

Does a Sin Remain after Repenting?

Q: Imaan-7 : Is a sin forgiven after a sinner repents? can he still be called a sinner after repenting?

Answer: As long as the sun has not risen from the west and as long as a person is not in the throes of death, (Allaah ta'aala) will by His grace forgive the sin of a person who sincerely repents for that particular sin. Allaah announces in the Qur'aan: "O My bondsmen who have wronged their souls (by committing kufr or other sins)! Never lose hope of Allaah's mercy (so do not abstain from seeking forgiveness thinking that you will not be forgiven). Verily, Allaah forgives all sins (that are free of kufr and Shirk). Undoubtedly, He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful."

Allaah says in a Hadith Qudsi, "O son of Aadam! If you seek forgiveness From Me, I shall forgive you even if your sins reach the ends of the skies."

The perfect Taubah would entail carrying out the Qadhaa for missed salaahs and fasts, paying any Kaffaara that is due and restoring any rights owed to people. If unable to restore the right, one should at least have it waived if the person to whom a right is due is deceased, it must be given to his heirs and if they are also not alive, it should be given as Sadaqah with the intention that one is handing it over in Allaah's trust, to be restored to the person on the Day of Qiyaamah. If one is unable to restore the right because of poverty. One should carry out extra good deeds and pray to Allaah to forgive the person one has wronged. It is hoped that Allaah will then satisfy the wronged person on behalf of the wrong-doer.

One should hasten with Taubah and never commit sins in the hope that one will repent later. It may happen that one never has the opportunity to repent or never has the ability to repent sincerely. Hadhrat Yahya bin Mu'aadh RAH. said, "The most deceived person in my opinion is the one who continues increasing in sin without any regrets, hoping that he will be forgiven."

The sinner who is repenting should, of course, believe firmly that Allaah will forgive him and that none can prevent Allaah from doing so. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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