

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ

RECITE IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD

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INTRODUCTION

- Everything that happens in life, every decree, every word that is said is all connected. In the end we all return back to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).
- We want to return back to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) with love for Him and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم). How will we have these feelings without going through decrees to feel His nurturing?

NURTURING OF OUR RABB

- We need companions to see the nurturing of Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) because if we are alone on this path we can easily be deceived.
- When we are together, we can see Allah's nurturing more clearly. Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) decreed that yesterday we prayed the 'Asr prayer in the masjid. There were girls memorizing Qur'an in the masjid at the time and one of the girls was repeating Surah Al Kawthar.

SURAH AL KAWTHAR

1.

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ

Indeed, We have granted you, [O Muhammad], al-Kawthar.

2.

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ

So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone].

3.

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off.

- A while later another girl began to recite Surah Al 'Alaq. Surely there is a nurturing behind this as the class today is (اَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ) Recite in the Name of your Lord).
- In Surah in Kawthar, Allah (سُبْحَاتِهِ وَتَعَالَى) addresses the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) who was being mocked for something that was not in his control- for the death of his son.

- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) loves the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and will defend him and this shows Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) appreciates the feelings of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).
- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) not only defended him but gave him more which is Al Kawthar. Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) gave the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) the best followers and the best speech. The one who hates him is the one who is cut off for not believing in him (صلى الله عليه وسلم) .
- Surah Al 'Alaq is the start of the revelation and Surah Al Kawthar mentions what Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) will give the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in the end. There can be pain along the way and Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) gives him glad tidings of Al Kawthar in the end.

- What has value is not just to have feelings for ourselves but to have feelings for Allah (سبحاته) , to have feelings for the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم). We want to have this love and this comes by first knowing what it means to love for Allah by being nurtured together.
- In the start of the journey we see an image of ourselves- only our nafs. We want to reach the level of ihsan where all our feelings are for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى). Through this nurturing journey from the nafs to ihsan, slowly the features of the nafs are wiped away. Though the silhouette is the nafs may still be there but when there is a companion there is a mirror. It is not about you anymore but about the nurturing of Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).

- Sometimes it may be scary to face our faults but in the end there is a lot of goodness. Just as there is fear for the Day of Judgment but at the same time there is happiness.
- In the end those who love each other for the Majesty of Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) will be on platforms of light. What is very important is to be connected to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 1 & 2

1.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Recite in the name of your Lord who created -

2.

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

Created man from a clinging substance.

- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) created us and we are in this life connected and attached to Him.

- This 'alaq stage of our creation is the middle stage. For four weeks from the time of conception, the cells are being multiplied. Then it goes down a sticky, slippery path till it becomes a stage of being connected. This is the start of the 'alaq phase. In this time it has to be attached to get its nutrition.
- Once it connects, everything will become developed. We see how critical it is to be connected to have life.
- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) brought us in this life and we cannot disconnect from His Nurturing, from His ayat and from the truth He will show us.
- Through both Surah Al 'Alaq and Surah Al Kawthar we learn that we always need to connect to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) and never cut ourselves off. We connect with Him through

prayer, and we sacrifice for Him. Sometimes we go through situations when we want to cut ourselves off, but we need to cut our desires and sacrifice our desire while connecting to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى). This is the phase of connection.

- Surah Al 'Alaq is the beginning of revelation and Surah Al Kawthar is the everlasting end of Al Kawthar.
- The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) sacrificed for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) but not his children. Ibrahim (عليه السلام) also did not sacrifice his son in the end. What we sacrifice is our desires, while remaining hanging and attached to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).

- The value in the end is only faith which only Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) sees and knows. People are variables and always change and Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) is constant Who knows what is the hearts.
- When the companions had laughed at how thin the shin of ‘Abdullah bin Masood was the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had told them that his shin would be heavier than the mountain of Uhud on the Day of Judgement.
- What has weight and value is our faith.
- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) is so great and He appreciates this faith. We appreciate Allah (سبحاته وتعالى), His guidance, His nurturing, the faith which Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) gives. May Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) protect our faith.

- We want to be firm on the faith because this is our measure with Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).

THE THRONE OF ALLAH SHOOK

عَنْ جَابِرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ . سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
يَقُولُ " اهْتَزَّ الْعَرْشُ لِمَوْتِ سَعْدِ بْنِ مُعَاذٍ "

Narrated Jabir: I heard the Prophet (ﷺ) saying,
"The Throne (of Allah) shook at the death of
Sa`d bin Mu`adh."¹

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- We don't see faith but Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) sees and appreciates it. We do not look at the words of people who may say 'you are cut off' but we look at the everlasting delights Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) has prepared for us. We may not see the completion of matters but

¹ Sahih al-Bukhari 3803

surely Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) will give more and something ongoing.

- Our vision is narrow. We may think our value is in our name to be carried through our child but it is more. There is no place on the earth, there is no person whose name is mentioned and exalted more than the name of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم). There is always vastness and we always have hope in Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).
- There are moments we feel of loss, disturbances, we may look at ourselves for a moment and even shed tears for ourselves but then we take it higher. When the tears are for ourselves there will not feel satisfaction. Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) wants to extract feelings for Him from us by showing who us Who He is.

- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) shows us not only to have feelings for Him, but to have feelings for the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) when we see the struggles and mockery he went through. To know there is a hereafter is a great console and it puts all our worries in the right perspective.

SURAH AL ANKABUT 5

مَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ لَآتٍ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Whoever should hope for the meeting with Allah - indeed, the term decreed by Allah is coming. And He is the Hearing, the Knowing.

- Shaikh As Saadi' mentions in his Tafseer about this verse (يعني: يا أيها المحب لربه، المشتاق لقربه ولقائه،) المسارع في مرضاته، أبشر بقرب لقاء الحبيب، فإنه آت، وكل آت (إنما هو قريب، فتزود للقاءه، وسر نحوه، مستصحباً الرجاء) ○ you who loves his Lord, the one who is longing

to come near Him and to meet Him, the one who is hastening to His Pleasure- receive good news of the nearness of coming to meet your Most Beloved. It is coming. Anything coming is near, prepare for meeting Him. Be happy for it, having great hope that you will be reaching Him. Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) is All-Hearing of your voices and All Knowing of your intentions.

- It is a beautiful journey to meet our Most Beloved. Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) gave us companions to share this love with each other. This feeling of love is so great, and it has to be shown and expressed. We cannot have this pure love for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) without this companionship for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى).

SURAH AS SHURAA 52

مَا كُنْتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ

You did not know what is the Book or [what is] faith,

- We never knew there are feelings like this before. It is only Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) Who guides us and teaches us.
- Allah Al Musa'ir is the One Who gives value and also the One Who gives the heat of burning feelings. We will not understand the value of matters without having burning feelings for them - especially with regards to matters of the unseen.
- How can the heart have value and burning feelings for Him without having feelings for His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)? How can I have

these feelings without having the feelings of love for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى)؟

- To have so much feelings for love for the sake of Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) is more than anything else because it is Who Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) makes us feel it. No matter how much we talk about it, we cannot give it its true value.
- We do not want to appreciate and have burning feelings for something after we lose it. We want to have these feeling of love now in this life. And is is only out of the mercy of Allah (سبحاته وتعالى), the He gives us burning feelings for unseen while we are alive.
- The real journey of nurturing starts with companionship for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى). Only Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) knows the time for us to

have it. To have a companion for Allah is the best gift.

- When we connect with our companion for Allah, then we don't see ourselves anymore. We will not see with our eyes anymore, or hear with our ears but we see and hear with our companion. When we are together, Allah shows us His ayat. It is not the same when we are alone.
- Allah shows us that we are nothing without this love. The tears shed out of this love for Allah show how valuable it is. This love is not a sacrifice, but an enjoyment that keeps us going forward, hoping for akhirah.
- We recite our nurturing but it is all based on our attachment to Allah (سبحاته وتعالى). something painless.

EXCELLENT COMPANION

وقال عبد الرزاق : أخبرنا إسرائيل ، عن أبي إسحاق ، عن الحارث ، عن علي ، رضي الله [ص : 238] عنه : (الأخلاء يومئذ بعضهم لبعض عدو إلا المتقين) قال : خليلان مؤمنان ، وخليلان كافران ، فتوفي أحد المؤمنين وبشر بالجنة فذكر خليله ، فقال : اللهم ، إن فلانا خليلي كان يأمرني بطاعتك وطاعة رسولك ، ويأمرني بالخير وينهاني عن الشر ، وينبئني أني ملائكتك ، اللهم فلا تضله بعدي حتى تريه مثل ما أريتني ، وترضى عنه كما رضيت عني . فيقال له : اذهب فلو تعلم ما له عندي لضحكت كثيرا وبكيت قليلا . قال : ثم يموت الآخر ، فتجتمع أرواحهما ، فيقال : ليثن أحكما على صاحبه ، فيقول كل واحد منهما لصاحبه : نعم الأخ ، ونعم الصاحب ، ونعم الخليل ..

Two close friends who are believers, and two close friends who are disbelievers. So one of the two believers passes away and he is given the

glad tidings of al-Jannah, so he remembers his close friend – so he says, “O Allah! Verily my dear friend so-and-so used to command me with obedience to You and obedience to Your messenger, and command me with good and forbid me from evil, and inform me that I will be meeting with You. O Allah! Therefore do not misguide him after me so that you may show him the likes of [the good – i.e. the glad tidings of al-Jannah] what you have shown me, and be pleased with him as you are pleased with me.” So Allah will say to him, “Go, for if only you knew what I have in store for him, then you would laugh much and cry little.” Then the other died and their souls are brought together, so He says, “This is due to the averting [of harm, through supplication] of one of you for his companion.” So each of them will say to his companion, “What an excellent brother! What an excellent companion! What an excellent close friend!”²

² [Tafsir ibn Kathir 7/238-239]

- This person knows that when they were together in life there was guidance.
- Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) is nurturing us to come back to Him in a state of pure love. In the end it is not about our nafs but something higher.
- To be filled with love for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى), the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and for each other cannot be hidden. We need to have this pure love for our companions who are in front of us.
- Nowadays love can be misunderstood to be only the unlawful kind or even only natural love that one has towards his family. But there can also be this pure love for Allah. This is the love that can make us reach to Him.
- May Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) preserve this love.

- Allah Al Muqet chooses and decrees for us to have this love and when He gives us it is without account.
- All the nurturing of love is to prepare this love for Allah (سبحاته وتعالى) and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

SUPPLICATION FOR LOVE

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ حُبَّكَ وَحُبَّ مَنْ يُحِبُّكَ، وَحُبَّ عَمَلٍ يُقَرِّبُ إِلَى

حُبِّكَ

○ Allah, I ask You to make me love You and to love those who love You, and to love the actions that get me closer to Your love.³

MAY ALLAH GRANT US THIS PURE LOVE FOR HIS SAKE.
AMEEN.

³ At-Tirmidhi No# 3235

REFERENCES

1. تفسير الشيخ السعدي - TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

<https://vimeopro.com/markazalsalam/recite-in-the-name-of-your-lord>

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>