

Surah 4. An-Nisaa

Asad: Verily, God's acceptance of repentance relates only to those who do evil out of ignorance and then repent before their time runs out:¹⁵ and it is they unto whom God will turn again in His mercy - for God is all-knowing, wise;

Malik: Repentance with Allah (right to be forgiven by Allah) is only for those who do something evil in ignorance and repent as soon as they realize it; Allah will pardon them. Allah is the Knowledgeable, Wise.

Pickthall: Forgiveness is only incumbent on Allah toward those who do evil in ignorance (and) then turn quickly (in repentance) to Allah. These are they toward whom Allah relenteth. Allah is ever Knower, Wise.

Yusuf Ali: Allah accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and repent soon afterwards; to them will Allah turn in mercy; for Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.

Transliteration: Innamā alttawbatu AAalā Allāhi lillaththeena yaAAamaloona alssooā bijahālatin thumma yatooboona min qareebin faolaika yatoobu Allāhu AAalayhim wakāna Allāhu AAaleeman hakeeman
Khattab:

Allah only accepts the repentance of those who commit evil ignorantly ?or recklessly? then repent soon after¹

—Allah will pardon them. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Author Comments

15 - The expression min qarib, which here implies nearness in time, could also be rendered as "soon", i.e., soon after having committed the evil deed; most of the classical commentators however, hold that in this context it denotes the time before the actual approach of death. This interpretation is borne out by the next verse.

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A person's repentance will be accepted as long as they repent any time before their death. But one should not procrastinate because they do not know when they will die.

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