

## How to train yourself to retract your mistakes

Advice from Shaykh Abdullah al-Bukhari

Question: How can a person mentally prepare himself to retract mistakes and errors if he falls into them?

Shaykh Abdullah al-Bukhari: Firstly, the fact that the person knows he made a mistake, this is a blessing that Allah has sent to him and made him aware of it. Therefore, he praises Allah for this good that He sent to him. And he thanks his brother who has made him aware of this mistake. He thanks him with good etiquette and respect, not in a manner of seeking revenge let alone mocking. The fact that he informed him of his mistake, this is a blessing.

Secondly, from the success of the slave is that he prepares himself to retract mistakes and this is better than person remaining upon falsehood. He retracts his mistakes and repents from them according to the level of the mistake.

If this was a mistake that led the Ummah or a group of people astray, or it led a brother astray, then he clarifies and retracts it. It is obligatory upon him to clarify to this brother that he led astray; that he has retracted his mistake and the truth is such and such. This is so he can be safe and free from people following this misguidance.

This is how he prepares himself, by knowing that he will stand in front of Allah. He will be questioned and taken to account. This worldly life—we live in now—is action with no accountability while tomorrow is accountability with no action. Thus, he trains himself and strives against his soul.

He does not allow Shaytan and Iblis to puff up his pride and come to him with deception, stubbornness, arrogance, and self-amazement. None of this has any value for him. This only increases the person in dishonor and desires.

Summary translation by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee