

DU`Ā' AL-TAWBAH PRAYER FOR ACCEPTING REPENTANCE

From Sahifa sajadiya of Imam Zayn al-`Ābidīn ( ` a)

O Allah, O He whom the depiction of the  
describers fails to describe!

اللَّهُمَّ يَا مَنْ لَا يَصِفُهُ نَعْتُ الْوَاصِفِينَ

O He beyond whom passes not the hope of the  
hoppers!

وَيَا مَنْ لَا يُجَاوِزُهُ رَجَاءُ الرَّاجِينَ

O He with whom is not lost the wage of the  
good-doers!

وَيَا مَنْ لَا يَضِيعُ لَدَيْهِ أَجْرُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

O He who is the ultimate object of the fear of the  
worshippers!

وَيَا مَنْ هُوَ مُنْتَهَى خَوْفِ الْعَابِدِينَ

O He who is the utmost limit of the dread of the  
god-fearing!

وَيَا مَنْ هُوَ غَايَةُ خَشْيَةِ الْمُتَّقِينَ

This is the station of him whom sins have passed  
from hand to hand,

هَذَا مَقَامٌ مَنْ تَدَاوَلَتْهُ أَيْدِي الذُّنُوبِ

offenses' reins have led him on,

وَقَادَتْهُ أَرْمَةٌ الْخَطَايَا

and Satan has gained mastery over him.

وَأَسْتَحْوَذَ عَلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانُ

He fell short of what You have commanded  
through neglect

فَقَصَرَ عَمَّا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ تَفْرِيطًا

and he pursued what You have prohibited in  
delusion,

وَتَعَاطَى مَا نَهَيْتَ عَنْهُ تَغْرِيبًا

like one ignorant of Your power over him

كَالْجَاهِلِ بِقُدْرَتِكَ عَلَيْهِ

or one who denies the bounty of Your  
beneficence toward him,

أَوْ كَالْمُنْكَرِ فَضْلَ إِحْسَانِكَ إِلَيْهِ

until, when the eye of guidance was opened for  
him

حَتَّى إِذَا أَنْفَتَحَ لَهُ بَصَرُ الْهُدَى

and the clouds of blindness were dispelled,

وَتَقَشَّعَتْ عَنْهُ سَحَابُ الْعَمَى

he reckoned that through which he had wronged  
himself

أَحْصَى مَا ظَلَمَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ

and reflected upon that in which he had opposed  
his Lord.

وَفَكَّرَ فِيمَا خَالَفَ بِهِ رَبَّهُ

He saw his vast disobedience as vast

فَرَأَى كَبِيرَ عِصْيَانِهِ كَبِيرًا

and his great opposition as great.

وَجَلِيلَ مُخَالَفَتِهِ جَلِيلًا

So he turned to You, hoping in You

فَأَقْبَلَ نَحْوَكَ مُؤَمَّلًا لَكَ

and ashamed before You,

مُسْتَحْيِيًّا مِنْكَ

and he directed his beseeching toward You,  
having trust in You.

وَوَجَّهَ رَغْبَتَهُ إِلَيْكَ ثِقَةً بِكَ

He repared to You in his longing with certitude

فَأَمَّكَ بِطَمَعِهِ يَقِينًا

and he went straight to You in fear with  
sincerity.

وَقَصَدَكَ بِخَوْفِهِ إِخْلَاصًا

His longing was devoid of every object of  
longing but You,

قَدْ خَلَا طَمَعُهُ مِنْ كُلِّ مَطْمُوعٍ فِيهِ

غَيْرِكَ

and his fright departed from every object of fear  
but You.

وَأَفْرَخَ رَوْعَهُ مِنْ كُلِّ مَحْذُورٍ مِنْهُ سِوَاكَ

So he stood before You pleading,

فَمَثَلَ بَيْنَ يَدَيْكَ مُتَضَرِّعًا

his eyes turned toward the ground in  
humbleness,

وَعَمَّضَ بَصَرَهُ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ مُتَخَشِّعًا

his head bowed before Your might in lowliness;

وَطَاطَأَ رَأْسَهُ لِعِزَّتِكَ مُتَذَلِّلًا

he revealed to You in meekness those secrets of  
his which You know better than he;

وَأَبْتَكَ مِنْ سِرِّهِ مَا أَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِ مِنْهُ

خُضُوعًا

he numbered for You in humility those sins of  
his which You count better than he;

وَعَدَّدَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ مَا أَنْتَ أَحْصَى لَهَا

خُشُوعًا

he sought help from You before the dreadful  
into which he has fallen in Your knowledge

وَأَسْتَعَاثَ بِكَ مِنْ عَظِيمٍ مَا وَقَعَ بِهِ فِي

عِلْمِكَ

and the ugly which has disgraced him in Your  
judgment

وَقَبِيحٍ مَا فَضَحَهُ فِي حُكْمِكَ

the sins whose pleasures have turned their backs  
and gone

مِنْ ذُنُوبٍ أَدْبَرَتْ لَذَائِهَا فَذَهَبَتْ

and whose evil consequences have stayed and stuck fast.

He will not deny Your justice, my God, if You punish him,

nor will he consider Your pardon great if You pardon him and hast mercy upon him,

for You are the Generous Lord

for whom the forgiveness of great sins is nothing great!

O Allah, so here I am: I have come to You obeying Your command

for You have commanded supplication

and asking the fulfillment of Your promise,

for You have promised to respond:

You have said, "Supplicate Me and I will respond to you."

O Allah, So bless Muhammad and his Household,

meet me with Your forgiveness just as I have met You with my confession,

lift me up from the fatal infirmities of sins

just as I have let myself down before You,

and cover me with Your covering

just as You have shown no haste to take vengeance on me!

O Allah, make firm my intention to obey You,

strengthen my insight in worshipping You,

وَأَقَامَتْ تَبِعَاتُهَا فَلَزِمَتْ

لَا يُنْكِرُ يَا إِلَهِي عَدْلَكَ إِنْ عَاقَبْتَهُ

وَلَا يَسْتَعْظِمُ عَفْوَكَ إِنْ عَفَوْتَ عَنْهُ

وَرَحِمَتُهُ

لَأَنَّكَ الرَّبُّ الْكَرِيمُ

الَّذِي لَا يَتَعَاطَمُهُ غُفْرَانُ الذَّنْبِ الْعَظِيمِ

اللَّهُمَّ فَهَذَا أَنَا ذَا قَدْ جِئْتُكَ مُطِيعاً لِأَمْرِكَ

فِيمَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ مِنَ الدُّعَاءِ

مُتَنَجِّزاً وَعَدْلِكَ

فِيمَا وَعَدْتَ بِهِ مِنَ الإِجَابَةِ

إِذْ تَقُولُ: «أَدْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ.»

اللَّهُمَّ فَصَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ

وَأَلْقِنِي بِمَغْفِرَتِكَ كَمَا لَقَيْتَكَ بِإِقْرَارِي

وَأَرْفَعْنِي عَنْ مَصَارِعِ الذُّنُوبِ

كَمَا وَضَعْتَ لَكَ نَفْسِي

وَأَسْتُرْنِي بِسِتْرِكَ

كَمَا تَأَنَّىتَنِي عَنِ الإِنْتِقَامِ مِنِّي

اللَّهُمَّ وَثَبْتُ فِي طَاعَتِكَ نِيَّتِي

وَأَحْكِمْ فِي عِبَادَتِكَ بَصِيرَتِي

give me the success of works which will wash  
away the defilement of offenses,

and take me following Your religion

and the creed of Your prophet Muḥammad,  
upon him be peace, when You take me.

O Allah, I repent to You in this my station

from my sins, great and small,

my evil deeds, inward and outward,

and my lapses, past and recent,

with the repentance of one who does not tell  
himself that he might disobey

or secretly think that he might return to an  
offense.

You have said, my God, in the firm text of Your  
Book,

that You accept repentance from Your servants,

pardon evil deeds,

and love the repentant,

so accept my repentance as You have promised,

pardon my evil deeds as You have guaranteed,

and make obligatory toward me Your love as  
You have stipulated!

To You, my Lord, belongs my stipulation that I  
will not return to what is disliked by You,

وَوَفَّقْنِي مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ لِمَا تَغْسِلُ بِهِ

دَسَّ الْخَطَايَا عَنِّي

وَتَوَفَّقْنِي عَلَىٰ مِلَّتِكَ

وَمِلَّةِ نَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ إِذَا

تَوَفَّقْتَنِي

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ فِي مَقَامِي هَذَا

مِنْ كَبَائِرِ ذُنُوبِي وَصَغَائِرِهَا

وَبَوَاطِنِ سَيِّئَاتِي وَظَوَاهِرِهَا

وَسَوَائِفِ زَلَّاتِي وَحَوَادِثِهَا

تَوْبَةً مَنْ لَا يُحَدِّثُ نَفْسَهُ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ

وَلَا يُضْمِرُ أَنْ يَعُودَ فِي خَطِيئَةٍ

وَقَدْ قُلْتَ يَا إِلَهِي فِي مُحْكَمِ كِتَابِكَ

إِنَّكَ تَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِكَ

وَتَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ

وَتُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ

فَأَقْبَلْ تَوْبَتِي كَمَا وَعَدْتَ

وَأَعْفُ عَنِّي سَيِّئَاتِي كَمَا ضَمِنْتَ

وَأَوْجِبْ لِي مَحَبَّتَكَ كَمَا شَرَطْتَ

وَلَكَ يَا رَبِّ شَرْطِي أَنْ لَا أَعُودَ فِي

my guarantee that I will not go back to what You blame,

and my covenant that I will stay away from acts of disobedience to You.

O Allah, You know better what I have done,

so forgive me what You know

and turn me through Your power to what You love.

O Allah, counted against me are claims that stay in my memory

and claims that I have forgotten,

while all of them remain in Your eye that does not sleep

and Your knowledge that does not forget!

So, compensate their owners,

lighten their load upon me,

lift up their weight from me,

and preserve me from approaching their like!

O Allah, but I cannot be faithful to my repentance without Your preservation,

nor can I refrain from offenses without Your strength.

So, strengthen me with a sufficient strength

مَكْرُوهِكَ

وَضَمَانِي أَنْ لَا أَرْجِعَ فِي مَذْمُومِكَ

وَعَهْدِي أَنْ أَهْجُرَ جَمِيعَ مَعَاصِيكَ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا عَمِلْتُ

فَاغْفِرْ لِي مَا عَلِمْتَ

وَأَصْرِفْنِي بِقُدْرَتِكَ إِلَى مَا أَحْبَبْتَ

اللَّهُمَّ وَعَلَيَّ تَبِعَاتٌ قَدْ حَفِظْتُهُنَّ

وَتَبِعَاتٌ قَدْ نَسِيتُهُنَّ

وَكُلُّهُنَّ بِعَيْنِكَ الَّتِي لَا تَنَامُ

وَعِلْمِكَ الَّذِي لَا يَنْسَى

فَعَوِّضْ مِنْهَا أَهْلَهَا

وَأَحْطِطْ عَنِّي وَزْرَهَا

وَحَفِّفْ عَنِّي ثِقْلَهَا

وَأَعِصِمْنِي مِنْ أَنْ أَقَارِفَ مِثْلَهَا

اللَّهُمَّ وَإِنَّهُ لَا وِفَاءَ لِي بِالتَّوْبَةِ إِلَّا

بِعِصْمَتِكَ

وَلَا أَسْتِمْسَاكَ بِي عَنِ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا عَن

قُوَّتِكَ

فَقُوَّتِي بِقُوَّةٍ كَافِيَةٍ

and attend to me with a defending preservation!

O Allah, if any servant repents to You,

while in Your knowledge of the Unseen will  
break his repentance

and return to his sin and offense,

I seek refuge in You lest I be like that!

So, make this my repentance

a repentance after which I will need no  
repentance

and a repentance which will obligate the erasing  
of what has gone by

and safety in what remains!

O Allah, I ask pardon from You for my  
ignorance,

and I ask You to disregard my evil acts!

So join me to the shelter of Your mercy through  
graciousness

and cover me with the covering of Your well-  
being through bounteousness!

O Allah, I repent to You

from everything opposed to Your will

or far from Your love—

the thoughts of my heart,

the glances of my eye,

وَتَوَلَّنِي بِعِصْمَةٍ مَانِعَةٍ  
اللَّهُمَّ أَيُّمَا عَبْدٍ تَابَ إِلَيْكَ  
وَهُوَ فِي عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ عِنْدَكَ فَاسِخٌ  
لِتَوْبَتِهِ

وَعَائِدٌ فِي ذَنْبِهِ وَخَطِيئَتِهِ  
فَإِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَكُونَ كَذَلِكَ  
فَاجْعَلْ تَوْبَتِي هَذِهِ  
تَوْبَةً لَا أَحْتَاجُ بَعْدَهَا إِلَى تَوْبَةٍ  
تَوْبَةً مُوجِبَةً لِمَحْوِ مَا سَلَفَ  
وَالسَّلَامَةَ فِيمَا بَقِيَ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْتَذِرُ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ جَهْلِي  
وَأَسْتَوْهِبُكَ سُوءَ فِعْلِي  
فَاضْمُنِّي إِلَى كَنْفِ رَحْمَتِكَ تَطَوُّلاً  
وَأَسْتُرْنِي بِسِتْرِ عَافِيَتِكَ تَفَضُّلاً  
اللَّهُمَّ وَإِنِّي أَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ  
مِنْ كُلِّ مَا خَالَفَ إِرَادَتَكَ  
أَوْ زَالَ عَن مَحَبَّتِكَ  
مِنْ خَطَرَاتِ قَلْبِي  
وَلِحَظَاتِ عَيْنِي

the tales of my tongue—

with a repentance through which each bodily part will by itself stay safe from ill consequences with You

and remain secure from Your painful penalties feared by transgressors!

O Allah, so have mercy on my being alone before You,

the pounding of my heart in dread of You,

and the trembling of my limbs in awe of You!

My sins, my God, have stood me in the station of degradation in Your courtyard.

If I remain silent, none will speak for me;

if I seek an intercessor, I am not worthy for intercession.

O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Household,

make Your generosity intercede for my offenses,

follow up my evil deeds with Your pardon,

repay me not with the punishment that is my proper repayment,

spread over me Your graciousness,

wrap me in Your covering,

and do with me what is done by a mighty man,

وَحِكَايَاتِ لِسَانِي  
تَوْبَةً تَسْلَمُ بِهَا كُلُّ جَارِحَةٍ عَلَيَّ حَيَالِهَا  
مِنْ تَبَعَاتِكَ  
وَتَأْمَنُ مِمَّا يَخَافُ الْمُعْتَدُونَ مِنْ أَلِيمِ  
سَطَوَاتِكَ  
اللَّهُمَّ فَارْحَمْ وَخُدِّي بَيْنَ يَدَيْكَ  
وَوَجِبَ قَلْبِي مِنْ خَشْيَتِكَ  
وَأَضْطَرَّابَ أَرْكَانِي مِنْ هَيْبَتِكَ  
فَقَدْ أَقَامْتَنِي يَا رَبُّ ذُنُوبِي مَقَامَ الْخِزْيِ  
بِفِنَائِكَ  
فَإِنْ سَكَتُ لَمْ يَنْطِقْ عَنِّي أَحَدٌ  
وَإِنْ شَفَعْتُ فَلَسْتُ بِأَهْلِ الشَّفَاعَةِ  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ  
وَشَفِّعْ فِي خَطَايَايَ كَرَمَكَ  
وَعُدْ عَلَيَّ سَيِّئَاتِي بِعَفْوِكَ  
وَلَا تَجْزِنِي جَزَائِي مِنْ عُقُوبَتِكَ  
وَأَبْسُطْ عَلَيَّ طَوْلَكَ  
وَجَلِّلْنِي بِسِتْرِكَ  
وَأَفْعَلْ بِي فِعْلَ عَزِيزٍ

when a lowly slave pleads to him and he shows him mercy,

or a rich man, when a poor slave submits himself and he raises him to wealth!

O Allah, I have no protector against You,

so let Your might be my protector!

I have no intercessor with You,

so let Your bounty be my intercessor!

My offenses have set me quaking,

so let Your pardon give me security!

Not all that I have said rises up from my ignorance of my evil footsteps

or forgetfulness of my blameworthy acts in the past,

but in order that Your heaven and those within it

and Your earth and those upon it

may hear the remorse which I have professed to You

and the repentance through which I have sought asylum with You.

Then perhaps one of them, through Your mercy, may show mercy upon my evil situation

or be seized by tenderness for my evil state.

There may come from him for my sake a supplication

تَضَرَّعَ إِلَيْهِ عَبْدٌ ذَلِيلٌ فَرَحِمَهُ

أَوْ غَنِيَ تَعَرَّضَ لَهُ عَبْدٌ فَقِيرٌ فَنَعَشَهُ

اللَّهُمَّ لَا خَفِيرَ لِي مِنْكَ

فَلِيخْفُرْنِي عِزُّكَ

وَلَا شَفِيعَ لِي إِلَيْكَ

فَلِيَشْفَعْ لِي فَضْلُكَ

وَقَدْ أَوْجَلَّتْنِي خَطَايَايَ

فَلِيُؤَمِّنِّي عَفْوُكَ

فَمَا كُلُّ مَا نَطَقْتُ بِهِ عَنْ جَهْلٍ مِنِّي

بِسُوءِ أَثْرِي

وَلَا نَسِيَانٍ لِمَا سَبَقَ مِنْ ذَمِيمٍ فِعْلِي

وَلَكِنْ لِتَسْمَعَ سَمَاوُكَ وَمَنْ فِيهَا

وَأَرْضُكَ وَمَنْ عَلَيْهَا

مَا أَظْهَرْتُ لَكَ مِنَ النَّدَمِ

وَلَجَأْتُ إِلَيْكَ فِيهِ مِنَ التَّوْبَةِ

فَلَعَلَّ بَعْضَهُمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَرْحَمُنِي مِنْ

سُوءِ مَوْقِفِي

أَوْ تُدْرِكُهُ الرَّقَّةُ عَلَيَّ لِسُوءِ حَالِي

فَيَنَالَنِي مِنْهُ بِدَعْوَةٍ

to which You give ear more than to my supplication

or an intercession surer with You than my intercession

through which I may be delivered from Your wrath and attain to Your good pleasure!

O Allah, if remorse is a repentance toward You,

then I am the most remorseful of the remorseful!

If refraining from disobedience is a turning back to You,

then I am the first of those who turn back!

If praying for forgiveness alleviates sins,

surely I am one of those who pray for Your forgiveness!

O Allah, as You have commanded repentance and guaranteed acceptance,

as You have urged supplication, and promised to respond,

so bless Muhammad and his Household,

accept my repentance,

and return me not to the returning place of disappointment in Your mercy!

Surely, You are Ever-turning toward the sinners

and All-compassionate toward the offenders who turn back!

O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Household just as You have guided us by him!

هِيَ أَسْمَعُ لَدَيْكَ مِنْ دُعَائِي  
أَوْ شَفَاعَةٍ أَوْ كَدُّ عِنْدَكَ مِنْ شَفَاعَتِي  
تَكُونُ بِهَا نَجَاتِي مِنْ غَضَبِكَ وَفَوْزِي  
بِرِضَاكَ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ يَكُنِ الْاِنْدَامُ تَوْبَةً إِلَيْكَ  
فَأَنَا اِنْدَامُ الْاِنْدَامِيْنَ

وَإِنْ يَكُنِ التَّرْكُ لِمَعْصِيَّتِكَ اِنَابَةً  
فَأَنَا اَوَّلُ الْمُتَنِيْبِيْنَ

وَإِنْ يَكُنِ الْاِسْتِغْفَارُ حِطَّةً لِلذُّنُوْبِ  
فَأَنَا لَكَ مِنَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ  
اللَّهُمَّ فَكَمَا اَمَرْتَ بِالتَّوْبَةِ وَضَمِنْتَ  
الْقَبُوْلَ

وَحَثَّتْ عَلَيَّ الدُّعَاءِ وَوَعَدْتَ الْاِجَابَةَ  
فَصَلِّ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ

وَاقْبَلْ تَوْبَتِي

وَلَا تَرْجِعْنِي مَرْجِعَ الْخَيْبَةِ مِنْ رَحْمَتِكَ  
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ عَلَيَّ الْمُذْنِبِيْنَ  
وَالرَّحِيْمُ لِلْخَاطِئِيْنَ الْمُتَنِيْبِيْنَ  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ كَمَا هَدَيْتَنَا

Bless Muhammad and his Household just as You  
have rescued us through him!

بِهِ  
وَصَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ كَمَا اسْتَنْقَذْتَنَا

Bless Muhammad and his Household,

with a blessing that will intercede for us on the  
Day of Resurrection, the day of neediness  
toward You!

بِهِ  
وَصَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ  
صَلَاةً تَشْفَعُ لَنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَوْمَ

You are powerful over everything,

and this is easy for You.

الْفَاقَةِ إِلَيْكَ  
إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ  
وَهُوَ عَلَيْكَ يَسِيرٌ