

It Is Not From The Sunnah To Ask Everyone For Forgiveness Before Ramaḍān

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Question: Every year, before the month of *Ramaḍān* people circulate messages claiming that it is from the sunnah to seek forgiveness before the month begins. Is this from the *Sunnah*? If not, is there anything wrong with doing this?

Answer: Firstly, this is not from the *Sunnah*, in fact doing this is closer to *bid‘ah*. And if a person committed a mistake where he wronged his brother, there are two possible scenarios; either you committed a sin against him or you didn’t. If you did, why wait for the month of *Ramaḍān*? [You should] immediately seek his forgiveness instead of waiting for the arrival of *Ramaḍān*. If there was any good in this, we should know that the Prophet (ﷺ) would’ve done it or he would’ve instructed his companions to do it. You have no evidence claiming that the companions did this because the Prophet (ﷺ) never did it himself nor did he ever instruct his followers to do it. Furthermore, the person should know that if he commits a mistake/crime against anyone, whether he has violated the sanctity of his [brother’s/sister’s] honour, backbit, slandered, or lied upon him/her, then this sin is written against them. The sins are [still] written during the month of *Ramaḍān* and outside of it, so the person must fear **Allāh** with regards to the honour of others and if they happen to make a mistake [they should] seek forgiveness immediately.

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﴿جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَمَقَ الْبَاطِلُ﴾
“Truth has Come and Falsehood has Vanished”
al-Qur’an, Soorah al-Isra 17:81

