

INTRODUCTION

- The adornment of the student of knowledge is ikhlaas (sincerity) which is to do things for the sake of Allah. For any other deeds, we need to struggle to be sincere, but for the study circles and with regards to ikhlaas, there is something special about it.
- ▶ Someone's initial intention may not be to learn, but he passes by a study circle and sits with them. The Companions asked about such person, and the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "anyone who sits in the study circles will never be miserable", so he is included in the mercy and praise of Allah. Even if someone comes, but he feels shy, Allah will still reward him.

NO ONE IS MISERABLE IN A STUDY CIRCLE

عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صِلَّى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ " إِنَّ لِلَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى مَلاَئِكَةً سَيَّارَةً فُضْلاً يَتَبَّعُونَ مَجَالِسَ الذِّكْرِ فَإِذَا وَجَدُوا مَجْلِسًا فِيهِ ذِكْرٌ قَعَدُوا مَعَهُمْ وَحَفَّ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا بِأَجْنِحَتِهمْ حَتَّى يَمْلَئُوا مَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا تَفَرَّقُوا عَرَجُوا وَصَعِدُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ - قَالَ - فَيَسْأَلُهُمُ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ مِنْ أَيْنَ جِئْتُمْ فَيَقُولُونَ جِئْنَا مِنْ عِنْدِ عِبَادٍ لَكَ فِي الأَرْضِ يُسَبّحُونَكَ وَبُكَبّرُونَكَ وَيُهَلِّلُونَكَ وَبَحْمَدُونَكَ وَبَسْأَلُونَكَ . قَالَ وَمَاذَا يَسْأَلُونِي قَالُوا يَسْأَلُونَكَ جَنَّتَكَ . قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأُوا جَنَّتِي قَالُوا لاَ أَيْ رَبِّ. قَالَ فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي قَالُوا وَيَسْتَجِيرُونَكَ. قَالَ وَمِمَّ يَسْتَجِيرُونَنِي قَالُوا مِنْ نَارِكَ يَا رَبِّ. قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأُوْا نَارِي قَالُوا لاَ. قَالَ فَكَيْفَ لَوْرَأُوْا نَارِي قَالُوا وَنَسْتَغْفِرُونَكَ - قَالَ -فَيَقُولُ قَدْ غَفَرْتُ لَهُمْ فَأَعْطَيْتُهُمْ مَا سَأَلُوا وَأَجَرْتُهُمْ مِمَّا اسْتَجَارُوا - قَالَ - فَيَقُولُونَ رَبِّ فِيهمْ فُلاَنٌ عَبْدٌ خَطَّاءٌ إِنَّمَا مَرَّ فَجَلَسَ مَعَهُمْ قَالَ فَيَقُولُ وَلَهُ غَفَرْتُ هُمُ الْقَوْمُ لاَ يَشْقَى بِهِمْ جَلِيسُهُمْ ".

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (**) as saying Allah has mobile (squads) of angels, who have no other work (to attend to but) to follow the assemblies of Dhikr and when they find such assemblies in which there is Dhikr (of Allah) they sit in them and some of them surround the others with their wings till the space between them and the sky of the world is fully covered, and when they disperse (after the assembly of Dhikr is adjourned) they go upward to the heaven and Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, asks them although He is best informed about them:

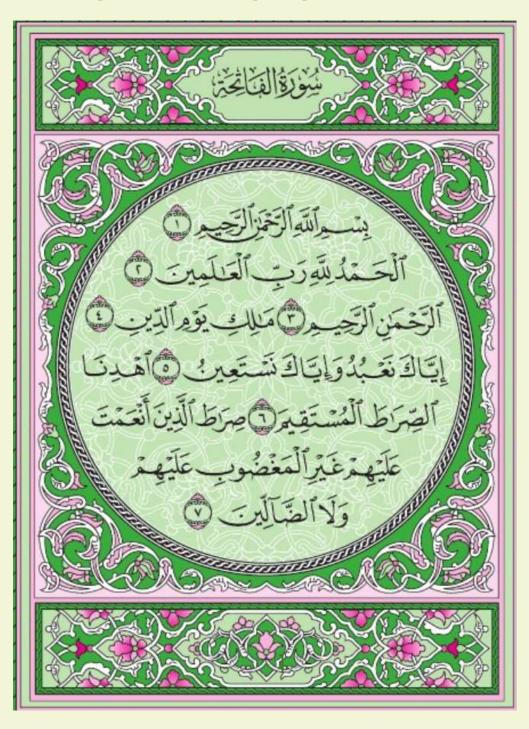
Where have you come from? They say: We come from Your servants upon the earth who had been glorifying You (reciting Subhan Allah), uttering Your Greatness (saying Allah o-Akbar) and uttering Your Oneness (La ilaha ill Allah) and praising You (uttering al-Hamdu Lillah) and begging of You. Be would say: What do they beg of Me? They would say: They beg of You the Paradise of Yours. He (God) would say: Have they seen My Paradise? They said: No, our Lord. He would say: (What it would be then) if they were to see My Paradise? They (the angels) said: They seek Your protection. He (the

Lord) would say: Against what do they seek protection of Mine? They (the angels) would say: Our Lord, from the Hell-Fire. He (the Lord) would say: Have they seen My Fire? They would say: No. He (the Lord) would say: What it would be if they were to see My Fire? They would say: They beg of Your forgiveness. He would say: I grant pardon to them, and confer upon them what they ask for and grant them protection against which they seek protection. They (the angels) would again say: Our Lord, there is one amongst them such and such simple servant who happened to pass by (that assembly) and sat there along with them (who had been participating in that assembly). He (the Lord) would say: I also grant him pardon, for they are a people the seat-fellows of whom are in no way unfortunate.1

¹ Sahih Muslim 2689

سورة الفاتحة SURAH AL FATIHA

OPENING CHAPTER



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

2

الْحَمْدُ لِللهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds -

الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,

4

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.

5

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

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

6

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

Guide us to the straight path -

7

· صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْمٍمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْمٍمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

SUPPLICATION FOR GUIDANCE

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسِ، قَالَ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَدْعُو يَقُولُ "رَبّ أَعِنِّي وَلاَ تُعِنْ عَلَىَّ وَانْصُرْنِي وَلاَ تَنْصُرْعَلَىَّ وَامْكُرْلِي وَلاَ تَمْكُرْ عَلَىَّ وَاهْدِنِي وَيَسِّر الْهُدَى لِي وَ انْصُرْنِي عَلَى مَنْ بَغَي عَلَىَّ رَبّ اجْعَلْنِي لَكَ شَكَّارًا لَكَ ذَكَّارًا لَكَ رَهَّابًا لَكَ مِطْوَاعًا لَكَ مُخْبِتًا إِلَيْكَ أَوَّاهًا مُنِيبًا رَبّ تَقَبَّلْ تَوْبَتِي وَاغْسِلْ حَوْبَتِي وَأَجِبْ دَعْوَتِي وَثَبّتْ حُجَّتِي وَسَدِّدْ لِسَانِي وَاهْدِ قَلْبِي وَاسْلُلْ سَخِيمَةَ صَدْرِي " "The Prophet (*) used to supplicate, saying: "My Lord, aid me and do not aid against me, and grant me victory and do not grant victory over me, plot for me and do not plot against me, guide me and facilitate guidance for me, grant me victory over those who transgress against me. My Lord, make me ever-grateful to You, ever-remembering of You, ever-fearful of You, ever-obedient to You, ever-humble to You, oft-turning and returning to You. My Lord, accept my repentance, wash my sin, answer my call, make firm my proof, make firm my

tongue, guide my heart, and remove the treachery of my chest (Rabbi a`innī wa lā tu`in `alayya, wanṣurnī wa lā tanṣur `alayya, wamkur lī wa lā tamkur `alayya, wahdinī wa yassiril-huda lī, wanṣurnī `alā man baghā `alayya. Rabbij`alnī laka shakkāran, laka dhakkāran, laka rahhāban, laka miṭwā`an, laka mukhbitan, ilaika awwāhan munība. Rabbi taqabbal tawbatī, waghsil ḥawbatī, wa ajib da`watī, wa thabbit ḥujjatī, wa saddid lisānī, wahdi qalbī, waslul sakhīmata ṣadrī)."²

✓ (رَبِّ أَعِنِي وَلاَ تُعِنْ عَلَى وَ انْصُرْنِي وَلاَ تَنْصُرْعَلَى) (My Lord, aid me and do not aid against me, and grant me victory and do not grant victory over me,):
 We ask Allah to help us and not be helped against us. We ask Allah to grant us victory and to be granted victory against us.

² Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3551

- (plot for me and do not plot against me,): We ask Allah to plan for us and not to have someone plan against us.
- (واهْدِنِي وَيَسِّرِ الْهُدَى لِي) (guide me and facilitate guidance for me,): We ask Allah to guide us and make the guidance easy and accessible.
- (و) (grant me victory over those who transgress against me.): And if anyone exceeds his boundaries with us, whether to put us down, steal our money, or say hurtful words, then we ask Allah to give us victory over them.

Then we ask Allah to make us always grateful to Him, always remembering Him and always magnifying, fearful of Him.

- اللّك مِطْوَاعًا لَكَ مُخْبِتًا إِلَيْكَ أُوَّاهًا مُنِيبًا (ever-obedient to You, ever-humble to You, oft-turning and returning to You.): We ask Allah to make us obedient to Him, submitting and humble to Him. We want to always return to Allah.
- (رَبِّ تَقَبَّلُ تَوْبَتِي) (My Lord, accept my repentance,): We ask Allah to accept our repentance, even if we make mistakes.
- (وَاغْسِلُ حَوْبَتِي) (wash my sin,): And if we have any bad feelings, we ask Allah to remove and wash it way from us.

- (وَأَجِبُ دَعْوَتِي) (answer my call,): We ask Allah to respond to our duas, and Allah always responds, but it is to show that we need Him.
- (وَثَلِبَتْ حُجَّتِي وَسَدِّدْ لِسَانِي وَاهْدِ قَلْبِي) (make firm my proof, make firm my tongue, guide my heart,): We ask Allah to make our tongue to speak on target. We ask Allah to grant us firmness in our affairs and not to be weak in our speech, but to be confident.
- (وَاسْلُلُ سَخِيمَةً صَدْرِي) (and remove the treachery of my chest): We ask Allah to remove any bad feelings in our heart to be removed from our heart, so we feel relieved.

GUIDE US TO THE STRAIGHT PATH

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ Guide us to the straight path

FIVE TYPES OF GUIDANCE FROM ALLAH

BUILT-IN GUIDANCE

- 1. Fitra (natural disposition)
- 2.Senses
- 3.Intellect

OUTER GUIDANCE

- 4. Guidance of the deen (Qur'an and Sunnah)
- 5. Special guidance from Allah

4. GUIDANCE OF THE DEEN

MEANS OF GUIDANCE OF THE DEEN

- 1. To make dua
- 2. Faith
- 3. Qur'an

4. Struggle

5. Good companions

- We see that part of guidance is to have good companions and there are stages to it, but before anyone, we have Allah Ar Rafeeq (The Most Gentle Companion) and Allah Al Wali (The Loving Companions) with us all the time.
- ◆ And the one whom we want to accompany is the Prophet (響). If we do not have the companionship of Allah and the Prophet (響), the Qur'an and hadith, then no real companionship can exist.
- We cannot get guidance from anyone, even if they are the best, if we do not take Allah as a Companion first.

- Companionship for Allah cannot be established if we do not take Allah as a Companion.
- The Companionship of Allah matches all natures, but we cannot be like this. We can say "salam" to all, but we cannot be companions to all. There has to be connection and a common ground.
- Allah Ar Rafeeq accompanies all and He accompanies them according to their level. Allah can accompany someone so simple and someone at a high level. He does not force His Companionship such that it can be overwhelming.
- Allah Al Wali Ar Rafeeq accompanies all. Allah accepts us as we are, even if we long or do not long for Him, He is still with us by His hearing,

- seeing, kindness and witnessing, though He rose over The Throne.
- He is in the Highest Position, but He will be our Companion, and take us as we are.
- If there is someone very beautiful with someone very ugly or someone very rich with someone very poor, the one who is ugly will feel intimidated by the one who is beautiful, and the one who is poor will feel intimidated by the one who is rich. And to Allah is the best example, there is no one Richer than Allah and more beautiful than Him, and still He is near to us and we feel comfort with Him.
- If someone does not appreciate or accept us, he will immediately exchange us and go to someone else, but Allah is our Rafeeq (The Gentle Companion).

- When there are two companions and they separate, what is the reason? Sins.
- In any companionship, the third is Allah. The Prophet (ﷺ) and Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) were in a cave to escape the disbelievers, and Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) was sad for the state of the Prophet (ﷺ). The Prophet (ﷺ) told him, "don't be sad, Allah is with us", he did not say, "don't be sad, I'm with you."

SURAH AT TAWBAH 40

إِلَّا تَنصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِإِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا هُأَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَ أَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا اللّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَ أَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ اللّذِينَ كَفَرُوا اللّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَ أَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ اللّذِينَ كَفَرُوا اللّهُ عَلَيْهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ اللّهُ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا اللّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

If you do not aid the Prophet - Allah has already aided him when those who disbelieved had driven him out [of Makkah] as one of two, when they were in the cave and he said to his companion, "Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with

us." And Allah sent down his tranquillity upon him and supported him with angels you did not see and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowest, while the word of Allah - that is the highest. And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.

- ▼ To have a companion in the way of guidance is important in order to remain firm, but there can be times when a companion is sad or upset, but what can bring that connection? Do not be sad, verily Allah is with us.
- Companions will be guided when they accompany Allah and turn to Him.

LOVE FOR ALLAH

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم "إِنَّ اللّهَ يَقُولُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَيْنَ الْمُتَحَابُّونَ بِجَلاَلِي الْيَوْمَ أُظِلُّهُمْ فِي اللّهَ يَقُولُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَيْنَ الْمُتَحَابُّونَ بِجَلاَلِي الْيَوْمَ أُظِلُّهُمْ فِي ظِلّ يَقْمَ لاَ ظِلَّ إِلاّ ظِلّي ".

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (**) as saying: Verily. Allah would say on the Day of Resurrection: Where are those who have mutual

- love for My Glory's sake? Today I shall shelter them in My shadow when there is no other shadow but the shadow of Mine.³
- They love each other out of the majesty of Allah, they respect Allah and His companionship, and so the companions respect and love each other. It is important to be good with one another because Allah is there. When two friends are fighting, what causes them to stop? The Companionship of Allah. He sees us and it is not appropriate to fight when Allah is our third.
- Instead of blaming others because we expect something from them, we should ask Allah. If we want someone to praise us, we should not ask the person, but ask Allah to praise us.

³ Sahih Muslim 2566

- Two companions on the way to Allah will remind each other of the Companionship of Allah.
- In life, if there are two friends and there is a third friend that tags along, and with time one will incline to another and the third will be left out. Unlike with the companionship of Allah, two people can be together and when Allah is third, He will be in line with each companion and He can resolve the issues of all.
- ◆ And it is important to not forget the companionship of the Prophet (ﷺ) because this will join companions when having the same role model to follow the Prophet (ﷺ). They will not follow each other or follow someone else.
- ▼ The Prophet (ﷺ) was also a neutral companion because he was Khalil Allah. He told Abu Bakr

رضي الله عنه) if Allah had not taken me as Khalil, I would have taken Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) as Khalil, and this shows that a person cannot take more than one Khalil. And to be Khalil Allah is a very sensitive relationship because he will be nurtured on the spot.

- The Prophet (ﷺ) showed companionship to all, such that 'Amro bin 'Aaas (رضي الله عنه) felt that he loved him the most from all people, and when he asked the Prophet (ﷺ), he said, he loved Aisha (رضي الله عنه) the most.
- The Companions loved the Prophet (ﷺ) more than themselves, and it is very important to love the Prophet (ﷺ) more than ourselves.
- ▼ If we love ourselves more, then we will be sensitive to our self, and we will cry and react for ourselves. And this sensitivity can be solved

- when we love the Prophet (*) more than ourselves.
- We will not attain faith until we make the Prophet (ﷺ) as judge and submit to Allah.
- The one who will be near the Prophet (ﷺ) on the Day of Judgement is the one who will show the best manners.
- ◆ And so to have solid companionship is to have the Companionship of Allah which makes us pure and sincere, and the Companionship of the Prophet (ﷺ) which gives us an example in our manners and way.
- ◆ And the reference to this companionship are the Words of Allah and the Words of the Prophet (ﷺ). If we are not enriched with the Words of Allah and the Prophet (ﷺ), then we will only refer back to our words. May Allah

- make our companionship a blessed companionship. Ameen.
- And when we have this, then our Companionship will be good, we will grow together, we will improve ourselves, be truthful to each other, do what is pleasing to Allah and be inspiring to others. What makes a companionship inspiring and guidance for others? When united for a high and lofty goal.
- For anything that we learn, the knowledge should not stop with us. We should convey it, whether in speech, actions or behavior.

MAY ALLAH GRANT US GOOD COMPANIONSHIP.

AMEEN.

REFERENCES

TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY تفسير الشيخ السعدي 1.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS - FOR WOMEN

https://vimeopro.com/markazalsalam/qpnp-surah-al-fatiha

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