

The Concept of Sin



أَلَّا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ (53:38)

53:38 (Asad) that no bearer of burdens shall be made to bear another's burden.

Finally, we have the Islamic view of sin and repentance. This view is very clear and simple, with no mysteries or complications. Sin and repentance are two very personal acts. Contrary to the Christian doctrine of 'original sin', no sin is ever imposed on a person prior to his or her birth. Nor, as the Church claims, is there 'divine' atonement in which Jesus, whom they allege to be the son of God, was crucified to free humanity of Adam's sin. Adam took full responsibility for his sin, which he personally committed. Having repented, he was simply and easily absolved of it.

Any sins committed by Adam's offspring would likewise be totally personal. The gateway to repentance and forgiveness is open to all, without restriction or discrimination. It is a simple and straightforward concept that puts everyone's mind and heart at rest, and inspires man to do his utmost to succeed and save his soul, and never to despair or give up. Everyone shall be held responsible for what he or she does; none shall carry the burden of another.

