

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.

www.markazalsalam.com

t.me/markazalsalam

[+97150 8008875](https://www.whatsapp.com/+971508008875)

info@markazalsalam.com

t.me/dropletsofdew



Al Salam Islamic Center



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)

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Al Haadi (The Guide), He is An Noor (The Light) and He will not guide us without light, and He will not guide us without seeing the light in our heart before our eyes.
- He is Ar Rabb (The Lord, The Nurturer, The Reformer) and He will take care of us to attain this light. He is the best one to handle us, care for us and nurture us.

- He does not nurture us to be stiff, but He nurtures us to be a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
And He appreciates us more than we appreciate ourselves. He loves us more than we love ourselves. He knows about us more than we know about ourselves. He cares for us more than we care for ourselves. His nurturing is subtle and simple that we do not have to stress about it.
- Only He can handle us, even if we turn away from Him, He still waits for us. And even if we are not doing our best, He still brings guidance.
- No one is like Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and He is The All-Hearer, The All-Seer. He sees us and hears us, but we need to feel close to Him because He is closer than anything else.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) does give us a list of our hundreds of faults, sins or what we have to do right now, though He can force us. Yet He is so subtle and gentle with us.
- We need to keep up with Him because He is so perfect. When we come close to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), He said He will come close to us. Even when people disobey, disrespect and turn away, He still waits for them. And He will still send guidance to them even from far just so they return to Him.
- And anyone who comes to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will be honored more than he expects. No one can handle us, not even ourselves, except Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- When it rains, we can see it in different ways. And in the Qur'an, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has mentioned different ayat about rain. In some surahs, it means rain in time of battle and rain with regards to knowledge.

SURAH AL ANFAAL

- Surah Al Anfaal is about the Battle of Badr and the purpose of battle is not about power, position and wealth, but for protection and safety.
- And in general, we have inner-battles against our desires, the shaitan and what others tell us, but we want to protect our faith. Some people fight just for themselves, desires and ego.
- Our struggle in life has to be for a good purpose otherwise it will be a waste.

SURAH AL ANFAAL 9 TO 11

9

إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُمْ بِالْفِ مِّنَ
الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرْدَفِينَ

[Remember] when you asked help of your Lord, and He answered you, "Indeed, I will reinforce you with a thousand from the angels, following one another."

10

وَمَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بُشْرَىٰ وَلِتَطْمَئِنَّ بِهِ قُلُوبُكُمْ ۚ وَمَا النَّصْرُ إِلَّا
مِنَ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

And Allah made it not but good tidings and so that your hearts would be assured thereby. And victory is not but from Allah. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.

11

إِذْ يُغَشِّيكُمُ النُّعَاسَ أَمَنَةً مِّنْهُ وَيُنزِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً
لِّيُطَهِّرَكُم بِهِ وَيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمْ رِجْسَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيَرْبِطَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِكُمْ
وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ

[Remember] when He overwhelmed you with drowsiness [giving] security from Him and sent down upon you from the sky, rain by which to

purify you and remove from you the evil [suggestions] of Satan and to make steadfast your hearts and plant firmly thereby your feet.

- Rain is not only for outer purification, but it can have many purposes, especially in times of struggle. The Battle of Badr was the first battle for the believers; they did not have any experience.
- If we come to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) without having anything in our mind, He will send different support for us.
- When we are threatened with bad thoughts, negativities and whispers, we do not want to surrender to it. We want to keep going.
- (إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ) ([Remember] when you asked help of your Lord,): Istighatha (استغاثة) is desperately asking Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for relief;

this is the feeling of istighatha. Sometimes we go through battles in life, and not to bring out the worst from ourselves, but to bring out feelings from us. These feelings are so great with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- We cannot nurture ourselves, we cannot upgrade ourselves, we cannot give victory and success to ourselves on our own; only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can give us.
- When difficult situations come, it is to awaken our heart so that we invoke Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- We will forget to be slaves when we just go on with our life. We do not want our feelings to go without being utilized and protected, but if we waste our feelings on duniya and people, then we will not be left with anything.
- PUT AYAH ANGEL

١٥ (فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُمْ بِأَلْفٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرَدِّفِينَ)

(and He answered you, "Indeed, I will reinforce you with a thousand from the angels, following one another."): Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent them angels to them, and this brings tranquility and rest. When a person is in a struggle, it is difficult to rest. The effect is opposite with the shaitan who makes us charged and restless.

١٥ Why do we feel peace in the study circles? Because angels descend, so we feel this calmness and feeling of being positive. What makes them come? Because we show we are a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

وَمَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بُشْرَىٰ وَلِتَطْمَئِنَّ بِهِ قُلُوبُكُمْ ۚ وَمَا النَّصْرُ إِلَّا
مِنَ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

And Allah made it not but good tidings and so that your hearts would be assured thereby. And

victory is not but from Allah. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.

- But Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) mentions that victory is from Him.
- (إِذْ يُغَشِّيكُمُ النَّعَاسَ أَمْنَةً مِّنْهُ) ([Remember] when He overwhelmed you with drowsiness [giving] security from Him): when someone is in battle and is going through great struggle, one cannot sleep. But Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) caused sleep to overtake them. For example, in order to protect the religion of the people of the cave, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made them sleep.
- (وَيُنزِلُ عَلَيْكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً) (and sent down upon you from the sky, rain): then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sent down rain. Rain is not just for rain and

thunder is not just for thunder, but it is all to help us believe in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- He has assigned the angel Mikaeel to distribute the allotted amount of rain to each place Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has decreed. And the sound of the thunder is the glorification of the angels to make the clouds move, and this is faith.
- And in other ayat, water is a sign of life and its renewal.

SURAH AL ANBIYA 30

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ ۖ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?

- When water comes down, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants a better life for us and it reminds us of the resurrection.

- What is the purpose of rain in times of battles and struggles?
- (لِيُطَهِّرَكُم بِهِ) (by which to purify you): to be purified by it. We feel outwardly cleansed with rain, but it purifies our heart, tongue and limbs. Wudhu is purification from sins.
- If we have sins and we are facing our enemy, they will conquer us due to our sins. When we are defeated, it is due to our sins and not because the other party is stronger.
- (وَيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ رِجْزَ الشَّيْطَانِ) (and remove from you the evil [suggestions] of Satan): and with rain, it will remove any whisper and touch of the shaitan, subhan Allah. If we want to worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) with feelings and heart, then

we should ask Him for help, and He will bring it to us.

- (وَلِيَرِّبْتَ عَلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ) (and to make steadfast your hearts and plant firmly thereby your feet.): our heart will be tied so that it is firm and our feet will be firm so that we do not escape or turn away.
- And this is all due to the impact of Allah (سبحانه) being The First before any means, any angels, any sleep, or any rain.

ALLAH AL AWWAL – THE FIRST (الله الأول)

- Allah Al Awwal means The First – there is no one before Him. He comes before anything and also before our existence.

- We see Him before we see anything in front of us. When we see anyone being kind, we believe He is Kind before anyone. When we see anyone merciful, we believe He is Merciful before anyone. When we see anyone knowledgeable, we believe He is the All-Knowing before anyone.

SURAH YUSUF 76

وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ

over every possessor of knowledge is one
[more] knowing.

- We have feelings towards anything that is 'first'- the first time we meet someone, the first time we go to a place. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) put in us to remember, love and have feelings towards the first.

- Who do we want to make first in our life? Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- We want Him to be the first one we remember. When we want to sleep, we first go to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not the means.
- When we make Him the first in our life, everything in life will be in place. But if we do not make him first, life will be difficult, it will be out of place.
- Sometimes we get confused and do not know what to do first. We ask Allah Al Awwal – The First, to guide us.

SURAH AL FATIHA 5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

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

- Everything we go through is to go to Him first.

SUPPLICATION TO FULFILL DEBTS

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ ، وَرَبَّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ ، رَبَّنَا وَرَبَّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ ، فَالِقَ الْحَبِّ وَالنَّوَى ، وَمُزِّلَ التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْفُرْقَانَ ،
أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ أَنْتَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الْأَوَّلُ فَلَيْسَ قَبْلَكَ شَيْءٌ ، وَأَنْتَ الْآخِرُ فَلَيْسَ بَعْدَكَ شَيْءٌ ، وَأَنْتَ الظَّاهِرُ فَلَيْسَ فَوْقَكَ شَيْءٌ ، وَأَنْتَ الْبَاطِنُ فَلَيْسَ دُونَكَ شَيْءٌ ، إِقْضِ عَنَّا الدَّيْنَ وَأَغْنِنَا مِنَ الْفَقْرِ

Allaa-humma rab-bas-samaa-waat-is-sab'i, wa rabbal-'arshil-'aẓeem, rab-banaa wa rab-ba kul-li shay , faaliq-al-ḥabbi wan-na-waaa, wa mu-naz-zil-at-tau-raati wal-injeeli wal-fur-qaan, a'oodhu bika min shar-ri kul-li shay -in anta aakhi-dhun bi naa-ṣiyatih

Allaa-humma ant-al-aoo-walu fa laysa qab-laka shay , wa ant-al-aakhiru fa laysa ba'daka shay , wa ant-aẓ-ẓaa-hiru fa laysa fau-qaka shay , wa ant-al-baa-ṭinu fa laysa doonaka shay , iqḍi 'an-nad-dayna wa aghni-naa mi-nal-faqr

O Allah, Lord of the seven heavens and the exalted throne, our Lord and the Lord of all things, Splitter of the seed and the date stone, Revealer of the Tawrah, the Injeel and the Furqan, I seek refuge with You from the evil of all things You shall seize by the forelock (i.e. You have total mastery over).

O Allah, You are The First so there is nothing before You and You are The Last so there is nothing after You. You are Ath-thahir so there is nothing above You and You are Al-Batin so there is nothing closer than You, settle our debt for us and spare us from poverty.¹

- To fulfill debt is not only about money but also about rights. Why are there transgressions? Because Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is not first. Then the whole balance goes off.
- Then we ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to enrich us from any poverty. Why do we feel impoverished sometimes not only for money but also for

¹ Muslim No# 2713

feelings, connections, or purpose? Because we do not make Him First.

- We want to be foremost and go straight and first to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) help us make Him First in our life.
- Life will be beautiful and we will be free when we make Him First.
- And all that we have is from Allah The First, so we should not attribute it to our goodness, intelligence or experience.
- In conclusion, we go through inner-battles and challenges in life, but we want to use it as a worship to love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) more and attach to Him.

MAY ALLAH KEEP US FIRM AND MAY HE PURIFY US. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. مدارج السالكين - ابن القيم

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

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

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