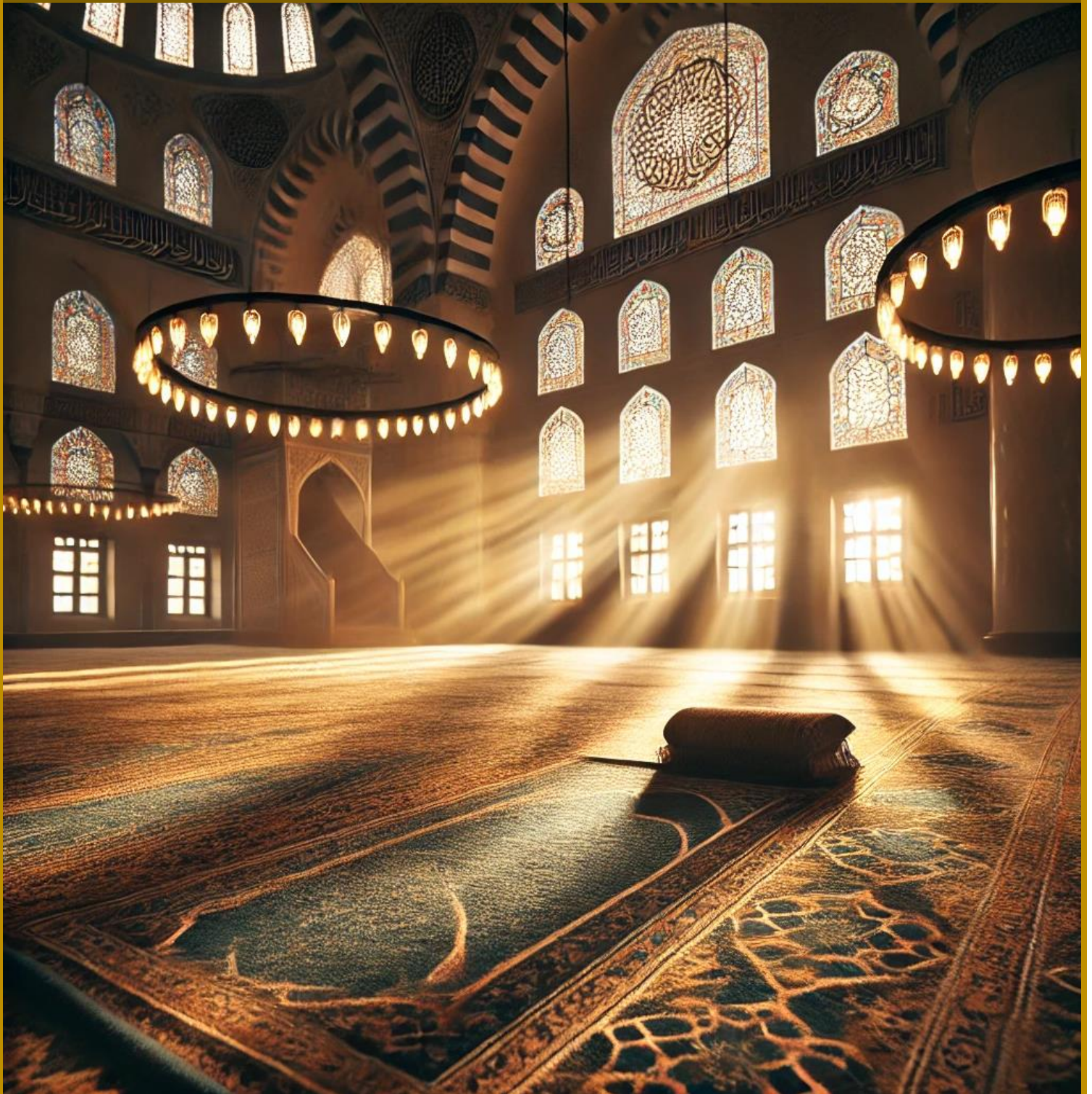


THE PATH TO FORGIVENESS

EXTRACTED FROM AUDIO CLIP OF MAULANA ISMAIL BHAYAT



الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ، وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ، وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ،
وَنُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، وَنَتَوَكَّلُ عَلَيْهِ،

وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.
مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ،
وَنَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَلَا نَظِيرَ
لَهُ، وَلَا نِدَّ لَهُ، وَلَا ضِدَّ لَهُ، وَلَا مِثْلَ لَهُ، وَلَا مِثَالَ لَهُ،
وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَحَبِيبَنَا وَشَفِيعَنَا وَسَدَنَّا وَمَوْلَانَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

أَمَّا بَعْدُ: فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ، بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ،

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَصُوحًا﴾
وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ
كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ"، أَوْ كَمَا قَالَ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ وَبَلَّغَنَا رَسُولُهُ النَّبِيُّ الْحَبِيبُ الْكَرِيمُ،
وَنَحْنُ عَلَى ذَلِكَ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ وَالشَّاكِرِينَ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ
رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَصُوحًا

("O you who believe! Turn to Allah with sincere repentance.")

(Surah At-Tahrim, 66:8)

Rasulullah ﷺ said:

التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ

("The one who repents from sin is like one who has no sin.")

My respected elders and brothers:

Rasulullah ﷺ said:

كُلُّ بَنِي آدَمَ خَطَّاءٌ، وَخَيْرُ الْخَطَّائِينَ التَّوَّابُونَ

("Every son of Adam is a sinner, but the best of sinners are those who repent.")

Every person, every son of Adam, is a sinner.

We all commit sins, whether with our eyes, ears, tongues, hands, feet, or hearts.

Sometimes our desires overpower us, and we engage in acts that displease Allah. Despite this, Allah's mercy is immense, and He has opened the door of Tawbah (repentance) for us. Allah has commanded us in the Qur'an to seek His forgiveness and has promised that He will forgive us if we turn to Him sincerely.

The Qur'an says:

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

("Say, O My servants who have transgressed against themselves, do not despair of Allah's mercy. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins.

Indeed, it is He who is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.") (Surah Az-Zumar, 39:53)

Who besides Allah can forgive our sins?
Rasulullah ﷺ taught us that even if we sin repeatedly, Allah's mercy is always open to us. In one hadith, Nabi ﷺ said:

لَوْ أَنَّ عَبْدِي أَذْنَبَ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً فِي الْيَوْمِ وَاسْتَغْفَرَنِي
غُفِرْتُ لَهُ

("Even if a servant sins seventy times in a day and repents each time, Allah will forgive him.")

Rasulullah ﷺ explained that there are only two occasions when repentance is no longer accepted. The first is when the sun rises from the west, one of the last signs of Qiyamah, and the second is at the moment of death, when the soul begins to leave the body. Until these moments, Allah's mercy is vast, and His forgiveness is accessible.

The ulama advise that repentance should become a regular habit for every Muslim. Perform two rakats of Salat-ul-Tawbah daily, and in those moments, cry to Allah, saying:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي ذُنُوبِي كُلَّهَا، دِقَّهَا وَجِلَّهَا، عَلَانِيَتَهَا وَسِرَّهَا

("O Allah, forgive me all my sins, the small and the large, the open and the hidden.")

Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi رحمه الله wrote about the repentance of Prophet Adam (AS). After his mistake in Jannah, Adam (AS) turned to Allah, making the heartfelt dua:

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

("Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves. If You do not forgive us, we will surely be among the losers.")

Hazrat Adam (AS) cried for forty years, shedding so many tears that ulama say if all of humanity were to cry from the beginning of time until Qiyamah, it would not equal his tears. This shows the sincerity with which he turned back to Allah, acknowledging his mistake without justification.

There is no sin too great for Allah to forgive. Rasulullah ﷺ narrated the story of a man who killed ninety-nine people. He sought forgiveness and approached a scholar, who told him there was no hope for him. The man killed the scholar and made it an even hundred. He then approached another scholar, who advised him to leave his sinful environment and move to a pious town. On the way, the man passed away. The angels

of mercy and punishment argued over his soul, and Allah, in His infinite mercy, commanded the earth to shift so the man would be closer to the pious town. He was forgiven because of his sincerity and intention.

Another story Rasulullah ﷺ mentioned is of a man who worshipped idols for ninety years. One day, he mistakenly uttered “As-Samad” instead of calling out to his idol named Sanam. Allah immediately responded:

لَبَّيْكَ عَبْدِي

(“Here I am, My servant.”)

This accidental invocation was enough for Allah to turn to him in mercy. Such is the vastness of Allah’s forgiveness.

Rasulullah ﷺ also narrated the story of a Sahabi, Ma'iz Aslami (RA), who committed zina and came to Nabi ﷺ to seek purification. He insisted on receiving the prescribed punishment so that he could meet Allah without sin. After his punishment, someone remarked, "He died like a dog." Rasulallah ﷺ rebuked them, saying, *"Do not speak ill of him. His repentance was so sincere that if it were distributed among the people of Madinah, it would suffice to forgive them all."*

Tears shed in repentance are so beloved to Allah.

Rasulullah ﷺ said:

مَعَةٌ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ تُطْفِئُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ

("A tear shed out of fear of Allah can extinguish the fire of Jahannam.")

Mufti Mahmood Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ used to quote these verses of poetry:

خدا جانے کوئی اشکِ ہدامت یہ حقیقت

کونین خریدے ہے اُسی اک گوہر سے

"Do you know the value of that one tear?
That one tear is so precious that it holds the
worth of the entire world and the
Hereafter."

Let us make a habit of turning to Allah daily.
Rasulullah ﷺ himself, who was free of sin,
made istighfar more than seventy times a
day. If this was the practice of the most
beloved of Allah, how much more do we
need it?

In this festive season, as kufr and shirk
surround us, we must protect our iman.

When seeing symbols of shirk like Christmas trees or crosses, lower your gaze and recite:

رَضِيتُ بِاللّٰهِ رَبًّا وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ نَبِيًّا

On Jummah, make the most of the blessings Allah has given us. Rasulallah ﷺ advised reciting **Surah Ikhlas**, **Surah Falaq**, and **Surah Nas** seven times after Jummah Salah for protection from all harm until the next Jummah.

Let us take advantage of Allah's mercy before it is too late. May Allah make us among those who turn to Him with sincere hearts and tearful eyes. May He forgive our sins and grant us His mercy. Ameen.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا، دِقَّهَا وَجِلَّهَا، عَلَانِيَتَهَا وَسِرَّهَا،
.آمِينَ

NB:

We have made every effort to preserve the original message of Maulana دامت برکاتہم aiming to retain his message as accurately as possible. Adjustments were made solely to enhance readability, with careful attention to maintaining the authenticity and essence of Maulanas teachings.

Any errors are due to our own limitations, and we humbly seek Allah سبحانه وتعالی forgiveness and guidance in our future publications.

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