



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.



سم الله الرحمن الرحيم
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله

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INTRODUCTION

- There are different tastes and we can taste sweetness of food at the front of the tongue and bitterness is at the end of the tongue, and sour and salty are at the sides of the tongue, and this is from the ability of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- The word (ذوق) means both taste of food, and it also means “taste” or liking towards something. So we have a taste in food, taste in clothes, taste in looks, taste in styles and so forth.

SUPPLICATION TO SEE THE FACE OF ALLAH

وَأَسْأَلُكَ لَذَّةَ النَّظَرِ إِلَى وَجْهِكَ وَالشَّوْقَ إِلَى لِقَائِكَ فِي غَيْرِ ضَرَاءٍ
مُضِرَّةٍ وَلَا فِتْنَةٍ مُضِلَّةٍ اللَّهُمَّ زَيِّنَا بِزِينَةِ الْإِيمَانِ وَاجْعَلْنَا هُدَاةً
مُهْتَدِينَ

I ask You for the sweetness of looking upon Your face and a longing to meet You in a manner that does not entail a calamity that will bring about harm or a trial that will cause deviation. O Allah, beautify us with the adornment of faith and make us among those who guide and are rightly guided.¹

ذوق (ذوق) means an enjoyable taste and we ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to be granted that maximum taste and maximum looking of seeing the Noble Face of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and that is the greatest delight.

¹ Sunan an-Nasa'i 1305

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has veiled His Face with a veil of Light and it will not be revealed until all who is eternally in fire is in the fire and all who is eternally in paradise is in paradise, and then all people of paradise have taken in the delights of paradise, then He will call them. He will ask them, “are you pleased?” and they will say, “how can we not be pleased when You have given us everything.” Then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will say, “I will forever be pleased with you, never angry with you, and He will lift the Veil from His Face.”
- And if we want Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to be pleased with us, we have to be pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), with His decrees and commands.

- And then Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) will lift the Veil from His Face.

SURAH AL QIYAMAH 22 TO 23

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وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاصِرَةٌ

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

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إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ

Looking at their Lord.

- Any enjoyment in life is a just a taste, but in paradise, we will have complete and everlasting enjoyment from words, food, relationships and so forth.
- Taste can be tangible and can be intangible such as the delight and taste of hearing the Qur'an.
- And so in the path of the traveler, there are tastes, but we do not want to spoil that taste.

To talk about Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is a delight and taste, but we do not want sins to spoil it.

PATH OF THE TRAVELLER (مدارج السالكين)
YOU ALONE WE WORSHIP AND YOU ALONE
WE ASK FOR HELP (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ)

ACTIVE TASTE (الذوق)

- In life, we can taste good and bad food, we can taste nice and bad manners. We can taste good words and bad words. We can taste good and bad feelings. We can taste a good and bad life. Knowing this makes us to want to choose what is good for us and to show good to others.
- We all want to taste the sweetness of faith regardless of what situation we face, and that is when we are pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) as

our Rabb, Islam as our religion and Mohammed (ﷺ) as our Prophet.

TASTED THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH BY BEING PLEASED

عَنِ الْعَبَّاسِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ "ذَاقَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ مَنْ رَضِيَ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا
وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ رَسُولًا"

It is narrated on the authority of 'Abbas ibn 'Abdul-Muttalib (may Allah be pleased with him), that he heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say: "He has found the taste of faith (Iman) who is content with Allah as his Lord, with Islam as his religion (code of life) and with Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as his Prophet." ²

◌ We see the messengers going through difficulties, yet still they are pleased because they know Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is nurturing them

² Sahih Muslim 34

with different situations. And we are pleased with Islam, spreading the peace to others. And we are pleased with the Prophet (ﷺ) as a messenger because whatever we go through in life, he has gone through greater and harder, and this gives us console and hope.

- What can make us not taste something that is actually sweet? When we are not pleased. For example, someone is very kind to us, but if we are jealous of them, we will still not taste the sweetness. Or we can have a home and health, but if we are not pleased, we will not taste the sweetness.
- When we are pleased with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), we will speak sweetly and we will behave sweetly.

SURAH FUSSILAT 34

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۚ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا
الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as though he was a devoted friend.

○ When we return matters with goodness, even if we are not shown from others, then the other person will become kind, but we need to be patient and pleased. To be pleased is not about being pleased with bad people, but to be pleased with the nurturing and decree of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

○ The other meaning of taste (ذوق) is experience. When we go through experience, we have tasted what it is like. Allah Al Lateef Al Khabeer

(The Most Subtle, The All-Aware) knows what we need to go through in order to taste different experiences.

- For example, we go through rotation in different roles in work until we discover what is suitable for us.
- The Prophet (ﷺ) tasted different losses of death, he tasted the loss of a father, loss of a mother, loss of daughters and sons.
- And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us that everyone will taste death. There are even who said they tasted honey before death, subhan Allah.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 185

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۖ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّقُونَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۖ فَمَنْ زُحِرَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ ۚ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ

Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion.

- When we go through something again, we can recall the taste of when we first when through it. Every Name of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has a different taste, and every Name we go through again has a different taste. Every ayah we learn has a taste and a different taste when we learn it again. Two people can go through the same situation and each will taste something different.
- And when we taste anything good in this life, we think, “how will this taste be in paradise?”, so we ask Allah of His favor. And when we taste

something bad, we think, “how will it be in the fire?”, so we ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect us.

○ And we will taste the sweetness of faith when we love.

TASTE THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH BY LOVING

أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ. صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. "ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ - وَقَالَ بُنْدَارٌ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ - مَنْ كَانَ يُحِبُّ الْمَرْءَ لَا يُحِبُّهُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ. وَمَنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا. وَمَنْ كَانَ أَنْ يُلْقَى فِي النَّارِ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ أَنْ يَرْجِعَ فِي الْكُفْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنْقَذَهُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُ"

It was narrated from Anas bin Malik that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

“There are three things, whoever has them has found the taste of faith (One of the narrators) Bundar said: ‘The sweetness of faith; When he loves a man and only loves him for the sake of Allah. When Allah and His Messenger are more beloved to him than anything else; and when being thrown into the fire is dearer to him than

going back to disbelief after Allah has saved him from it."³

- What will sweeten any situation? When we are pleased, and when we love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ).
- There is another hadith that tells us we will taste the sweetness of faith when we worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) alone and do things with a good heart.

TASTED THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH

ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ فَعَلَهُنَّ فَقَدْ طَعِمَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ وَحَدَهُ
وَأَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَعْطَى زَكَاةَ مَالِهِ طَيِّبَةً بِهَا نَفْسُهُ رَافِدَةً عَلَيْهِ
كُلَّ عَامٍ وَلَا يُعْطَى الْهَرَمَةَ وَلَا الدَّرَنَةَ وَلَا الْمَرِيضَةَ وَلَا الشَّرْطَ
اللَّئِيمَةَ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ وَسْطِ أَمْوَالِكُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَسْأَلْكُمْ خَيْرَهُ وَلَمْ
يَأْمُرْكُمْ بِشَرِّهِ

³ Sunan Ibn Majah 4033

The Prophet (ﷺ) as saying: He who performs three things will have the taste of the faith. (They are:) One who worships Allah alone and one believes that there is no god but Allah; and one who pays the zakat on his property agreeably every year. One should not give an aged animal, nor one suffering from itch or ailing, and one most condemned, but one should give animals of medium quality, for Allah did not demand from you the best of your animals, nor did He command you to give the animals of worst quality.⁴

TASTED THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH BY BELIEVING IN THE DECREE

إِنْ عِبَادَةَ بْنِ الصَّامِتِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ قَالَ لِابْنِهِ : إِنَّكَ لَنْ
تَجِدَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ حَتَّى تُؤْمِنَ بِالْقَدْرِ، وَتَعْلَمَ أَنَّ مَا أَصَابَكَ لَمْ
يَكُنْ لِيَخْطِئَكَ، وَمَا أَخْطَاكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِيَصِيبَكَ، جَفَّتِ الْأَقْلَامُ
وُطُويتُ الصُّحُفُ

You will not taste the sweetness of faith until you believe in the decree and to know what struck you was never meant to miss you and what

⁴ Sunan Abi Dawud 1580, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

missed you was never meant to strike you. The pens have dried and the scrolls have been rolled.⁵

SWEETNESS OF THE POOL OF KAWTHAR

ما سَعَةُ حَوْضِكَ قَالَ مَا بَيْنَ عَدْنٍ إِلَى عُمَانَ وَإِنَّ فِيهِ مَثْعَبَيْنِ
 مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَفَضَّةٍ قَالَ فَمَا مَاءُ حَوْضِكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ قَالَ أَشَدُّ
 بَيَاضًا مِنَ اللَّبَنِ وَأَحْلَى مَذَاقًا مِنَ الْعَسَلِ أَطْيَبُ رَائِحَةً مِنَ
 الْمِسْكِ مَنْ شَرِبَ مِنْهُ لَمْ يَظْمَأْ أَبَدًا وَلَمْ يَسْوَدَّ وَجْهُهُ أَبَدًا

The Pool of Kawthar is vast and it is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey and it's scent as nicer than musk and whoever drinks from it will never be thirsty again and his face will never turn dark again.⁶

MAY ALLAH GRANT US THE DELIGHT OF SEEING HIS NOBLE
 FACE. AMEEN.

⁵ Ibn Baaz Fatawa 8/89, Authenticated by Ibn Baaz as Fixed

⁶ Sahih At Targheeb 3614, Authenticated by Al Albani as Sahih

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>