

# Never Too Late- Art of Repentance

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6:40- 8:20

Dillon Hall 205

## Introduction;

- We are here to serve Allah (SWA), to become better Muslims; it is all about our intentions

### Back to the beginning ;

- It all began with prophet Muhammad (SAW). This one man at the cave of Hira; at which he was in seclusion and solitude away from his family and society. The society he was in had failed him hence he wanted to find a way to connect to Allah;
- Allah (SWA) answered his dua by sending the angel Gibril(AS) with the message of Islam;
- The message started with Iqra indicating the need to go back to the words of Allah.

### Know who Allah (SWA) is;

- Verse3 introduces Allah (SWA) as AL-Aqram. When introducing someone, it is to set an expectation; Allah introduced Himself to show His qualifications; this set the precedent of the relationship with Allah the most/ excessively generous.
- Al-Qram; is the extensive form of generosity; it is greater than anything we will ever comprehend; in it is the quality of forgiveness; right at the start of the message it shows that Allah knew we are going to make mistakes. Hence He(SWA) decided to start the message of Islam with His name of generosity which indicates that He(SWA) is extremely generous even with the forgiveness He (SWA) gives us.
- Most of His names including Al-Wadud, Al- Wahab; all show the compassion and love He(SWA) has. Connect to Allah by understanding His names and attributes.

### Know our selves;

- We will make mistakes. Every day we make choices; that might be good or detrimental to us, families or people around us; these are the choices we need to seek forgiveness for as they will bite us in the back on the day of Judgment.

## What is tawabah

- From the root word; Ta Wa Ba; to turn back towards something or to turn away from something; e.g. when you are driving down the road and then u turn the wrong direction; and then you make a u-turn- this is the essence of Tawuba
- The doors towards going back to Allah are always open 24/7
- The prophets (AS) who were the best of us lived an example of Tawuba; e.g. the Prophet (SAW) said that he (SAW) made Astighifar about 70 times a day- he (SAW) had no sins; he (SAW) was perfect as a human could be- must he lived a life of Tawuba; why?- for us- he (SAW) was teaching us to learn from our mistakes by living a life of seeking forgiveness

## What is stopping us;

- The short comings of our nafs and shaytwan are the key points here
- **Heedlessness**; I just don't care; I am so busy to be bothered; but we have to remember we don't know when we are going to die; as once we die the door to tawuba are closed. Average age is 70. Hadith; sleep is the sister of death; we use our beds for comfort to point that sometimes we miss our swalabs but it can be something we last set our eyes on ; 1 out of 8 Americans dies in sleep.
- **Despair**; When He(SWA) forgives us He(SWA) envelopes us with His mercy in that the despair goes out in the window. We shouldn't say that Allah (SWA) will never be able to forgive us, as it is like making our sins to better than the mercy of Allah (SWA)  
Quran 39: 53: **Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."**
- **Damaging Hope**: Having too much hope making you think that you will get away with anything: as Muslims we don't jump to extremities; so we should be in the middle. Remember Allah(SWA) is the most Just; so He(SWA) will hold us to account to things; so we always have to keep it in mind of both His mercy and justice. Seek forgiveness from Him and the people you have wronged.
- **Belittling sins**: we know we are sinning but we just say the istighifar without actually paying attention or feeling any remorse and then we just go on. Abdullah ibn masud (RA) said that when a believer commits a sin, they should feel that it is a mountain waiting to crush on their shoulders hence go back to Allah and repent; but a hypocrite will treat the sin as if it is just a fly and will just buzz it off. It is not about the sin; it is who we are sinning against; it is Allah (SWA) that we are wronging hence it should be a big deal of what we do. We should be shy and bashful to not sin against Allah (SWA) as He (SWA) is always watching us.

#### **Lets do it/ How to do it (5 steps)**

- **Take yourself to account**: Umar (RA) one of the greatest companions of prophet Muhammad (SAW) said; "take you self to account before you are taken to account"; make a list of things you aren't proud of and deal with them.
- **Sincerity**; not because someone saw you do it but because you sincerely regret doing it
- **Guilt** ; this the essence of repentance; guilt shows that you have some level of iman in yourself- you can improve from here. Do reminders to yourself to keep the guilt even for small sins such as thinking about that life is temporary, so that u keep that guilt up, take accountability of your life remembering that one day you won't be here
- **Verbalize**; so many duas that are taught to us by the prophet in any language
- **Stop the sin**; make an active decision on to stop; when you go back to the sin; make a u-turn again and repent; it is going to be a struggle; shaytawan may come to us telling us that we have been struggling for long so just keep doing it; don't give up; think of the baby who just learns to walk; they fall and continuously stand up and continue fighting- even when you go back to the sin; continue making amends. Also remember to make amends with the people you wronged.

#### **A gift from the Prophet (SAW)**

- It is reported from the prophet (SAW) whoever says this due in the morning and dies before the evening; they will be entered in to paradise or say it in the evening and dies before the morning they will go paradise

"اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ، أَبُوؤُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ، وَأَبُؤُ بِذَنْبِي فَاعْفِرْ لِي فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ."

Allaahumma 'Anta Rabbee laa 'ilaaha 'illaa 'Anta, khalaqtanee wa 'anaa 'abduka, wa 'anaa 'alaa 'ahdika wa wa'dika mas-tata'tu, 'a'oothu bika min sharri maa sana'tu, 'aboo'u laka bini'matika 'alayya, wa 'aboo'u bithanbee faghfir lee fa'innahu laa yaghfiruth-thunooba 'illaa 'Anta.

O Allah, You are my Lord, there is none worthy of worship but You. You created me and I am your slave. I keep Your covenant, and my pledge to You so far as I am able. I seek refuge in You from the evil of what I have done. I admit to Your blessings upon me, and I admit to my misdeeds. Forgive me, for there is none who may forgive sins but You.

#### What happens now

- Love of Allah (SWA); Allah (SWA) loves those who repent
- Your sins wont just get erased but will become your good deeds- (Quran:25: 70): **Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah (SWA) will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.**

#### Final thought:

- Hadith ; "I swear by Him in which hand is my soul, if you were a people who didn't commit sin, Allah (SWA) would take you away and replace you with a people who would sin and so seek Allah's (SWA) forgiveness so that He could forgive them. This hadith indicates that Allah (SWA) loves those who repent/ the act of repentance. It isn't to indicate that He(SWA) loves sins.
- Hadith Qudus: "Allah the almighty has said; o son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done and I shall not mind, o son of Adam were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I will forgive you, o son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins great as the earth and were you then to face ascribing no partner t to Me, I would bring forgiveness nearly as great as it's (earth)." This shows the generosity of Allah (SWA) with His forgiveness