

meant by rituals (*manâsik*) is all the actions of Hajj, as indicated by the context and story, or it may be that the meaning is more general than that, and refers to all of Islam and all acts of worship, as indicated by the general meaning; the word *nusuk* (rituals, from the same root as *manâsik*) originally means worship, but came to be used primarily in reference to the acts of worship performed during Hajj. Thus what they meant by their supplication was to be guided and enabled to acquire beneficial knowledge and to do righteous deeds. As it is the case that human beings – no matter how hard they try – will always fall short and need to repent, they (Ibrâheem and Ismâ'eel) said: «and accept our repentance, for You are the Acceptor of repentance, the Most Merciful».

«Our Lord, send to them a Messenger from among them» that is, to all our descendants, so as to increase them in status and so that they will know him properly and follow him.

«who will recite Your revelations to them» and teach them the words «teach them the Book and wisdom» and teach them the meanings.

«and purify them» by guiding them to do righteous deeds and to rid themselves of evil deeds because of which the soul cannot be purified unless one rids oneself of them.

«for You are the Almighty» that is, the Subduer of all things, Whose power none can resist

«the Most Wise» Who puts things in the right place. I implore You by Your glory, might and wisdom, to send among them this Messenger. Allah answered their prayer and sent this noble Messenger, by means of whom Allah had mercy on his descendants in particular, and on all of humankind in general. Hence the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«I am the answer to the prayer of my father Ibrâheem.» (Recorded and authenticated by Ibn Katheer)

Because Allah showed this great respect to Ibrâheem and told us of his perfect qualities, He said: