

Sura 110: Al-Nasr (Victory)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 3:

1. *When there comes God's victory, and conquest;*
2. *And you see people entering God's religion in multitudes,*
3. *Celebrate the praises of your Lord, and pray for His forgiveness. He is Ever-Relenting.*

This short Sura brought the Prophet (PBUH) the glad tidings of God's victory; telling him that people will be coming into the fold of Islam in multitudes. At the same time, the Sura emphasized a fundamental characteristic of the religion of Islam: its objective to elevate, purify, and honor humankind. Only under the banner of Islam, could humankind achieve such a status. The Sura also directs the Messenger (PBUH) to seek God's forgiveness when he receives God's victory.

Many narrations were reported about this Sura. We will choose the narration reported by Imam Ahmed. 'Aisha (RA) said, "The Messenger of God (PBUH) used to say often, towards the end of his life, 'I glorify God and praise Him. I seek God's forgiveness and I repent to Him.' He also used to say, 'My Lord told me that I will see a sign in my nation. He commanded me that when I see this sign I should glorify Him and praise Him. Now I see the sign. The sign is, "*When there comes God's victory, and conquest; and you see people entering God's religion in multitudes, celebrate the praises of your Lord, and pray for His forgiveness. He is Ever-Relenting.*"'"

The first verse emphasizes the fundamental concept of faith: everything belongs to God. It is God's victory. God decides when this victory will take place and how it will take place. Only He can bring about this victory. God bestowed this victory on the Prophet (PBUH) and the believers. They should respond by expressing their gratitude to God and praising Him.

They should glorify God for the bounty He bestowed on them when He made them the guardians of His Message. They should glorify Him for the mercy that He bestowed on humankind by establishing His religion and allowing people to come into its fold in multitudes.

Seeking forgiveness would address many shortcomings; the shortcoming of the possibility of entertaining a feeling of pride at the moment of victory; the shortcoming of the possibility of entertaining a feeling of despair or impatience during the long struggle before victory; the shortcoming of the possibility of not showing enough gratitude to God. One important reason for seeking forgiveness at the time of victory is to remind oneself of one's own shortcomings to eliminate any possibility of feeling arrogant.