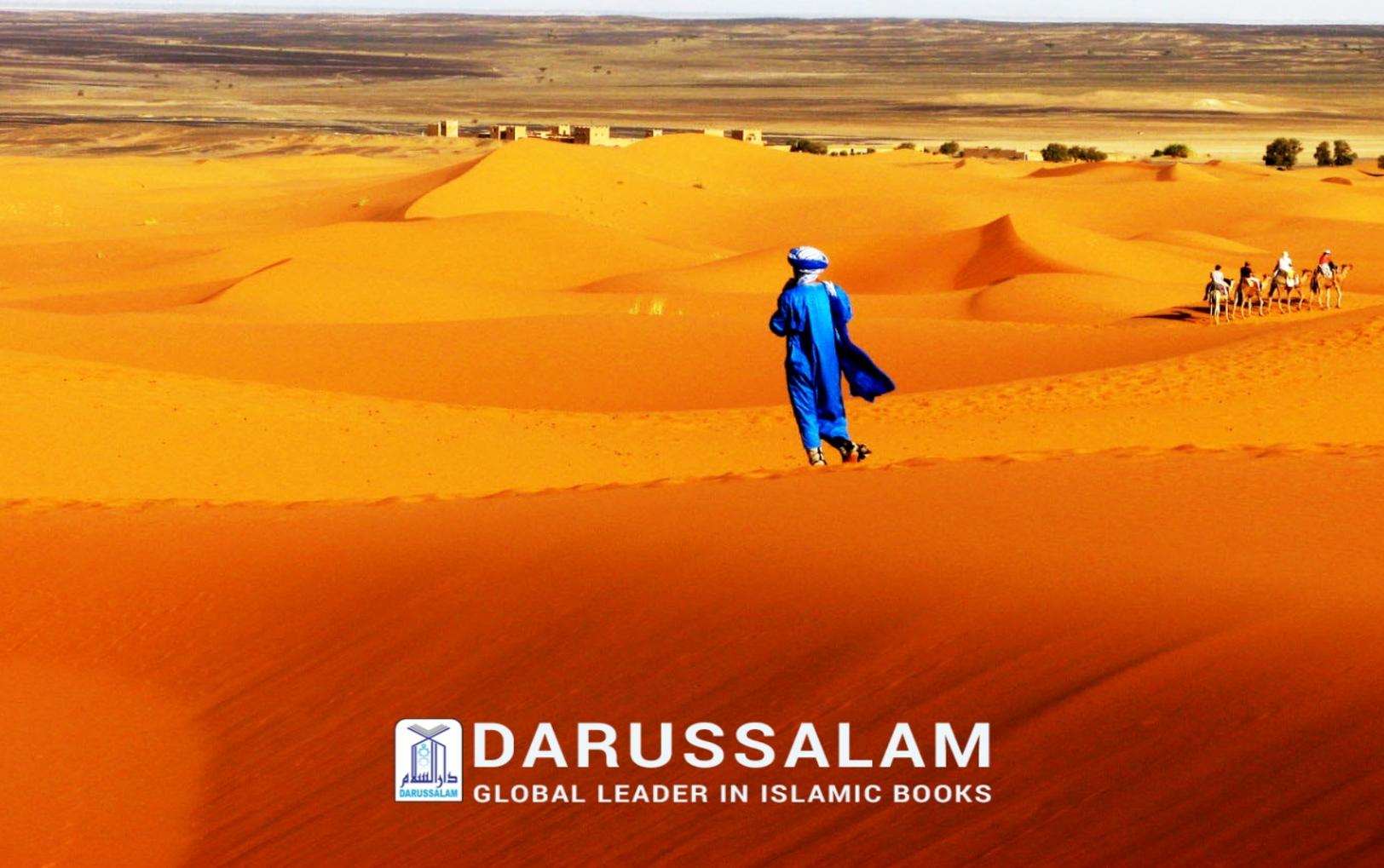


SEEKING FORGIVENESS

BY

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DARUSSALAM
GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

SEEKING FORGIVENESS

By: Shaykh Al-Islam Taqiuddin 'Abdui-Halim Ibn Taymiyyah

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PUBLISHERS NOTE

All praise is due to Allah, and may He grant peace and blessings upon His Last Messenger Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

This is a translation of one of the smaller publications from the works of Shaykh Al-Islam Taqiuddin Ahmad bin 'Abdui-Halim Ibn Taymiyyah. It has been published in Arabic with the title, "Istagfar," or, "Seeking Forgiveness."

This discussion deals with the different views that average people and scholars alike have about the topic of seeking forgiveness:

Does one seek forgiveness for doing something wrong or for violating a prohibition?

Is a person required to seek forgiveness for what he did while unaware?

Is one required to seek forgiveness for what they thought about but did not act upon?

If one repents for a sin and then commits it later, is his original repentance invalid or not?

These questions and more are answered in Shaykh Al-Islam's "Seeking Forgiveness."

We have verified our version to meet the source section of Majmu' Al-Fatawa (11:619) from where the original Arabic publication has been taken. We have added a few brief references to the text for some Hadiths. I would like to express gratitude to brother Ebrahim Aly Ma'rouf for the original translation of this booklet, and the Darussalam staff for their editing and layout work.

In the end all praise is due to Allah, and upon Him we depend.

Abdul-Malik Mujahid
General Manager

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

O My Lord, Most Generous! Grant ease and support (in this work).

Shaykh Al-Islam, may Allah have mercy on him, said:

Praise be to Allah, we praise Him, seek His Help and ask His Forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah against the evils of our souls and the evils of our deeds.

Whomever Allah guides, there is no one to lead him astray, and whomever He misleads, there is no one who can guide him.

I testify that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allah, Who has no partner, and I testify that Muhammad is His Servant and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and his family.

Repentance and Seeking Forgiveness is due to Abandonment of the Commandments and Doing what is Forbidden

The first is that which most people are unaware of; Allah, the Most High, says:

﴿فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ بِالْعِشِيِّ وَالْإِبْكَارِ﴾

"So be patient. Verily the promise of Allah is true, and ask forgiveness for your sin and glorify the praises of your Lord by day and by night." (40:55)

He also says:

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلِّبِكُمْ مَوْتِكُمْ﴾

"So know that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sin, and also for the believing men and the believing women. And Allah knows well your moving about, and your place of rest." (47:19)

And He says:

﴿لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ﴾

"That Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future." (46:2) (Referring to Muhammad Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)

And His saying (on the tongue of our Messenger Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

﴿أَلَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي لَكُرَيْتُهُ نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ﴾ وَأَنْ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُغْفِرْ لَكُمْ مَتَاعًا حَسَنًا إِنَّ أَجَلَ مُسَمًّى وَتُؤْتِ كُلَّ ذِي فَضْلٍ فَضْلَهُ وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ كَبِيرٍ﴾

"(Saying) worship none but Allah. Verily, I am unto you from Him a warner and a bringer of glad tidings.' And (commanding you): 'Seek the forgiveness of your Lord, and turn to Him in repentance, that He may grant you good enjoyment, for a term appointed.'" (11:2-3)

We say: Repentance and asking for forgiveness is for abandoning a commandment and committing a forbidden action. Both of these are from the evil deeds, faults, and sin.

According to everyone, the act of abandoning faith, Tawhid, or the obligatory duties that Allah has imposed on the heart and the body is undoubtedly a form of sin. Actually, it is in fact the worse of the two (between abandoning commandments and committing prohibitions). We have explained this in what we wrote about the principles before my journey to Egypt.