"O my Lord, make easy for me and do not make hard, and finish (it) with goodness and excellence."
In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
My name is Ukasha . . .
I am your brother in Islam. My name is Ukasha. I am eight years old. I live with my parents, brothers Abdul Ghaffar, Talha, Abdullah and sister Omama. Alhamdu lillâh (Thanks and praises to Allâh) that I was born in a Muslim family.

I have a very close friend whose name is Osama. My parents, brothers, sister and neighbours like me very much and so do I.
I go to bed early in order to get up early for the Fajr (dawn) prayer. It is also a Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to sleep early after 'Isha (night) prayer. My mother wakes me up for Fajr prayer. When I wake up I say my morning supplication:

Alhamdu lillâhilladhi ahyana ba'da ma amatana wa ilaihnushûr.
[Thanks and praises to Allâh who brought us to life after having given us death and to Him we shall have to return].

Then I make my bed tidy. I take my Siwaak (a toothbrush made of the root of Araak tree) and go to the bathroom. While entering the bathroom, I make sure to put my left foot in first and say the supplication like this:

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Allāhumma inni a'oodhu bika minal khubthi wal khaba'ith.

[O Allah! I seek refuge with You from the bad and evil things].

After urinating, I wash my private parts thoroughly with my left hand because cleanliness is very important in Islam. After washing my hands with soap and water I come out and put my right foot out first and say the following supplication:

Ghufrānaka. Alhamdu lillāhilladhi adhhaba anniladha wa'afānī.

[I ask for Your forgiveness. Thanks and praises to Allāh Who removed from me the suffering and gave me relief].
We have got a back house and a courtyard. So I prefer to perform *Wudu* (ablution) in the courtyard. First of all I clean my teeth with *Siwaak* because it is very good for teeth and I think in my mind the benefits of *Siwaak*:

1. I am obeying Allâh and His Prophet صلی الله علیه وسلم.
2. It keeps the mouth clean as Allâh's Messenger صلی الله علیه وسلم said:

[ Mishwâk is an instrument for cleaning the mouth and seeking the pleasure of the Rabb(Allâh)].

3. It keeps the stomach clean.
4. It keeps the voice clear.
5. It helps in digestion.
6. It makes us active and alert while offering prayers, and during recitation of Qur'ân and supplication.
7. It kills the germs in the mouth.
It was the Prophet's habit to put the Siwaak near him while going to bed and on waking up he used to start his Wudu with Siwaak.

Now I make intention in my heart to attain Tahaarah (purity) for offering prayer. Then I pronounce aloud Bismillah (In the Name of Allah).
I start *Wudu* from the right side as the Messenger of Allah ﷺ loved to start every act from right side especially wearing shoes, combing hairs and making *Wudu*.

I wash my hands three times, then I rinse my mouth three times with right hand. I rinse my nose three times with left hand.
Then I wash my face three times. Then I wash my forearms up to elbows three times. After that I wipe my head with water once. I insert my index fingers in my ear holes, then wipe the back of my ears with thumb and front of my ears with index fingers. Now in the end I wash my feet and rub my toes with little fingers to make sure that water reaches between them. During this whole process I make sure not to waste any water. There is a saying of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم that even if you are standing on the banks of the river, do not waste any water. After completing the Wudu, I say:

Ash-hadu alla ilaha illallāh wa ash-hadu anā anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluhu.
[I bear witness that there is no deity but Allâh and I bear witness that Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم is His slave and His Messenger].
... I go for Fajr prayer
Now I go for *Fajr* prayer with my father. I pick my shoes from the shoe rack at the entrance of my house. I shake them, in case some insects have gone inside at night. I always put on my right shoe first and then the left. When we leave the house we supplicate like this:

Bismillah tawakkaltu alallah
wa la haula wa la quwwata illah billah.
[In the Name of Allah. I put my trust in Allah and there is no strength nor power except with Allah].

We see many people from our neighbourhood going to *Masjid* as well. We say *Assalamu alaikum* (peace be upon you), and they return:
wa alaiumussalam wa rahmatullahi
wa barakatu hu (peace, mercy and
blessing of Allah be upon you).  
When people are late for the
prayer, some run towards the
Masjid. But we should not do that because Allâh's Messenger ﷺ has said:

«إِذَا سَمِعْتُمُ الْإِقَامَةَ فَأَمُشُّوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةَ»

[When you hear the Iqâmah, proceed to offer the prayer with calmness and solemnity and do not make haste. Pray whatever you are able to pray and complete whatever you have missed].

When we reached at the gate of the Masjid we took our shoes off and put them on the shoe rack.

My father put his right foot in first and said the following supplication:
Bismillâhi wassalatu wassalamu ala rasulillâh. Allâhummaftahli abwaba rahmatik.

[In the Name of Allâh and peace and blessing be upon the Messenger of Allâh. O Allâh! open for me the doors of Your mercy].
I also did the same and we entered the Masjid. First we offered two Rak'ah (unit) Sunnah prayer of Fajr and then we sat down. While sitting, I raised my hands and started to supplicate because at this time the supplications are answered. Allâh's Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

[The supplication between the Adhân and Iqâmah will not be turned down (by Allâh)].

Some of the children were playing in the Masjid and making noise but I do not behave like this. Imâm came and Iqâmah was called, then he ordered the people to straighten their rows as straightening of rows is part of the preparation for the congregational prayer.

Imâm said Allâhu Akbar (Allâh is the Greatest), and we also said the same
and we were in the state of prayer. When Imâm completed the prayer by saying Assalmu alaikum warahmatullah (peace and mercy of Allâh be on you), I started supplicating like this:

Astaghfirullâh, Astaghfirullah, Astaghfirullah, Allâhumma antassalam waminkassalam tabarakta ya dhaljalali wal ikram.

[O Allâh! forgive me. O Allâh! forgive me. O Allâh! forgive me. O Allâh! You are the source of peace and from You comes peace. Exalted You are, O Lord of majesty and honour].
La ilaha illallâh. Wahdahu la shareeka lah. Lahul mulku wa lahul hamd. Wa Huwa ala kulli shay’in Qadeer. Allâhumma la mani’a lima a’taita wa la mu’tiya lima mana’ta wa la yanfa’u dhaljaddi minkaljadd.

[There is no deity but Allâh! He is Alone. He has no partner. His is the sovereignty and His is the praise. And He is Omnipotent. O Allâh! no one can stop You from giving and no one can give which You stop and no one can benefit from his wealth when You punish].
After that I glorified Allâh by saying Subhânâ Allâh 33 times, Alhamdu lillâh 33 times, Allâhu Akbar 33 times and:

La ilaha illallâh wahdahu la shareeka lahu lahulmulku wa lahul hamdu wa Huwa ala kulli shay’in Qadeer.

[There is no deity but Allâh. He is Alone. He has no partner. His is the sovereignty and His is the praise. And He is Omnipotent].

Then I recited آية الكرسي. I saw my father and when he finished supplication, I joined him at the gate of Masjid. I put my left foot out first and supplicated like this:
Bismillâhi wassalamu ala rasulillâh. Allâhumma inni as-aluka min fadlik.

[In the Name of Allâh. And peace be upon the Messenger of Allâh. O Allâh! I ask you from Your favours].
for home after prayer
We left for home after prayer. My father likes morning walk. This is very pleasant time before sunrise. We feel the coolness and freshness of the morning breeze. At this time light exercise is very good for health and one feels fresh after the exercise. The birds chirp on the trees as if they are also glorifying the Creator. I told my father that weather was very beautiful due to the fresh wind. The Prophet صلی الله علیه وسلم used to say the following supplication in the morning, so do I:

Allâhumma bika asbahna, wa bika amsaina, wa bika nahya, wa bika namootu, wa ilaikan-nushoor:
[ O Allâh! we got up in the morning with Your blessing and we finish the day with Your help and by Your Name we live and by Your Name we die and unto You we will return].
When we came home, we supplicated like this on entering the house:

Bismillâhi wa lajna, wa bismillâhi kharajna, wa 'alallâhi rabbina tawakkalna.

[By the Name of Allâh we enter and by the Name of Allâh we step out, and we put our trust in Allâh, our Lord]

We greeted my mother and others:

Assalâmu 'alaikum wa rahmatullâhi wa brakâtuhu.

And they replied:
Wa alaikumussalam wa rahmatullâhi wa barakatuhu.

My mother and sister were reciting Qur'ân and my younger brother was reading a primer.

I and my sister have memorized many chapters of the Qur'ân. It is very rewarding to recite Qur'ân at this time of the morning. Our father tells us stories of Prophets from Qur'ân. He also advises us to recite Qur'ân, a guidance for mankind.
It leads us out of darkness to the light and shows us the Straight Path towards Paradise. If we start practicing according to Qur'an, it will keep us away from Hell.

We all turn our faces towards Qiblah (Makkah) and recite Qur'an wholeheartedly with good voice because Allah's Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم has said:

Grace the Qur'an with your voice.

We should always do Wudu before reciting the Qur'an, and say:

A'oodhu billâhi minash-shaitânir-rajeem.

[I seek refuge with Allâh from the Satan, the cursed].
After finishing the recitation of Qur'ân, our mother goes in the kitchen and prepares breakfast for us and calls us for breakfast. We put the Qur'ân in the bookshelf, wash our hands and then go for the breakfast in the kitchen. Our kitchen is quite big, so we usually eat in the kitchen. But when we have guests we go to the dining room. We all sat on our chairs to have our breakfast.

I noticed that there was fresh fruit on the table which my father bought at night from the fruit market. Among the fruits, water-melon was looking juicy and nice because of its red colour. I told my mother:

Ma shâ' Allâh. La quwwata illa billâh.

[That which Allâh wills. There is no power except with Allâh]
What a nice melon it is! My mother cut a piece of water-melon and gave it to me. I started to eat it then suddenly I realized that I forgot to say بسم الله Bismillâh. My father noticed that I was little upset then I told him that I forgot to say بسم الله Bismillâh. He told me that our Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم has given guidance on all aspects of life. He taught us that if somebody forgets to say بسم الله Bismillâh before starting the meal, he should say...
Bismillâhi awwalahu wa âkhirahu. [I start in the Name of Allâh at the beginning and at the end].

I was grateful to my father and I thanked him like this: جَرَّاكَ اللهَ خِيرًا Jazâkallâhu khairan [May Allâh give you a better reward].

Then I asked about more manners of eating. My father said: Eat with your right hand, and from what is in front of you.

My father finished his breakfast quickly and supplicated like this:

ألْحَمْدُ لَهُ الَّذِي أَطْعَمَنِي هَذَا الطَّعَامَ وَزَرَّطَنِيهِ، مِنْ غَيْرِ حَوْلِ يَتْبَعُونَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ.

Alhamdu lillâhilladhi at'amani hadhatta 'âma wa razaqanihi, min ghairi haulim-minni wa la quwwatin.
[Thanks and praises to Allâh Who fed me this food and gave it to me without my strength and power].

After finishing the breakfast I also recited the same supplication and then washed my hands and came to my room. I had already put my books and notebooks in the bag last night.
It was an important day for me because that day we were going to get our test results and later on we had to go for picnic. We were planning to have lunch outside after playing games. We were supposed to come back at 4 p.m.

My father called me: “Ukasha hurry up! Otherwise you will be late for the school.” Then I took my bag, put on my shoes, greeted my mother and said my supplication while leaving the house:

Bismillâhi tawakkaltu 'alallâhi wa la haula wa la quwwata illa billâh.

[In the Name of Allâh. I put my trust in Allâh and there is no strength nor power except with Allâh].

When I sat in the car, I greeted my father and said the supplication for the journey.
Bismillâh. Alhamdu lillâh.
Subhânalladhi sakhkhara lana hadha wama kunna lahu muqrineen.
Wa inna ila rabbina lamungaliboon.

[In the Name of Allâh. Thanks and praises to Allâh. Glory to Him Who has subjected these to our (use), for we could never have accomplished this (by ourselves). And to our Lord, surely must we turn back].

My father started the car and we were on our way to the school; and after dropping me at the school he had to go to his office. We reached school early. My class fellows were waiting for me at the gate of the school. I could also see Osama talking with his friends. I said Assalamu
Alaikum (peace be upon you) to everybody. Everyone was talking about the picnic and they were all very excited. School bell rang and we went to the classroom. Soon our teacher Muhammad Amin entered the class. He is our Math teacher as well. He is very kind to us and always makes sure that we know all the sums well. We all respect him very much and he also likes us very much.
I have not got many friends; but Osama, Hanif and Omar are my best friends. They do not waste their time talking in the class. I have never seen them fighting or abusing. They are always very kind; they attend school regularly and are never late. I know that they also memorize the Qur'ân and offer five times prayers regularly. They live very near to my place.
Class teacher Muhammad Amin took the attendance and told us that the result of the previous day's test would be announced shortly. There was a silence in the class and everyone was anxious to know the result. I was thinking that how conscious we were for this result but we are not worried about the result at the Day of Judgement.

If we are conscious and work now then *In Shâ' Allâh* the final result at the Day of Judgement will also be very rewarding: i.e., *Jannah* (Paradise).

In the meantime our teacher announced the test results and told us not to worry because all of us had obtained good marks except a very few. Thank Allâh that I obtained 95% marks. I thanked Allâh by
Alhamdu lillâhilladhi bini'matihi tatimmussâlihât.

[Thanks and praises to Allâh through Whose blessings good things are accomplished].

All my friends secured good marks. We all thanked Allâh and congratulated one another. When I left home, it was little cloudy but now when I looked outside through the window, I saw dark clouds with lightning. All of a sudden there was more lightning followed by thunder. Our teacher asked us who remembered the supplication offered by our Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم on such occasion. Osama raised his hand and the teacher asked him to recite.
Osama:

"اللَّهُمَّ لا تَقْتُلْنَا بِغَضِبَكَ، وَلا تَهْلِكْنَا بِعَذَابِكَ، وَقَلْنَا نَبُولَ ذِلِّكَ "

Allâhumma la taqtulna bighadabika, wa la tuhlikna bi'adhâbika, wa 'aafina qabla dhalik.

[O Allâh! do not kill us through Your wrath and do not destroy us through Your punishment, but grant us safety before this (happens)].

Teacher:

"جَزَّاكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا"

Jazâkallâhu khairan
[May Allâh give you better reward].
O Osama, you have recited the same supplication which is in the Traditions (Sunnah) of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Now it was raining heavily and all the students were thinking whether it was
possible to go for picnic or not. Our teacher asked us to be attentive and told us that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to recite special supplication when it was raining heavily.

Allahumma sayyiban nafi'an.

[O Allâh! make it a beneficial rain].

All the students were repeating this supplication in order to memorize it by heart and were praying for the rain to stop. After a little while heavy rain turned into drizzle and then it stopped. We thanked Allâh for this as the weather now became pleasant and ideal for picnic.

It was planned that we would go in two buses to the park about sixty kilometers away from our school. We were given green signal to get ready for the trip. After a little while buses reached the school and all the students boarded on the buses. Just
before we moved our class monitor Abdullah announced that Prophet used to say this supplication before journey and he recited it in a good voice:

Allâhu Akbar. Allâhu Akbar.
Subhanalladhi sakhkhara lana hadha wa ma kunna lahu muqrineen.
Wa inna ila rabbina lamunqaliboon.
Allâhumma inna nas-aluka fi safarina hadha albirra wattaqwa wa minal amali ma tarda. Allâhumma hawwin alaina safarana hadha watwi 'anna bu'dahu.
[Allâh is the Greatest.  
Allâh is the Greatest.  
Glory to Him Who has subjected 
these to our (use), for we could never 
have accomplished this (by ourselves).  
And to our Lord, surely must we turn 
back. O Allâh! we ask of You, during 
this journey, virtue, piety and actions 
that please You.  
O Allâh! make easy for us this journey 
and lessen for us its distance].  
All the students said "Jazâkallâhu 
khairan, O Abdullah" and promised 
to learn this supplication by heart.  
Weather was very nice as sun was 
shining and there was cool breeze.  
In the centre of the park there was a 
small stream, and trees were on both 
sides. There was also a small hill full 
of grass and flowers. On the foothill 
there was a beautiful tent nicely decorated 
This park was the property of a city 
businessman who gave permission to 
the students for a day out. On the other
side of the hill there was an open space with small sand dunes.

When we got down from the bus along with our class teacher Muhammad Amin, we sat down on the grass and our teacher reminded us that when we come to a place where there is no population, we can recite a supplication which was recommended by Prophet ﷺ. If we recite it, Allah will keep us safe from any harm. The supplication was:

\[ \text{A'oodhu bikalimatillâhittammati min sharri ma khalaq.} \]

[I seek refuge with the perfect words of Allah from any evil creature].

All the students repeated this supplication and thanked the teacher for giving them the opportunity to remember Allah.

The program was full of entertainment;
we enjoyed ourselves with ball games, boating in the canal and sightseeing. We had our meals and then we offered Zuhr (noon) prayer in congregation. After sometime we packed up to leave for home. When I was sitting in the bus I realized that my friend Osama was not in our bus. My friends told me that he took
the other bus. I got little upset but then I remembered that it was Allâh's Will, and Islam taught us to say these words:

Qaddarallâhu wa ma shâfa'ala.

[It is preordained by Allâh. And He did what He willed].
We reached home and greeted our parents with Assalamu 'Alaikum and told the whole story of the trip. It was nearly 'Asr (afternoon) prayer time, so I went to the Masjid to offer the prayer.

In my absence there was a phone call which was attended by my mother. Osama had an accident; while he was getting down from the bus he slipped. Thank Allâh his injury was not serious but he would have to spend two days in the hospital. He is very dear to me so I took permission from my mother and went to the hospital to visit him.

I inquired at the accident department about Osama. He was in room number 260 and it was on the second floor. So I used the lift to reach there. I knocked at the door and his father asked me to go in. I went in and greeted everybody with Assalamu Alaikum. Osama was sleeping and covering himself with bedsheet. So I asked his father about his
injuries. He told me that *Alhamdu lillah* Osama had only minor injuries and there was nothing to worry about.

I moved near to his bed and, according to the Prophet's *sallallahu alayhi wa sallam* saying, I said seven times this supplication:

> "أَوْلَيْكَ رَبّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ يَشْفِيكَ."
As'alullâhal 'azeem rabbal 'arshil 'azeem an yashfiyak.
[I beg Allâh, the Great, the Lord of the Great Throne, to grant you cure].

Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said that this supplication would help the patient to recover unless it is time of death. After a little while Osama woke up and when he looked at me his face was beaming with happiness. I greeted him by saying:

As-salâmu alaikum wa rahmatullâhi wa barakâtuhi-La ba'sa tahoorun in shâ'Allâh.
[Peace be upon you and mercy of Allâh and His blessings. No need to worry. It (this sickness) is a means of cleaning (from sins), Allâh willing].

Osama replied by saying وعليكم السلام ورحمة الله وبركاته and asked me to sit down.

I asked him how he was feeling then. He
Alhamdu lillah 'ala kulli hâl [Thanks and praises to Allah under all circumstances]. I stayed with him for a little while and then asked for his permission to leave as it is improper to stay too long with the patient because he needs rest.

It was nearly Maghrib (evening) prayer time when I reached home back. I opened the window of my room and said:

Allâhumma bika amsaina wa bika asbahna wa bika nahya wa bika namootu wailakal maseer:

[O Allah, by Your leave we have reached the evening and by Your leave we have reached the morning, by Your leave we live and die and unto You is our return].

Announcer of the prayer called for the Maghrib prayer and I repeated after him and then said the following supplication:
Allâhumma Rabba hadhihid
da'watittammati wassalâtil
qâimah âti Muhammadanil
waseelata walfadeelah wab'ath-hu
maqamam mahmudanilladhi wa'attah.

[O Allâh, Lord of this perfect call and the prayer to be offered! grant Muhammad the privilege (of interceding) and also the eminence. And resurrect him to the praised position you have promised to him].

I left for the Masjid to offer the prayer in congregation. A prayer offered in congregation is rewarded twenty-seven times according to the saying of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.
to see the new moon...
After the prayer my father asked me whether I knew that it was 29th of Rabee' At-Thâni and it was possible that new moon for Jumada Al-Ula might be sighted that day, and suggested that we better go upstairs and try to see the new moon. I went upstairs with my younger brother and sister to look for the new moon. All of a sudden he shouted: "Ukasha, Ukasha there I can see the new moon, look, how beautiful it is".

My father heard us and came upstairs to look at the new moon. He recited this supplication after looking at the new moon.

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[Allâh is the Greatest
O Allâh! let this crescent appear to
us with peace, faith, safety and Islam.
Your Lord (O moon) and my Lord is
Allâh].

My father told me that Prophet
.used to read this
supplication after looking at the
new moon.
When we came down, my mother told us
that dinner was ready. We offered 'Isha
(night) prayer and then we had our dinner.

Afterwards I went to my room so that I
could sleep early. The clock was already
showing 9 o'clock. I washed my hands,
cleaned my teeth with Siwaak and then lay
down on my bed. I put my right hand under
my right cheek and recited thus:

\[
\text{اللِّهُمَّ! بِاسمِكَ آمَوتُ وَاَحْيَا.}
\]

\[
\text{Allâhumma bismika amootu wa ahya.}
\]

[O Allâh! by Your Name I die and by
Your Name I live].

After that I fell asleep.
"Are those who know equal to those who know not?" [39:9]
In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

"Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): He is Allâh (the) One.

Allâh-us-Samad

[Allâh - the Self-Sufficient Master,
Whom all creatures need, (He neither eats nor drinks)].

He begets not, nor was He begotten.
And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him."