

Activity 2.8b: Analyze a Supplication (Du‘ā’) from *Aṣ-Ṣaḥīfah as-Sajjādiyyah*

Sayyid Husayn M. Ja‘farī, a translator of *Aṣ-Ṣaḥīfah as-Sajjādiyyah*, answers the question: “Why does Imām as-Sajjād ؑ pray for forgiveness of sins when he is inerrant (free from committing any sins)?”

He writes that:

The original Arabic words استغفار and توبة (istighfār and tawbah) can be translated as ‘seeking forgiveness’ and ‘repentance,’ but they convey meanings far broader than the English terms, both of which are connected with a sentimental and moralistic sense of guilt.

When the Prophet ﷺ or Imām Zaynul ‘Ābidīn ؑ ask Allah ﷻ for forgiveness, they are perfectly sincere in this request, but it does not imply that they have any sins, rather they are asking forgiveness for not being able to truly thank Allah ﷻ how He deserves.⁷

With the lens above, examine the Whispered Prayer (*Munājāt*) #1 toward the end of *Aṣ-Ṣaḥīfah as-Sajjādiyyah* which is referred to as the ‘Whispered Prayer of the Repenters’ (*Munājāt at-Tā‘ibīn*). Read through the entire prayer, and then answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think Imām Zaynul ‘Ābidīn ؑ prays for forgiveness in so many of his supplications and prayers (*du‘ās* and *munājāt*)?

2. What can we learn from this whispered prayer?

⁷ *Translator’s Foreword:* <https://www.al-islam.org/sahifa-al-kamilah-al-sajjadiyya-imam-ali-zayn-al-abidin/translators-introduction>

3. Annotate this *munājāt* based on your reflections when you read each line or section. Do not share your reflections with others. For example, you may reflect on some of the sins in your life that you are reminded of.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

4. When you reach the end of this whispered prayer which details Allah's forgiving attributes, reflect on how each attribute is connected with forgiveness and repentance. Write your reflections here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.