

Lesson-28: Du'aa for forgiveness

Lesson Outcomes

- What is ظلم?
- Explanation of “I have wronged myself.”
- Who has the authority to forgive our sins?

Text and Explanation

ظُلْمًا كَثِيرًا

نَفْسِي

ظَلَمْتُ

إِنِّي

اللَّهُمَّ

with excessive wrong	Myself	I have wronged	Indeed I	O Allah!
O Allah! Indeed, I have wronged myself with excessive wrong.				

- ظلم: Being unjust; choosing wrong in place of right; any act that goes against the orders and will of Allah. We should obey Allah else it would be ظلم.
- The great act of worship is to sincerely ask Allah for guidance and forgiveness.
- This Du'aa teaches us how to ask Allah's forgiveness. Praising Allah, acknowledging helplessness and then asking for forgiveness.

Hadith: Abu Huraira (R) reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ, said, “By Allah! I ask for forgiveness from Allah and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day.” [Bukhari] Imagine, if Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the finest of the Allah's creation and leader of the Prophets, used to do Istighfar (repentance) seventy times a day, then where do we stand?

Story: Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (R) asked The Messenger of Allah ﷺ to teach him a Du'aa in that he may recite in the Salah. The Prophet ﷺ taught him this Du'aa. [Bukhari]

Tadabbur – Study, Imagine, and Feel

- Committing a sin is like self-harming. This may not affect others but will cause great loss to one's own self.
- If Allah decides not to forgive and punish us for our sins, who can save us from Allah's wrath? Therefore, we must sincerely and continuously ask Allah for forgiveness.
- Imagine meeting Allah in a clean condition, with all sins forgiven. How great will that be!

Tadhakur – Du'aa, Evaluate, and Plan

- O Allah! I am very weak and helpless. I can't bear your punishment. So please be kind to me and forgive my sins.
- Check: Which areas of our life we commit most of the sins and displease Allah.
- Make a plan to save yourself from sins.

وَلَا يَغْفِرُ إِلَّا أَنْتَ الذُّنُوبَ

You	Except	the sins	and none can forgive
and none can forgive the sins except you			

فَاغْفِرْ لِي مَغْفِرَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِكَ وَارْحَمْنِي

and have mercy on me	out of your forgiveness	So forgive (for) me
So, forgive me (my sins) out of Your forgiveness and have mercy on me.		

إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الرَّحِيمُ الْغَفُورُ

the most Merciful	are the Oft-Forgiving	Indeed You, You (alone)
Indeed You, You (alone) are the Oft-Forgiving the most Merciful.		

- The doors to Allah’s forgiveness are always open. No matter how big our sin, Allah is always ready to hear and accept our repentance.
- Feeling ashamed of one's sins and seeking forgiveness is a good deed.
- At the end of this Du’aa, we acknowledge Allah’s greatness by mentioning His two attributes: الرَّحِيمُ Most Merciful and الْغَفُورُ Most forgiving.

Tadabbur – Study, Imagine, and Feel

- We commit number of sins daily and forget them. We don’t even think of repenting these sins. Is this the sign of an obedient person? Will Allah be pleased with us?
- Being obedient to our Creator is one way to thank Him. In case we forget to be obedient, we can always sincerely repent.
- Feel the situation of a student who didn’t study hard and is sitting in an exam hall. Will he be given a chance to study at that time? Never. A good student will always study and be prepared before the examination.

Tadhakkur – Du’aa, Evaluate, and Plan

- Ask: O Allah! Please forgive us and guide us to the right path.
- Check: In our daily life we apologize if we do something wrong. How do we react after committing a sin or evil deed? Do we rush to seek Allah’s forgiveness?
- Draw a plan to do more good deeds and keep away from sins and wrongdoings.

Habit: I will immediately say **أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ** if I commit anything wrong.

Practical Questions

1. Explain the meaning of “ظَلَمَ.”
2. What is the sign of an obedient person?
3. What do we have to do to seek Allah’s forgiveness?