



*In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful*

# Submitters Perspective

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## Repentance

There are many inadequacies, shortcomings, and failings common to human beings. Some of them are:

We are very ungrateful –

*[17:67] If you are afflicted in the middle of the sea, you forget your idols and sincerely implore Him alone.*

*But as soon as He saves you to the shore, you revert. Indeed, the human being is unappreciative.*

We have difficulty resisting lust –

*[4:27-28] GOD wishes to redeem you, while those who pursue their lusts wish that you deviate a great deviation. GOD wishes to lighten your burden, for the human being is created weak.*

We are prone to idolatry and transgression –

*[14:30] They set up rivals to rank with GOD ... [14:34] And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count GOD's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative.*

We are hasty –

*[17:11] The human being often prays for something that may hurt him, thinking that he is praying for something good. The human being is impatient.*

We are full of apprehension –

*[70:19-21] Indeed, the human being is anxious. If touched by adversity, despondent. If blessed by wealth, stingy.*

We are tight-fisted, stingy –

*[17:100] Proclaim, "If you possessed my Lord's treasures of mercy, you would have withheld them, fearing that you might exhaust them. The human being is stingy."*

We are not ready to accept our own faults and shortcomings –

*[18:54] We have cited in this Quran every kind of example, but the human being is the most argumentative creature.*

A person under the influence of these weaknesses will not repent

over what he has done wrong nor will he be inclined to do good deeds.

Yet, the Most Gracious has endowed us with so many faculties –

*[16:78] GOD brought you out of your mothers' bellies knowing nothing, and He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains, that you may be appreciative.*

*[30:21] Among His proofs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves, in order to have tranquility and contentment with each other, and He placed in your hearts love and care towards your spouses. In this, there are sufficient proofs for people who think.*

*[91:5-8] The sky and Him who built it. The earth and Him who sustains it. The soul and Him who created it. Then showed it what is evil and what is good.*

Above all, we have God's provision of guidance:

*[76:3] We showed him the two paths, then, he is either appreciative, or unappreciative.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

*[20:123] He said, "Go down therefrom, all of you. You are enemies of one another. When guidance comes to you from Me, anyone who follows My guidance will not go astray, nor suffer any misery.*

Everything depends on how we make use of our God-given faculties and how we use the guidance He has provided us.

God gives us the gift of repentance and reform. In all its various forms "repent" is mentioned in Quran 61 times, "reform" 12 times.

To repent, we must first realise our fault and pledge in ourselves not to repeat it ever again. *[66:8] O you who believe, you shall repent to GOD a firm repentance. Your Lord will then remit your sins and admit you into gardens with flowing streams. On that day, GOD will not disappoint the prophet and those who believed with him. Their light will radiate in front of them and to their right. They will say, "Our Lord, perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You are Omnipotent."*

To repent you need a firm faith that God alone is worthy of worship, that He is the Best Knower and that He knows everything we think and do and that only He can forgive our sins.

We have to fear God as we have to realise that God is fully aware of what we do and we will be equitably judged for it. This will not be merely the expression of regret over the wrong done but also the firm resolve of not doing it again which means a reformation. If we do not solemnly intend never to repeat the wrong again then this cannot be considered repentance.

Look at Adam and Eve. They did what they were forbidden to do.

*[7:22-23] He thus duped them with lies. As soon as they tasted the tree, their bodies became visible to them, and they tried to cover themselves with the leaves of Paradise. Their Lord called upon them: "Did I not enjoin you from that tree, and warn you that the devil is your most ardent enemy?" They said, "Our Lord, we have wronged our souls, and unless You forgive us and have mercy on us, we will be losers."*

See Moses when he committed manslaughter. *[28:15-16] Once he entered the city unexpectedly, without being recognized by the people. He found two men fighting; one was (a Hebrew) from his people, and the other was (an Egyptian) from his enemies. The one from his people called on him for help against his enemy. Moses punched him, killing him. He said, "This is the work of the devil; he is a real enemy, and a profound misleader." He said, "My Lord, I have wronged my soul. Please forgive me," and He forgave him. He is the Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

Take the example of Jonah. *[21:87] And Zan-Noon (Jonah, "the one with an 'N' in his name"), abandoned his mission in protest, thinking that we could not control him. He ended up imploring from the darkness (of the big fish's belly): "There is no god other than You. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin."*

Three great cases – what they all had in common was the expression of their regret and their unambiguous recognition that it was they who had initially wronged themselves.

God knows that we will sin. *[42:30] Anything bad that happens to you is a consequence of your own deeds, and He overlooks many (of your sins).*

But we must certainly avoid major sins – *[42:37] They avoid gross sins and vice, and when angered they forgive.*

We need to use God's guidance, our fear of God and our God-given abilities with a solid unfaltering faith in the compassion and benevolence of God to help us achieve a happy life both now and in the Hereafter.

*[89:27-30] As for you, O content soul. Return to your Lord, pleased and pleasing. Welcome into My servants. Welcome into My Paradise.*

*Alim*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Forgiveness

The Quran talks about and emphasizes Forgiveness in a strong manner in many verses. In fact, a verse dealing with the First Commandment states:

*Lā Elāha Illā Allāh: First Commandment [47:19] You shall know that: "There is no other god beside GOD," and ask forgiveness of your sins and the sins of all believing men and women. GOD is fully aware of your decisions and your ultimate destiny.*

Forgiveness can liberate an individual from resentment and promote inner peace. We need to let go of grudges and thereby find a more positive outlook on life. Some people even say that when you forgive others, you forgive yourself because it is based in the understanding that all human beings make mistakes.

*[3:110] You are the best community ever raised among the people: you advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and you believe in GOD. If the followers of the scripture believed, it would be better for them. Some of them do believe, but the majority of them are wicked.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

And since God Himself has described us as among the best of communities He has created, it is incumbent to exhibit the traits of such a community as commanded by God. One of the main examples is about forgiveness.

God tells us: *[42:43] Resorting to patience and forgiveness reflects a true strength of character.* Forgiveness demonstrates strength. It has been said that a weak person cannot forgive.

Forgiveness with kindness, compassion and mercy are key attributes of our Almighty Creator. He is the Most Merciful. He has given us this final chance to ask for forgiveness and to redeem our souls.

*[4:96] The higher ranks come from Him, as well as forgiveness and mercy. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

*[4:106] You shall implore GOD for forgiveness. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

*[4:110] Anyone who commits evil, or wrongs his soul, then implores GOD for forgiveness, will find GOD Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

If it were not for God's Mercy and Forgiveness towards us, we would have all been banished to Hell forever. Yet, God gave us another chance. So, even when we are grievously wronged, we need to consider forgiveness and overlooking the wrong done to us.

Shri Dinkar, hailed as a national poet of India, says that a snake without poison or teeth that doesn't bite someone that's not a great feat. But a snake with fangs and poison who decides not to bite, that is genuine forgiveness.

Many a criminal after being punished in the harshest, cruelest and most severe manner becomes even more hardened and dangerous. A criminal offered rehabili-

tation may get to the root cause of their behavior and repent and reform. And we know that reforming and changing our behavior, is an important component of forgiveness. *[11:52] "O my people, seek forgiveness from your Lord, then repent to Him. He will then shower you with provisions from the sky, and augment your strength. Do not turn back into transgressors."*

So besides asking Forgiveness from God for our Original Sin and the many other sins, mistakes and wrongs we commit during our test on Earth, we also ask forgiveness from each other. And we ask God to forgive all the Believers (71:28). Even the angels ask forgiveness for us, but ultimately it is only up to God to forgive.

#### *Angels Pray for the Believers*

*[40:7] Those who serve the throne and all those around it glorify and praise their Lord, and believe in Him. And they ask forgiveness for those who believe: "Our Lord, Your mercy and Your knowledge encompass all things. Forgive those who repent and follow Your path, and spare them the retribution of Hell.*

All our lives, we will come across all kinds of people, challenges, circumstances, and experiences. Some will cause pain, making it difficult to forget and forgive. But there are also those souls we meet who, by showing us the good in the world, help negate the wrongs done to us. We know that ultimately, God is the Best Advocate and the Best Judge. All matters are controlled by God alone.

Some people bring out the best in you and show you kindness and compassion, while some bring out the worst in you. Since God is in control of everything, the latter may be placed by God in your life to teach you patience and forgiveness and not to treat others like they have treated you.

We need to keep learning through all stages of our lives. We want to become a

peaceful person. Forgiveness can rid us of negativity, jealousy, and sorrow. If we don't forgive someone, then we are carrying a grudge and giving that person too much importance in our life. You become trapped in ego, pride and hate. It can become a disease. On the other hand, when you forgive someone, God allows you to unload that burden from your back. It's God's blessing.

*[94:1] Did we not cool your temper?  
[94:2] And we unloaded your load (of sins).  
[94:3] One that burdened your back.  
[94:4] We exalted you to an honorable position. [94:5] With pain there is gain.  
[94:6] Indeed, with pain there is gain.  
[94:7] Whenever possible you shall strive.  
[94:8] Seeking only your Lord.*

So, we need to be forgiving and always pray for God to forgive us.

*[51:18] At dawn, they prayed for forgiveness.*

*[23:118] Say, "My Lord, shower us with forgiveness and mercy. Of all the merciful ones, You are the Most Merciful."*

*[110:3] You shall glorify and praise your Lord, and implore Him for forgiveness. He is the Redeemer.*

Ayaz

#### *Reference:*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/soul-search/how-forgiveness-helps-in-spiritual-growth/articleshow/106455481.cms>

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## GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

I would have agreed with 82% of Americans who believe this phrase comes from the Bible. But it does not. Its origins are in Ancient Greece. It is certainly a well-known motto and it's used to encourage and inspire self-help in people. But I was reading in the Quran:

*[38:10] Do they possess the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, and everything between them? Let them help themselves.*

And the way that last sentence is worded made me think of the motto differently. We cannot actually help ourselves. God is in full control of everything. The only possible way we can help ourselves is by worshiping God alone, turning to Him for all our needs, acknowledging His Omnipotence, and thanking Him for His mercy and kindness.

In Matthew 5:3 in the New Testament some translations give that same understanding:

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you

there is more of God and his rule. (The Message)

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him. (New Living Translation)

Great blessings belong to those who know they are spiritually in need. (Easy to Read Version)

When we realize we are at the end of our rope, when we realize how much we need God, then we can turn to Him. And when we turn to Him, we can find true blessings.

God tells us in 13:11 .... *GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change.* ... So, in that sense, God does help those who help themselves. But it's not that God wants us to do things for ourselves; it's that He wants us to realize we can't do anything for ourselves. The change we have to make is recognizing that our only help comes from God. We can then change our mindset to worshiping Him alone.

We must also be receptive to the help God sends us. Sometimes it comes in the form of another person. A doctor may help you when you're sick. A lawyer might help you out of a jam. A friend can often help just by being there. But it's still God who

is sending this help. And we can thank the doctor or the friend, but we must first and foremost thank God.

To be fully appreciative, we must follow God's commandments. We must do our practices—salat, zakat, fasting—with reverence and consistency. We must lead a righteous life—be kind, charitable, honest, and appreciative. We must understand and accept the true meaning of the Hereafter—that we will be held accountable for all we do in this life and therefore try our best to keep our record as pristine as possible. And repent and reform when we make mistakes.

Then God will truly help us.

*[16:128] GOD is with those who lead a righteous life, and those who are charitable.*

*[55:60] Is the reward of goodness anything but goodness?*

Lydia

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