

“*Ṣalāt-i-Ḥájat*” revealed by Bahá’u’lláh

13. *Whenever thou wishest to attain to the pinnacle of grace and draw nigh unto the most exalted court and desirest that all the good in the heaven of the divine decree may be ordained for thee, on the part of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, detach thyself from all things, perform ablutions with clear and pure water, as has been ordained for thee in the Book (Bayán) on the part of Him Who is the Sovereign Revealer, the Ancient of Days and, while thou art washing thy hands, say:*

14. O Lord! Cleanse me from all save Thee, and prepare me to meet thee in the day of the manifestation of Thy Beauty and the rise of Thy Self. Sanctify me from whatsoever may shut me out as by a veil from Thy resplendent Beauty. Purify me, moreover, O my God, that I may recognise Thy Self, the Most Exalted, the Omniscient.

15. *And while washing thy face, say:*

16. O Lord! This is my face that I wash with this water, as Thou didst ordain. I beseech Thee, therefore, O my God, by Thy Name from which Thy servants, except the faithful among Thy creatures, are shut out as by a veil, to cleanse my face with the waters of Thy mercy, flowing out from the right hand of the throne of Thy Majesty, that it may be purified through Thine hallowed, resplendent and luminous Face. O Lord! Protect it, through Thy Name, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Wondrous, the Most Glorious, that it may have no regard for aught else besides Thee, and may not turn towards them who have disbelieved in the greatest of Thy signs in the day of the manifestation of Thy Self, the Exalted, the Most High. O my God! Withhold not from me the glances of the eye of Thy loving-kindness, and shatter not my hopes in the holy breezes of Thy favour. Verily, Thou art He Who is ready to answer whosoever calleth upon Thee and is nigh unto them that seek Thy presence. Verily, Thou art the Possessor of Great Bounty! O Lord! Illumine my face in the day when faces have turned black and enlighten it with the lights of Thy bountiful Face.

17. And shouldst thou recite this after ablutions, it would be permissible, and this is a grace on the part of thy Lord, the Omniscient. When thou hast finished, perfume thyself, then attire thyself with thy finest raiment, turn thy face towards the Sanctuary of God (the Qiblih), round which at this moment the spirits of every existence, whether seen or unseen, and those who were not enjoined to prostrate themselves before Adam and who have been and will always be turned towards the countenance of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Most High circle.

18. Then, stand firm in your place, raise thy hands towards God with manifest poise and dignity and say:

19. O Lord! I ask Thee by Thy Name, whereby Thou didst shine forth upon all beings and didst transcend the entire creation, that even as I have anointed myself with this perfume, so Thou mayest imbue me with the fragrances of the holy paradise of Thy mercy and with the breezes wafting the savours of the raiment of Thy Self, the Almighty, the Luminous, so that none may inhale from me but the pure scent of Thy Grace and Favour, and I may be wholly turned towards Thee and detached from all save Thee. Verily, potent art Thou to do as Thou wilt, and Thou art, in truth, the Bestower, the Pitiful. O Lord! My Beloved, my Hope, the Possessor of my being and my soul! Send down, at this moment, upon Thy servant that which beseemeth the sovereignty of Thy generosity and bounty and is worthy of the wonders of Thy grace and celestial glory. Deprive me not, O my God, of the things Thou hast ordained, in the heaven of Thy will and the clouds of Thy purpose, for Thy chosen ones, whom Thou hast singled out for Thine own Self, the Almighty, the Beauteous. O Lord! I am poor, and I cling to the cord of Thy wealth; I am lowly, and I hold fast to the rope of Thy might and majesty; I am weak, and I have drawn nigh unto the Pavillions of Thy transcendent power and unto the glorified Tabernacle of the glory of Thy dominion and sovereignty. Therefore, O my God, I am standing before Thee, longing for Thy grace, forgetful of anyone except Thee, fleeing from all else save Thee, turning towards the sanctuary of Thy presence and the goal of Thy good-pleasure. Is there anyone save Thee to whom I may turn? Or any manifestation, except Thine Own, that I may approach? No, by Thy Beauty. All that is manifest is as nothing when compared with the revelations of the holy lights of Thy greatness. and all that is exalted sinks into oblivion when brought before the manifestations of of Thy glorious highness and loftiness. Send down,

then, O my God, upon Thy servant that which shall so enrich him as to dispense with all the things which have been created in the heavens and on the earth. Verily, Thou art the Most Merciful of the Merciful.

20. Then, take three paces forward, turning towards God, and while taking the first pace say:

21. O Lord! Reveal unto me, in this station, that which Thou didst reveal unto the Speaker (Moses) upon the Paran of Thy love, and the Horeb of Thy benevolence, and on the Sinai of Thine glorious and most exalted might and mercy! Detach me, moreover, O my God, from the Names and their kingdoms, lest I be shut out as by a veil, through them, from Him Who created them by a command from Him. Thy might, in truth, is equal to all things over all things. O my God! Cause me to hear, moreover, Thy call from every tree, as Thou didst cause Thy servant, whom Thou hast chosen and sent to the worlds, to hearken to Thy call from the Lote-Tree of Thy Cause.

22. Then take a second pace, stop and say:

23. O Lord! Shine forth upon me, in this station, as Thou didst shine forth upon the Spirit (Jesus), that I may arise to praise Thy Self and to proclaim Thy verses among Thy heedless servants, perchance thereby their hearts may be cleansed from all doubts and uncertainty regarding Thy Cause, at which all, except a few, of them that dwell in the kingdoms of names swooned away. O Lord! Sanctify me, in this station, from the attributes and their kingdom, that have come between me and the sight of the splendour of the divine Essence. Give me to drink, moreover, O my God, of the cup of immortality from the hands of the remembrance of the Name of my Lord, the Exalted, the Most High, once more. Verily, Thou art the Lord of immeasurable Grace. O Lord! Give me to drink from the stream of everlasting life, that I may be set afire by the heat of Thy love, in such wise that Thy servants may be inflamed thereof. Cause, moreover, the waters (*salsabíl*) of knowledge to flow out from my mouth, in my recognition of Thy Self, the Merciful, that through it I may produce Thy proof unto such of Thy creatures as trembled on Thy manifest, radiant and undeviating path.

24. Then, take a third pace forward, stop and say:

25. O Lord! Shine forth upon me, in this station, as Thou didst shine forth upon all Thy Prophets and Chosen Ones as have drawn nigh unto Thee. Then, detach me, O my God, from this world and from the world to come, cause me to enter the Paradise of Thy presence and the Garden of Thy mighty and luminous glory. O Lord! Blot out from my heart every remembrance except Thine, that I may arise to praise Thy Being between earth and heaven. O Lord! Forgive my mighty sins, my grievous trespasses, all that in which I have failed in my duty towards my Lord, the Exalted, the Most High and my hesitation upon the path that hath encompassed the worlds. O Lord! Attire me with the raiment of forgiveness and the robe of certitude. Verily, Thou art He Who supplieth the needs of those who seek Him.

26. Then fall down upon the ground and say:

27. Praise be to Thee, O my God, for the wonders of Thy bounties and the revelations of Thy benevolence towards me, inasmuch as Thou taught me the ways of Thy knowledge and the paths of Thy guidance! I beseech Thee, O my God, by the light of Thy face, through which all beings have been enlightened and the entire creation hath been illumined, not to reckon me among them who heard Thy voice and failed to answer Thy call, or them unto whom Thou hast revealed Thy Being in Thy most exalted manifestation and glorious splendour, and did not obey Thee. Then, establish me upon a seat of glory nigh unto Thy Name, the Merciful, in the garden Thou hast created in the midmost heart of Paradise and join me with such of Thy servants as have drawn nigh unto Thee. Send down upon me, then, every good thing that is in Thy knowledge, and cause me to be raised up on the Day of Resurrection in the presence of the Manifestation of Thy Self, the Inaccessible, the Most Exalted, the Powerful.

28. Then lift up thy face from the ground, for thou hast completed that which hath been prescribed unto thee in this lucid Tablet. I swear by the life of Him Whom God shall make manifest, whoever performs this action wholly for the sake of his Lord and rid of all attachment to all else except Him, verily God can satisfy his wants and shall raise him up on the day of resurrection in such wise that the company of the favoured angels will be bewildered. Verily, We have instructed and warned thee, that thou mayest attain unto the presence of thy Lord and mayest not be deprived of what is better for thee than the treasures of the heavens and the earth. If thou dost perform it, it is for thine own sake, and if thou dost neglect it, thy Lord, verily, can well dispense with all creatures.