

Fast 29

Darood or *salat-un-nabi*:

“Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. O you who believe, call for blessings (*salat*) on him and salute him (*salam*) with a (becoming) salutation.” — 33:56

Notes: The invocation of Divine blessings on the Holy Prophet means that all false imputations against him would be brought to naught and his mission would prosper by the blessings which Allah would shower on him.

The words of the *darood* (as it is known in Urdu and Persian) or *salat-un-nabi* (as it is called in Arabic) are given in a hadith in Bukhari as follows:

“We asked the Messenger of Allah, saying, O Messenger of Allah, How should one (ask Allah to) send blessings (*salat*) on you, and the members of your family, for Allah has taught us how to salute you (*salam*)? He said, Say:

Allāhumma, salli ‘alā Muhammad-in wa ‘alā āl-i Muhammad-in kamā sallai-ta ‘alā Ibrāhīm wa ‘alā āl-i Ibrāhīm, inna-ka Hamīd-un Majīd.

Allāhumma, bārik ‘alā Muhammad-in wa ‘alā āl-i Muhammad-in kamā bārak-ta ‘alā Ibrāhīm wa ‘alā āl-i Ibrāhīm, inna-ka Hamīd-un Majīd..” (Book of Prophets, ch. 10).

The meaning is:

O Allah, **exalt** Muhammad and the true followers of Muhammad as You did **exalt** Abraham and the true followers of Abraham, You are the Praised, the Magnified.

O Allah, **bless** Muhammad and the true followers of Muhammad as You did **bless** Abraham and the true followers of Abraham, You are the Praised, the Magnified.

The word *āl*, as in *āl-i Muhammad* and *āl-i Ibrāhīm* above, means ‘descendants’ but in case of a prophet his *āl* has the broader meaning of his ‘true followers’.

This prayer, taught to Muslims by the Holy Prophet, **shows his humility in three ways:**

1. While in other religions the followers pray **to** the founder of the religion, or in his name, here Muslims pray **for** the founder of their religion.
2. The Prophet has asked for the above prayers to be said not only for himself but also for his true followers. According to the Quran itself, just a few verses earlier than the verse 33:56 quoted at the head, it is said addressing *all* believers: “O you who believe ... He (Allah) it is Who sends blessings (*salat*) on you, and so do His angels” (33:43). Thus the believers gain the same blessings as bestowed upon the Prophet due to their connection with him.

3. The *Darood* calls for the same exaltation and blessings to be bestowed upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his true followers as those granted to Abraham and his true followers. Thus Muslims remember in this prayer that others before them — those whose present-day descendants are in many ways opposed to Muslims — were granted blessings and that Muslims be made heirs to the same blessings.

What were those blessings bestowed earlier upon Abraham and his true followers? These are mentioned in the form of **promises** to Abraham in the Bible, for example:

“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you ... and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.” (Genesis, 12:2–3)

But the earlier followers of Abraham, namely, the Jews and Christians, deviated from his teachings in terms of both beliefs and deeds, and were therefore deprived of this promise. So Allah raised the Prophet Muhammad to re-establish Abraham’s religion, and in order that this promise of making a great and blessed nation in the world be fulfilled through him and his followers.

We must heed the warning that previous nations, to whom God promised greatness, were deprived of this promise when they deviated from His teachings and committed misdeeds.

Since we pray in the *Darood* for the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his true followers to be exalted and blessed, it means that **we must also work towards this goal**. Just repeating the *Darood* in words, without any action to bring about the exaltation and blessing, cannot achieve the real objective. For the Holy Prophet’s name to be exalted in the world, and blessed by the people of the world, it is absolutely essential to strive hard to present a true picture of his noble life and character.