

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.

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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)

SUPPLICATION FOR BENEFICIAL
KNOWLEDGE

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا، وَرِزْقًا طَيِّبًا، وَعَمَلًا مُتَقَبَّلًا

*Allāhumma innī as'aluka `ilman nāfi`a, wa rizqan
ṭayyiba, wa `amalan mutaqqabbala.*

O Allah, I ask You for knowledge that is of
benefit, a good provision, and deeds that will
be accepted.¹

¹ Ibn Majah no. 925

- The ayah that summarizes Surah Al Fatiha is (إياك) (نعبد وإياك نستعين) (You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help).
- And then we see different categories of people who may have knowledge but do not act on it, or they act but with no guidance. So we want the Straight Path of knowledge and actions. Our purpose is to believe in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and rely on Him – this is (إياك نعبد) (You alone we worship). And we have to free ourselves from our might and power - (وإياك نستعين) (and You alone we ask for help).
- We cannot free ourselves from any type of attachment or sins without Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

○ (إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ) (You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help) is our happiness, and this is going back to the basics.

○ We find many worshippers and we think worship only begins with limbs, but before any rituals, knowledge is needed. We cannot worship Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) with ignorance. We need knowledge, and which knowledge is that?

1. Knowledge about Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى): so that our love increases in our heart before we just worship Him with no feelings. The more we know about Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى), the more our heart will be purified. People think worship is just an outlet when we find ourselves frustrated or in need.

But when we know Who is Allah (سبحانه) (وتعالى), then we will worship Him in all states.

2. Knowledge of His religion: we learn about Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), but we also learn how to pray, learn the pillars of Islam, learn the halal and haram. Can someone just say, “I love Allah and will worship Him in any way I want”? We cannot just worship based on our own mind. We learn what He loves, what He has ordained, what He is pleased with. And the religion with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Islam.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 19

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.

○ The Pillars of Islam are:

1. To testify there is no one worthy or worship except Allah and to testify Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah
2. To establish the prayer
3. To fast the month of Ramadan
4. To give zakat
5. To perform hajj, whoever is able

○ The Pillars of Faith are:

1. To believe in Allah
2. In His angels
3. In His books
4. In His messengers
5. In the Last Day
6. In the decree – good and bad of it

○ If we do not learn this then we will not know.
Can we just get these concepts by only looking

at the universe? No, therefore knowledge must be sought.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 18

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will show the people Who He is and when the people know Him, will they just stay as they are? No, we need to search for His religion. What is the religion Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) wants us to follow? Islam.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will make (لا إله إلا الله) clear, and then it should encourage us to search. Sometimes people get messages through

situations, dreams or they are saved while in the middle of sea, but then people interpret it on their own, instead of seeking the truth through correct knowledge.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 85

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ

And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.

- Along the path of the traveler to Allah (سبحانه), there is knowledge and action. The religion is not man-made and people of knowledge are needed to deliver the truth and make it accessible to others.
- All people have a fitra who love to believe in One, to have a good example and to be good to others.

- The religion with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Islam and it is not a ritual, it is submission. A Muslim is one who does not hurt others by their tongue or hands. So there is goodness shown to others.
- Islam is submission and it is submitting in our heart to the will of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and to believe and trust Him.
- We need to be Muslim with heart, tongue and actions. We need to be confident that the religion with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Islam. People think religion is something surface or that is just a title. Regardless of whether we are born into it or not, we have to choose it, learn it and practice it.
- Islam does not only mean submission, but the second meaning of Islam is purity to Allah (سبحانه

(وتعالى), to not associate with Him. It is to be loyal to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by worshipping Him alone and to be loyal to the Prophet (ﷺ) as our messenger. For example, if someone is working for a company, it would not be acceptable to go and work for another company while being hired by the first. If we believe in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and love Him, then surely we want to search for the path He chose for us.

- The religion is our daily life and how we are with people. We need to speak like a Muslim, think like a Muslim, act like a Muslim, look like a Muslim, so a person prays like a Muslim, fasts like a Muslim. There is identity and it is clear.

WHO IS A MUSLIM?

سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ
الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ " .

It is narrated on the authority of Jabir that he heard the Prophet (ﷺ) say:

A Muslim is he from whose hand and tongue the Muslims are safe.²

- A Muslim is peaceful with people. If people are afraid of our tongue and hands, then we need to refresh our Islam. Islam is not a religion of war because this will stop many people from accepting it. It is a great misconception, but no matter how much Islam is being presented in a false way, Allah Al Haqq Al Mubeen (The Truth, The Most Clear) will clarify it to the people.
- We cannot worship Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) with our mind, there must be knowledge. For example,

² Sahih Muslim 41

can someone just be a doctor based on their experience? No. They must have studied the anatomy of the body and so forth. Can a lawyer just be a lawyer based on experience? No, he must have studied laws and regulations of a country.

- Islam is not man-made, it is the religion of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and it is not a religion of just Mohammed (ﷺ) or Muslims or Arabs. It is the religion of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and all the messengers and all prophets were Muslim. Ibrahim (عليه السلام), Musa (عليه السلام), Eisa (عليه السلام), Nuh (عليه السلام) and Maryam (peace be upon her) were all Muslim. Their legislation was specific for their time, but all of them were sincere in believing in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) alone. All

of them believed in meeting Him in the Last Day, and all of them called to goodness to others.

- The believers in the time of Ibrahim (عليه السلام) were called Muslims. The believers in the time of Musa (عليه السلام) were called Muslims. The believers in the time of Eisa (عليه السلام) were called Muslims. But when people disbelieved the messenger sent in their time then they are no longer Muslim, but have disbelieved. And the final messenger sent to mankind is Mohammed (ﷺ) and we believe in him and all messengers, and this is a Muslim.

SURAH YUSUF 101

تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ

Cause me to die a Muslim and join me with the righteous."

- Being Muslim is what identifies us and Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us to have taqwa and not die except as Muslims.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 102

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him].

- We do not want to lose our identity because Islam defines us and protects us from blindly following anything. And this is from the tricks of the shaitan so that we lose our identity and it becomes confusing what we are.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) brings signs to people, to witness to (لا إله إلا الله) whether through dreams, situations and so forth. But then a person must

search for the truth, and not just change based on their own assumptions. Then it is to seek the religion.

- It cannot be a person gets signs and then makes changes on his own, but must seek the One Who brought those signs to Him, and the moment they search in the Qur'an, recite it or hear it, they go forward and accept it.
- To believe is one thing, but then a person must search for the religion of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will guide those seekers to His Words and to the Sunnah. And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will guide them to more than what they can imagine.
- The magicians showed their Islam. Someone may say, "they believed inside and that's it." But they submit and prostrated to Allah (سبحانه

(وتعالى) and then they declared their testimony of faith.

SURAH AL 'ARAAF 120 TO 122

120

وَأَلْقَى السَّحَرَةُ سَاجِدِينَ

And the magicians fell down in prostration [to Allah].

121

قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

They said, "We have believed in the Lord of the worlds,

122

رَبِّ مُوسَى وَهَارُونَ

The Lord of Moses and Aaron."

- And in the story of Asiya, at first she was not revealing her Islam, but when her hairdresser declared her Islam and was tormented by Firaoun, then Asiya said, "why would not I show it?". And then she revealed her Islam.

- Even the questions of the grave are:
 1. Who is your Rabb? My Rabb is Allah.
 2. What is your religion? My religion is Islam.
 3. Who is your prophet? My prophet is Mohammed (ﷺ).

- Surah Aal Imraan is a beautiful transition from believing in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and being Muslim to conveying it to the world.

- Knowledge is light and if there is no knowledge then the faith will become dimmed. We need knowledge and reminders to keep us glowing, and in Surah Al 'Ala, we will go higher with reminders, and not with something new.

- Knowledge is great mercy because we understand what we say in the prayer, we understand what it means to say "alhamdulillah" (we attribute all perfection to

Allah), we understand what “assalam alaykum” means (that is a dua asking Allah for peace for the other person) and what “in sha’a Allah” means (if Allah wills according to His perfect wisdom and knowledge, but we will do our best to do it). Knowledge makes everything lively and clear so it brings feelings.

SUPPLICATION TO BE PROTECTED BY ISLAM

اللَّهُمَّ احْفَظْنِي بِالْإِسْلَامِ قَائِمًا وَاحْفَظْنِي بِالْإِسْلَامِ قَاعِدًا
 وَاحْفَظْنِي بِالْإِسْلَامِ رَاقِدًا وَلَا تُشْمِتْ بِي عَدُوًّا وَلَا حَاسِدًا، اللَّهُمَّ
 إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ كُلِّ خَيْرٍ خَزَائِنُهُ بِيَدِكَ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ كُلِّ شَرٍّ
 خَزَائِنُهُ بِيَدِكَ

*Allahumma-ahfadni bil-islami qa'iman wah-
 fadni bil-islami qa'idan wah-fadni bil-islami
 raqidan wa la tushmit bi aduwaw wa-la hasida,
 Allahumma inni asaluka min kulli khairin
 khaza'inuhu biyadik, wa a'udhu bika min kulli
 sharrin khaza'inuhu biyadik*

O Allah, protect me with Islam while standing, protect me with Islam while sitting, protect me with Islam while lying down and do not give my enemies a chance to rejoice over me, nor those who envy me. O Allah, I ask you for every good that is stored in your hand and I seek refuge in you from every evil that is stored in your hand.³

- We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect us with Islam while we are sitting, while we are lying down and may Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us from any enemy.
- Islam is protection from following devils, evil people or cheating ourselves.

³ Classed Hasan by al-Albani in Saheeh al-Jaami

ALLAH AL MUBEEN (المبين) - THE MOST CLEAR

- Allah Al Mubeen is the Most Clear Who makes it clear to us that Islam is our religion and He makes it clear to worship Him alone.
- He makes it clear to everyone in ways specific to them. Whether He makes it clear in a concise form or in an elaborate form.
- This Name is mentioned only once in the Qur'an in Surah An Noor – The Chapter of Light.

SURAH AN NOOR 25

يَوْمَئِذٍ يُوفِّهِمُ اللَّهُ دِينَهُمُ الْحَقَّ وَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ

That Day, Allah will pay them in full their deserved recompense, and they will know that it is Allah who is the perfect in justice.

- They fulfilled whatever was obligated on them and they will be recomposed in truth. In the Surah, we find clarity about continuing to be in

the religion. And Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) recompenses us according to our Islam. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The Owner of the Day of Deen.

- The religion is not just rituals, but there is a recompense based on it. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will recompense the people and we should be Muslim and continue with our goodness.
- Allah is not only The Truth but He will make the Truth clear and this is from the mercy of Allah.
- On the Day of Judgement, there is no shirk, or disbelief is to cover the truth. It will be clear to all. Now in life we want to remove anything that can be a barrier.
- The opposite of something clear is opaque. We can sense matters, but are unable to see it defined, and Allah Al Mubeen will make it clear.

- Allah Al Mubeen gives us parables by presenting tangible images regarding intangible matters.
- May Allah make us clear people who exalt the Name of Allah, who present the religion in the best, clear and most inviting way.
- We want to be clear with people and not confuse others.

MAY ALLAH MAKE US DIE AS MUSLIMS AND JOIN US WITH
THE RIGHTEOUS. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. مدارج السالكين - ابن القيم

RELATED RESOURCES

LIVE IN PEACE POSTCARDS



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

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

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