

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



سَمِ اللّٰهُ الرَّحْمٰنَ الرَّحِیْمَ
لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللّٰهِ

مدارج السالكين PATH OF THE TRAVELLER

25 DECEMBER 2022 | 01 JAMAD AL THANI 1444 | CLASS #11

INTRODUCTION

SUPPLICATION TO BE GUIDED TO THE BEST
DEEDS AND MANNERS

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي لِأَحْسَنِ الْأَعْمَالِ وَأَحْسَنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ لَا يَهْدِي لِأَحْسَنِهَا
إِلَّا أَنْتَ وَقِنِي سَيِّئَ الْأَعْمَالِ وَسَيِّئَ الْأَخْلَاقِ لَا يَقِي سَيِّئَهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ

*Allahummahdini liahsanil-amali wa ahsanil-
akhlaqi la yahdi li ahsaniha illa anta wa qini
sayy'al-a'mali wa sayy'al-ahaqi la yaqi sayy'aha
illa ant.*

O Allah, guide me to the best of deeds and the best of manners, for none can guide to the best of them but You. And protect me from bad deeds and bad manners, for none can protect against them but You.¹

¹ Sunan an-Nasa'i 896

SUPPLICATION TO BE GRATEFUL

اللهم أعني على ذكرك وشكرك، وحسن عبادتك

'Allahumma a'inni 'ala dhikrika wa shukrika, wa husni 'ibadatika,'

(O Allah, help me remember You, expressing gratitude to You and worship You in the best manner)".²

SURAH AL FURQAN 62

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً مِّمَّنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ
شُكُورًا

And it is He who has made the night and the day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.

- As we go through changes in our life from different scenes and different places, we want our heart to be firm. When our heart is firm, then our feet will be stable and firm. We will see

² Riyadh As Saliheen, Abu Dawud and An- Nasa'i , Book 1, Hadith 384

everything as ayat from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We will see with eyes that will increase us in faith.

- We cannot be grateful or remember if we are not firm on what we have. We think being patient is just for beginners and then as we go to other worships, we forget being patient.
- Patience is greatly connected to victory and success. Patience is a foundation to many great worships.

SURAH AL 'ASR 3

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا
بِالصَّبْرِ

Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.

- Recall that we said the Sirat is sharp and thin, and what will hold us? Patience.

- Patience is to hold ourselves from complaining about a decree.
- Patience is to remain firm from falling into the haram.
- Patience is to remain firm on the worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) opened for us.

SURAH AL KAHF 28

وَأَصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ
 وَجْهَهُ ۖ وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَلَا تُطِعْ
 مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرُطًا

And keep yourself patient [by being] with those who call upon their Lord in the morning and the evening, seeking His countenance. And let not your eyes pass beyond them, desiring adornments of the worldly life, and do not obey one whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his desire and whose affair is ever [in] neglect.

- The path of the traveler to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) begins with the value of patience. With patience, we will attain great rewards and great worships are opened.

VICTORY IS WITH PATIENCE

وَأَعْلَمُ أَنَّ النَّصْرَ مَعَ الصَّبْرِ

And know that victory comes with patience³

- With patience, we will have so much hope in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), we will wait a beautiful patience and think so well of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because we are so hopeful He will give us the best.

SURAH YUSUF 90

إِنَّهُ مَنْ يَتَّقِ وَيَصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

³ At Tirmidhi 2516

Indeed, he who fears Allah and is patient, then indeed, Allah does not allow to be lost the reward of those who do good."

- We cannot reach the level of excellence if we do not guard ourselves from falling into desires and if we are not patient.
- When we are patient in this life, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will give us with no account.

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 10

إِنَّمَا يُؤْفَى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Indeed, the patient will be given their reward without account."

SURAH AS SAJDAH 24

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا ۖ وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ

And We made from among them leaders guiding by Our command when they were patient and [when] they were certain of Our signs.

- These are the sidiqeen because they were patient and had certainty in the signs of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- So great worships of the heart from such as tawakul (relying on Allah), to be of the rank of the truthful and to be from the muhsineen (excellent ones) all begins with patience. And this patience is a beautiful patience.
- On the other hand, being impatient and hasty will only lead to loss, failure and loss of hope.

PATH OF THE TRAVELLER (مدارج السالكين)

SURAH AL FATIHA

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

2

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds -

3

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,

4

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.

5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

It is You we worship and You we ask for help.

6

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Guide us to the straight path -

7

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

RANKS OF GUIDANCE

1. TO BE SPOKEN TO DIRECTLY (تَكْلِيمِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لِعَبْدِهِ)

(يَقْظَةً بِلَا وَسْطَةٍ)

2. DIVINE INSPIRATION SPECIFIC TO THE

PROPHETS (مَرْتَبَةِ الْوَحْيِ الْمَخْتَصِّ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ)

3. ALLAH SENDS JIBREEL TO THE MESSENGERS FOR

INSPIRATION (إِرْسَالِ الرَّسُولِ الْمَلَكِيِّ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ الْبَشَرِيِّ)

4. TO SPEAK SOMETHING ALLAH CONFIRMS IT

(التَّخْدِيثِ)

5. DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATIONS (الإِفْهَامِ)

6. GENERAL CLARIFICATION (الْبَيَانِ الْعَامِّ)

- This can be for anyone when there the truth is clear and distinct from falsehood. For example,

someone hears the recitation of the Qur'an and recognizes this is good and it is the truth. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The All-Knower and He knows how to guide each of us.

- This clarification of guidance can be something we see or hear. We can hear the Qur'an, good words, admonition and it guides us. And sometimes we see something such as the sky or sea and it guides us.
- These ayat make a person to reflect upon the seen and heard ayat.

7. CUSTOMIZED CLARIFICATION (البيانُ الخاصُّ)

- As mentioned before, general clarification can be something which everyone can see or hear, but customized clarification is something distinct and customized for us.

- Someone may tell us something that is exactly what we need to hear since it is related to something person we are going through, and only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows what we are going through and what the customized clarification will be for us.
- As a result, when such guidance comes to us, it is clear and we feel affected by it because it is a special message just for us. Our feelings cannot be at rest unless we submit to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- We may see something which others did not see, and when we appreciate that it is guidance from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), then He will teach us.

8. TO HEAR SOMETHING WHILE OTHERS DO NOT HEAR IT (الإِسْمَاع)

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will make us hear something while others will not hear it.

SURAH AL ANFAAL 23

وَلَوْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمْ خَيْرًا لَأَسْمَعَهُمْ ۗ وَلَوْ أَسْمَعَهُمْ لَتَوَلَّوْا وَهُمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ

Had Allah known any good in them, He would have made them hear. And if He had made them hear, they would [still] have turned away, while they were refusing.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows there is goodness in them so He will make them hear something which others would not hear.
- For those who hear and do not take it, then it will go against them.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants our ears to hear, our heart to believe and then to accept it.

○ Hearing is:

1. To hear with our ears
2. To hear with our heart by believing
3. To hear by responding and accepting

○ When we hear in this manner, then our heart will be alive and we will be firm.

9. INSPIRATION (الإلهام)

○ This is when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) inspires us, and this inspiration is not to change the religion or do something strange. Inspiration can be to go help so and so person or to not take a certain route while driving.

○ Sometimes we want to go somewhere and we feel “no, I don’t want to go there”, and we end up going somewhere else where a good deed opens for us, and this is inspiration from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

SUPPLICATION TO BE INSPIRED TO GUIDANCE

اللَّهُمَّ أَلْهِمْنِي رُشْدِي وَقِنِي شَرَّ نَفْسِي

Allāhumma alhimnī rushdī, wa a`idhnī min sharri nafsī

O Allah inspire my precise guidance and protect from the evil of my self.⁴

- Or sometimes we have a feeling to do a good deed, but we overthink it, and end up missing that opportunity to do good.

10. TRUE VISION (الرُّؤْيَا الصَّادِقَةُ)

- For example, Yusuf (عليه السلام) had a dream that gave him a great amount of “fuel” to keep going in his life despite the great transitions in his life.
- A true vision is one of the parts of prophethood. Before the divine revelation, the Prophet (ﷺ)

⁴ Al Wabil As Sayb 199, Authenitcated by Ibn Al Qayyim as Sahih

would have truthful visions where he would dream and it would take place.

- The more truthful a person may be, the more truthful his dream will be.
- People can be guided through a dream. For example, they dream to help a certain person.
- If we want our dreams to be true, we need to always speak the truth, eat lawful and good food, perform wudhu before sleeping and to continue to remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) until we sleep.
- And among the different times, the most truthful dreams are those take place before the fajr time.
- There are three types of dreams:
 1. Truthful dreams from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى): this is not something that happens all the

time. It is similar to the dream of Yusuf (عليه السلام) that happens once in a while in a lifetime.

2. Dreams of the self which are based on what we like or what we are thinking about
 3. Dreams from the shaitan which make us sad
- A person should not talk about bad dreams because it can take place, and for good dreams, it should only be shared with someone who loves us and wants good for us.
 - In conclusion, ranks of guidance 1 to 3 are only for messengers.

1. TO BE SPOKEN TO DIRECTLY (تَكْلِيمُ اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ)

(لِعَبْدِهِ يَقْظَةً بِلَا وَاَسْطَةِ)

2. DIVINE INSPIRATION SPECIFIC TO THE PROPHETS (مرتبة الوحي المختصّ بالأنبياء)
 3. ALLAH SENDS JIBREEL TO THE MESSENGERS FOR INSPRIATION (إرسال الرّسول الملّكيّ إلى الرّسول البشريّ)
- Ranks 4 to 5 are for the sidiqueen – the truthful ones.
4. TO SPEAK SOMETHING ALLAH CONFIRMS IT (التّحدِيث)
 5. DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATIONS (الإفهام)
- And 6 to 10 are for people in general.
6. GENERAL CLARIFICATION (البيان العامّ)
 7. CUSTOMIZED CLARIFICATION (البيان الخاصّ)
 8. TO HEAR SOMETHING WHILE OTHERS DO NOT HEAR IT (الإسماع)

9. INSPIRATION (الإلهام)

10. TRUE VISION (الرؤيا الصادقة)

MAY ALLAH KEEP US FIRM ON HIS GUIDANCE. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. مدارج السالكين - ابن القيم



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. MINI TREATS: VIRTUES OF PATIENCE
2. TEN LEVELS OF GUIDANCE
3. FIQH OF DREAM INTERPRETATION

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

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

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