



On the most superior way to seek forgiveness of Allah the Almighty

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Exalted in Might, the Bestower of favours. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. He was the Master of those who remember Allah and the guide for those who seek His forgiveness. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: “**and hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous.**” (Al Imran: ١٣٣).

Dear Muslims,

Allah the Almighty is vast in His forgiveness and overlooks the mistakes of His servants when they repent to Him. Thus, you are urged to seek forgiveness of the Most Exalted in all your worldly life matters in line with His orders: “**and ask forgiveness of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.**” (Al-Baqara: ١٩٩). Accentuating this, Allah the Most Merciful also says, “**indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful.**” (Az-Zumar: ٥٣). More emphasis on the mercifulness of Allah the Almighty has also been stated in the following Hadith in which the Prophet pbuh quoted Allah the Almighty as saying, “O My servants, you commit sins by day and by night, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness from Me and I shall forgive you.”

Seeking Allah’s forgiveness was part of the tradition of the Prophets and Messengers. Allah, the Most Exalted has given us examples on this in His Holy Book. For instance, the Almighty says about our fore-parents, Adam and Hawwa (Eve) pbuh, “**they said, ‘Our Lord,**

we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers’.” (Al-Aaraf: ٢٣). In another place in the holy Quran, the Most Exalted says about Dawood (David) pbuh, **“and he asked forgiveness of his Lord and fell down bowing [in prostration] and turned in repentance [to Allah].”** (Sad: ٢٤). Yet another example is the one of Moosa (Moses) pbuh who asked Allah the Almighty for forgiveness saying, **“my Lord, forgive me and my brother and admit us into Your mercy, for You are the most merciful of the merciful.”** (Al-Aaraf: ١٥١).

In like manner, our Master and Prophet Muhammad pbuh used to seek pardoning from his Lord at all times. Emphasising such a character of his, he pbuh said, “By Allah! I ask for forgiveness from Allah and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day.” This was also accentuated by his companions, may Allah be pleased with them. It was narrated in this regard that Ibn Omar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “In one gathering of the Messenger of Allah pbuh, we used to count that he said a hundred times: ‘O my Lord, forgive me, and accept my repentance, for You are the Acceptor of Repentance, the Most Forgiving.’”

Being one of the greatest acts, the Prophet pbuh has guided Muslims on the best and most perfect forms of seeking forgiveness of Allah the Almighty. He pbuh said, “The most superior way of asking for forgiveness from Allah is to say: 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 abide by your covenant and promise as best I can. I seek refuge in you from the evil, which I have committed. I acknowledge your favour upon me and I knowledge my sins, so forgive me, for verily none can forgive sins except you.”

The Messenger of Allah pbuh named the above mentioned supplication as “the most superior way for asking for forgiveness” and commanded us to learn it as he pbuh said, “Learn the most superior way of asking for forgiveness from Allah.” The reason is that this prayer includes numerous benefits and connotes great meanings as the believer starts it with exalting Allah the Almighty

and acknowledging that He is the Lord, saying “O Allah, You are my Lord”. That is to say: I believe that You are my Lord, the Lord of the whole people and the entire worlds. You are the One Who arranges their affairs and facilitates their life matters. So, Exalted is He Who **“arranges [each] matter from the heaven to the earth.”** (As-Sajda: ٥). The Almighty accentuates this, for He says, **“unquestionably, His is the creation and the command; blessed is Allah, Lord of the worlds.”** (Al-Aaraf: ٥٤).

Furthermore, the next great meaning indicated in this supplication is the praise of Allah, Exalted and Blessed is He, for the believer says, “there is no deity save You”. This is such a great phrase that the Prophet pbuh has described saying: “The best of remembrance is: there is no deity save Allah.” This means that Allah, the Most Exalted, is the One, the Self-sufficient and the only Eternal Refuge to whom all the believers may resort, and to His mercy the pardoning seekers look for. An illustration of this can be seen in the calls of Prophet Yunus pbuh to his Lord saying, **“there is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.”** (Al-Anbiyaa: ٨٧).

His Lord responded to his prayers and promised to, similarly answer whoever invokes Him thereafter using the same supplication. To this, the Exalted is He says, **“so We responded to him and saved him from the distress. And thus do We save the believers.”** (Al-Anbiyaa: ٨٨).

O Servants of Allah,

In the next part of the most superior invocation to seek Allah’s mercy and forgiveness the believer says, “You have created me and I am Your servant.” This phrase expresses a declaration to Allah the Almighty that He is the Creator Who is worthy of worship and obedience. The Most Exalted says, **“that is Allah, your Lord; there is no deity except Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him.”** (Al-Anaam: ١٠٢). After that, the invoking believer turns to Allah the Most High saying, “I abide by your covenant and promise as best I can,” certifying that he/she will not break the covenant of Allah after contracting it; he/she will be sincere in performing acts of

obedience to Him, exerting in that way the best efforts possible, for He, the Most Exalted, says, **“Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity.”** (Al-Baqara: ٢٨٦).

More to the point, when a believer recites the most superior supplication for seeking forgiveness, he/she takes refuge with Allah the Almighty as they say “I seek refuge in you from the evil, which I have committed.” And then, they acknowledge the favours that Allah has endowed upon them: “I acknowledge your favour upon me.” Indeed, Allah the Most Sublime is the Bestower of all favours, for He says, **“and whatever you have of favor - it is from Allah.”** (An-Nahl: ٥٣).

O Seekers of Allah’s Forgiveness,

Please know that in this supplication for Allah’s pardoning, the forgiveness seeker admits his/her sin when saying “I acknowledge my sins,” which is a cause of forgiving the misdeed as the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “When a person confesses his sin and asks Allah for forgiveness, Allah accepts his repentance.” Thus, when the believer declares their being servants of Allah the Almighty, repent to Him for their misdeeds, confirming their determination not to repeat such sins and sincerely seek forgiveness of Allah, the Most Forgiving, saying “Forgive me, for no one can forgive the sins except You;” then Allah the Almighty will, by His favour, conceal their mistakes and purifies them.

The Most Exalted illustrates this in this Aya: **“and those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except Allah? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know. Those - their reward is forgiveness from their Lord and gardens beneath which rivers flow [in Paradise], wherein they will abide eternally; and excellent is the reward of the [righteous] workers.”** (Al Imran: ١٣٥-١٣٦).

Such a gracious reward was also emphasised in the promise that our Master Muhammad pbuh has given to those who recite the most superior supplication for forgiveness with firm faith in it. He pbuh

said, “If somebody recites it during the day with firm faith in it, and dies on the same day before the evening, he will be from the people of Paradise; and if somebody recites it at night with firm faith in it, and dies before the morning, he will be from the people of Paradise.” Bearing this in mind, let us seek Allah’s favour to make us amongst His servants who seek His forgiveness sincerely and repent to Him and whose repentance is accepted.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**” (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah the Lord of the Worlds. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

O Worshipers,

Please be aware that seeking forgiveness of Allah the Most Forgiving is a cause of attaining His vast mercy, for the Almighty says, “**why do you not seek forgiveness of Allah that you may receive mercy?**” (An-Naml: ٤٦). It is also a means for opening the doorways of blessings and bounties for the Muslim. To this effect, Allah the Almighty has accentuated the great merits of seeking forgiveness through the story of His Prophet Noah pbuh. The Most Exalted says, “**and said, ‘Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a**

Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers. And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers.” (Noah: ١٠-١٢). That is to say: if you repent to Allah, seek His forgiveness and satisfy His grandeur, He will increase your wealth, quench your thirst from the blessings of the sky and bring forth for you from the blessings of the earth to feed you.

Furthermore, amongst the other merits of seeking Allah’s forgiveness is that Allah the Most Exalted increases the provisions of the repentant and bless them in their life term. The Owner of Majesty and Honour says on behalf of our Master Muhammad pbuh, **“and [saying], “Seek forgiveness of your Lord and repent to Him, [and] He will let you enjoy a good provision for a specified term and give every doer of favour his favour.”** (Hood: ٣).

You are all urged, therefore, to seek forgiveness of Allah much; in the morning and in the evening; at your homes and gatherings; while on the way and in the market; and in all your conditions. So doing, you will, by Allah’s favour, attain His forgiveness, for the Almighty says, **“and seek forgiveness of Allah. Indeed, Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful.”** (An-Nisaa: ١٠٦).

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Allah! You are our Lord. None has the right to be worshipped except You. You created us and we are your servants and we abide by your covenant and promise as best we can. We seek refuge in You

from the evils, which we have committed. We acknowledge Your favours upon us and I knowledge our sins, so forgive us, for verily none can forgive sins except you.”

Our Lord, please continue blessing us with happiness with our families and in our homeland, and make us amongst those who are dutiful for their parents and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, please admit them to Paradise, being given bounties therein without account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever responding to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni

people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us with a wealthy, healthy and sufficient rain! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.