

FRIDAY MESSAGE

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The infinite Mercy of Allah: A Reflection on Divine Forgiveness**

In the depths of human existence, where mistakes and shortcomings are inevitable, there shines a beacon of hope—a divine promise that transcends the weight of sin and the darkness of despair. The hadith of Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him), in which the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) conveys Allah's words, is one of the most profound assurances of divine mercy.

O son of Adam, as long as you call upon Me and place your hope in Me, I will forgive you for whatever you have done, and I will not mind. O son of Adam, if your sins were to reach the clouds of the sky, then you sought My forgiveness, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, if you came to Me with sins as great as the earth, but you met Me without associating anything with Me, I would bring you forgiveness as great as it."(Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi)

This hadith is not merely a statement; it is a call to every soul weighed down by transgressions, assuring that there is always a road back to Allah.

Scholar's view on the Hadith

Islamic scholars have long reflected on this Hadith, recognizing its immense significance. Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali, in his

commentary on Jami' al-'Ulum wa al-Hikam, described Allah's forgiveness as something beyond human comprehension. He explained that a person may accumulate sins beyond measure, yet Allah's mercy engulfs them completely, provided they repent sincerely.

Similarly, Ibn Taymiyyah emphasized that Allah's mercy surpasses His wrath, echoing the famous hadith Qudsi:

"My mercy prevails over My anger."
(Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim) This means that as long as a believer turns back to Allah with sincerity, His doors remain open. It is not perfection that He demands, but a heart willing to humble itself before Him.

Imam Al-Ghazali, known for his wisdom on spirituality, remarked that despair is one of Shaytan's greatest weapons against a believer. He argues that the moment one believes their sins are too great to be forgiven, they fall into one of the gravest mistakes—underestimating the vastness of Allah's mercy.

A Story of Redemption: The Man Who Killed a Hundred People

The power of divine mercy is best illustrated through the famous story of the man who killed a hundred people—a gripping testament to forgiveness found in Sahih Muslim.

A man who had committed ninety-nine murders sought repentance, but felt there was no hope for him. He approached a worshiper and asked if he could be forgiven. The worshiper, unfamiliar with Allah's boundless mercy, told him no. In frustration, he killed that man, bringing his count to one hundred murders.

Yet, hope persisted. He sought another scholar, this time a knowledgeable man who understood Allah's immense forgiveness. The scholar told him:

Yes, but you must leave your sinful environment and travel to a land of righteousness. Determined, the man set out for that land. However, death struck him on the way. Angels of mercy and punishment descended, debating whether he should be granted salvation. As they measured his distance, they found that he was closer to the land of righteousness and Allah forgave him.

This extraordinary story serves as a vivid reflection of the hadith's core message: No sin is too great, no past is beyond redemption, and Allah's mercy awaits all who seek it sincerely.

A Divine Invitation, Not a License for Sin

A question arises: does this Hadith encourage complacency in sins? Imam Nawawi answered this beautifully, explaining that while Allah's mercy is endless, a believer should not deliberately indulge in sins with the expectation of forgiveness.

Allah forgives those who truly repent, those whose hearts tremble at their mistakes and who seek His mercy with sincerity.

Al-Hassan al-Basri, known for his wisdom, once said: "A believer works righteousness while fearing that his deeds may not be accepted, while a sinner keeps sinning but is hopeful of Allah's mercy—yet both must understand that mercy comes to those who

strive for it." The balance is clear: hope and effort must walk hand in hand.

The Gift of Tawheed: The Key to Ultimate Forgiveness

The concluding part of the hadith reveals one condition—the person must meet Allah without associating partners with Him (Tawheed). This is the single most important principle of Islam. Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) once said:

Tawheed is the rope that, if firmly held, ensures entry into Paradise regardless of one's past.

No matter the sins, as long as one dies upon monotheism Allah's mercy is unmatched.

A Personal Reflection: Turning Back Before It's Too Late

Life passes like a fleeting shadow. We stumble, we falter, and we amass regrets that weigh upon our souls. But Allah is saying: "Come back. I will erase it all."

Reflect on the countless moments where His mercy has protected you—in times of near disaster, in moments of despair when hope seemed lost. Even when the world turns its back, His mercy never does.

Every day is an opportunity. Every breath is a gift. Every sin can be erased with a sincere call upon Him.

So, why wait? Why doubt? The door to divine forgiveness stands wide open. Let us step forward before time closes upon us.

Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful."* (Qur'an 39:53)

Except for those who repent, believe, and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful. (Quran Surah 70, verse 68-71)