

Brief Statements by Religious Leaders

In addition to calling the people towards pardon and connivance, our religious leaders have always been the eminent pardoners in the world, and barring them, no one is capable of such an extent of forgiveness. We will now first cite some examples of their utterances and later refer to certain historical points:

- The Messenger of Allah (S) stated: "The best deed before Allah is to pardon a person who has wronged you, to bestow affection upon relatives who have broken ties with you, and to act generously towards a person who has deprived you." Thereafter, he recited the following Holy verse:

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ

"Hold (to) forgiveness and enjoin the good, and turn away from the ignorant. (7: 199)" [1](#)

- Ali (a.s), commander of the faithful, in his treaty addressed to Malek Ashtar has stated: "Fill your heart to the brim with mercy, kindness, and affection toward your subjects. Never act like a voracious "animal" toward them, availing yourself of rearing them apart, for, they are of two kinds: either they are your brothers in faith or your equals in creation. Slips catches them unaware, deficiencies overcome them, evil deeds are committed by them intentionally or by mistake. So grant them the same degree of pardon and forgiveness that you hope Allah will grant you, for, you are above them, and he who appointed you is above you, and Allah is above him who gave you this position." [2](#)

- Imam Muhammad Baqir (a.s) stated: "Regret over pardon is better than remorse over punishment." [3](#)

- In the book entitled Arbaeen Haditha, the late Deilami quotes the following from the Holy Prophet (S): "On the Day of Resurrection, the proclaimer makes this call: whoever has a reward with Allah stand up." None but the pardoners will then stand up. He then states: "Have they not heard Allah's promise:

...فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ...

"...but whoever forgives and amends, he shall have his reward from Allah..." (42:40) [4](#)

- [1.](#) Al Mizan, Volume 8, page 402.
- [2.](#) Nahjul Balagheh of Abdoh, Volume on the Epistles, page 94.
- [3.](#) Safinat Ul Bahar, Volume 2, page 207.
- [4.](#) Ibid, page 208.

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