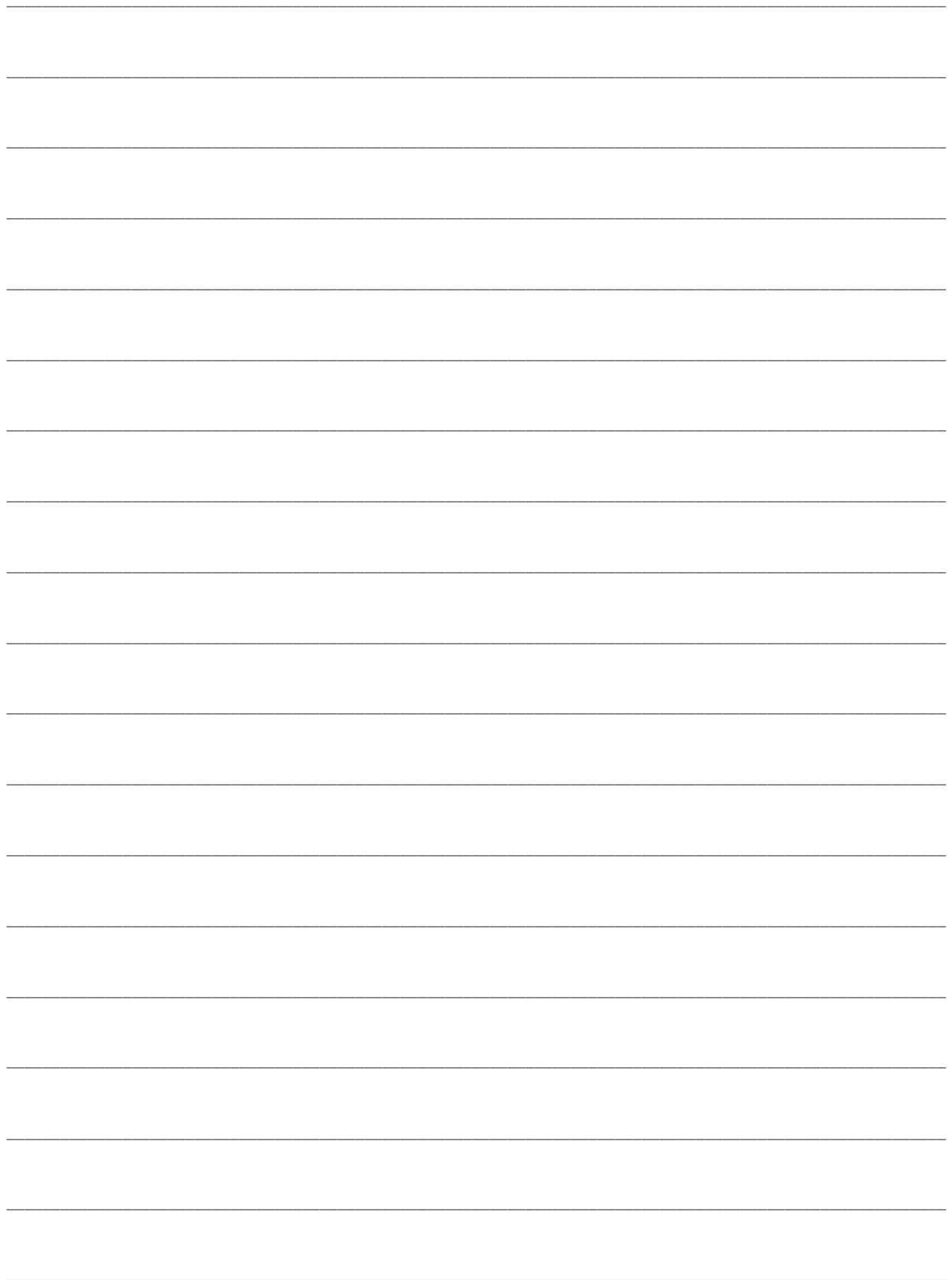
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## The Prayer for Succour *دعاء الطائف (du‘ā’ al-ṭā’if)*

The most severe trial that I ever faced from them was the day...wherein I offered myself to Ibn ‘Abd Yālīl b. Kulāl, and he obliged not as I had wished, so I betook myself crestfallen....”

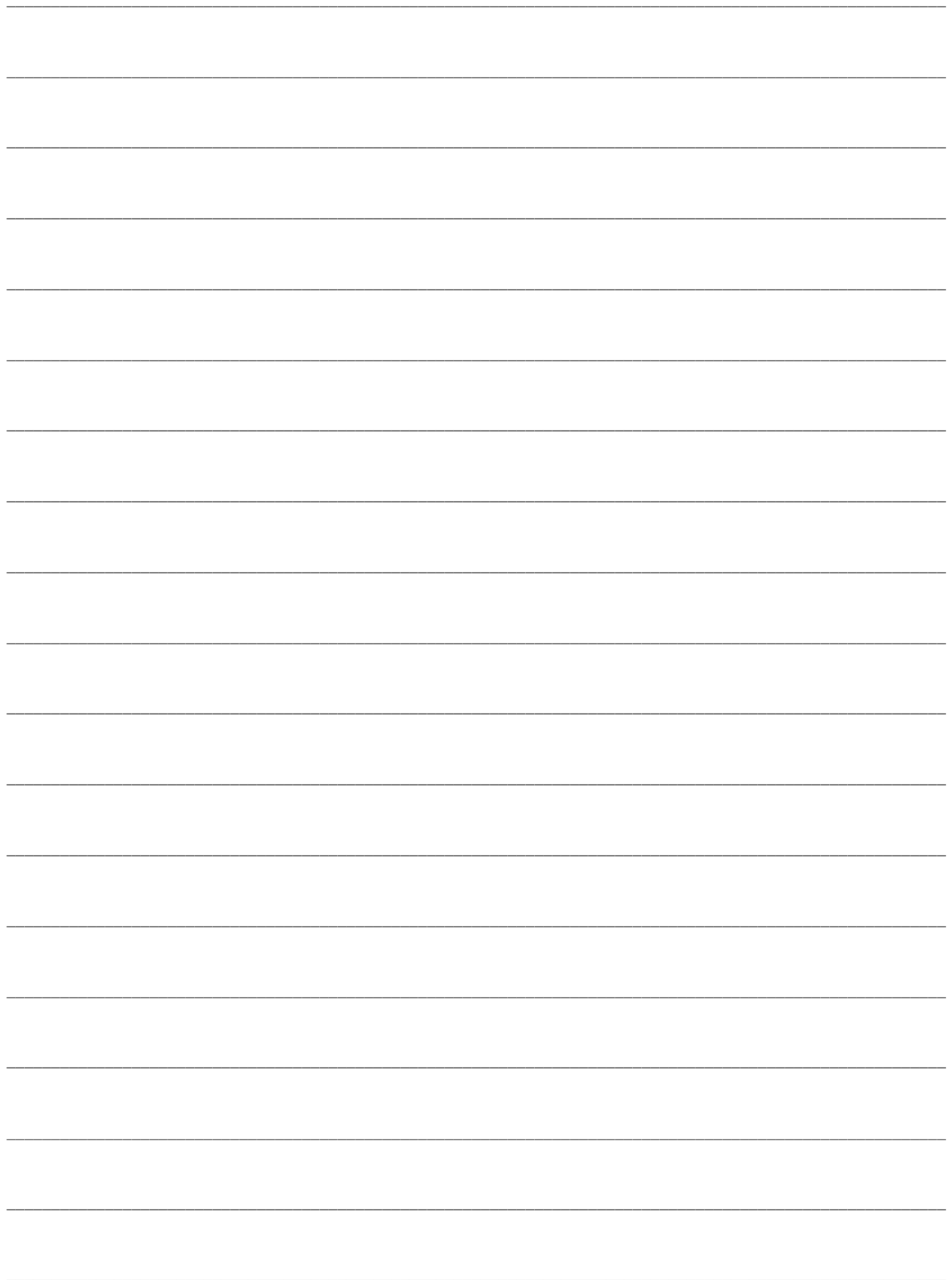
—related by al-Bukhārī and Muslim from ‘Ā’ishah

اللَّهُمَّ إِلَيْكَ أَشْكُو ضَعْفَ قُوَّتِي وَقِلَّةَ حِيلَتِي وَهَوَانِي عَلَى النَّاسِ • يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ أَنْتَ  
رَبُّ الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ وَأَنْتَ رَبِّي • إِلَى مَنْ تَكَلَّنِي إِلَى بَعِيدٍ يَتَجَهَّمُنِي أَمْ إِلَى عَدُوٍّ مَلَكَتَهُ  
أَمْرِي • إِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ بِكَ عَلَيَّ غَضَبٌ فَلَا أُبَالِي غَيْرَ أَنَّ عَافِيَتَكَ هِيَ أَوْسَعُ لِي • أَعُوذُ بِنُورٍ  
وَجْهِكَ الَّذِي أَشْرَقَتْ لَهُ الظُّلُمَاتُ وَصَلَحَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ أَنْ يَحِلَّ عَلَيَّ غَضَبُكَ  
أَوْ أَنْ يَنْزِلَ بِي سَخَطُكَ • لَكَ الْعُتْبَى حَتَّى تَرْضَى وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِكَ

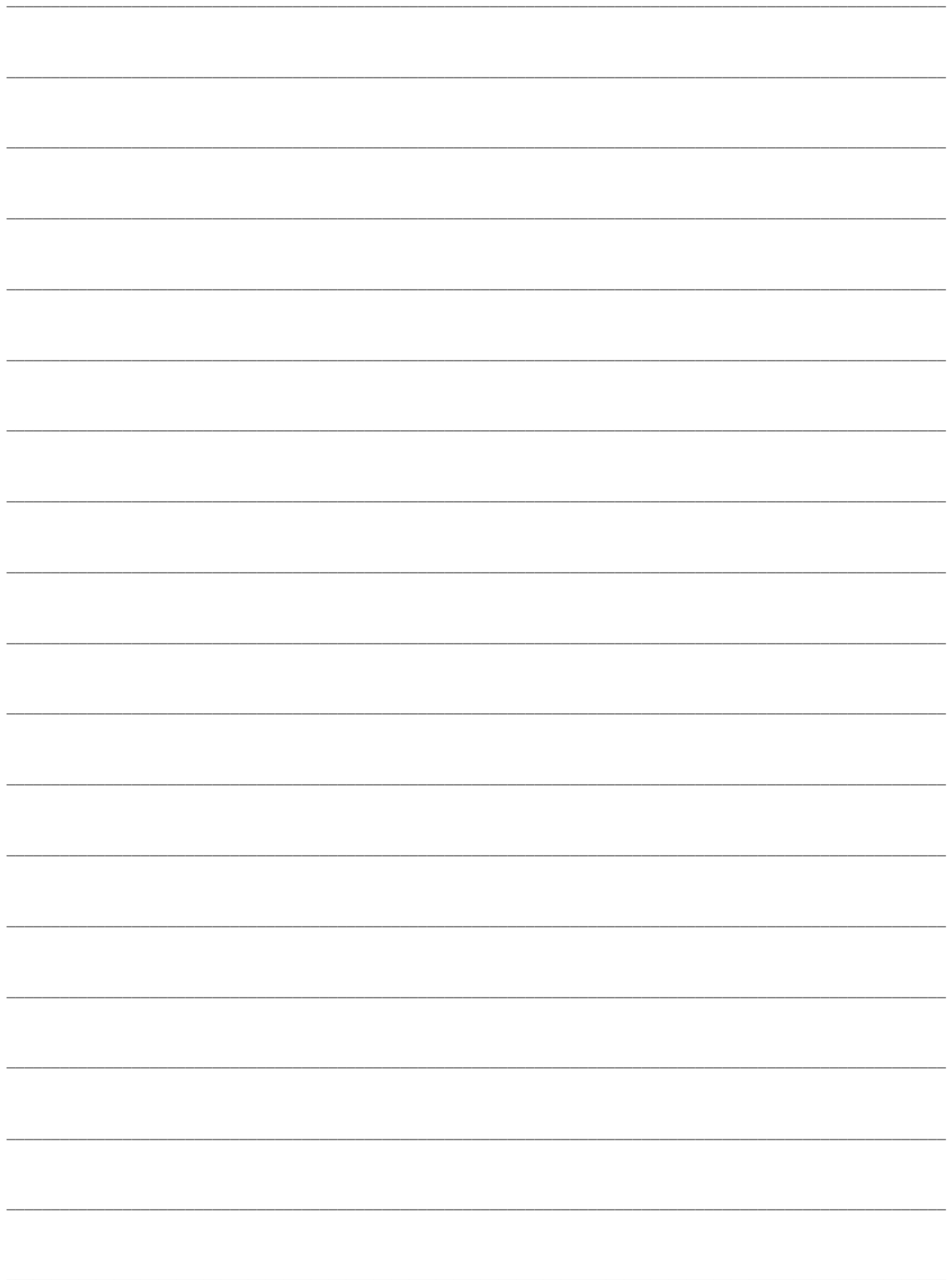
رواه الطبراني عن عبد الله بن جعفر رضي الله عنه

Allah! I complain to You my lack of strength, my scarcity of means, and my insignificance in the eyes of others. Most compassionate Lord of all who show compassion! You are the Lord of the meek, You are my Lord. To whom shall You entrust me: to some distant person who glowers at me, or to some enemy to whom You shall confer authority over my affair? So long as You are not displeased with me, nothing concerns me, though Your relief is easier for me. I seek refuge in the light of Your countenance—by which every crevice of darkness is illumined, and by which the affair of this life and the hereafter is made whole—that Your wrath reach me not, that Your displeasure descend not upon me! I confess unto You my shortcoming until You are content. There is no strength or power except by You!

*allāhumma ilayka ashkū ḍa‘fa quwwatī wa qillata ḥīlatī wa hawānī ‘alā n-nās;  
yā arḥama r-rāḥimīna anta rabbu l-mustaḍ‘afīna wa anta rabbī; ilā man  
takilunī ilā ba‘īdin yatajahhamunī am ilā ‘aduwwin mallaktahu amrī; in lam  
yakun bika ‘alayya ghaḍabun falā ubālī ghayra anna ‘āfiyataka hiya awsa‘u lī;  
a‘ūdhu bi nūri wajhika l-ladhī ashraqat lahu z-ẓulumātu wa ṣaluḥa ‘alayhi amru  
d-dunyā wa l-ākhirah an yaḥilla ‘alayya ghaḍabuka aw an yanzila bī sakhaṭuk;  
laka l-‘utbā ḥattā tarḍā wa lā ḥawla wa lā quwwata illā bik.*







[illegible]