

يَا اللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَاثُ

Yā 'Al•Il'ahu

'al•Mus•tagaṭ



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"Yá Alláhu'l-Mustagháth": Original Source, Correct Transliteration and Translation

by / on behalf of [Universal House of Justice](#)

2001-12-28

M E M O R A N D U M

To: The Universal House of Justice
From: Research Department

Date: 28 December 2001

The Research Department has studied the questions about the invocation "Yá Alláhu'l- Mustagháth" presented by Mr. ...in his email message dated 2 October 2001 to Mr. 'Alí Nakhjavání. Mr. ... states that a Bahá'í friend of his has asked him to "transcribe" the phrase in question, and Mr. ... would like to know its original source, the correct transliteration, and whether there is an English translation of it. The following is our response.

As Mr. ... is no doubt well aware, the phrase in question was revealed by the Báb and has been associated with a variety of instructions for its recitation. It seems to us that his questions are answered in a letter dated 25 November 1999 written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, as follows:

Concerning the phrase "Yá Alláhu'l-Mustagháth", this is an invocation revealed by the Báb. He prescribed it for recitation by His followers in times of trouble and difficulty. Shoghi Effendi has translated the word "Mustagháth" as "He Who is invoked for help". This phrase can be correctly transliterated in two ways, as set out below:

"Yá Iláha'l-Mustagháth", which has been translated as "O Lord of the time of 'Mustagháth"

"Yá Alláhu'l-Mustagháth", which has been translated as "O Thou God Who art invoked"

With regard to the number of times these words are to be repeated, the repetition of this invocation is not definitely fixed, and there is a great deal of flexibility concerning the repetition of this and other prayers. While the invocation is prescribed in the Writings of the Báb to be repeated 2098 times during occasions of great need, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in one Tablet states that this verse is to be repeated 95 times and, in another Tablet, 81 times. Letters from the Guardian concerning this invocation, as well as other prayers, indicate that repetition is a matter of individual choice. In a postscript added in his own handwriting to a letter to an individual he stated:

There is no objection to saying "Yá Iláha'l-Mustagháth" any time you like and as often as you like.

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In the Writings of the Báb, "Mustagháth" refers to Bahá'u'lláh, and "the time of 'Mustagháth'" refers to the time of Bahá'u'lláh's Dispensation. The Báb used these terms when He addressed the possible opposition of the divines and people of the Bayán to the coming Revelation. You may wish to study other references to "the mystery of the 'Mustagháth'" in the Bahá'í Writings, such as *The Kitáb-i-Iqán* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1983), pages 229–30, *God Passes By* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1987), page 27; and *The Dawn-Breakers: Nabil's Narrative of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Revelation* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1974), pages 304–305.

It may also be helpful to Mr. ... to clarify the difference in the two transliterated forms of the invocation. The invocation reads as "Yá Alláhu'l-Mustagháth" if Alláh is a modified noun and Mustagháth is an adjective. However, if the words are used in the genitive case, then the phrase reads as "Yá Iláha'l-Mustagháth".

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Ya Allahu'l-Mustaghath

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Concerning the phrase “Yá Allahu'l-Mustaghath”, this is an invocation revealed by the Bab. He prescribed it for recitation by His followers in times of trouble and difficulty. Shoghi Effendi has translated the word “Mustaghath” as “He who is invoked for help”.
(Universal House of Justice, 25 Nov 1999)

From Mme. Khan's Pilgrim's Notes, Feb 23, 1938:
To be prayed or repeated 1000 times between midnight and dawn for 9 or 19 nights (though to use the prayer once daily or even 9 or 19 times is enough). It seems infallible, even marvellous in power. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said it for 3 days just before WW2 ended:
Ya Allau'l-Mustagath!
O God Our Deliverer, whom we invoke in times of extreme need, danger, or crisis!

In the Writings of the Bab, “Mustaghath” refers to Bahá'u'lláh, and “the time of ‘Mustaghath’” refers to the time of Bahá'u'lláh's Dispensation.”
(Universal House of Justice, 25 Nov 1999)

Mustaghath literally means “He Who is invoked. It denotes the cycle of every Divine Manifestation, referred to in the writings of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.”
(Universal House of Justice, 25 Nov 1999)

Shoghi Effendi also had the burden of the believers' personal griefs. Florence once asked him for a very powerful prayer, and he answered, ‘What could be better than Yá Allahu'l-Mustaghath?’ This is rendered ‘O God, the One Who is invoked’—its implication being, Who is called upon in times of extreme distress and peril. It was her understanding that this was the prayer repeated over and over by the Master, as He paced His garden when the Turkish ship was coming to take Him away.
(Marzieh Gail, Arches of the Years, p. 312)

The Báb used these terms when He addressed the possible opposition of the divines and people of the Bayán to the coming Revelation. You may wish to study other references to “the mystery of the ‘Mustaghath’” in the Bahá'í Writings, such as The Kitáb-i-Íqán (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1983), pages 229–30, God Passes By (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1987), page 27; and The Dawn-Breakers: Nabil's Narrative of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Revelation (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1974), pages 304–305.
(Universal House of Justice, 28 December 2001)

The meaning of Mustaghath is: ‘He Who is invoked for help.’
(Shoghi Effendi, Lights of Guidance, p. 478)

This phrase can be correctly transliterated in two ways, as set out below: (elaha'l ...) “Yá Ilaha'l-Mustaghath”, which has been translated as “O Lord of the time of ‘Mustaghath’” [or] “Yá Allahu'l-Mustaghath”, which has been translated as “O Thou God Who art invoked”
(Universal House of Justice, 25 Nov 1999)

With regard to the number of times these words are to be repeated, the repetition of this invocation is not definitely fixed, and there is a great deal of flexibility concerning the repetition of this and other prayers.

While the invocation is prescribed in the Writings of the Báb to be repeated 2098 times during occasions of great need, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in one Tablet states that this verse is to be repeated 95 times and, in another Tablet, 81 times. Letters from the Guardian concerning this invocation, as well as other prayers, indicate that repetition is a matter of individual choice. In a postscript added in his own handwriting to a letter to an individual he stated: “There is no objection to saying “Yá Ilaha'l-Mustaghath” any time you like and as often as you like.”
(Universal House of Justice, 25 Nov 1999)

Time of Trouble

*These prayers have been particularly selected for this web site
the purpose of which is the amelioration of the troubles
of the Great Catastrophe.*

Midnight Prayer of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

O seeker of Truth! If thou desirest that God may open thine eye, thou must supplicate unto God, pray to and commune with Him at midnight, saying:

O Lord, I have turned my face unto Thy kingdom of oneness and am immersed in the sea of Thy mercy. O Lord, enlighten my sight by beholding Thy lights in this dark night, and make me happy by the wine of Thy love in this wonderful age. O Lord, make me hear Thy call, and open before my face the doors of Thy heaven, so that I may see the light of Thy glory and become attracted to Thy beauty. Verily, Thou art the Giver, the Generous, the Merciful, the Forgiving.

Prayers of Baha'u'llah

Ya Allah El-Mustagath
A Prayer For Urgent Needs

"O My God!
I beg Thee by the King of
Names
and Maker of heaven and
earth,
by the rustling
of the leaves of the Tree of

Prayers of The Bab

Remover of difficulties

Is there any Remover of difficulties
save God?

Say:

Praised be God!

He is God!

All are His servants,
and all abide by His bidding!

- The Báb

**Life,
and by the Utterances
through which the realities
of things are drawn unto
us,
to grant me**

[here name your supplications and wishes]"

*According to Star of the West,
Sep 1923, Vol. 14, No. 6, p. 166:
This prayer is to be used at midnight.
followed by the recitation of the
Greatest Name 95 times,
using "Ya Allah El-Mustagath",
which means:*

***"O Thou God
from Whom relief and help
is sought most urgently."***

*This prayer was revealed by
Baha'u'llah for Mirza Abul Fazl when
the latter went into exile with the
promise that if he would use it any
juncture, help would come.*

God is sufficient unto me.

*This is the prayer that Baha'u'llah
taught to the robbers, murderers, and
other prisoners that were with Him
when he was heavily chained in the*

Remover of every anguish

**O Lord!
Thou art the Remover of every
anguish
and the Dispeller of every affliction.
Thou art He Who banisheth every
sorrow
and setteth free every slave,
the Redeemer of every soul.
O Lord!
Grant deliverance through Thy
mercy,
and reckon me among such
servants of Thine
as have gained salvation.**

- The Báb

Prayer of Protection

**Say:
God sufficeth unto me;
He is the One Who holdeth in His
grasp the kingdom of all things.
Through the power of His hosts of
heaven
and earth and whatever lieth
between them,
He protecteth whomsoever among
His servants He willeth.
God, in truth, keepeth watch over all
things.
Immeasurably exalted art Thou, O
Lord!
Protect us from what lieth**

*unlighted sewer that was their
common dungeon.
The Ruler in the palace could hear
them chanting it for long hours,
possibly as a round.*

***God is sufficient
unto me.***

***He, verily, is the
all-sufficing.***

***In Him, let the
trusting trust.***

***In Him, let the
trusting trust.***

—Bahá'u'lláh

***Prayer to be said in times of natural
phenomena
which cause fear, such as
earthquakes.***

***"Dominion is God's,
the Lord of the seen
and the unseen,
the Lord of
creation".***

—Bahá'u'lláh

**in front of us
and behind us,
above our heads,
on our right,
on our left,
below our feet
and every other side
to which we are exposed.**

**Verily,
Thy protection over all things is
unfailing.**

- The Báb

**Say:
God sufficeth all things above all
things,
and nothing in the heavens or in the
earth but God sufficeth.**

**Verily,
He is in Himself the Knower,
the Sustainer,
the Omnipotent.**

- The Báb

A Prayer for Guidance

**I adjure Thee by Thy might,
O My God!
Let no harm beset me in times of
tests,
and in moments of heedlessness
guide my steps aright
through Thine inspiration.
Thou art God!**

***Armed with the
power of Thy name
nothing can ever
hurt me,
and with Thy love in
my heart
all the world's
afflictions
can in no wise
alarm me.
—Bahá'u'lláh***

**potent art Thou to do what Thou
desirest.**

**NO one can withstand Thy Will
or thwart Thy Purpose.**

- The Báb

Yā Allāh al-Mustagāṭ

Prayer for Urgent Needs

This prayer was revealed by Baha'u'llah for Mirza Abul Fazl when the latter went into exile with the promise that if he would use it any juncture, help would come. (This prayer is to be used at midnight, followed by the recitation of the Greatest Name 95 times, using "Ya Allah El-Mustagath", which means "O Thou God from Whom relief and help is sought most urgently.")

Prayer:

"O My God! I beg Thee by the King of Names and Maker of heaven and earth, by the rustling of the leaves of the Tree of Life, and by the Utterances through which the realities of things are drawn unto us, to grant me [here name your supplications and wishes]"

Star of the West, September, 1923, Vol. 14, No. 6, page 166

O Thou Help Me... (Story told by Ali Kuli Khan, one of the translators for the Master, in 1933)

It was in 1912 that Dr. Ali Kuli Khan - preparing for the visit of Abdu'l-Baha to Washington - began to consider the questions he would ask Him upon His arrival. And, thinking it over, Dr. Khan realized that the one thing he wanted most to know was some prayer he might utter quickly and from deep within his heart, when the moment came when, as the representative of his country (then Persia) in Washington he must

make some instant diplomatic decision.

When these moments came, as they did frequently - Dr. Khan felt that while he always sincerely did his best, his wisdom was very limited and finite. If only he might have a prayer that would draw to him a greater wisdom -- "Ah, if he only might have such a prayer."

So the day came when Abdu'l-Baha was to arrive and Dr. Khan, accompanied by the Washington believers, drove to the station to meet Him. The greeting was warm and deeply moving, and Khan's heart was still filled with this one question he wanted most to ask the Master.

And they were perhaps halfway back, driving up Pennsylvania Avenue, when Abdu'l-Baha suddenly told Khan this story:

It had happened when Baha'u'llah had been gone from Baghdad for some two years. At that time no one knew where He was and all hearts were sick with the fear that they never would see Him again.

At this time Abdu'l-Baha was a small boy, and the continued absence of His Beloved Father had become unendurable. So, one night, all night long, the little boy (whom, even then, Baha'u'llah referred to as The Master) paced restlessly up and down saying, shouting, beseeching, "Ya Allah el Mustaghas! Ya Allah el Mustaghas!" all night long.

And in the morning, when dawn was breaking, a messenger came to the door to say that a stranger was at the city gate and had sent word to the family that He wished them to bring to Him fresh raiment and water to bathe in... So Abdu'l-Baha knew His beloved Father had returned.

And Dr. Khan knew the cry that he, too, might utter in his moments of need Ya Allah el Mustaghas (which I am told means Oh, Thou help me in my extremity!).

<http://bahai-library.com/ives/stories/HELP.HTM>

“The meaning of ‘Mustaghat’h’ is: ‘He Who is invoked for help.’”

From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual Bahá'í , June 14, 1947. *Lights of Guidance*, number 1577

The following was shared with me via email, the origin is explained below; it's kind of like pilgrim notes.

Dear friends, Just came across this explanation in the files of my dear mother in the Kingdom (Barbara Sims, ascended April, 2002—see <http://www.bahai-library.com/east-asia/>) of one of the most special and powerful prayers available to the friends. Sandra Sims Fotos

‘Abdu’l-Baha during, but mostly at the close of, WWI in the Barstow Collection papers, from the collection of Ted Cardell. **‘Ya Allah-el-Mustaghath!’** Oh God our Deliverer, Whom we invoke in times of extreme need, danger or crisis.

Shoghi Effendi (enroute to university in England) said to Madame Ali Kuli Khan, when on a visit to Barbizon, in the forrest of Fontainbleau – ‘I give you this! It is a free translation.’ As he translated it at her request.

‘Abdu’l Baha, when in America, related to Khan and several of the friends, that at the end of two years of his Father’s absence in Sulaymaniyyih he had been praying fervently for His return, to quiet the unrest which activities of Subji-i-Azal were causing the friends in Baghdad. One night he had prayed this one prayer all night when, at dawn there came a knocking at the gate and a messenger arrived from the Prince of Nur, announcing His return. The Master went forth to welcome Him with some of the friends. Soon after Baha’u’llah declared His Manifestation.

In Persia, the friends of His Holiness the Bab used to pray this prayer, repeating it one thousand times, between midnight and dawn, for the protection or for whatever they desired. They might in those days, it is said, leave in the morning and be killed before return at night. They believed this prayer had a very special potency and often it was answered before 9 days had passed.

In Paris, when Shoghi Effendi was on his way to the University in England, he told madam Kahn that shortly before the World War I ended, he used to accompany Abdu’l Baha to Haifa, and each week they would spend 4 days usually looking after the shrines and to see about conditions in general. One day the Master closed His door and Shoghi Effendi (he said) knelt outside it, leaning his head against it. For 8 continuous hours the Master paced to and fro in the room, praying only one prayer – **‘Ya ALLAH-EL-MUSTAGATH!’** When Shoghi Effendi related this to Madame Ali Kuli-Khan she exclaimed ‘Why it was shortly after this that the European War ended!’ Shoghi Effendi smiled, but did not reply either yes or no.

In 1924, when she was leaving the presence of the Guardian at Haifa, en-route for Persia to America, she enquired if there were any prayers she could use for special help. The Guardian smiled and replied: ‘Is there any prayer better than **‘Ya Allah-el-Mustaghath’** ? showing he recalled their conversation in Paris.

(The above was given to Doris Lohse by Madame Khan in her own handwriting. This is a copy of the original statement.) Mustaghath literally means ‘He Who is invoked.’ It denotes the cycle of every Divine Manifestation, referred to in the Writings of the Bab and Baha’u’llah. See also glossary in Kitab i Iqan.

<http://emjazab.wordpress.com/2009/04/04/oh-god-our-deliverer/>