

وَمَنْ يَهَاجِرْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يَجِدْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُرَافِقًا كَثِيرًا وَسَعَةً وَمَنْ
يَخْرُجْ مِنْ بَيْتِهِ مُهَاجِرًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ يُدْرِكْهُ الْمَوْتُ فَقَدْ وَقَعَ أَجْرُهُ
عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

Whoever migrates in the way of Allah will find many havens and plenitude in the earth. And whoever leaves his home migrating toward Allah and His Apostle, and is then overtaken by death, his reward shall certainly fall on Allah, and Allah is all-forgiving, all-merciful.

Yesterday

- Different types of veils
 - Dark (ضلماني): Sins and shortcomings
 - These can be removed through Istighfaar (Seeking forgiveness)
 - When removed, relationship with God develops
 - World is perceived differently
- Key factor in developing oneself is continuity
 - One off actions are good and have some effect
 - To truly affect the soul, 40 days is the magic number
- The goal is to reach *نفس مطمئنة*

Tonight

5 Discussions

1. Sincerity (becoming MUKHLAS - مخلص)
2. What if things go wrong?
3. How all our discussions relate to the event of Kerbala
4. Discussing what occurred on this night
5. The story of Ali Asghar

SABR

- Imam Hussain (as) told us about three types of Sabr
 - عند المصيبة: when afflicted with something.
 - عن المعصية: when tempted to sin, persevering through the temptation.
 - على الطاعة: persevering in obedience to god.
- When doing these regularly we move from regular sincerity of acts to sincerity in being (becoming MUKHLAS). This is a very special position.

The Quran mentions four specific effects of reaching the status of the MUKHLASEEN

1 - They gain extreme safety from sin

- All people have a basic level of Taqwa. This is in the form of a 'red-line' or boundary they will never cross, even as basic as murder.
- As one builds themselves their threshold becomes higher. Their level of Taqwa increases
- When their whole being becomes for God, your Taqwa comes close to reaching the ultimate level (the level of the Ahlul Bayt). This is the case for one who is MUKHLAS

2 - The MUKHLASEEN will not be made to account on the day of Qiyama.

- Their whole being is for God, they have nothing to account for!
- **[Shakir 37:127-128]** But they called him a liar, therefore they shall most surely be brought up. But not the servants of Allah, the purified ones (MUKHLASEEN)

3 - They will not be rewarded for their actions - rather for their Godly state.

- **[Shakir 37:39-43]** And you shall not be rewarded except (for) what you did. Save the servants of Allah, the purified ones (MUKHLASEEN). For them is a known sustenance, Fruits, and they shall be highly honored, In gardens of pleasure.
- Fruits are figurative in these verses - they will be give a sustenance they recognise.
- These pure servants of Allah then have a conversation with each other:
- **[Shakir 37:51-53]** A speaker from among them shall say: Surely I had a comrade of mine, Who said: What! are you indeed of those who accept (the truth)? What! when we are dead and have become dust and bones, shall we then be certainly brought to judgment?
- The MUKHLASEEN are focussed on the Akhirat. The conversation continues:
- **[Shakir 37:54-57]** He shall say: Will you look on? Then he looked down and saw him (the one who had questioned/mockd him about his beliefs) in the midst of hell. He shall say: By Allah! you had almost caused me to perish; And had it not been for the favor of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought up.
- Then Allah invites us to use this story/example to inspire change in our actions:
- **[Shakir 37:61]** For the like of this then let the workers work.

4 - They have the exclusive right to describe God

- **[Shakir 37:159-160]** Glory be to Allah (for freedom) from what they describe; But not so the servants of Allah, the purified ones (MUKHLASEEN)
- They have the right to describe God because He is shining in their hearts. They are not blind to His light
- In Du'a Abu Hamza Thumali we mention to Allah: Surely You do not hide from your creation rather it is their deeds that cover them.
- Whenever we break through the deeds/veils, we understand God in a new way

The Veils of Light

- These are the capacity that you build within yourself. Unlocking potential.

- E.G: I have eyes but I cannot perceive the sun. If I build my eyes so that they no longer get burnt, so that they can look at the sun, then I can perceive the sun much better
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- We ask Allah in many duas for expansive, big heart. To make it kind generous and merciful. As we build ourselves the light veils will also go from us.
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SHUKR

- There are 2 stages of SHUKR (Thankfulness)
 - 1 - Thanking God Actively
 - 2 - Using his bounty in the right way. Thank him then realise it is His.

What happens when things go Wrong?

- On the spiritual journey, which we have discussed, what happens when we hit a wall, feel like our plan isn't working?
- There can be no 'Plan B' because the plan, the whole strategy, is God!
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- Hence do not look for a new plan, Instead Regroup and Restrengthen.
- On this path peculiar things happen. We go through patches of ecstasy and great Ibadat. Good states. Then there are times of tiredness. We feel lazy to worship, or to act according to Gods plan.
- **[Shakir 16:65]** And Allah has sent down water from the cloud and therewith given life to the earth after its death; most surely there is a sign in this for a people who would listen.
- Similarly He can enliven the hearts after they die.
- Reconnect don't ditch the plan. The difficulties are states of testing for us.
- When things go wrong, remember: Allah is ultimate source of mercy.
- When a man came to the 4th Imam after attending a lesson from Hasan al-Basri (who has a slightly pessimistic outlook), and asked about Al-Basri statement that he would not be surprised at how people enter hell, Imam responded that it is not surprising when someone enters heaven - how will he not enter heaven?! With such a God how will he not!
- Allah will make it as difficult as possible to fail.
- When things go wrong, remember Allahs mercy though forgiveness.
- The Holy Prophet (saw) mentioned that whoever turns to God to ask for forgiveness one year before he dies, Allah will turn to him forgive him. Then he said 'No a year is much, whoever turns to Allah to ask for forgiveness one month, before he dies Allah will forgive him.' He continued in this way, reducing the time: No, a day. No, even mere moments before he dies!!

How these discussions relate to Kerbala

- Imam Hussain (as) took his followers through an entire spiritual journey.
- In Kerbala, it all happens at the same time in the same place. This is why the event influences so many, why we all have a special place for the story of Imam Hussain (as) and the other Shuhadaa.
- It was all due to the groundwork set by Imam Hussain (as):
 - 1 - He purified his companions
 - refused to take people who had attachments - 'Don't pollute my brigade'
 - 2 - Throughout the journey he and his followers are extremely worshipful - despite the difficult circumstances

- 3 - On the night of Ashura, he sincerely frees his followers from their obligation.
 - Why? To give them the opportunity to act out of choice and hence purify themselves further.
 - He even gave them excuses, offering to send family members with them.
 - He even put out the candles to safeguard their reputations.
 - Despite this they do not leave him.
- The KHULOOS of the Imam rubbed off on those around him.
 - They began to become more like him. This is the true method of teaching.
- He burnt the letters of the people of Kufa, lest they were traced by the looters of the tents.
- Hussain said: "I see death as a blessing. And a life amongst oppressors as a disgrace. Death with dignity is better than a life with humiliation.
 - This defied natural worldly instinct of survival. His focus was Akhirat.
- When someone question how he is not shaken by death he said: "SABR." Death is nothing but a vehicle that transports you from the difficulties of the world to vast gardens.
- The word of his companions are profound in displaying their loyalty to him

Imam brought all these teachings together and inspired his followers. On this night we ask to be inspired by Imam Hussain and that our hearts are open through him.