

Effect of Teshuvah and Viduy (confession) on Atonement

Ref: *Sefer Hamada, Hilchot Teshuvah, Chapter 1*



Sinner should repent and confess in words.¹

Even though damages are paid for, or sacrifice brought, atonement does not come about until accompanied by *viduy* (confession), and makes commitment never to do such a thing again.

	Does <i>Teshuvah</i>	<i>Viduy</i> – States his sin and promises never to do again	Therefore Atonement	Explanation
Does sin against a positive or negative command	✓	✗	✗	i.e. if no <i>viduy</i> , no atonement
Does a sin	✓	✓	✓	
Brings a Sin or Guilt Offering	✓	✓	✓	Atonement not achieved until confesses
Pays an injured colleague	✓	✓	✓	Even though pays, only achieves atonement after promising not to do again
Goat of Azazel i.e. <i>Yom Kippur</i> and does repent	✓	✓	✓	Even heavy sins
Goat of Azazel if one does not repent	✓	✗	✗	Only receives atonement for light sins
Heavy sins i.e. Execution, <i>Karet</i> , and False Oaths	✓	✗	✗	<i>Yom Kippur</i> does not bring atonement
Light sins i.e. rest	✓	✗	✓	<i>Yom Kippur</i> does atone

There are categories of offence and corresponding categories of atonement i.e. *Teshuvah*, *Yom Kippur*, Suffering and Death.

True *teshuvah* has the power to atone for all sins.