



NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY



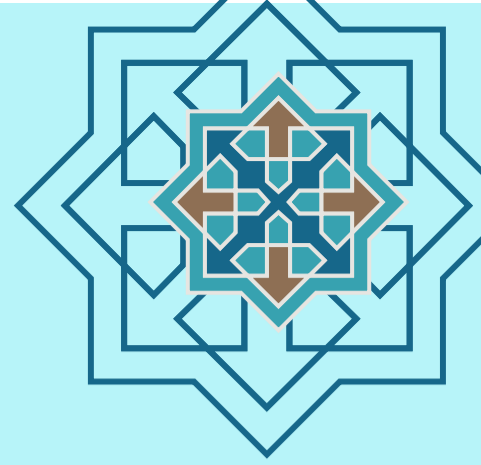
# *Repentance In Islam*





All Muslims want salvation and seek God's favour and grace. In order to attain this, a Muslim must earn God's favour and grace by obeying His commands and refraining from His prohibitions. When one does neither of these, i.e. they don't obey God's commands, such as not offering the prescribed ritual devotions, or they fall into a prohibition, such as harming others, they have committed a sin. Sins can incur God's displeasure and they distance a person from God's favour and grace, and ultimately from salvation.

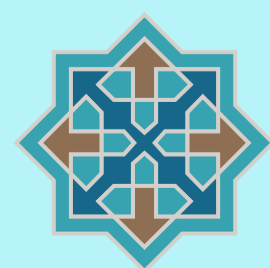
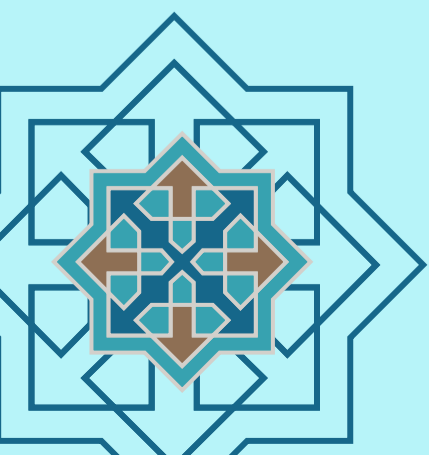


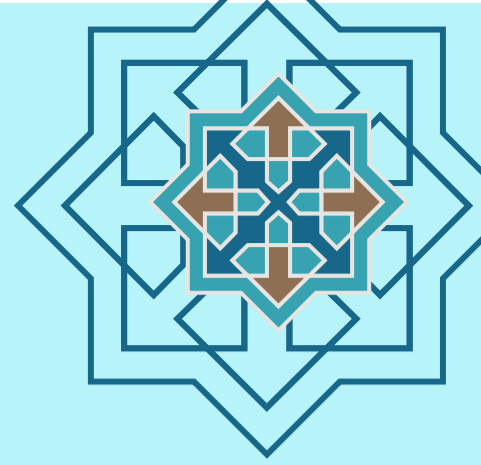


# Sins

In Islam, all sins are not equal, yet one should do their utmost to refrain from all of them, as opening the door to even a relatively small sin can lead to bigger ones and is like a slippery slope. The worst of all sins is worshipping other than God or giving others any of the exclusive rights of God. This sin takes a person outside of Islam and will incur God's permanent wrath upon them in the next life. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was asked about the worst of sins and replied, "To join others in worship with God."

There are major sins, which are those that have been mentioned in the Quran or the teachings of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ in a grave manner, promising the severe punishment of God's damnation or wrath. Examples of major sins include murder and taking of life, consuming intoxicants, adultery and fornication, magic and sorcery, oppression, being undutiful to one's parents, slander and defamation etc. There are also minor sins, and these include everything else not mentioned above.

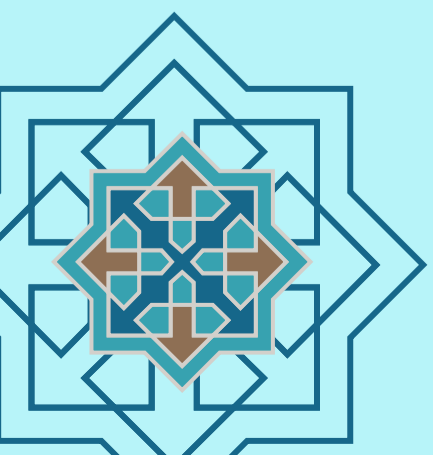


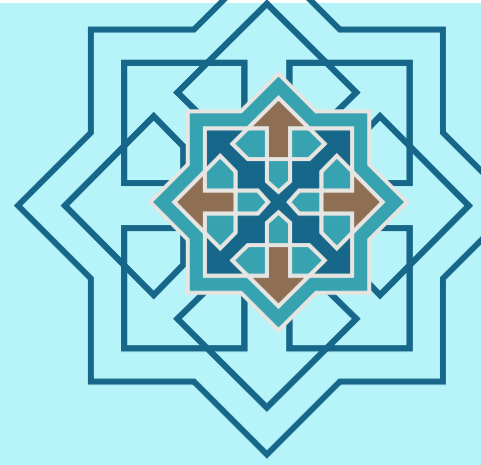


# *All People Sin*

Islam acknowledges that all people are prone to making poor choices and to sin. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ informed us of this when he said, “All of the children of Adam make mistakes and sin, but the best of those who sin are those who then repent to God.” Thus, it is not unexpected that we sin, but the worse issue is that we don’t repent, show remorse and make a meaningful attempt to stop sinning.

There is a difference between a person who is engrossed in sin, sinning by day and night, rarely showing remorse and actively seeking those things that they know are displeasing to God, and a person that does their utmost to avoid sin, but occasionally is overcome by their desires and therefore sins. The latter is more likely to repent to God frequently, whereas the former is often heedless of God and the sins they are incurring.

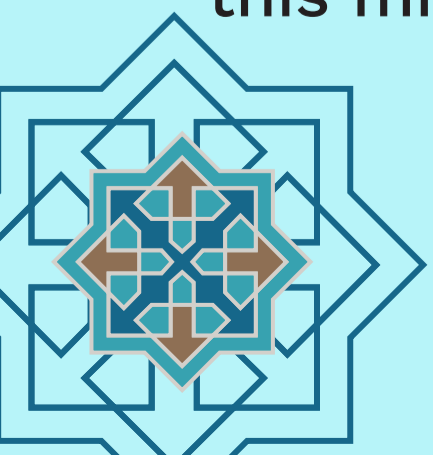


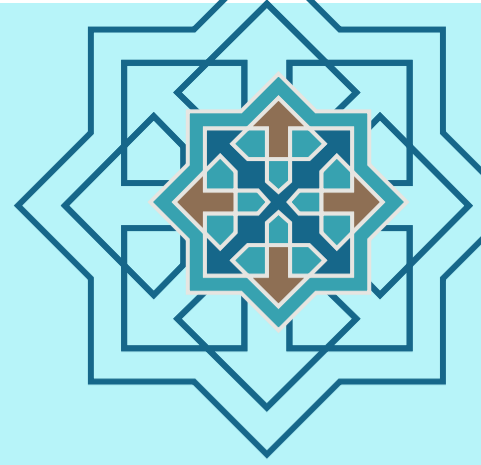


# *Repentance*

Repentance is to leave what God has forbidden and return to what God has commanded. It is to ask God for His forgiveness and mercy, as God says, “Turn all of you in repentance to God, O believers, in order that you may be successful.” [24:31] This is when God’s all-encompassing grace and mercy come in, whereby a person’s sins are forgiven, and they are rewarded for recognizing their need to repent and seek God’s grace.

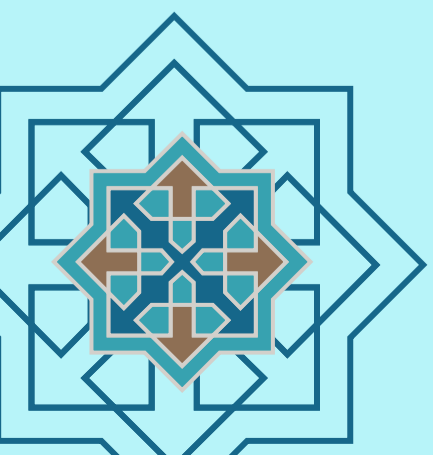
God loves the act of repentance as He says, “Indeed, God loves those who frequently repent.” [2:222] He also says, “Tell My servants that indeed, I am Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful” [15:49] The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ informed us in a beautiful statement of God’s love for those who repent. He said, “God is more delighted with the repentance of His servant when he repents than any of you would be if he found his camel, which he had been riding in a barren desert, and it had escaped from him carrying his food and drink, and he had despaired of it. In this state, he comes to a tree and lays down in its shade, then while he was despairing of it, the camel came and stood by his side, and he seized its reins and cried out in joy, ‘O God, You are my servant and I am your Lord!’ – he would make this mistake out of his excessive joy.”

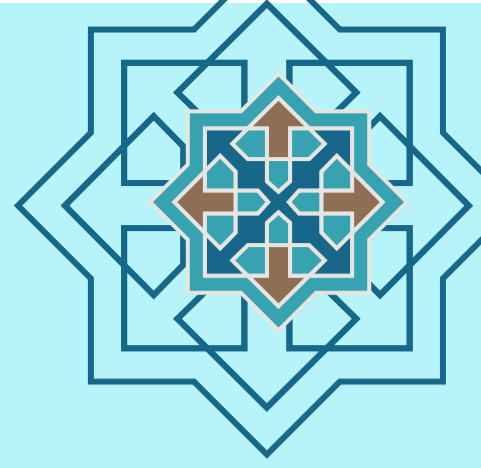




The man, out of sheer delight and joy in being given his lifeline when he thought that he would surely die, mixes up his words and says that God is his servant and he the Lord, as opposed to the right way round. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ informed us that God is ever ready to accept repentance, and never refuses those who sincerely turn to Him. You may be a person who sins for decades and is engaged in all types of sin, and then asks God for forgiveness once, and He may forgive you for that lifetime of sin.

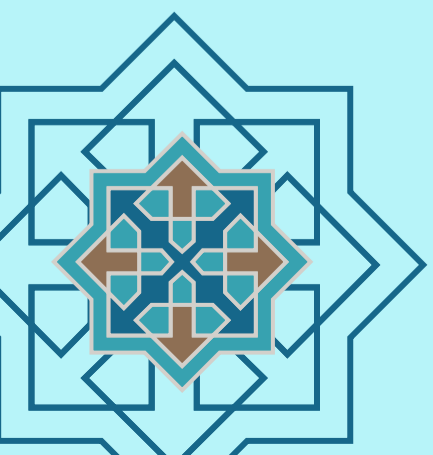
The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said, “God extends His Hand at night to accept the repentance of the one who has sinned during the day; and He extends His Hand during the day to accept the repentance of the one who has sinned during the night – until the sun rises from the West [i.e. the Day of Judgement].”

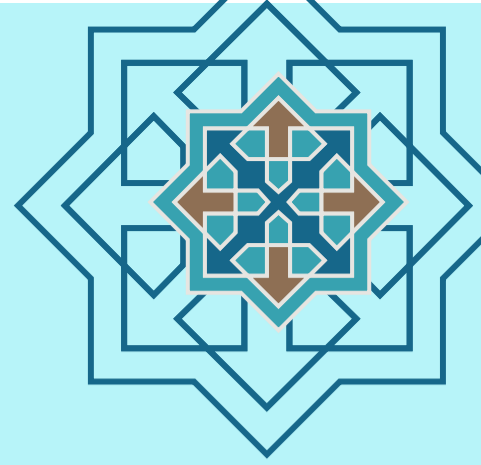




# *New Muslims & Repentance*

One of God's favours upon a new Muslim is that the act of accepting Islam immediately wipes away and deletes all their sins that came before it. It is like a newborn baby that is sinless. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said, "Islam expunges everything that came before it." This refers to bad deeds and sins. As for the good deeds that one performed before Islam, out of God's grace, the new muslim will keep the reward of any good deeds they did beforehand. This does not mean that the effects of a life of sin and bad habits will not be felt anymore. Rather this is in relation to the person not being accountable before God for what they did beforehand. They may still be accountable legally for any crimes they committed and may still be liable physically for the after effects and consequences of their previous actions.

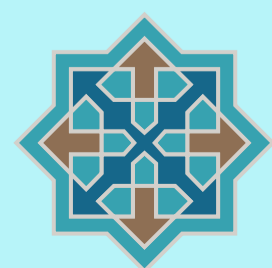
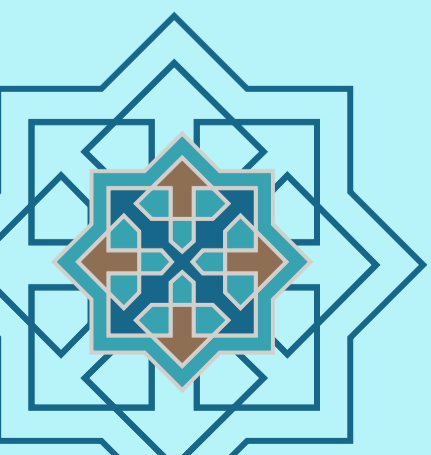




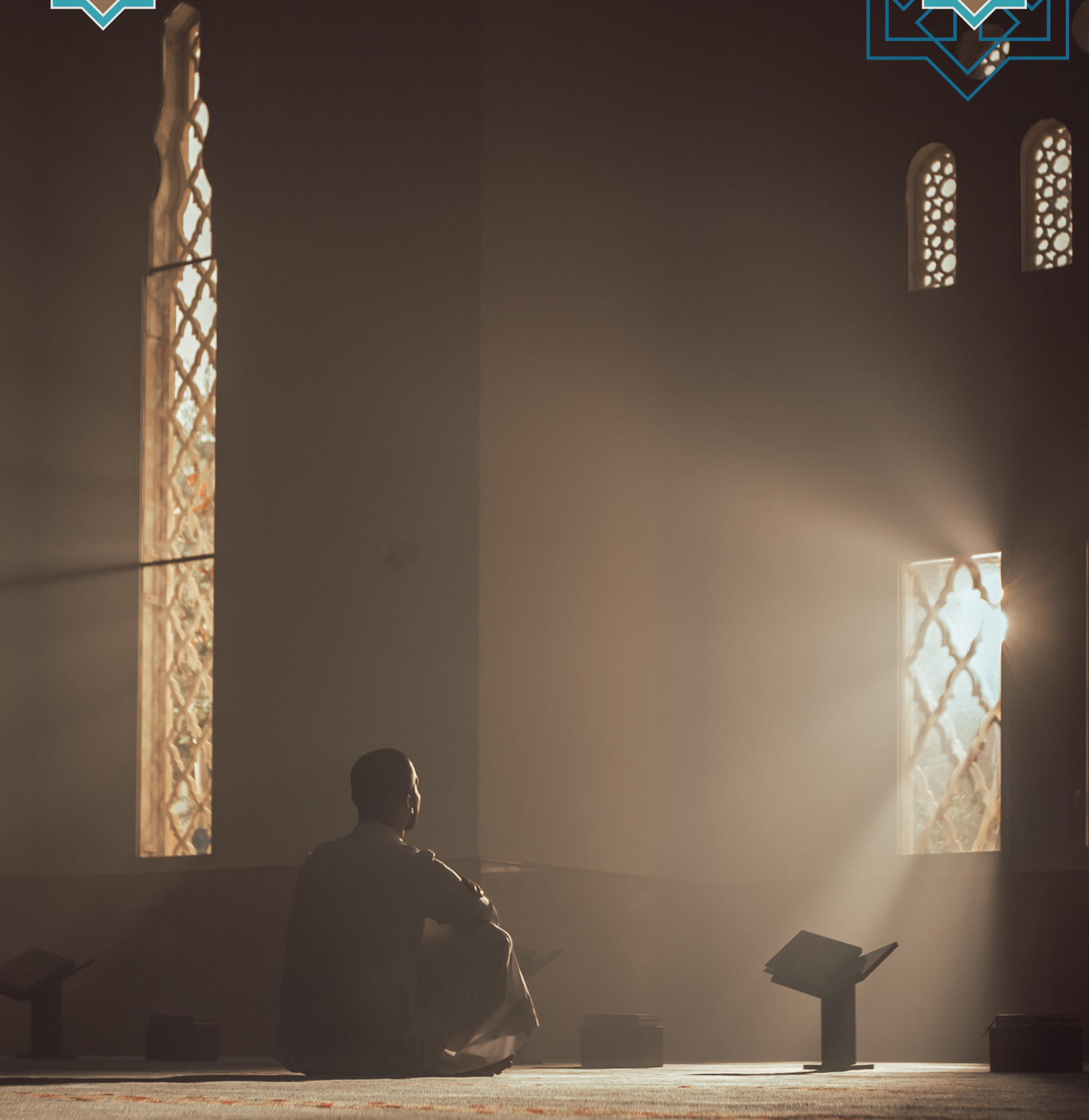
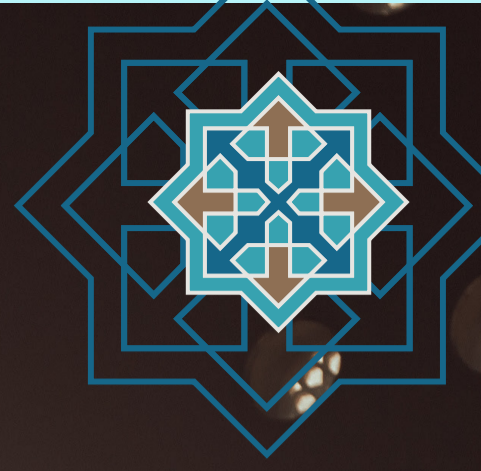
# *How to Seek Forgiveness*

You can constantly ask God for forgiveness by saying, ‘O God, forgive me.’ The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ would say this many times every day. This short prayer takes care of all the small sins committed. As for major sins, one should specify a particular sin that they wish to be forgiven from. One way of doing this is to make ritual washing, offer two units of voluntary ritual devotion, and then at the end, ask God for forgiveness for this specific sin.

As we make a concerted effort to worship and obey God, remember that if we commit a sin, the gates of repentance are wide open, and we should always turn to God and ask Him to forgive us.







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