

Anas ibn Mālik narrated:

1

I heard God's Messenger (peace be upon him) say: God, Blessed and Exalted, says: 'Son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you what you have done, and I shall not mind.

2

Son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds in the sky and were you then to pray for My forgiveness, I would forgive you, and I shall not mind.

3

Son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to meet Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as the earth'.<sup>(1)</sup>

1 Related by al-Tirmidhī, 544.

### From the Qur'an

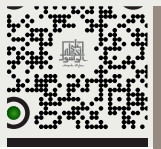
- ﴿If, when they have wronged themselves, they would but come to you and pray to God to forgive them, and the Messenger prayed for their forgiveness, they would surely find that God is the one to accept repentance, ever merciful.﴾ (4: 64)
- ﴿Excepted, however, shall be they who repent, attain to faith, and do righteous deeds, for God will transform their bad deeds into good ones. God is indeed much-forgiving, ever-merciful.﴾ (25: 70)
- ﴿Say: '[Thus speaks God]: You servants of Mine who have transgressed against their own souls! Do not despair of God's mercy: God forgives all sins; He alone is much-forgiving, ever-merciful'.﴾ (39: 53)
- ﴿I said: Ask your Lord for forgiveness: He is ever-forgiving.﴾ (71: 10)

### The Narrator

Abu Ḥamzah Anas ibn Mālik ibn al-Naḍr of the Anṣār was a distinguished scholar, mufti, excellent reciter of the Qur'an and a leading scholar of Hadith. He was the chronicler of Islam. He was the servant of God's Messenger and his household. Anas was the last of the Prophet's companions to die in Basrah. He was only ten years of age when the Prophet migrated to Madinah, and he was 20 when the Prophet (peace be upon him) passed away. He remained very close to the Prophet from his early days in Madinah to the end of his blessed life. Anas took part in several military expeditions with the Prophet, and he took part in the pledge given to the Prophet (peace be upon him) known as the pledge under the tree. He reported a wealth of knowledge from the Prophet. God's Messenger prayed to God to give him plenty of wealth and offspring. His date trees yielded fruit twice a year. He died in Year 93 AH 712 CE.

### Summary

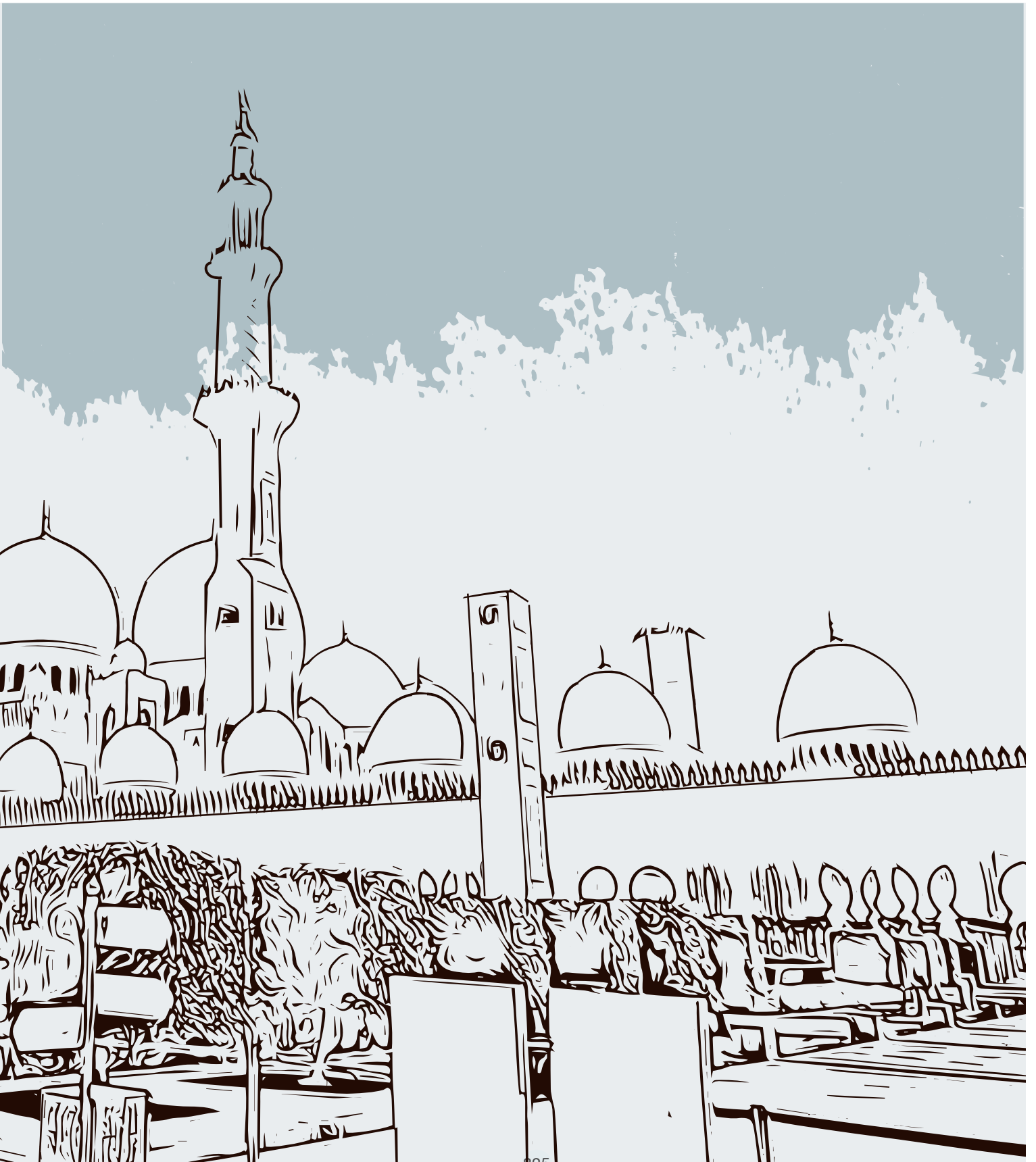
God, Mighty and Exalted, urges His servants to turn to Him in repentance for their sins. He tells them that He forgives sins, no matter how numerous they may be.



# Message and Meaning

- 1** God bestows His love and kindness on His servants, urging them to turn to Him in repentance for their sins and to seek His forgiveness. Whenever any of His servants prays to Him seeking His forgiveness, He will surely respond favourably and forgive him all his sins, however numerous. He says: 'God forgives all sins; He alone is much-forgiving, ever-merciful'. (39: 53)
- 2** God again addresses His servant saying that were his sins to represent a great multitude that filled the earth and reached to the clouds, but then His servant turns to Him, appealing for His forgiveness and feeling genuine regret, God will forgive him all his sins, caring nothing for their number.
- 3** God then states the special distinction of believing in His oneness. Were a person to come to God with the fill of the earth in sins and wrongdoing, but he believes in God's oneness and does not associate any partners with Him, God will meet him with an equal amount of forgiveness. God says: 'For a certainty, God does not forgive that partners are associated with Him. He forgives any lesser sin to whomever He wills. (4: 48)





# Implementation

- 1 Every one of us should appeal to God and seek His help. Who else can answer our prayers?
- 2 Let supplication be your worship, as it is an act of worship. The Prophet says: ‘Supplication is worship’.
- 3 No one should think that any sin, however grave, is unforgivable by God. He forgives all sins.
- 4 Everyone should hope for God’s forgiveness. None should assume high status when appealing to God.
- 5 When a person prays to God for something and he wants his prayer to be answered, he should make sure to fulfil the conditions for answering prayer. These are: 1) sincerity to God, 2) ensuring that one’s food is legitimately earned, 3) no prayer for anything sinful, 4) earnest appeal to God, and 5) the presence of one’s heart and mind at the time.
- 6 When one prays to God and appeals for His forgiveness, one should think well of God. He says in a qudsī or sacred hadith: ‘I am as My servant thinks I am’.<sup>(1)</sup>
- 7 Supplication requesting forgiveness is one reason for wiping away sins and acts of disobedience, even if they reach as high as the clouds.
- 8 Constant prayer for forgiveness is a sunnah and a constant practice of the Prophet (peace be upon him). He said: ‘By God, I pray for God’s forgiveness and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day’.<sup>(2)</sup>
- 9 Praying for forgiveness ensures that sins are wiped away, good deeds are increased, grades are elevated, and provisions are blessed. God says: ‘I said: “Ask your Lord for forgiveness: He is ever-forgiving. (10) He will let loose the sky over you with abundance, (11) and will give you wealth and children; and will provide you with gardens and rivers”’. (71: 10-12)
- 10 Seeking God’s forgiveness acts as security from punishment in this present life and in the life to come. God says: ‘Nor would God punish them when they may yet ask for forgiveness’. (8: 33)
- 11 Luqmān is reported to have said to his son: ‘Son, let your tongue be in the habit of saying: My Lord, forgive me. There are times [known to God] when He does not reject an appeal’.<sup>(3)</sup>

1 Related by al-Bukhari, 7405; Muslim, 2675.

2 Related by al-Bukhari, 6307.

3 Ibn Rajab, Jāmi‘ al-‘Ulūm wal-Ḥikam, Vol. 2, p. 408.

12

Everyone should make sure to always seek God's forgiveness. Al-Ḥasan said: 'Appeal for forgiveness often: in your homes, at mealtimes, when you are in the street, or in the market, or anywhere you happen to be. You do not know when the time comes when God grants forgiveness'.<sup>(1)</sup>

13

Every Muslim should make sure to repent and seek forgiveness and to hasten to do good deeds. God forgives everything. He stretches His hand during the night so that a person who committed sins during the day will repent and seek forgiveness, and He stretches His hand during the day so that a night sinner will repent and seek forgiveness. He forgives all sins, and He does not mind doing so.

14

Beware of associating partners with God: it ruins good deeds and cannot be atoned for except by desisting and repentance.

15

Believing in God's oneness ensures security against a permanent stay in Hell. It is also a cause for sin forgiveness and overlooking bad deeds.

16

Every Muslim should seek God's refuge against the explicit and implicit association of partners with God.

17

God is in no need of any of His servants. Yet He is very generous to them and bestows on them His bounty and blessings. Needless to say, we should respond, demonstrating our love of God by doing good deeds that please Him and by voluntary worship.

18

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'On the Day of Judgement, God shall select a man from my community and place him before all creation. He will spread before him ninety-nine records [of sinful actions], each of which is as long as eyes can see. He will then ask him: "Do you deny any of these? Have my recording angels been unfair to you?" He will say: "No, my Lord". God will ask him: "Do you have any excuse?" He will say: "No, my Lord". God will say: "This is untrue. You have a good deed kept with us. You shall suffer no injustice today". A card will then be produced in which is written: "I bear witness that there is no deity other than God; and I bear witness that Muhammad is God's servant and Messenger". God will say to the man: "Attend the process of weighing". He will say: "My Lord, what will this card weigh against all these records?" God will say: "You shall suffer no injustice". The card will be placed on one scale and the records on the other. The records will be of very little weight while the card will be heavy. Nothing will be heavier in weight against God's name'.

1 Ibid.

