

The condition of repentance of sins and evil acts

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: I am a young man from those who were tried a lot with temptations. So Satan erred me and I fell in an illegal sexual intercourse but I regretted my act and turned in repentance to Allaah. I become persevering with prayer. My question is: will my repentance be accepted – knowing that Al-Hudood (Allaah's set limits and punishment for those who violate them) are non-existent nowadays?

Answer: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

You should know that Allaah accepts repentance from His slaves according to His statement:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ

[O `Ibaadee (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allaah: verily, Allaah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.]¹

and His saying:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا. يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَخْلُدْ فِيهِ مُهَانًا. إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا

[And those who invoke not any other Ilaah (god) along with Allaah, nor kill such person as Allaah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse - and whoever does this shall receive the punishment. The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace. Except those who repent and believe (in Islaamic Monotheism) and do righteous deeds; for those Allaah will change their sins into good deeds and Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.]²

Allaah تعالیٰ gets pleased with the repentance of His servants as it is stated in this hadeeth: "Verily, Allaah is more pleased with the repentance of one of you than the person who lost his

¹ Soorah az-Zumar [39:53]

² Soorah al-Furqaan [25:68-70]

The condition of repentance of sins and evil acts

camel in a desert land and then finds it (unexpectedly)"³. And he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "The repentance from a sin is like the one who has no sins"⁴.

There are three conditions to be met in order that repentance be accepted by Allaah:

- returning to Allaah by abandoning committing sins and evil acts,
- to feel sorry for committing every past sin and
- to decide not to recommit a sin in the future according to Allaah's تَعَالَى saying:

وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

[And do not persist in what (wrong) they have done, while they know]⁵

In addition, you should work hard sanctifying and purifying your soul with good manners and in keeping it away from bad beliefs and wicked words and deeds that soil it. You should also abide by obedience and avoid mischief. Its reform and disciplining will be complete with repentance and faithfulness as stated by Allaah تَعَالَى:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ

[O you who believe! Turn to Allaah with sincere repentance! It may be that your Lord will expiate from you sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise)]⁶

You should also know that Allaah knows everything about you, in every moment of your life. You should be convinced that He knows all about you, according to His saying:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

[Surely, Allaah is Ever All-Watcher over you]⁷

Allaah تَعَالَى also says:

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُ

[And know that Allaah knows what is in your minds, so fear Him]⁸

In another verse, He تَعَالَى says:

³ Reported by Muslim, chapter of "Repentance" (hadeeth 7129) and Ahmad (hadeeth 8416) on the authority of Aboo Hurairah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

⁴ Reported by Ibn Maajah, chapter of "Asceticism" (hadeeth 4250), by Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 21150) and by At-Tabaraanee in Al-Mu'jam al-Kabeer (hadeeth 10281) on the authority of `Abd Allaah Ibn Mas'ood رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Ibn Hajar stated in Fath al-Baaree (13/557) that the hadeeth's chain of narration is Hassan (good). Al-Albaanee classed it as Hassan in Saheeh Al-Jaami (hadeeth 3008).]

⁵ Soorah Aal `Imraan [3:135]

⁶ Soorah at-Tahreem [66:8]

⁷ Soorah an-Nisaa [4:1]

⁸ Soorah al-Baqaraah [2:235]

The condition of repentance of sins and evil acts

وَمَا تَكُونُ فِي شَأْنٍ وَمَا تَتْلُو مِنْهُ مِنْ قُرْآنٍ وَلَا تَعْمَلُونَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ إِلَّا كُنَّا عَلَيْكُمْ شُهُودًا إِذْ تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ
[Neither you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) do any deed nor recite any portion of the Qur'aan, nor you (O mankind) do any deed (good or evil), but We are Witness thereof, when you are doing it]⁹

Moreover, the Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "**Worship Allaah as if you see Him. Verily, You cannot see Him. But surely He sees you**"¹⁰. Among the ways of its reform and sanctity is self-reckoning. Then if you see a lack in your worship, just remedy it with supererogatory practice of worship as long as that worship can be caught up on. If not, you should seek Allaah's forgiveness, feel sorry, turn into repentance and do good which you see that it remedies the mischief you did. Allaah تعالى says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلِنَنْظُرَ نَفْسٌ مِمَّا قَدَّمْتُمْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ
[O you who believe! Fear Allaah and keep your duty to Him. And let every person look to what he has sent forth for the morrow, and fear Allaah. Verily Allaah is All-Aware of what you do]¹¹

Thus are those who keep their duties to Allaah and do good righteous deeds. They fear their Lord above them and reckon their negligence. They blame themselves for it and adhere to piety. They also prohibit themselves following their lusts and respond to Allaah's statement:

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ. فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ
[But as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure evil desires and lusts. Verily, Paradise will be him abode]¹²

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عز وجل. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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⁹ Soorah Yoonus [10:61]

¹⁰ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree, chapter of "Faith" (hadeeth 50) on the authority of Aboo Hurairah رضى الله عنه, by Muslim, chapter of "faith" (hadeeth 102), by Aboo Dawood, chapter of "The Sunnah" (hadeeth 4697), by At-Tirmidhee, chapter of "Faith" (hadeeth 2815), by An-Nasaa'ee, chapter of "Faith and its branches" (hadeeth 5007) and Ibn Maajah in the introduction of his Sunan (hadeeth 66) on the authority of `Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab رضى الله عنه.

¹¹ Soorah al-Hasher [59:18]

¹² Soorah an-Naazi'at [79:40-41]