







CLOUDS OF THOUGHT


These notes are based on a previous course. Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.




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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

CLOUDS OF THOUGHT



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Compiled Notes

Date: Dec 2018 – Jan 2019



كن واحدا لواحد على طريق واحد - (Be one for One on one way – you will reach (تصل))

Surah An Noor 41: (أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالطَّيْرِ صَافَاتٍ كُلُّ قَدْ عَلِمَ) (See you not (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) that Allah, He it is Whom glorify whosoever is in the heavens and the earth, and the birds with wings out-spread (in their flight)?). Of each one He (Allah) knows indeed his Salat (prayer) and his glorification, [or everyone knows his Salat (prayer) and his glorification]; and Allah is All-Aware of what they do.)

- Be unique and one but don't be many faces. A person needs to be one face which is the face of a slave who surrenders and submits to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- He's a slave wherever He may be and he's one with everyone.

Hadith: (عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " تَعَسَى عَبْدُ الدِّينَارِ) (The Prophet (صلى الله) (والدَّرْهَمِ وَالْقَطِيفَةِ وَالْخَمِيصَةِ، إِنَّ أُعْطِيَ رَضِيَ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يُعْطَ لَمْ يَرْضَ ". (عليه وسلم) said, "Perish the slave of Dinar, Dirham, Qatifa (thick soft cloth), and Khamisa (a garment), for if he is given, he is pleased; otherwise he is dissatisfied.") - Sahih al-Bukhari 6435

○ We cannot be on the path to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) except on tawheed.

Surah Al An'am 162-163:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "Verily, my Salat (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists).

لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ۚ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

"He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims."

Tawheed is Mighty and Honorable (التوحيد عزيز):

○ It's important we ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect our tawheed from shirk because shirk is so hidden. For this reason the Prophet (صلى الله) (عليه وسلم) told us to seek refuge with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) from shirk.

Dua: اللهم إني أعودُ بك أنْ أشركَ بك و أنا أعلمُ ، و أستغفرُك لما لا أعلمُ

O Allah I seek Your refuge should I associate with You while I know and I seek Your forgiveness for which I do not know

Sahih Aj Jami'e 3731, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

- Ibn Al Qayyim said 'tawheed is very gentle, it's pure and clean, crystal clear, like a white cloth, and it reflects'. With tahweed we'll have clarity, but it's important we don't spoil our tawheed.

Surah Az Zumar 29: (ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَجُلًا فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَاكِسُونَ وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا لِرَجُلٍ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ) (مَثَلًا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ (Allah puts forth a similitude: a (slave) man belonging to many partners (like those who worship others along with Allah) disputing with one another, and a (slave) man belonging entirely to one master (like those who worship Allah Alone). Are those two equal in comparison? All the praises and thanks be to Allah! But most of them know not.)

- The one with tawheed cannot be equal to the one who's committing shirk. A person cannot reach to the top with two coaches and two masters. For this reason it's important to be one for One on one way.

The Way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Straight

Surah Al An'am 153: (وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن (سَبِيلِهِ ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ("And verily, this (i.e. Allah's Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious - see V.2:2).")

- Following the Qur'an and the Sunnah is the Straight Path. The way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is one and it will not change. If we change routes then we'll be lost.
- Ibn Al Qayyim said if a slave is turning towards Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for a thousand years but turns away for a moment then he'll lose. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) keep our hearts firm on His deen. Ameen.
- It's difficult to turn away from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) so it's important we are one for One on one way because then we will reach.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to keep you firm on tawheed and protect you from shirk
- Follow the Qur'an and Sunnah

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) keep us firm on tawheed and keep us away from shirk. Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #2

Date: 24 December 2018 / 17 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Choose your Companion

- To go on the journey to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) requires a companion and beloved one whom you love and they love you. Belief in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) The Most High and He will give you the most customized and top companion made for you. We all want someone to be on a journey with us until we reach Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- Everyone wants to reach and progress to the top but it needs determination, truthfulness, sincerity and patience.
- We don't want to be tired, go backwards or be delayed. We want to go forward but we need to believe Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will bring all provision to us and He will bring us the best and highest.
- No matter how much determination and motivation we may have, we need someone who will help us in this long, but beautiful journey.
- It needs a heart to heart companion where you see, speak and feel is the same. A person needs a companion until they reach the top to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- There is no blessing after Islam than to have a beloved companion. This friend and companion will travel with you; this companion is different from a family member. With this friend you will share

together all the goals and challenges. There will be no awkwardness with this companion. A person will be resurrected with this companion and he will enjoy being under the Shade of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) just as in this life they were together speaking of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- This companionship is not a normal one but a companionship which takes you to the top, so a person will enjoy it in this life and the next.
- A person will be with the ones he love, so choose your companions wisely. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will create a companion customized for you if you truly want to reach Him, subhan Allah.
- If you love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and love those who love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then you will be neighbors in Firdaous Al 'Ala. If both of you have eyes on the highest target and goal, and this love keeps you motivated to reach Firdaous then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will provide it.
- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said if you ask for paradise then ask for Firdous Al 'Ala. **Hadith: (وَالْفِرْدَوْسُ أَعْلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَأَوْسَطُهَا وَفَوْقَ ذَلِكَ عَرْشُ الرَّحْمَنِ وَمِنْهَا) (Al-Firdaus is the highest of Paradise and its most expansive, and above that is the Throne of Ar-Rahman (the Most Merciful), and from it the rivers of Paradise are made to flow forth. So when you ask Allah, ask Him for Al-Firdaus.) – At Tirmidhi Book 38, Hadith 2722**
- The ceiling of Firdaous is the Throne of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), it's in the middle of paradise and all rivers gush forth from Firdaous. A person wants to go to the top with the best and the best of feelings.

- The Companions are the stars and whoever loves them then they will be with them in Firdaus Al 'Ala.
- This life is not about being dry, stiff and determined like rock, but a person needs beautiful feelings and gentleness to reach the top.
- The sign of loving for the sake of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is to always look at what's pleasing Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). A person wants to use this love as a fuel to keep him going towards Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

Surah Al Anfal 63: وَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ لَوْ أَنْفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مَا أَلَّفْتَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَلَكِنَّ (اللهَ أَلَّفَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ) (And He has united their (i.e. believers') hearts. If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have united their hearts, but Allah has united them. Certainly He is All-Mighty, All-Wise.)

- Allah Al Aziz Al Hakeem and He is the One Who joins between the hearts. If a person were to spend everything on this earth to join two hearts then it won't happen. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the One Who joins love between the hearts, and it's a two way and not one-way love. It's not a worldly love but a divine love. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) grant us this love. Ameen.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is the One Who combines and gathers the hearts. When Ibrahim (عليه السلام) asked to see the dead coming back to life, the birds were there and scattered, but they were quickly brought back to life.
- Ibn 'Umar may Allah be pleased with him said he wouldn't have anything to do but to say salam to the people.

- Having a companion will make you reach your goals quickly because you share the same goals.
- Just as they love for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), they also hate for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Love and hate for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) are not connected to desires.

Surah Al Mumtahina 4: (قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ إِذْ قَالُوا لِقَوْمِهِمْ إِنَّا بُرَاءُ مِنْكُمْ وَمِمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ كَفَرْنَا بِكُمْ وَبَدَا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةُ وَالْبَغْضَاءُ أَبَدًا حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَحَدَهُ إِلَّا قَوْلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ لَأَسْتَغْفِرَنَّ لَكَ وَمَا أَمْلِكُ لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ رَبَّنَا عَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ أَنبْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ) (Indeed there has been an excellent example for you in Ibrahim (Abraham) and those with him, when they said to their people: "Verily, we are free from you and whatever you worship besides Allah: we have rejected you, and there has started between us and you hostility and hatred for ever until you believe in Allah Alone" - except the saying of Ibrahim (Abraham) to his father: "Verily, I will ask forgiveness (from Allah) for you, but I have no power to do anything for you before Allah. " Our Lord! In You (Alone) we put our trust, and to You (Alone) we turn in repentance, and to You (Alone) is (our) final Return.)

- A person should choose now, 'who will accompany you to the Day of Judgement?' The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had many companions, but he had one special companion which was Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him). He was clear in who he loved the most. He even told him if I were to take a companion whose love would go to the blood and veins, it would be Abu Bakr (may

Allah be pleased with him). He would be his Khalil, but the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is Khalil of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- And a person should be away from those who will take them away from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) so the measure for choosing a companion is who will bring you closer to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

Surah Hud 113: (وَلَا تَرْكَبُوا إِلَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا فَتَمَسَّكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصَرُونَ) (And incline not toward those who do wrong, lest the Fire should touch you, and you have no protectors other than Allah, nor you would then be helped.)

- Don't incline to a wrongdoer or those who associate with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) or disbelieve in Him.
- The companionship of believers and obedient ones is a worship. So love the obedient ones and they will help you reach the top. A person will be with the one whom he loves on the Day of Judgement.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Be truthful in wanting to reach Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and He will bring a companion for you
- Ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to have a true companion

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) grant us His love, the love of those who love Him and love of deeds which bring us closer to His love. Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #3

Date: 25 December 2018 / 18 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Where's your provision?

- As mentioned before, our goal is one, we need to have a companion with us, but for every travel there's provision that's needed. We're travelers in this life, travelling from one decree to another, travelling from one station to another, from the life of this duniya to the life of the hereafter.

Hadith: (عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا - قَالَ أَخَذَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِمَنْكِبِي فَقَالَ (" كُنْ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَأَنَّكَ غَرِيبٌ، أَوْ عَابِرُ سَبِيلٍ)) (`Abdullah bin `Umar said, "Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) took hold of my shoulder and said, 'Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler.'") - Sahih al-Bukhari 6416

- No one can change the fact that they're a traveler in this life, so where's your provision? The journey to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) requires provision, and it's not a provision of feet, but a provision of heart and feelings.
- How can we get that provision? Whatever Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has given us in this life then we use it for the akhira. We shouldn't think 'I don't have anything'; whatever we have, we're to use it for the akhira.

- Most people are deceived by the duniya, and if the duniya becomes our provision then it will harden our hearts. How can we climb up if our hearts are hardened and heavy? Subhan Allah. If we want to go to the top, then we need a light, soft and gentle heart.
- If our heart is hardened, then our enemy can easily overpower and distract us.
- Ibn Al Jawzi said: 'strange is the person who lived and died without getting ready or taking provision. Strange is the one who knew he's going to the grave but didn't prepare for the journey after it', subhan Allah.
- It's important to know that travelling to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has many blessings, fortunes and treasures.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants us to be at the top and to reach to Firdaous Al 'Ala. And He will give us tangible and intangible blessings because we know where we want to go.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will shower many mercies upon the one who's heading towards Him.
- **Surah Ghafir 7: (الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ) (لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ)**
(Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allah) and those around it glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him, and ask forgiveness for those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah) (saying): "Our Lord! You comprehend all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who repent and follow Your Way, and save them from

the torment of the blazing Fire!) – the angels understand that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) encompasses everything by His mercy and knowledge.

What should we pack for our journey?

1. **Tawheed and faith:** anyone who has faith and believes in Allah's Oneness and makes Him One in everything then this journey will be the most beautiful journey. Faith gives protection and comfort, nothing can disturb or irritate the person. As a result of having tawheed and faith, there will be blessings upon the person and he will taste the sweetness of faith. It's not only a feeling but a taste that a person doesn't want it to go away. A person will be guided on this journey as a result of his faith. Ibn Al Qayyim said the greatest provision in this journey is not only knowing about Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) but to taste and have feelings of faith which is what we all want. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) grant us these feelings. Ameen.

- **Surah Al Hujurat 7: (وَاعْلَمُوا أَن فِيكُمْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَوْ يُطِيعُكُمْ فِي كَثِيرٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ لَعَنِتُّمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَكَرَّهَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكُفْرَ وَالْفُسُوقَ وَالْعِصْيَانَ ۗ (أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الرَّاشِدُونَ) (And know that among you there is the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم). If he were to obey you (i.e. follow your opinions and desires) in much of the matter, you would surely be in trouble. But Allah has endeared the Faith to you and has beautified it in your hearts, and has made disbelief, wickedness and disobedience (to Allah and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) hateful to you. Such are they who are the rightly guided.)**

2. **Certainty – yaqeen:** we need to be certain of what we believe in. Why do we need yaqeen? Because we're travelling at night, and there are valleys, hooks, and thieves.
- If a person doesn't have the lamps of certainty, whose oil is lit with humility, then a person will be stopped from continuing his way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
 - When a person has yaqeen then he will have a glow and shine, even if he's walking in the darkest night.
3. **Ikhlas:** the main purpose of the journey is to reach ikhlas. A person will not be worthy to be on the journey if there's no ikhlas. The journey to the top needs to be pure and sincere and ikhlas keeps a person going to the top.
- When Iblis swore by the might of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to mislead the people, he knew he couldn't mislead the mukhliseen.
 - **Surah Saad 82-83:**
 قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ
[Iblis (Satan)] said: "By Your Might, then I will surely mislead them all,
 إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلِصِينَ
"Except Your chosen slaves amongst them (i.e. faithful, obedient, true believers of Islamic Monotheism)."
 - The one who will reach the top is the sincere one, because if there's no ikhlas then any situation will make the person turn backwards.

People on the path are of three types:

- The one who knew the path and took it (الراشد). May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among them. Ameen.
- The one who's misguided (الضال)
- The one who knew the way but took the wrong path and misled others (الغاوي)

4. **Secret deed:** sometimes we go through difficulty in our journey, and we need a good deed which no one knows about to use to continue on the journey.
5. **Patience:** it's important to be patient on the path and not complain because verily victory is with patience.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Be sincere and have taweed

**May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among the guided ones who reach.
Ameen.**



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #4

Date: 26 December 2018 / 19 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Obstacles

- Ibn Al Qayyim said the path to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is a tangible path but along the way there are obstacles and only the one who's expert on this path can recognize them.
- He said our goal to our destination will not be complete unless we're guided to reach it.

Surah Al Maeda 48: (لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا) (To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way.)

- Ibn 'Abbas (رضي الله عنه) said all of us have a path and it's detailed one telling us where all the curves and obstacles are located, subhan Allah.

First Obstacle: Fearing to be alone

- Not everyone sees what we see, and not everyone has the same goal as we do. And this is an obstacle when a person is alone.
- That's why it was mentioned before to choose a companion. Even if there is one companion who sees what you see and feels what you feels then this will help to overcome the obstacles and continue down the path.

- It's the way of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) that people of truth are few; they are not many, subhan Allah. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us from the people of the truth. Ameen.

Surah Al Waqiah 10-14:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ

And those foremost [(in Islamic Faith of Monotheism and in performing righteous deeds) in the life of this world on the very first call for to embrace Islam] will be foremost (in Paradise).

أُولَئِكَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ

These will be the nearest (to Allah).

فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ

In the Gardens of Delight (Paradise).

ثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْأُولَىٰ

A multitude of those (foremost) will be from the first generations (who embraced Islam).

وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ

And a few of those (foremost) will be from the later generations.

- To reach the top requires constant motivation, development, and increasing of faith. Only a few people want to increase their level, but the people of truth always want to be better; they always want to improve and be up to date. A person can always do better than

before and for this reason there is no ceiling to ihsan. Something can always be better.

Surah Saad 24: (إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَقَلِيلٌ مَّا هُمْ) (except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and they are few)

- Only a few people believe and do righteous good deeds. It's important to always develop it and not remain at the same level.

Surah Saba 13: (وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّاكِرُونَ) (But few of My slaves are grateful.)

- It's important to improve and enhance our gratitude.
- On the other hand, those on falsehood are many. **Surah Yusuf 103: (وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ) (And most of mankind will not believe even if you desire it eagerly.)** We don't want to lose our faith or have it go down.
- **Surah Al Maeda 49: (وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ لَفَاسِقُونَ) (And truly, most of men are Fasiqun (rebellious and disobedient to Allah).)** – the majority of people are rebellious as well.
- Thus we shouldn't feel demotivated if there are only a few with us and we shouldn't feel demotivated either if people don't want to go on that path either. In the end, only a few will reach the top, may Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among them. Ameen.

Second Obstacle: Dark Tunnel

- What is this dark tunnel? While a person is walking, it suddenly becomes dark and a person is trapped, he doesn't know what he's doing and doesn't know how to go out. This is the dark tunnel which is conflict between people. People become distracted when there's conflict between them and it can burn a tree from the roots. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us. Ameen

Surah Al Furqan 20: وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لَيَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ ۗ (And We never sent before you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) any of the Messengers but verily, they ate food and walked in the markets. And We have made some of you as a trial for others: will you have patience? And your Lord is Ever All-Seeing (of everything).)

- People are a test for each other. The messengers eat and go to the market, and this shouldn't be a problem, but it was a fitna for the people thinking 'how could messengers do that?', subhan Allah.
- We need to have yaqeen and certainty that there's a way out and there will be a light when we come out. What is this light? Knowledge of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take a person out from all tunnels.

Surah An Noor 35: اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ مَثَلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ ۗ الْمِصْبَاحُ فِي ۗ زُجَاجَةٍ ۗ الزُّجَاجَةُ كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ يُوقَدُ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ ۗ نُورٌ عَلَى نُورٍ ۗ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ لِنُورِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ۗ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ (Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His

Light is as (if there were) a niche and within it a lamp: the lamp is in a glass, the glass as it were a brilliant star, lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east (i.e. neither it gets sun-rays only in the morning) nor of the west (i.e. nor it gets sun-rays only in the afternoon, but it is exposed to the sun all day long), whose oil would almost glow forth (of itself), though no fire touched it. Light upon Light! Allah guides to His Light whom He wills. And Allah sets forth parables for mankind, and Allah is All-Knower of everything.)

- And what else is needed to get out of the tunnel? Ihsan to the people. **Surah Ar Rahman 60: (هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ) (Is there any reward for good other than good?)** – in order to get out of darkness, it's important to always do what's best.

Surah Al Isra 53: (وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ ۚ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ ۚ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا) (And say to My slaves (i.e. the true believers of Islamic Monotheism) that they should (only) say those words that are the best. (Because) Shaitan (Satan) verily, sows a state of conflict and disagreements among them. Surely, Shaitan (Satan) is to man a plain enemy.)

- A person shouldn't busy himself with people by flattering or arguing with them. A person becomes a failure when he busies himself with others and forgets himself and forgets Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Leave the people to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and focus on yourself.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Always improve yourself
- Have yaqeen in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and do ihsan to the people

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among the guided ones who reach.

Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #5

Date: 27 December 2018 / 20 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Obstacles – Part 2

- When going to the top, there will surely be obstacles along the way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

Third Obstacle: Bridge along the way

- This means we need to cross this bridge in order to continue our path. What is this bridge? Afflictions and trials. We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for the well-being. Ameen.
- Why do we face trials and afflictions? In order to know ourselves and what it needs in order to be purified.
- It's a bridge to make us better and to go higher.

Surah Al 'Ankaboot 1 -2

الم

Alif-Lam-Mim. [These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'an, and none but Allah (Alone) knows their meanings.]

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ

Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: "We believe," and will not be tested.

- Do people think they will not be tested if they claim faith? We shouldn't fear this trial because with these tests we may go higher and be established in the land. The life of Yusuf (عليه السلام) is a great example of going through trials. All that he faced were bridges to make him established on the earth.

How can we cross this bridge?

- **Patience:** verily victory is with patience.
- **Think good of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى):** it's a bridge to take us higher. We need to be pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and anyone whom Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is pleased with then surely He will make him cross the bridge.
- The higher we go in life, the steeper it will be, but with patience and thinking good of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) we can reach.
- As we overcome these trials then we will reach paradise by the permission of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

Fourth obstacle: Mountain along the way

- As we go down the path, there's a big mountain that we need to climb. What is this mountain? The self. We seek refuge from the evil of ourselves and the bad consequences of our deeds. Ameen.
- Climbing a mountain is not straight, but has ridges and we need to climb it in order to reach the top. On the top of the mountain is the shaitan telling us to stay low and not continue up. It's important we don't listen to the shaitan but overcome our nafs.

- There are thorns and valleys along the way on this mountain and these represent sicknesses of the heart.
- We need faith to make the way easy to reach the top. When we're only fulfilling the desires of our nafs then it will take us down.
- We also need yaqeen so that we can reach the end. **Surah Al Hijr 99: (وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ) (And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e. death).)**

Fifth obstacle: Thief along the way

- Who's this thief which comes along the way? The shaitan. The shaitan is at the top of the mountain discouraging us and make us fear going up. He will steal our time by making us panic and be afraid.
- And the more we go, the more he'll discourage us. He wants to demotivate us and whisper to us 'do not go forward'. The plot of the shaitan is weak, it's just a sound, subhan Allah.
- What should we do? Seek refuge with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) from the accursed shaitan and surely He will help us.
- After all of these obstacles and fears comes a wide land, a paradise prepared for those on the path to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among them. Ameen.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Purify the nafs, seek help with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), be patient and think good of Him when facing trials
- Seek refuge with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) from the shaitan and know his plot is weak.

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us reach His paradise with peace.

Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #6

Date: 28 December 2018 / 21 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Stop Complaining and Start Treating

- There can be different things which we might complain about but any complaining will not take us up.
- If a person is going up and he's complaining then it will distract those around him and if a person is going up and people are complaining to him then it will distract him as well.
- Why does someone complain? Because he's deceived by the duniya, subhan Allah.
- The one who loves the duniya will talk about it whether positively or complaining about it as well.
- The one who complains is afflicted and it will prevent him from going forward and from others going forward.
- The one who's complaining is closing many doors on himself and for others. And these could have been shortcuts for him.

Different types of complaining:

1. Wiswas: someone who's obsessed with complaining
2. Those who are always complaining about their children.
3. Those who are always complaining about their wealth, business, workplace.

4. Those who are always complaining about people. This means they've been afflicted by the people of the duniya and it shows it's his concern.
- The one complains is the one who's deceived with the duniya without him knowing it, astghfar Allah. This should make us cautious before complaining. If we stop complaining and start looking for a solution then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will take us out of the fitna.
 - If we want success and happiness in this life and the hereafter then we need to stop thinking of the duniya and know that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will help us. It's time to live a life with faith.
 - We shouldn't complain about the people, their actions and even their misguidance and rebellious attitude. Rather we should help those who are misguided by making dua for them.
 - We shouldn't even complain about ourselves because then we are programming negativity in us. Recall that our journey is high to the seventh heaven and to Firdaus Al 'Ala. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us reach. Ameen.
 - Sometimes people are pushing us to complain about ourselves, why? Because they don't like us to be successful and go forward. The shaitan hates for us to be successful, happy and productive, so he brings this idea into our mind to complain about ourselves. We need to seek refuge and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will protect us.
 - Those who complain about the present will not change anything. Rather a person should stop complaining and look for a solution.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Do not complain and don't be deceived with the duniya
- Seek help with Allah and look for a solution

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make the Qur'an the spring of our heart.

Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #7

Date: 29 December 2018 / 22 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Your Day is Your Day

- We need to set up our plans and priorities according to what we're able to do.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants ease for us and not hardship. **Surah Al Baqarah 185: (يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمْ الْعُسْرَ) (Allah intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you.)**
- **Surah An Nisa'a 28: (يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَفِّفَ عَنْكُمْ ۗ وَخُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ ضَعِيفًا) (Allah wishes to lighten (the burden) for you; and man was created weak)**
- We shouldn't worry about the future because it can cause us to have low determination.
- Ibn Umar may Allah be pleased with him said: 'if you awake in the morning, don't wait for the night, and if you're awake at night, don't wait for the morning', so live day by day.
- How can we live day by day? By setting up a goal everyday. Write a to do list for yourself, and this gives you an idea of what needs to be achieved.
- How do we begin? By starting with repentance. **Dua: (رَبِّ تَقَبَّلْ تَوْبَتِي) (My Lord, accept my repentance, wash my sin, answer my call)**
- Challenge yourself by writing things which can take you higher.

- Ibn Al Qayyim said 'you're a traveler traveling to your Lord from the moment you're born', subhan Allah. 'The days and nights are stages for your travel and the one who's thinking properly will look properly at every stage of his life'.
- Don't worry about the future, and don't be sad for your past.
- Live day by day so you can enjoy and relax, and start building your day with all that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves.
- Ibn Al Qayyim said 'a year is like a tree, and the branches are like months and its twigs are like days and its leaves are like hours'.
- Your day is your day in order you may reach the pleasure of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). **Surah Luqman 34: (وَمَا تَذَرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا) (No person knows what he will earn tomorrow)** – no one knows what they will earn tomorrow so don't worry about it.
- Be productive for the day and you will reach.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Don't worry about tomorrow because no one knows what they will earn
- Repent to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in order to be more productive

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) forgive us and grant a good end. Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #8

Date: 30 December 2018 / 23 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – A sign of Allah's displeasure to you is when you're displeased with Him, astaghfar Allah

- If a person wants to reach the highest level, he must be content and pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We all want to reach Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and in life we go through different decrees, those which:
 - We're pleased with
 - We're not pleased with
- We cannot reach Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) until we are pleased with all decrees. Anytime we're pleased with His decrees, then He will bless it for us, be pleased with us and make us content.
- The one who's not content or pleased with what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) decreed for him then he will find no blessing in it nor will he be content. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said if when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a people, He will test them and whoever is pleased then he will have all the pleasure and whoever is angry then he will have anger. **Hadith:** (عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - أَنَّهُ قَالَ " عِظْمُ الْجَزَاءِ مَعَ عِظْمِ الْبَلَاءِ) (It was narrated from Anas bin Malik that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "The greatest reward comes with the greatest trial. When Allah

loves a people He tests them. Whoever accepts that wins His pleasure but whoever is discontent with that earns His wrath.”) - Sunan Ibn Majah 4031

To be pleased requires three conditions:

1. Blessings and afflictions are equal because Allah's choice is always best.
2. Don't argue or go into conflict with others.
 - Do not fight with anyone
 - Do not blame anyone
 - Do not ask something for from others
3. End asking or insisting anything from the people
 - The higher we go, the more we'll be tested, and when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) stops anything from us then we're actually being given.
 - Trials and tests from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) are well-being for us and it's a protection, subhan Allah.
 - We all need to think good of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), but what's the problem? Ignorance and transgression. When we fall into arguments then it's a sign of ignorance.
 - The one who's pleased will count Allah's blessings.
 - When he withholds anything, then He will give us better. And when He tests us, it's for our well-being. He will not cause us to fall sick except to cure us, subhan Allah. And He will not cause us to die except to make us alive again.

- We need to accept what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives and takes away from us.

Fruits of being pleased:

- Joy and happiness
- If you're pleased at this moment then know Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is pleased with you, subhan Allah.
- A sign He's not pleased with us is when we're not pleased with Him, astaghfar Allah.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Be pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us be pleased with Him as our Lord, with Islam is our deen and with Mohammed (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as our prophet. Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #9

Date: 31 December 2018 / 24 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – It's not about you loving Allah, but Him loving you

- The way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has a foundation and it's not with feet but with heart. We all need Allah's love and this begins with our heart. (لا اله الا الله) means to attach to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) out of love and magnification.
- Love is to love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), love those whom Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves and love of deeds which bring us closer to His love.
- This life needs love and this life cannot be established without love. It's important to make our priority that we are loved by Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a slave, then the slave will love Him more, and then Allah's love for him will increase as well, and this becomes ongoing.

Surah Al Maeda 54: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَنْ يَرْتَدَّ مِنْكُمْ عَنْ دِينِهِ فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِي اللَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ يُحِبُّهُمْ) وَيُحِبُّونَهُ أَذِلَّةٌ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَعِزَّةٌ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ يُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَخَافُونَ لَوْمَةَ لَائِمٍ ۗ ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ) (O you who believe! Whoever from among you turns back from his religion (Islam), Allah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him; humble towards the believers, stern towards the disbelievers, fighting in the Way of Allah, and never fear of the blame of the blamers. That is the Grace of Allah which He

bestows on whom He wills. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower.)

- The one who turns away from Allah's deen then He will bring a people whom He loves and they love Him. Notice Allah's love is preceded before theirs and this shows it's not a matter of us loving Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loving us. The qualities of such people are humble to the believers and firm to the disbelievers, they struggle for His sake and do not fear the blame of the blamers. This is Allah's favor upon them. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) love us, may we love those whom love Him and love of deeds which bring us closer to His love. Ameen.
- Here's a question for all of us: 'does Allah love you?', subhan Allah. The love of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is so great, are we suitable or worthy of Allah's love?
- Allah is The Most Great, The Most Honorable, The King, for what does He love us? Subhan Allah. Never assume Allah's love is connected to His givings to you. His love is greater than what He gives from the duniya. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives the duniya to whom He loves and doesn't love but gives the deen to whom He loves. If He makes you to worship Him, seek knowledge and do good deeds then this is an indication of Allah's love for you.
- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a person then He will fill his heart with His love and this is a great blessing. **Hadith:** (قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم:) "إن الله تعالى قال: "من عاد لي ولياً، فقد آذنته بالحرب، وما تقرب إلي عبدي بشيء أحب إلي مما افترضت عليه، وما يزال عبدي يتقرب إلي بالنوافل حتى أحبه فإذا أحببته كنت سمعه الذي يسمع به،

وبصره الذي يبصر به، ويده التي يبطش بها، ورجله التي يمشي بها، وإن سألتني، أعطيته، ولئن
 " (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (Messenger of Allah) said, "Allah, the Exalted, has said: 'I will declare war against him who treats with hostility a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved thing with which My slave comes nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil (voluntary prayers or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) until I love him, (so much so that) I become his hearing with which he hears, and his sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he strikes, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks Me something, I will surely give him, and if he seeks My Protection (refuge), I will surely protect him".) – Riyadh As Saliheen, Al Bukhari, Book 1, Hadith 386

- When we love anyone, our night and day will go around this person, and when a person loves Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), then his night and day revolve around Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a person then it will occupy his heart.
- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a person then He will busy all his limbs to serve Him. And when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a person then He will stop all negativity and whispers from his heart, so there's no space for any worries or sorrow, subhan Allah.
- When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves a person then he will feel as if he's standing between the Two Hands of the One Whom he loves.

- This love will grow by looking and observing Allah's Favors. The person will feel he is surrounded by Allah's love and he will be sensitive to it.
- **How can we make this love firm?** Follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم): **Surah Al Imran 31: (قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ) (Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to mankind): "If you (really) love Allah then follow me (i.e. accept Islamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'an and the Sunnah), Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Off-Forgiving, Most Merciful.")**
- **How will this love grow?** By being broken before Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and in need of His love. But if a person feels satisfied and thinks he doesn't need to take care of it, then this love will decrease.
- If Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves us then we will live for Him, He will occupy our limbs by serving Him and He will occupy our minds by thinking of Him, subhan Allah. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) place us in the best position and place and not replace us. Ameen.
- And if Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves us then He will put acceptance in the hearts of the people.
- We cannot love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) if He doesn't love us. And when we do love Him, then He rewards us with more love and this is paradise.
- We all want to be loved by Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) so we should go forward and be truthful.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Be truthful and go to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) with heart
- Follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)

**May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) love us, may we love those whom He loves
and may we love the deeds which bring us closer to His love.**

Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #10

Date: 01 January 2019 / 25 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Submit and you will be saved

- As we go up there can be many dangers, but the more we submit the more we'll be saved because all matters are in His Hands.
- The one who wants to reach Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) should submit and surrender. We will not reach except by submission.

Surah Al Baqarah 131: (إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ أَسْلِمْ قَالَ أَسْلَمْتُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ) When his Lord said to him, "Submit (i.e. be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)."

- How many people are there whose concern is only themselves and they only surrender to themselves. Such people are living for themselves thus they will not reach.
- The one who lives for himself and only surrenders to his desires will live and die small. But when a person submits to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then he will live big and die great, subhan Allah.
- How can we submit? Be a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى); whatever He commands then fulfill it and whatever He forbids then abstain from it.

- When we surrender to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then we will be saved. If we go according to what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) commanded then we are actually freeing ourselves.
- We have to begin with ourselves and there is a divine law.

Surah Ar Ra'ad 11: (إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا (بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۗ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَاإِلِّ لَهُ مُعَقَّبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا (بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۗ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَاإِلِّ لَهُ مُعَقَّبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا (
(each person), there are angels in succession, before and behind him. They guard him by the Command of Allah. Verily! Allah will not change the (good) condition of a people as long as they do not change their state (of goodness) themselves (by committing sins and by being ungrateful and disobedient to Allah). But when Allah wills a people's punishment, there can be no turning back of it, and they will find besides Him no protector.)

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will not change the state of anyone until the person changes himself.

Surah Al Anfal 53: (ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَكُ مُغَيِّرًا نِّعْمَةً أَنْعَمَهَا عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ وَأَنَّ (اللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ (That is so because Allah will never change a grace which He has bestowed on a people until they change what is in their ownelves. And verily, Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.)

- We need to take responsibility and the measure for success is our submission to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- We will be asked about what we did with our deen? Thus we should submit, and not fear or have hope in anyone except Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- We will be under His guardianship when we submit to Him and we will be saved.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Submit to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)
- Begin with changing yourself

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us among those who submit to Him.

Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #11

Date: 02 January 2019 / 26 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Deeds not accepted

- We need to understand 'what are the buried secrets for deeds not being accepted?'. As we go to the top, we don't want to be told 'you took the wrong path or you climbed the wrong mountain'.
- What is the reason for something not being accepted? When there's a share of the self in it, astaghfar Allah. To feel happy or enjoy the deed is a result of the deed and that's fine, but it's while doing the deed.
- Sometimes we rely on our deeds to go up but it's about Allah (سبحانه) accepting our deeds. **Surah Fatir 10: (إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ) (الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ) (To Him ascend (all) the goodly words, and the righteous deeds exalt it).**
- The conditions for acceptable deeds are:
 - Ikhlhas
 - Following the Sunnah
- It's important to be pure while going up because it's not only about being making the right moves or planning ahead.
- We should be a receiver with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not a partner with Him, astaghfar Allah. When we perform our deeds sincerely for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then we will receive the reward, but when we're

not sincere then we're making a partnership with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and this is shirk.

- As we go up, we need to ask ourselves, 'for Whom are we doing it? And why are we doing it?'. Al Hasan said 'may Allah have mercy on a slave who stops and things about his concern.'. If a person's concern is for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then he will proceed with the deed. But when it's not for Him then he will delay it, subhan Allah.
- When we're working on any projects, we need to ask ourselves, 'for whom are we doing it?'. If it's for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then we should continue, and if not then we need to reassess. **Hadith Qudsi: (عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " قَالَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى أَنَا أَعْنَى الشُّرَكَاءِ عَنِ الشَّرْكَ (مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا أَشْرَكَ فِيهِ مَعِيَ غَيْرِي تَرَكْتُهُ وَشِرْكُهُ " (Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as stating that Allah the Most High and Exalted said: I am the One, One Who does not stand in need of a partner. If anyone does anything in which he associates anyone else with Me, I shall abandon him with one whom he associates with Allah.) - Sahih Muslim 2985**
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The Most Rich of our deeds, but we're in need of it. And He will not accept deeds which are not pure.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Be sincere and pure to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)
- Ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect you from shirk

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us mukhliseen. Ameen.



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #12

Date: 03 January 2019 / 27 Rabi' Al Thaani 1440



Cloud of Thought – Summary of all clouds

- When we do tasbeeh then we will reach the top and we should follow Allah's instruction. When we connect to The Highest then we'll reach the highest goals.
- Before going to the top, choose your beloved companion. This friend will travel with you so that you're not a stranger. A person needs someone to share all the feelings of belief and he will be resurrected with him on the Day of Judgement under the Throne of Allah, subhan Allah. You will be at peace and rest because you are sharing your journey to the top.
- Where's your provision? Where's your tawheed, faith, certainty, ikhlas, secret deed and patience.
- We need to beware of all the obstacles which can come along the way. There's a bridge we need to cross and a mountain to overcome.
- While going to the top, don't complain about yourself, your companion, the people, or your provision.
- Choose the right moves and have a plan, know your vision and mission.

- Choose the top in the duniya for the best in the akhira. While you're climbing, be satisfied and pleased with whatever Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) chooses for you. He will choose the top of the top for you.
- Look at the bigger picture and be a person who serves society. Climb while asking yourself 'does Allah love me?'
- Work to attain His love then you will live while being loved. Climb with faith to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and He will take you higher.
- While going up then submit and you will be saved from all harms and dangers. While going towards the top, work steadily and you will reach.
- Follow your coach – the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Alahumma salli 'ala Muhammad wa 'ala ali Muhammad, kama sallaita 'ala Ibrahima wa barik 'ala Muhammad kama barakta 'ala ali Ibrahim fil-'alamin, innaka hamidun majid

(O Allah, send salah upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad, as You sent salah upon the family of Ibrahim, and send blessings upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad as You sent blessings upon the family of Ibrahim among the nations.

You are indeed Worthy of praise, Full of glory.

- And you will reach by Allah's permission.

**May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) grant us His pleasure and firdaous al 'ala.
Ameen.**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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