

# مدارج السالكين

## PATH OF THE TRAVELLER

All praises are due to Allah. Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.

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Al Salam Islamic Center



سم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

## مدارج السالكين PATH OF THE TRAVELLER

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### PATH OF THE TRAVELLER (مدارج السالكين) YOU ALONE WE WORSHIP AND YOU ALONE WE ASK FOR HELP (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ)

○ The Arabic word for traveler is (مسافر). It comes from the root word (سفر) which means to appear. What appears during travel? Our true colors, our faults and our goodness. When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows us our faults, it is because He wants to show our reality that we are slaves of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows us our goodness, it is to show that it is

from Him and He is greater in goodness. In this way, we do not look down on others, nor do we take them up, we see everyone as a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- When everything is clear then it makes us understand (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) (It is You we worship and You we ask for help.).
- We have faults and people have faults, but we do not just hold it inside us. If we place our faults and the faults of others as conviction inside us then we will always be resentful and it will be difficult to move on. We will misbehave and blame, and this is discomfoting.
- So why are there faults? To show the perfection of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and the imperfection of others, and this is the belief we want to place inside us.

- The knowledge that we want to place in ourselves and refer back to it is knowledge about Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and not about the knowledge of faults. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows us His perfection through the faults of others.

## ALLAH ADH DHAHIR (الظاهر) THE MOST APPARENT

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will always make Himself apparent, no matter how many things are in between trying to become apparent.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will especially make the truth apparent. He will make لا إله إلا الله (Laa Ilaaha illa Allah - There is no one is worthy of worship except Allah) apparent. He will make every part of it apparent that no one is worthy of love

and attachment except Him because He is perfect.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will also make apparent that we are all His slaves. We have faults but it does not end at the faults but to take it higher to the perfection of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- If we are always seeing faults of ourselves and others - we will get tired and frustrated.

### SURAH MUHAMMAD 19

فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ

So know, [O Muhammad (ﷺ)], that there is no deity except Allah and ask forgiveness for your sin

- We have faults and so do others, and this can make us feel “why is it like this? ”But the picture will be complete when we go to Allah (سبحانه

- (وتعالى), accept that we are all His slaves, who are needy and very simple in nature.
- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is nurturing and testing us, this is from the love of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to us so we do not want the nurturing to stop. Sometimes people say “they grew apart”. What does that mean? Ultimately it means the nurturing was not being accepted.
  - When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) nurtures us to be together, to hear the same thing, to be in the same place together, to see the same situations, then we are being nurtured together, so we see matters in the same way and we will understand them.
  - Everything we go through is about purification and beautification. This is لا إله إلا الله (Laa Ilaaha

illa Allah - There is no one is worthy of worship except Allah)

- Allah Adh Dhahir will make it apparent in every part of our life through situations that are both good and bad.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will fulfill our rights, but what about His right? And that is to increase in knowing Him so that we love Him.
- He will not be affected by our requests or no requests, by our praise or dispraise, by our love or hate, Exalted is He. But we are the ones who will get affected when we do not fulfill His right.

## SURAH AR RAHMAN 22

يَسْأَلُهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ

Whoever is within the heavens and earth asks Him; every day He is bringing about a matter.

- We have to trust that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will give us more than our rights, but then where is (إِيَّاكَ) (It is You we worship)?
- We are not just here in this life to only ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), “I have a problem, solve it for me”. Or when something happens to us, we go quick to making istighfaar, making dua and so forth, and that is (وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) (and You we ask for help.), but what about (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ) (It is You we worship), which is to fulfill the right of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)? To worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because of Him. And this is something very high and lofty, and it is something that we always



want to make it a goal – the right of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- He is able to say, “I will not give you this if you do not give Me My right”, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) does not deal with us in this manner.

## SURAH AL INFITAAR 6

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّبَكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ

O man! What has made you careless about your Lord, the Most Generous?

- To worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is more than just fulfilling our needs, but what needs to be very apparent is the right of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- For example, a mother will take her children to school or cook for them, and she will fulfill the needs of her children and do what they ask her. But do the children ask, “how she’s doing? Do they ask about her?” –it is important to

know our mother. And she will not tell us, “know me, ask about me”, but when we do, we will gain so many treasures. And to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the best example, there is the right of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) first, we want to know Him, have feelings for Him, before we just quickly jump to asking Him what we want. And surely He will automatically help us.

- 10 We do not want to make our relationship with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) only about asking Him to get what we want. And we must understand when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) withholds something from us, He does not want to leave us at the same level of faith. He wants to upgrade us and upgrade our faith to be like the burooj. We will feel at rest because we want our heart to know Who is

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and how will we know Him?

Through situations.

- We are travelling to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and it is important to have a companion because it can make the nurturing very distinct. When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) makes any fault in us apparent, or even any goodness, it is just to see more of the perfection of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

With (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ) (It is You we worship), we are drawn to the mercy of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), the love of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and are in awe of Him.

- If we only look at what people do for us or not do for us, then we will be upset. And this will be a very shallow relationship; we will always be in pain and resentful. But it is important to look at the person himself and their good qualities.

- And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will not leave a believer without testing them with different trials from the outside because Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows their faith and wants to make them purer and more trusting in Him. It is not to show faults, but to see more of the beauty of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and to make us kinder and humbler. And we will not understand this concept if we do not know Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tests the Messengers with people disrespecting them and putting them down, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows His Messengers will not disbelieve in Him; they will not give up on their faith just because others disrespect them. So this nurturing will not only increase them in faith and make them firmer,

but it will increase them in goodness towards others. So the one being highlighted is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants to show us that He is perfect and only He can have control over people. We will be unable to trust others if we do not trust how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) deals with us. And to trust Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is to have certainty in believing in Him.
- We have to give right to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by being attached to His Names and Attributes. And before asking Him what we want, it is important to believe in Him.
- For example, when our kids disrespect us and it pains us, then we think how much we disrespect Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). If someone praises

us then we feel how praiseworthy is Allah (سبحانه و تعالی). If we give the right of Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) by knowing Him and appreciating Him, then the feeling is not for ourselves, but for Allah (سبحانه و تعالی).

- (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) (It is You we worship and You we ask for help.): when we start right then the end will be right. And to start right is to give Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) His Right and He will help us.
- Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) is Al Awwal Al Akhir Adh Dhahir Al Baatin (The First, The Last, The Apparent, The Hidden), and the duniya is too low that Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) would make everything apparent. He will not reveal His Face in this duniya

because it is too low, but only in paradise in the hereafter to the believers.

- When we do not show ourselves or our ego, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will show Himself through His Most Beautiful Names and Attributes. But when we just highlight our needs, qualities and ourselves, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The Most Rich to be a part of this partnership. We need to know Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not to place a barrier from knowing Him. And on the Day of Judgement, everyone will be in their proper positions, as slaves of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

### SURAH AZ ZUMAR 69

وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجِيءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ  
وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord (Allah, when He will come to judge among

men) and the Book will be placed (open) and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward, and it will be judged between them with truth, and they will not be wronged.

- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows His beauty then the believers will be happier because all the feelings in their heart will be increased and felt more. And for the disbelievers, they will be so sad and regretful because they will feel in their hearts the kindness and greatness of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), but cannot believe in Him then.
- On the Day of Judgement, all that they denied in this life will be shown to them only because then everyone is quiet but it is too late then.
- And while we are in this life, and everything is all over, we want do not want to put off the light in our hearts. We want to believe in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because He is Al Majeed Al 'Aziz, The



Most Majestic, The All-Mighty, He is The Most Honorable and Dignified, if we do not want Him, then He will not show us Who He is.

- When people go to paradise, the greatest delight after enjoying paradise is to see the Face of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We need to be content and pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in this life as a Lord and He will give us what we want. And all that He brings to us in this life is to know Who He is.
- In paradise, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will ask, “are you pleased with Me?”, though we would feel so ashamed that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) would ask us this, subhan Allah. How can we not be pleased with Him? But we answer that we are pleased,

and when we do, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will show us Who He is.

- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us He is pleased with us, then He will give us something better and more pleasing than paradise. He will lift The Veil from His Face and The Face of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will appear, and this is the greatest delight.
- When the environment is good then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will show Himself, and this is why Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) appreciates the believers because they disbelieved in everything else to only see Him.

## SURAH AL QIYAMAH 22 TO 23

22

وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاصِرَةٌ

[Some] faces, that Day, will be radiant,

23

## إِلَى رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ

Looking at their Lord.

- There is no one like Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and this is the journey of the traveler of (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) (It is You we worship and You we ask for help.). It is to appreciate knowing Who is Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) before just turning to our need. And He will bring what we need in the best way.

MAY ALLAH HELP US TO FULFILL HIS RIGHT FIRST. AMEEN.

## REFERENCES

1. مدارج السالكين - ابن القيم



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

<https://vimeopro.com/markazalsalam/path-of-the-traveller>

TO REQUEST ACCESS TO THE RECORDING:

<https://markazalsalam.com/recordings-notes>

CLASS NOTES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

FOR STUDENTS OF KNOWLEDGE, TEACHERS AND DA'EES IN ENGLISH

<https://t.me/markazalsalampublicationsENG>

FOR STUDENTS OF KNOWLEDGE, TEACHERS AND DA'EES IN ARABIC

<https://t.me/markazalsalampublicationsAR>

FOR CHILDREN CLASS NOTES

<https://t.me/dropletsofdew>

FOR BEGINNERS TO ISLAM

<https://t.me/truthfulentry>