

الْحَلِيمُ

"Al-Haleem"

The One Who keeps bestowing blessings on His creation and is gentle with them, even though they disobey Him. He delays punishing the sinners so that they can turn back to Him. He is lenient and Gentle with us, even though He has the power to punish.

Reflection: Have you ever had a traffic warden let you off the hook when you were double-parked, and should have got a ticket, but you got a second chance? How about when you were late to a class and should have got a detention but the teacher let you off with a warning not to do it again? We have all been in scenarios where we really want a second chance, we want to defer the punishment or have it lifted from us because we want to be different and we promise to change our ways; and when we come across someone who is lenient, we feel such gratitude and relief and we thank them profusely, because they were "Haleem" to us.

To Allaah belong the highest examples, and He is the most Haleem. He watches us day and night doing things, saying things and being in places we shouldn't, and He keeps giving us chances to repent. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Verily, the angel on the left side will raise his pen over the error or sin of a Muslim servant for six hours. If he sincerely regrets it and seeks forgiveness from Allah, the angel will throw it aside. Otherwise, he will record it as one sin." (al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr 7765).

AFFIRMATIONS

I am deeply grateful to Allah,
al-Haleem for...

AYAT

"Al-Haleem is kind and patient and lenient towards me, and to obtain His leniency, I am lenient and gentle with the mistakes of others. I love Allaah al-Haleem who could have punished me for my sins, but He has given me time to repent and be better, out of His Love and Mercy and "Hilm" towards me."

Living with this Name: And just as with the other Names of Allaah, we can inculcate the same values and characteristics that Allah tells us about Himself, within ourselves, so that we come closer to Him. So just as Allaah is forgiving and He loves for us to forgive others, He is al-Haleem and He loves for us to show "hilm" – this tenderness, calmness and patient forbearance – to others of His creation. He praises the prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) as having this quality in the Quran:

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لَأَوَّهٌ حَلِيمٌ ۝١١٤

... "Indeed, Abraham was tender-hearted and forbearing." (Quran 9:114)

This invites us to overlook the mistakes of others, to be patient with their behaviour and their speech, and to do it not just once, and then hold it against them if they do it again; but to keep doing it, because that is how Allaah is towards us -He doesn't hold past mistakes against us; rather each mistake is treated as a fresh slate.

ACTION POINTS

Where in your life have you already experienced this name al-Haleem? Can you recall a time when you were guided to repent soon after making a mistake? Or a time when you were very distant from Allah, in your actions, sayings, and feelings, but during which you begged Him for something and He -The Most Forbearing- gave it to you.

DUAS

What dua will you ask Allah for, using His name al-Haleem?



ACTION POINTS

Can you recall a time when Allaah al-Haleem, sent someone who was “Haleem” towards you?

Where in your life can you live with this name, al-Haleem, more? Do you want to take advantage of the six “hours” that the angel waits before writing your deeds by seeking forgiveness more consistently? Do you want to be more Haleem towards others?

DUAS