

**Title:** Explaining the Most Honorable Prayer for Forgiveness

**Original Title:** شرح رياض الصالحين

**Original Author:** Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn

**Explaining**

T H E M O S T H O N O R A B L E

# Prayer for Forgiveness

By:

Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn

THE ḤADĪTH.....	2
THE EXPLANATION .....	3
THE PRAYER.....	6

## THE ḤADĪTH

عَنْ شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ ( رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ ) عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ( صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ) قَالَ : « سَيِّدُ الْإِسْتِغْفَارِ أَنْ يَقُولَ الْعَبْدُ : اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ ، خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ ، أَبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ ، وَأَبُوءُ بِذَنْبِي ، فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ ، وَمَنْ قَالَهَا مِنَ النَّهَارِ مُوقِنًا بِهَا فَمَاتَ مِنْ يَوْمِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُمْسِيَ ، فَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ ، وَمَنْ قَالَهَا مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُوَ مُوقِنٌ بِهَا فَمَاتَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصْبِحَ ، فَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ »

Shaddād Ibn Aws ( رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ ) narrated that the prophet ( صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ) said: The most honorable prayer for forgiveness is that a worshipper says:

“Oh Allah, you are my Lord. There is no god but you. You created me and I am your servant, and I am under your covenant and promise as much as I am able. I seek protection with you from the evil of what I did. I acknowledge your favors you bestowed on me, and I confess my sin. Forgive me for no one can forgive sins except you.”

Whoever says it during the day, genuinely believing in it, and he dies that day without reaching the evening, he is one of the people of Paradise. And whoever says it at night, genuinely believing in it, and dies before morning, he is one of the people of Paradise.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Recorded by al-Bukhārī.

## THE EXPLANATION

« The most honorable prayer for forgiveness » The most honorable and best way of asking for forgiveness is to say:

« Oh Allah, you are my Lord. There is no god but you. » You acknowledge to Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) with your tongue and heart that he is your Lord, your owner. He is the one who arranges all your affairs and the one who is concerned with your condition.

« You created me » You acknowledge before Allah that he created you. He brought you into existence from nothing.

« and I am your servant. » You are his servant both in the creational, universal sense and in the religious sense.

You are his servant from a universal, creation perspective in that he does with you whatever he wants. If he wants, he causes you to become sick and if he wants, he heals you. If he wants, he makes you rich or he makes you poor. If he wants, he leaves you misguided or he guides you. He decides these matters based on his infinite wisdom (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ).

You are also his servant from a religious perspective in that you have chosen to worship him as he commanded, fulfilling what he has told you to do and staying away from what he has forbidden you to do.

« I am under your covenant » You fulfill his covenant as much as you can. To every person, Allah has taken a covenant from him to act on whatever knowledge he may have.

﴿ وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَتُبَيِّنَهُ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَكْتُمُونَهُ ﴾

**And (remember) when Allah took a covenant from those who were given the scripture, (saying), “You must make it clear to people and not conceal it.”<sup>2</sup>**

So whenever Allah gives you (religious) knowledge then by that he is taking a covenant from you to act according to that knowledge.

« and promise as much as I am able » I am under and expecting the fulfillment of your promise – what you have promised the good people of good (consequences) and what you have promised the bad people of bad (consequences). But here, I am expecting what you promised of good because with these words, I am trying to get closer to Allah (عزَّ وجلَّ).

« I seek protection with you from the evil of what I did. » Here, you are asking for Allah’s protection from the bad consequences of the sin you committed. In general, when a person does good he is rewarded and when he does bad he is punished. It is also possible the a person does an evil deed and that becomes a reason for his own misguidance as Allah (تعالى) says:

<sup>2</sup> The Quran, Sūrah Āli ‘Imrān, 3:187.

﴿إِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَن يُصِيبَهُمْ بِبَعْضِ ذُنُوبِهِمْ﴾

**And if they turn away, then know that Allah only intends to afflict them on account of some of their (own) sins.<sup>3</sup>**

So you are asking Allah to protect you from any evil consequences as a result of the sin you committed.

« I acknowledge your favors you bestowed on me » Meaning: I recognize and admit all your great favors and blessings—which can never be counted—that you have given me.

« and I confess my sin. » I admit and confess to you the sin I committed.

« Forgive me for no one can forgive sins except you » Forgive me for committing this sin because you are the Forgiving, the Merciful.

So devote time to memorize this prayer (*duā'*) and continuously say it morning and evening because if you do so and should die that day, you will be one of the people to enter Paradise, and if you should die that night, you will enter Paradise.

---

<sup>3</sup> Sūrah al-Mā'idah, 5:49.

THE PRAYER

For Memorization

1	اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ
	Allāhumma anta rabbī, lā ilāha illa anta
	Oh Allah, you are my Lord. There is no god but you.
2	خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ
	khalaqtanī wa ana 'abduka
	You created me and I am your servant
3	وَأَنَا عَلَىٰ عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ
	wa ana 'alā 'ahdika wa wa'dika mas-staṭa'tu
	and I am under your covenant and promise as much as I am able.
4	أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ
	aū'dhu bika min sharri mā ṣana'tu
	I seek protection with you from the evil of what I did.

5	أَبُوهُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ
	abū-u laka bini'matika a'layya
	I acknowledge your favors you bestowed on me
6	وَأَبُوهُ بِذَنْبِي
	wa abū-u bidhanbī
	and I confess my sin.
7	فَاغْفِرْ لِي
	faghfir lī
	Forgive me
8	فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ
	fainnahu lā yaghfirudh-dhunūba illa anta
	for no one can forgive sins except you.