



# 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.



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)

- Connection is with heart, tongue and limbs, and not only with limbs and tongue. The journey to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is special because there is heart and feelings.
- To be a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) means we love Him and we cannot be distracted from His beauty. In this life we can be tested with good and evil, but why do we see or hear something

bad? To ignore it and believe in Allah (سبحانه), His perfection and beauty. If we only see good then we will not see that love.

- Those who are truthful with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) may get attacked, but the love of Allah (سبحانه) and His Messenger (ﷺ) is greater than the pain.
- The beauty and the greatness of Allah (سبحانه) is greater than the heavens and earth, and He loves people Who love Him for Him, and not change with Him because of changes in their life.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) always shows us something greater and better, and He appreciates feelings. On the way to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), there has to be purification because it cannot be

perfect in this life; the perfect life is not found in this life but in the hereafter.

○ Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) nurtures us with more than just the outer of tongue and limbs, but with feelings, hearts, companionship and sisters. And there can be pain along the way, and someone might think to preserve what he has is to take a step back in order to recover, but this is in the worldly way to take a step back in order to go two steps forward. When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) takes us forward, we do not want to go back, we go forward, and He will protect and strengthen us. And this is belief and faith by remaining firm on what He has given us and to go forward.

○ If anyone is facing a situation like this, then do not step back, but go forward and Allah (سبحانه

(وتعالى) will strengthen us, will increase the faith, will keep us firm and keep the love. And this is the meaning of faith when we cannot see “how can I be saved, but I see if I take a step back then I can be saved”, but to go forward with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is safety and protection, and this is belief and love. Belief goes together with love and this is what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has nurtured us.

- The way Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) deals with us is perfect and the journey to Him is beautiful; He always teaches us something different. When Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives us faith, feelings and love, there will be a greater struggle than just with limbs and tongue.

- The real essence of worship is not by tongue and limbs, but to love it. And the greatest attack from the shaitan is about feelings. He does not have direct influence to our heart, but he can tighten our chest with words we hear or actions we see and this can affect our feelings. But when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has made us taste the sweetness of faith, then why go back to something less?
- We do not want to waste the nurturing and favors of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) on us with our own hands.
- The path of the traveler is not our path, but the Path of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And for each of us, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has customized a path for us.

- It is so great when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows us Who He is. It is not our nurturing, but His nurturing. He tells us about Himself and we will be at loss when we do not appreciate Him.
- It is not possible that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) places us in trials without showing us Who He is. And when a test comes, do we trust what we see, or do we trust the feelings we have for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)?

## ALLAH AL HAAFIDH AL HAFEEDH – THE PROTECTOR THE PRESERVER (الحافظ الحفيظ)

- We might think that protection is only from illnesses and even limit the means for protection to medicines for sicknesses or even other tangible means like CCTVs to keep us

safe, but all of these are outer means for protection.

- No one can preserve what is in us, our faith and feelings except Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Only He can preserve our faith.
- The way He protects our faith comes in ways we cannot imagine. There is the Qur'an, sunnah and doing good deeds to preserve our faith, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will also make us go through decrees and situations to preserve our faith and feelings.
- An atom of faith is so great with Allah and this shows us how much He loves us.
- This atom of faith is what will save us from the fire and admit us to paradise to live an eternal life of happiness.



- Even if things happen to make us lose our faith, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) brings situations to keep that atom of faith, so we never want to lose it.
- Sometimes we feel like we are going through a dark patch, a time of dimness despite having knowledge and faith, and cannot take ourselves out. Then Allah shows us that He is Al Hafeedh Who preserves that atom of faith and by it He lights up everything else.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) placed that light in our fitrah (natural disposition) and He will bring guidance so that it is preserved. His decrees and ways are all to preserve this atom of faith.
- He is the One Who preserves the love and we ask Him to protect and preserve our feelings and faith.

- On the other hand, there is the shaitan who wants us to lose our faith, but we need to know that the protection of Allah is greater. His preservation and guardianship are greater.
- When we know that He will preserve our faith, which is intangible then surely He will protect everything else like our bodies, homes and families.
- He even preserves and protects the sky from falling on us. We think clouds are fluffy and weightless but the actual weight of clouds is in tons.
- We may think its ok if a cloud falls on us, but Allah is the One Who protects us from having the sky fall on us. We do not see pillars, but He is protecting us from the skies.

## BE MINDFUL OF ALLAH AND HE WILL PROTECT YOU

إِحْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظْكَ،

be mindful of Allah and He will protect you.<sup>1</sup>

- ◉ Guard what He has told us from His commands, prohibitions, guard everything He has given us and He will protect us and save it for us. And this relation is always ongoing with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

## LOVE OF ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER (ﷺ)

- ◉ Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will show us furqan and it is all about (لا إله إلا الله). We are humans and we go through emotions, but it is all to see (لا إله إلا الله)

<sup>1</sup> Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2516

and to have more feelings for Him. No one can affect Him and He can do what He wills.

- What have we prepared for the Day of Judgement? Love of Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ).

### SURAH YUSUF 64

فَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ حَافِظًا ۖ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

But Allah is the best guardian, and He is the most merciful of the merciful."

- Even if we know so much information, only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can make our heart at peace. When we believe and think good, this will be the fuel, and this comes in times of calamities and struggles.
- One scholar was asked, "Which do you prefer, to be established or tested?", and he said "one cannot be established without being tested."

- With any tests, there is a bottleneck moment, but a person goes forward, and then there is so much opening after it. But the shaitan wants us to go backwards.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can teach us great concepts, even with the slightest disturbance. We always ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for the well-being, but there can be disturbances whether great or small, but the end of it is love of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- It is a great gift to have companions for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). There is a story of two sisters who knew each other for twenty years, they studied and learnt together, and on the final day of Ramadan, in the mosque an argument happened between them, and not for

something worldly. They separated and this is very disheartening for a believer; it is paralyzing. And that is a test, “do you love each other for Allah?”.

- And in the end, one sister said, “I will not do anything until Allah guides me.” And the other said, “this is my purification because I always say I love her for Allah”.
- On Eid day, they exchanged messages of dua and each replied, but months passed and no one felt at peace by being separated.
- One of them fell sick and she messaged the other and the other sister replied back to her and made dua for her, as the feelings were returning, there was still 1% off, still it was not the same feelings as before. And truly there is no

one like Allah Who will not even leave that 1% but He will take care of it.

- One sister saw in the dream that they are holding hands together, and they went to the market and ate from the same plate. And so the sister woke up and messaged her of her dream. And the other sister said let us go and eat together.
- To love for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is a worship and a person will get tested. Disturbances come but only to provide more fuel to continue.

### SUPPLICATION TO SEEK THE HELP OF ALLAH

"يا معاذ، والله إني لأحبك، ثم أوصيك يا معاذ لا تدعن في دبر كل صلاة تقول: اللهم أعني على ذكرك وشكرك، وحسن عبادتك"

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) held my hand and said, "O Mu'adh, By Allah, I love you and advise you not to miss supplicating after every Salat (prayer) saying: '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)".<sup>2</sup>

- We all need the help of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to love Him and the Prophet (ﷺ). If there is no struggle then the path is not right. The shaitan leaves the one on the wrong path, but he will not leave the one on the right path.
- In the hadith of Ayat Al Kursi, the shaitan even wanted to steal food of zakat, though he can go and steal food from the market. But he wants to go and take the best.

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



## DEVIL STOLE FOOD OF THE ZAKAT

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ. رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. قَالَ وَكَلَّنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِحِفْظِ زَكَاةِ رَمَضَانَ، فَأَتَانِي آتٍ، فَجَعَلَ يَحْثُو مِنْ الطَّعَامِ، فَأَخَذْتُهُ فَقُلْتُ لَأَرْفَعَنَّكَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. فَذَكَرَ الْحَدِيثَ فَقَالَ إِذَا أَوَيْتَ إِلَى فِرَاشِكَ فَاقْرَأْ آيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ لَنْ يَزَالَ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ حَافِظٌ، وَلَا يَقْرُبُكَ شَيْطَانٌ حَتَّى تُصْبِحَ. فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " صَدَقَكَ وَهُوَ كَذُوبٌ، ذَاكَ شَيْطَانٌ ".

Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) put me in charge of the Zakat of Ramadan (i.e. Zakat-ul-Fitr). Someone came to me and started scooping some of the foodstuff of (Zakat) with both hands. I caught him and told him that I would take him to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)." Then Abu Huraira told the whole narration and added "He (i.e. the thief) said, 'Whenever you go to your bed, recite the Verse of "Al-Kursi" (2.255) for then a guardian from Allah will be guarding you, and Satan will not approach you till dawn.'" On that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He told you the truth,

though he is a liar, and he (the thief) himself was the Satan."<sup>3</sup>

◌ We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect us from the devil and we ask Him to complete our light.

### SEEKING REFUGE BY ALLAH'S COMPLETE WORDS

أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّاتِ الَّتِي لَا يَجَاوِزُهُنَّ بَرٌّ وَلَا فَاجِرٌ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ، وَبَرًّا وَذَرًّا، وَمِنْ شَرِّ مَا يَنْزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَمِنْ شَرِّ مَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا، وَمِنْ شَرِّ مَا ذَرَأَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمِنْ شَرِّ مَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا، وَمِنْ شَرِّ فِتَنِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ، وَمِنْ شَرِّ كُلِّ طَارِقٍ إِلَّا طَارِقًا يَطْرُقُ بِخَيْرٍ يَا رَحْمَنُ

'A'oothu bikalimaatil-laahit-taammaatil-latee  
laa yujaawizuhunna barrun wa laa faajimn min  
sharri maa khalaqa, wa bara'a wa thara'a, wa  
min sharri maa yanzilu minas-samaa'i, wa min  
sharri maa ya'ruju feehaa, wa min sharri maa  
thara'a fil-'ardhi, wa min sharri ma yakhruju  
minhaa, wa min sharri fitanil-layli wannahaari,  
wa min sharri kulli taariqin 'illaa taariqan  
yatruqu bikhayrin yaa Rahman.

<sup>3</sup> Sahih al-Bukhari 3275

I seek refuge in the Perfect Words of Allah - which neither the upright nor the corrupt may overcome - from the evil of what He created, of what He made, and of what He scattered, from the evil of what descends from the heavens, and of what rises up to them, from the evil of what He scattered in the earth and of what emerges from it, from the evil trials of night and day, and from the evil of every night visitor, except the night visitor who comes with good. O Merciful One.<sup>4</sup>

### SURAH AT TAHREEM 8

رَبَّنَا أَتْمِمْ لَنَا نُورَنَا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

"Our Lord! Keep perfect our Light for us [and do not put it off till we cross over the Sirat (a slippery bridge over the Hell) safely] and grant us forgiveness. Verily, You are Able to do all things."

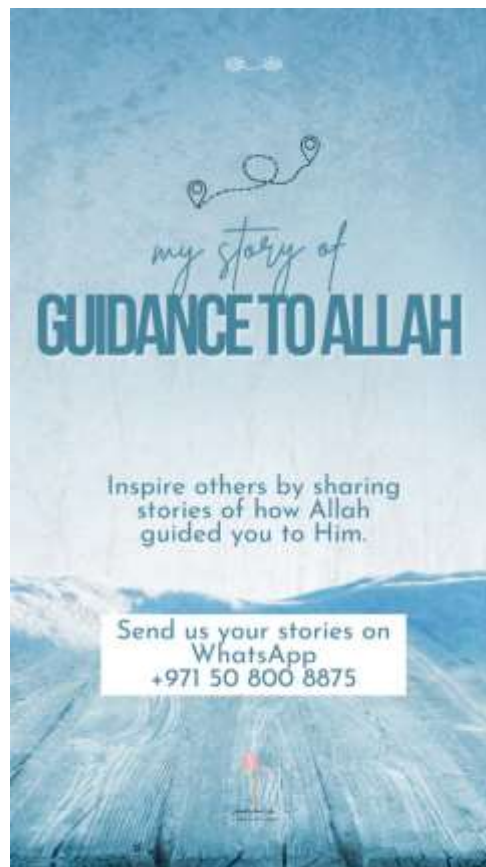
☞ Only by the remembrance of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can the hearts find rest. Paradise is in our heart;

<sup>4</sup> Sahih Aj Jami'e 74, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

paradise is not in our limbs, so what can the enemies do?

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) appreciates the feelings, and guidance from Him is something so great and precious. When guidance comes to someone, it is like a treasure which cannot just be hidden because no one knows how it can save, inspire and open for others.

MAY ALLAH KEEP US FIRM ON HIS LOVE, LOVE OF THE MESSENGER AND LOVE OF EACH OTHER. MAY ALLAH AL HAAFIDH PROTECT US FROM ALL EIVL. 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>

