

A Prayer of Abdu'l-Baha for Forgiveness

He is God!

O Pure God! We are all sinners, and Thou art the Most Forgiving! All encompass flaws and shortcomings and Thou art the Dispeller of our every anguish. Enter not the sins of these transgressors in Thy Preserved Tablet¹ and purge it from the Outspread Roll². Look not upon our deserving and capacity, rather deal with us according to what is worthy of the Holy Threshold of Thy Mercifulness.

Forgiveness is a noble virtue and pardon, and clemency are among the greatest attributes of that Glorious Lord. Graciously forgive the sins of these helpless ones and overlook the shortcomings of these transgressors. The transgression of this helpless servant is great and mightier than the highest mountains. First, forgive the sins of this helpless one and then the sins of every ignorant sinner.

Thou art the All-Bountiful and the All-Loving, and Thou art the Forgiver, He Whose help is sought by all men.

Abdu'l-Baha

¹ *Lawhi Mahfouz* - لوح محفوظ, Preserved Tablet, according to DR. Riyaz Ghadimi's Baha'i dictionary known as 19,000 words. *Quran*, Surah Al-Buruj, verses 21-22 – "In fact, this is a glorious *Quran*, recorded in a Preserved Tablet".

In Islamic theology, it is in reference to a divine record that contains all that has happened and will happen as a vast and encompassing tablet of Divine Decree. It also means Divine Knowledge, station of knowledge of the Manifestations of God, source of revelation from which the revealed Words of God originate. For example, it is stated in *Quran*, that it was recorded by God in the Preserved Tablet containing God's knowledge and decree. It is the decree of God which is unchangeable and protected from any alteration. It is referred to in the Baha'i Writings also as the "*Supreme Pen*", which is reference to knowledge and revelation of the Manifestations of God, such as *Kitab-i-Aqdas* or *Kitab-i-Iqan*. It emphasises God's predetermined eternal decree such as unalterable Covenant of God with humanity i.e. His continuous guidance of humanity through His progressive revelation. i.e. *Surah Al-Fatir*, Verse 35:43 - "*You will never find change in the way of God.*"

² *Raghe Manshour* - رِقْ منشور, Outspread Roll, according to Mr. Habib Taherzadeh's translation, as seen in *Quran*, *Surah At-Tur*, verse 52:3 - "*And by the Book (outspread roll) written open for all to read*".

It is similarly in Islamic theology a metaphorical concept referring to an open, spread-out parchment paper such as an unfolded scroll containing open and manifest divine records of human deeds. It is a Divine and celestial record representing a more personal and individual records of human deeds which are alterable subject to human actions and divine grace. It is also reference to human soul and heart which is marked by the deeds and actions of individual.

The prayer is a deep plea for Divine Mercy, asking that sins neither be permanently decreed nor entered in the divine records.

هُوَ اللَّهُ

پاک یزدانا کلّ گنه کاریم و تو آمرزگار جمیع جامع عیوبیم و تو کاشف کُرُوب .
گناه این عاصیان را در لوح محفوظ ثبت مفرما و از رِقّ منشور محو کن. نظر به استحقاق
و استعداد مفرما به آنچه شایان آستان رحمانیت است معامله فرما. غفران صفت جلیل است
و عفو و صفح از اعظم نعوت آن خداوند مجید. پس گناه این بیچارگان را ببخش و از قصور این
عاصیان در گذر. ذنب این عبد اعظم ذنوب و گناه این بی پناه بزرگتر از کوه پر شکوه. اوّل
قصور این بی سر و سامان را ببخش پس گناه هر عاصی نادان³.

توئی بخشنده و مهربان و توئی آمرزنده و مستعان. ع ع

³ Partial Inventory (Steven Phelps) catalogue #: AB07738, provisional translation by Shidan Ashraf