

ARTICLE

Asking Forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala

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Alhamdulillah, certainly all praises are for Allah Ta'ala who has created us in the best of moulds and has blessed us with the most perfect way of life. My dear readers, one of the most important aspects of our lives is asking Allah Ta'ala for His pardon and forgiveness for the sins and mistakes which we may commit knowingly and unknowingly. In many places of the Holy Quraan and in many traditions of the Prophet (S.A), Allah Ta'ala and His Messenger (S.A) has commanded and encouraged us to continue to repent and seek Allah's forgiveness.

Mankind is prone to forgetting and committing mistakes, hence Allah Ta'ala commands us in the Holy Quraan: "Turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, so that you will succeed" (24:31). Allah Ta'ala, in many places of the Holy Quraan, informs us that He is the Most Forgiving and the Most Merciful and He is always willing to forgive those who seek His forgiveness. As such, although at times we may disobey Allah and get involved in sinful deeds, we should continue to seek His Forgiveness and never lose hope in His Mercy. Allah Ta'ala says: "Say, O My servants who have transgressed against themselves (by sinning), do not despair of the Mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins (for those who repent and correct themselves). Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful." (39:53).

At the same time, whilst having hope in Allah's Mercy, we should not be bold in committing sins. Luqman, the wise, (A.S) while advising his son said: "My dear son, entertain hopes of Mercy from Allah Ta'ala, but let not your hopes make you bold in committing sins and be fearful of Allah but let not your fear make you despair of His Mercy". We should know that Allah Ta'ala loves to forgive and He loves when His servants seek His forgiveness so much so that the Prophet (S.A) said: "By Allah! If you did not commit sins, Allah would have taken you away and brought a people who would seek Allah's forgiveness and He would forgive them." (Muslim)

The Holy Prophet (S.A) was the greatest of all the Prophets and Allah Ta'ala had informed him in the Holy Quraan that all his past and future sins had been forgiven, yet he would continuously be seeking Allah's forgiveness. In one tradition, Abu Hurairah (R.A) reports that the Messenger of Allah (S.A) said: "By the One in Whose Hands is my soul, I certainly ask Allah's forgiveness more than seventy times each day" (Bukhari). Similarly Umar (R.A) said: "We used to count that in a single gathering, the Prophet (S.A) would say: "I ask Allah's forgiveness and I repent to him more than seventy times." Allah Ta'ala also, in the Holy Quraan, instructs the Prophet (S.A) to seek His forgiveness. Allah Ta'ala says: "So Exalt (Allah) with the glorification of your Lord and ask His Forgiveness. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of repentance" (110:3).

The Prophet (S.A) has also taught us the best manner of seeking forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala. He (S.A) said: "The best and most excellent manner of seeking forgiveness (Sayyidul Istighfaar) is that a servant says: "O Allah, You are my Lord. None has the right to be worshipped except You. You created me and I am Your servant. And I am faithful to my covenant and promise to You as much as I am able to. I seek refuge with You from the evil of what I have done. I acknowledge before You all the favours that You have bestowed upon me and I acknowledge all my sins before You, so forgive me since there is none that can forgive sins except You." The Prophet (S.A) then said: "Whoever says this dua in the morning, having firm belief in it, and dies on that day before the evening then he is from the people of Jannah (Paradise). And whoever says it in the night, having firm belief in it, and he dies before the morning then he is from the people of Janaah (Paradise)." (Bukhari)

My dear readers, let us try our best to avoid committing sins as much as possible but we are humans and at times we will forget and make mistakes. However we should continue to seek Allah's pardon whenever

we slip or fall short in our obedience to Him. We must always remember that Allah Ta'ala loves to forgive and He will forgive us as long as we are sincere in our repentance. Being sincere in our repentance also includes making a vow never to return to such actions again. May Allah Ta'ala through His Infinite Mercy, grant us the ability to seek His forgiveness and May He pardon us all for our shortcomings and grant us Jannah (Paradise). Ameen