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**Inform my Servants that I am indeed the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful**

**First Sermon**

All Praise be to Allah. He Who forgives the sins of those who seek His forgiveness and Who accepts the repentance of those who turn to Him in repentance. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah. O Allah send blessings, salutations and benedictions on our Master and Prophet, his family, all of his Companions, as well as those follow them.

**As to what follows**: I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to fear Allah. Allah Almighty says:

**(وَسَارِعُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ)**

 [Q3:133] [And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for those who fear (Allah)]

**O You who seek Allah’s Forgiveness:** Allah Almighty says to His Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him):

(**نَبِّئْ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا ‌الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ)**

[Qur’an 15:49] [(O Muhammad): Inform My Servants that I am indeed the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful]

That is, tell them (O Muhammad) that they have indeed a Lord Who is Immense in pardoning, Excellent in disregarding (the faults of His Servants), Vast in forgiveness and All-Encompassing in mercy. He addresses His Servants saying:

 (**يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ ‌الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ**)

[Qur’an 39:53] [O My Servants who have transgressed against themselves (by sinning), do not despair of the Mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.]

The most noble and honourable of His Servants from among His Prophets and Messengers all clung and held on to His Mercy and beseeched Him to bestow on them of His Pardon and Forgiveness. Prophet Nuh (Noah) (may Allah’s peace be upon him), would seek forgiveness from the One Who is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful, for himself, for his family and for all the believers. He would say:

(**‌رَبِّ ‌اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِيَ مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ)**

[Qur’an 71:28] (My Lord, forgive me, and my parents, and whoever enters my home as a believer, and all the believing men and believing women.)

Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (may Allah’s peace be upon him) would call upon His Lord saying:

(**‌رَبَّنَا ‌اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ**)

[Qur’an 14:41] (Our Lord, forgive me and my parents and the believers on the Day that the Reckoning will be established.)

Here, Prophet Musa (Moses), the one spoken to by Allah, (may Allah’s peace be upon him), says:

(**‌رَبِّ ‌اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِأَخِي وَأَدْخِلْنَا فِي رَحْمَتِكَ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ**)

[Qur’an 7:151] (My Lord, forgive me and my brother and admit us into Your mercy, for You are the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.)

Our Master and Prophet, Muhammad (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) would seek Allah’s Forgiveness in abundance and in all states, under all circumstances and at all times in response to the statement of his Lord:

 (**وَقُلْ ‌رَبِّ ‌اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ**)

[Qur’an 23:118] (And, [O Muhammad], say, "My Lord, forgive and have mercy, and You are the Best of those who show mercy."

‘Abdullah, son of ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with them both) said: "We used to count in a gathering for the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) that he would say one hundred times:

«**‌رَبِّ ‌اغْفِرْ لِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ**»

(*Rabbighfir lī wa tub ‘alayya innaka Antat-Tawwābur-Raḥīm*)

(O Allah forgive me and accept my repentance, for You are the Accepter of repentance, the Most Merciful).'"

(Narrated by al-Bukhari in al-Adab al-Mufrad)

The Prophet (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) would say in abundance during his bowing and prostration:

«**سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا وَبِحَمْدِكَ، اللَّهُمَّ ‌اغْفِرْ لِي**»

(*Subḥānaka Allāhumma Rabbanā wa biḥamdika. Allāhum-maghfir lī*)

(I declare Your transcendence above all that is unbefitting to You, O Allah, O our Lord, while praising You with all that is befitting to You. O Allah, forgive me)

O Allah forgive us what we have done in the past and what we will do in the future, what we do in private and what we do in public and enable us all to show obedience to You and obedience to Your Messenger, Muhammad (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him), and obedience to those whom You have ordered us to show obedience to in accordance with Your Statement:

**(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ)**

(O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you)

*Astaghfirullāh*, *Astaghfirullāh*, *Astaghfirullāh*

I seek Allah’s Forgiveness, I seek Allah’s Forgiveness, I seek Allah’s Forgiveness.

So, seek, all of you, Allah’s Forgiveness, for indeed, He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

**Second Sermon**

All Praise be to Allah, Who is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful, Full of Loving-Kindness and Supremely Generous. Blessings and Peace be upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, and upon all of his family, companions and those who follow them.

**O You who believe and seek Allah’s Forgiveness**: The Prophet (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) said:

«**مَنْ قَالَ: أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيَّ الْقَيُّومَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ**»

 [“Whoever says:

(*Astaghfirullāha-lladhī lā ilāha illā huwa ‘l-Ḥayyul-Qayyūm wa atūbu ilayh*)

(‘I seek the forgiveness from Allah, Whom there is none worthy of worship except Him, the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting and Sustainer of [all] existence, and I repent to Him’),

then he will be forgiven.”]

(Narrated by Abu Dawud and al-Tirmidhi)

Who constantly engages in istighfar (seeking Allah’s Forgiveness) and turns and returns in abundance to the One Who pardons again and again, and is All-Forgiving, then He (Allah) will forgive him, turn to him with acceptance and pardon, provide him with sustenance from where he does not expect and decree him in the Afterlife to be among the victorious ones. The Prophet (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) said:

«**طُوبَى لِمَنْ وَجَدَ فِي صَحِيفَتِهِ اسْتِغْفَارًا كَثِيرًا**»

[Blessed is he who finds abundant istighfar (seeking Allah’s Forgiveness) in his record.]

(Narrated by Ibn Majah)

O Servants of Allah, supplicate and seek Allah’s Forgiveness in abundance at night and during the day, for yourselves, your parents and all the believers.

O Allah, send peace, blessings and salutations upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, his Family and all of his Companions. O Allah, be pleased with the Righteously Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthman and ‘Ali, and the rest of the most noble and honourable companions, and those who follow them in benevolence until the Day of Judgment.

O Allah, protect the safety, security and stability of the UAE, and make its ease, comfort, happiness and prosperity last forever more; bless its wealth and welfare, and protect it with Your support, and envelop it with Your care, O Lord and Cherisher of the Worlds.

**O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, his Deputy and his Brothers, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good.**

**O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and the other UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. O Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace.**

**O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable and loyal martyrs of our nation and increase their reward, raise their rank in the Garden of Paradise and make them intercessors who will intercede on behalf of their families.**

O Allah have mercy on the Muslim men and Muslim women, those of them who are still alive and those of them who have passed on.

**O Servants of Allah:** We will pray *salat al-istisqa’* after offering Jumu‘ah prayers. Now establish the prayer.