



مدارج السالكين

PATH OF THE TRAVELER

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



سَمِ اللّٰهُ الرَّحْمٰنُ الرَّحِيْمُ
لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللّٰهِ

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INTRODUCTION

◌ We are all travelling to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and the Prophet (ﷺ) said be in this life be:

1. Like a stranger
2. Like a traveler

BE IN THIS LIFE AS A STRANGER OR
TRAVELER

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 (ﷺ) took hold of my shoulder and said, 'Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler.'"¹

○ These two will benefit the most from everything, and each will know his boundaries. He will not shout or scream at others; he does not own anything. He cannot plan what will happen to him. And as each day passes, we are coming closer to meet Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

SURAH AL KAHF 110

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ إِلَهٌُ وَاحِدٌ ۖ فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

Say, "I am only a man like you, to whom has been revealed that your god is one God. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone."

¹ Sahih al-Bukhari 6416

- The Prophet (ﷺ) said Surah Al Kahf is protection from trials, and what will make us go forward and not sink into any test?
- For any situation or condition, we need to know our Ilah is One. Al Ilah is The One Who takes all our heart because we are drawn to His perfection.
- Allah Al Ilah is The One Whom we feel we can never detach from. Knowing our Ilah is One unites us. We want to benefit from our journey to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not get distracted, and distractions is when our heart is distracted from believing in Him or believing in His perfection or from obeying Him. We want our heart to be firm in loving Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), even if we see different situations.

- We all go through different situations in life, though Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) does not leave us without guidance – whether through the books or messengers.
- The effect of trials is it will change our heart. There is darkness in the heart and there is deception. Trials make our heart go far away from our purpose.
- We all hope to meet our Lord and we never want to be distracted from meeting Him. When we have feelings of hoping to meet Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), don't we think our Lord will protect us from trials? Yes, so we will not drown in any trials in this life.
- The Prophet (ﷺ) said to busy ourselves with good deeds because trials come like dark patches of the night.

sake of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Though it is important to not seek the face of anyone else.

- Tawheed gathers us while shirk scatters us.

SUPPLICATION TO BE PROTECTED FROM SHIRK

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَشْرِكَ بِكَ وَأَنَا أَعْلَمُ، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُكَ لِمَا لَا أَعْلَمُ

Allāhumma innī a`ūdhu bika an ushrika bika wa anā a`lam, wa astaghfiruka limā lā a`lam.

O Allah, I seek refuge in You lest I associate anything with You knowingly, and I seek Your forgiveness for what I know not.³

- The traveler to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is active because he knows his goal is to know Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and worship Him.
- Our heart needs to be active by never being distracted from remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

³ Sahihut-Tarhib wat- Tarhib 1/19

Our tongue needs to be active by speaking good and not saying bad words or screaming. And we want to fill our ears with hearing good and not take it in when someone says something bad. And if we hear something bad, we do not want to place it in our heart.

- It is important to have an account of love for each person and place good memories and good feelings in our heart. If we place a bad memory in our heart then it will harm us in the end. We remember that people are human and are imperfect.

PATH OF THE TRAVELLER (مدارج السالكين)

YOU ALONE WE WORSHIP AND YOU ALONE WE ASK FOR HELP (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ)

ACTIVE SEEING (نظر)

◦ In Arabic, there are different levels of seeing and looking, and this shows the richness of the Arabic language.

1. The minimum level of seeing is called (نظر) and that is to look with our eyes. For example, to look at the sky.
2. The next is to look deeper and that is called (بصر). For example, to look at the sky and distinguish there are different colors, so one observes it.
3. And the higher level is (رأى) which is not only to look and observe, but to see things behind the scenes. A person will

not only look and observe the sky, but to see that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The Creator. So (رأى) is to see with knowledge from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) said in the Qur'an that the sky is a ceiling, so he sees it as a ceiling. A person sees things according to what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) said. We cannot reflect without knowledge from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- It is important to take care of our seeing “nadhr” (نظر) first before looking at other things.
- If two people are shown the same picture, each will say something different depending on what they know. The more we guard our eyes, the more Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will grant us insight and see things deeper.

- If we do not use any limbs then it will be disabled, so it is a great blessing to be able to have eyes to see the world.

SUPPLICATION TO ENJOY OUR SEEING, HEARING AND ABILITY

"اللهم اقسم لنا من خشيتك ما تحول به بيننا وبين معاصيك، ومن طاعتك ما تبلغنا به جنتك، ومن اليقين ما تهون به علينا مصائب الدنيا. اللهم متعنا بأسماعنا، وأبصارنا، وقوتنا ما أحييتنا، واجعله الوارث منا، واجعل ثأرنا على من ظلمنا، وانصرنا على من عادانا، ولا تجعل مصيبتنا في ديننا، ولا تجعل الدنيا أكبر همنا، ولا مبلغ علمنا، ولا تسلط علينا من لا يرحمنا

O Allah, apportion to us such fear as should serve as a barrier between us and acts of disobedience; and such obedience as will take us to Your Jannah; and such as will make easy for us to bear in the calamities of this world. O Allah! let us enjoy our hearing, our sight and our strength as long as You keep us alive, and make it the inheritor of us, and make our revenge

restricted to those who oppress us, and support us against those who are hostile to us let no misfortune afflict our Deen; let not worldly affairs be our principal concern, or the ultimate limit of our knowledge, and let not those rule over us who do not show mercy to us.⁴

- There is a story of the man who wanted to enter paradise due to his seventy years of worship, so Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) said bring the scale and place his deeds on one pan and one eye on another. The weight of the blessing of one eye is greater than seventy years of worship, so it was said for him to be taken to the fire. Then he said, “no I will enter paradise by Your mercy.” And this shows how we can only enter paradise by Allah’s mercy and not by our deeds. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) admit us to paradise by His mercy. Ameen.

⁴ Riyadh As Saliheen, At Tirmidhi, Book 5, Hadith 834

TYPES OF SEEING IN THE QUR'AN (أنواع)

(المنظر في القرآن)

1. **To see the Face of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in paradise,**
we ask Him of His favor. We can look, but not go deeper than that.

SURAH AL QIYAMAH 22 TO 23

22

وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاصِرَةٌ

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

23

إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ

Looking at their Lord.

2. **To look and wait**

SURAH YA SEEN 49

مَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً تَأْخُذُهُمْ وَهُمْ يَخِصِّمُونَ

They do not await except one blast which will seize them while they are disputing.

3. To look and take as a lesson. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)

tells us to look at the earth and the result of the disbelievers.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 137

قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ سُنَنٌ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ
عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ

Similar situations [as yours] have passed on before you, so proceed throughout the earth and observe how was the end of those who denied.

SURAH AL GHAASHIYA 17 TO 20

17

أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ

Then do they not look at the camels - how they are created?

18

وَالِى السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ رُفِعَتْ

And at the sky - how it is raised?

19

وَإِلَى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ

And at the mountains - how they are erected?

20

وَإِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ

And at the earth - how it is spread out?

4. **To look with feelings, and one can look with feelings of mercy or no mercy.** In this example, are people whom Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will not look at. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) never deprive us from looking at His Noble Face. Ameen.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 77

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَشْتَرُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَأَيْمَانِهِمْ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَا خَلَاقَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

Indeed, those who exchange the covenant of Allah and their [own] oaths for a small price will have no share in the Hereafter, and Allah will not speak to them or look at them on the Day

of Resurrection, nor will He purify them; and they will have a painful punishment.

THREE PEOPLE ALLAH WILL NOT LOOK AT ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "ثلاثة لا يكلمهم الله يوم القيامة، ولا يزكهم، ولا ينظر إليهم، ولهم عذاب أليم: شيخ زان ومملك كذاب، وعائل مستكبر"

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "There are three (types of) people to whom Allah will not speak on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them, nor look at them, and they will have a painful punishment. These are: An aged man who commits Zina (illicit sexual act), a ruler who lies, and a proud poor person."⁵

5. To give respite and give time

6. To look with fear and horror, such as on the Day of Judgement. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us see things with security. Ameen.

⁵ Riyadh As Saliheen, Muslim, Introduction, Hadith 616

WORSHIPS OF SEEING (عبوديات النظر)

- Obligations: to look at the Qur'an, to look and see if something is halal or haram.
- Unlawful: to look at the 'awras of people. To not stare at a man's face or woman's face, to not look at private parts, to not look at the awra's of the man and woman. However, for marriage, one can see the face of the other. For medical purpose one can see or for a judge to see in order to make a judgement. There is a story of a man who was deep into memorizing the Qur'an, and one beautiful lady passed by and he looked at her, and when he came back to the Qur'an, he had forgotten what he had memorized.
- Recommended: recommended to read more Qur'an and to look at books of knowledge. To

look at the universal signs of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to increase in faith, such as looking at the skies, stars, trees and so forth. To look at parents, believers and good people is a worship. On the other hand, to look at sinners is not good for our eyes.

SURAH AL FURQAN 74

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ
وَجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the Muttaqun."

- Disliked: looking at anything that will not benefit us such as looking at people's homes, what others do and get.
- Permissible: to look at something that is neither beneficial or harmful.

MAY ALLAH MAKE OUR EYES TO SEE WHAT IS PLEASING TO HIM. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. مدارج السالكين - ابن القيم

RELATED RESOURCES

BE LIKE A STRANGER OR TRAVELER

TEN BENEFITS OF LOWERING THE GAZE



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>

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