



Q 2: Should Du`a'-ul-Istiftah (opening supplication when starting the Prayer) be recited after Takbirat-ul-Ihram (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]" upon starting Prayer) and before the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah?

A: It is an act of Sunnah (a commendable act) to recite Du`a'-ul-Istiftah after Takbirat-ul-Ihram and before starting to recite Surah Al-Fatihah. It is authentically reported on the authority of [Abu Hurayrah](#) (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: [Allah's Messenger \(may peace be upon him\)](#) used to observe silence for a short while between the takbir (at the time of opening the Prayer) and the recitation of the Qur'an. I asked him: Messenger of Allah, for whom I would give my father and mother in ransom, what do you recite during your period of silence between the takbir and the recitation? He said: I say (these words): "O Allah, remove my sins from me as You have removed the east from the west. O Allah! purify me from sins as a white garment is purified from filth. O Allah! wash away my sins with water, snow

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and hail.") Narrated by [Al-Bukhari and Muslim](#). You may refer to other formulas of Du`a'-ul-Istiftah that have been reported from the Prophet in the registers of Sunnah (whatever is reported from the Prophet) like the book entitled Al-Kalim Al-Tayyib (The Godly Word) by Ibn Taymiyyah and the book of Al-Adhkar (Devotions) by Al-Nawawi.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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