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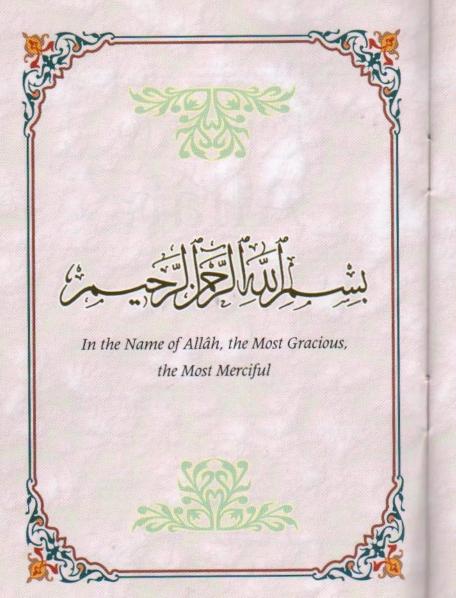
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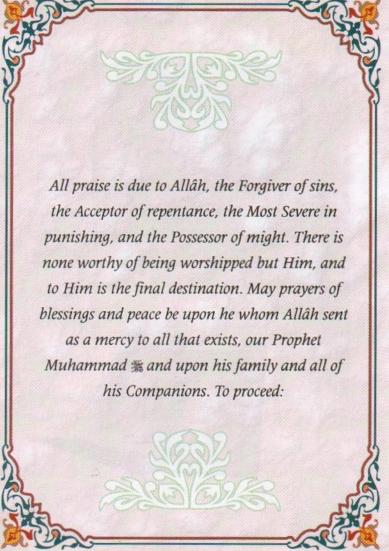
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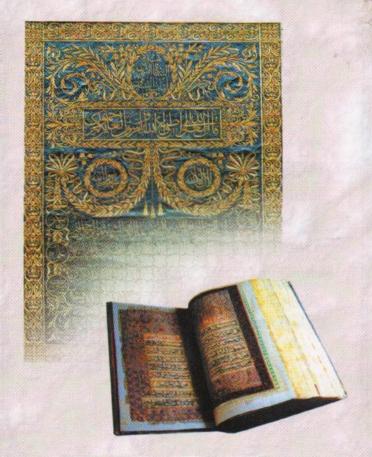


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Human Nature

From the greatest bounties of Allâh, the Mighty and Majestic, is that the door of repentance has been opened to begin the journey of return; a journey that brings back broken hearts, pouring with tears and with humbled foreheads. Verily man was created weak. Allâh the Exalted says,

﴿ وَخُلِقَ ٱلْإِنسَانُ ضَعِيفًا ﴾ [النساء: ٢٨]

"And man was created weak." (4:28)

Man was also made with the love of desires. Allâh the Exalted says,

﴿ زُيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ ٱلشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ ٱلنِّسَاءِ وَٱلْبَنِينَ وَٱلْقَنَطِيرِ ٱلْمُقَنطَرَةِ مِنَ ٱلذَّهَبِ وَٱلْفِضَّةِ وَٱلْحَيْلِ ٱلْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَٱلْأَنْعَلَمِ وَٱلْحَرْثِ ذَالِكَ مَتَكُمُ ٱلْحَيْوَةِ ٱلدُّنْيَ وَٱللَّهُ عِندَهُ حُسْنُ ٱلْمَعَابِ ﴾ [آل عمران: ١٤].

"Beautified for men is the love of things they covet; women, children, much of gold and silver (wealth), branded beautiful horses, cattle and well-tilled land. This is the pleasure of the present world's life; but Allâh has the excellent return (Paradise) with Him." (3:14)

These desires lead man to that which is not good and thus, he performs evil deeds and commits sins before Allâh. Therefore, he deserves Allâh's punishment. Yet, Allâh is Gentle with His servants. He is Merciful to them, pardoning, overlooking and forgiving. However, the servant must have hope in Allâh's forgiveness. Indicative of his hope is seeking forgivenss from Allâh and turning to Him in repentance. Encouraging penitence and repentance, Allâh says,

﴿ اللهِ قُلْ يَنعِبَادِى اللَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُواْ عَلَى أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا نَفُسِهِمْ لَا نَفُسِهِمْ لَا نَفُسُهُمْ لَا نَفُسُهُمْ اللَّهُ يَغْفِرُ الدُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الدُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنّهُ هُوَ النّهُ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ اللهِ الزمر: ٥٣].

"Say: 'O My servants who have wronged themselves! Despair not of the Mercy of Allâh, verily, Allâh forgives all sins. Truly, He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (39:53) Ibn Katheer said, "This noble Verse is an invitation to all disobedient people, the disbelievers and the others, to repent and recant. It is informing that Allâh, the Most High, forgives all the sins of whoever repents from them and recants from them, regardless of what they may be. Even if they are many like the foam of the sea. It is not correct to understand this Verse to mean anything other than repentance, because (the sin of) Shirk (polytheism or associating partners with Allâh) will not be forgiven for a person who does not repent from it. Al-Bukhâri recorded from Ibn 'Abbâs that a group of people from the polytheists used to often commit murder and adultery (or fornication). Then they came to Muhammad & and said, 'Verily, that which you say and that which you invite to is good. If only you would tell us whether there is an atonement for that which we have done (in the past).' Thus, Allâh revealed,

﴿ وَٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونِ مَعَ ٱللَّهِ إِلَنهًا ءَاخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ ٱلنَّفَسِ ٱلَّتِي حَرَّمَ ٱللَّهُ إِلَّا بِٱلْحَقِّ وَلَا يَرْنُونَ كَاللَّهُ إِلَّا بِٱلْحَقِّ وَلَا يَرْنُونَ كَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِٱلْحَقِّ وَلَا يَرْنُونَ كَ ﴾ [الفرقان: ٦٨]

And He revealed,

Say: 'O My servants who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allâh...' (39:53)

This has also been recorded by Muslim, Abu Dâwud and An-Nasâ'i. The intent of the first Verse is in Allâh's saying,

Except those who repent and believe, and do righteous deeds... (25:70)

to the end of the Verse. (The Tafseer of Surat Az-Zumar 39:53)