

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وُلْدِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

The Divine Mercy of Allah

In Surah Zumar, verse 53, the Qur'an declares that:

قُلْ يَاعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٥٣﴾

“Proclaim (O dear Prophet Muhammad – peace and blessings be upon him), “O My slaves, who have wronged themselves, do not lose hope in Allah’s mercy; indeed Allah forgives all sins; indeed He only is the Oft Forgiving, the Most Merciful.”

In this verse, Allah Almighty is addressing all those slaves of His who have wronged themselves, who have committed excesses, who have committed major sin and who have this belief that they would never be pardoned. They are advised that they should never lose hope in the Divine Mercy of the Allah Almighty.

What did the blessed Ashaab understand from this verse?

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ibn Sereen - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - has stated that, "There is no verse in the Qur'an (in regard to the Divine Mercy) which is more expansive (in its meaning) than this verse." (ibn Abid Dunya)

Hadrat Sayyidah Asmaa binte Yazeed - *may Allah be pleased with her* - narrates that she once inquired from the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - about this verse and he mentioned, "It does not matter to Allah Almighty whether He pardons all sins". In other words, everything belongs to Him. As the Divine Creator, he can pardon whatever He wishes. Nothing is outside His creation. As the 'Ulama have explained, if Allah Almighty punishes people, this is His Divine Justice and if He rewards people, this is His Divine Mercy. If people enter Jannah, it is not because of their good deeds, it is because of His Divine Mercy that they will enter Jannah.

In the *Musahhaf* of Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Mas'ud - *may Allah be pleased with him* – and under the explanation in regard to Allah Almighty being able to pardon whatever He wishes, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Kunud - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that once Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Mas'ud - *may Allah be pleased with him* - entered the Masjid and he saw someone lecturing to people and also giving them advice. He was also explaining about the Fire of Hell and the manner in which people would be chained. He then stood next to this person and declared, "O that person who is lecturing! Why are you making people lose hope in the Divine Mercy?" (Shuhubul Imaan)

Hadrat Sayyiduna Zaid bin Aslam - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that in the previous Ummah there was a person who used to perform Ibadah in excess and be firm on his Nafs. At the same time, he had a habit of making people lose hope in the Divine Mercy of Allah Almighty. It is said that when he died, someone saw him standing in the Divine Court of Allah Almighty. He was also asking Allah Almighty what reward he was going to receive.

The Divine Creator Replied, "Fire of hell".

He then asked about that had happened to his Ibadah and spiritual penitence.

Allah Almighty declared, "In the world, you used to make people lose hope in My Divine Mercy, today I will make you lose hope in My Divine Mercy."

Therefore, even though we may advice people to perform Ibadah and serve Islam, we are advised that at every moment also, we should also inform people about the Divine Mercy of Allah Almighty.