



عش مع القرآن: سورة آل عمران

LIVE WITH THE QUR'AN: SURAH AAL IMRAAN

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَا حُوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

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LIVE WITH THE QUR'AN
SURAH AAL IMRAAN

26 JANUARY 2022 | 23 JUMAD AL THANI 1443 | CLASS #4

INTRODUCTION

THERE IS NO ONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT

ALLAH (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ)

- (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) are the most beautiful words. We may forget everything, but we always want to remember (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ); it is the first and last thread.
- We can speak different languages, have different favorite comfort foods, and different personalities, but what unites us is (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ).

- (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) joins the hearts and makes everything go in harmony, even when we are different.
- When we are ourselves and are connected to (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ), then we will have the most beautiful color – (صِبْغَةُ اللَّهِ) – the color of Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى).

ASKING ALLAH FOR FIRMNESS

- Sometimes we can be doing something, but then we do not feel the faith. We go back to our heart and ask Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) to keep us firm.
- There was a scholar who then completely changed. And when asked about it, one of the scholars said the way of Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) is one. It is important to always ask Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) for firmness and always be grateful for the blessings of the deen.

SUPPLICATION FOR FIRMNESS

يَا أُمَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُ دُعَاءِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،
إِذَا كَانَ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ قَالَتْ: كَانَ أَكْثَرُ دُعَائِهِ: "يَا مَقْلُوبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ
قُلُوبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ"

I asked Umm Salamah (May Allah be pleased with her), "O Mother of the Believers! Which supplication did the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) make frequently when he was in your house?"

She said: "He (ﷺ) supplicated frequently: 'Ya muqallibal-qulubi, thabbit qalbi 'ala dinika (O Turner of the hearts keep my heart firm on Your religion).'¹

- Surah Aal Imraan tells us about firmness and that is holding on to what we know and are familiar with. It is not about doing new things or starting “new chapters” because it can be destabilizing. So we go back to our “mother”,

¹ Riyad As Saliheen, At Tirmidhi Book 16, Hadith 25

we go back to our friends whom we love and they love us.

- We do not want panic or stress and then start something strange such that the direction of our nurturing changes.
- It is not in our hands to have feelings of eagerness for the study circles. And if we have it, we always want it and appreciate it from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) when He gives us these feelings.

ALLAH'S FAVOR TO JOIN THE BELIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS TOGETHER

SURAH AT TUR 21

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَ اتَّبَعُتُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُمْ بِإِيمَانِ الْحَقِّنَا بِإِيمَانِ ذُرِّيَّتُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَاهُمْ مِنْ عَمَلِيْمِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ كُلُّ امْرِيٍّ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ

And those who believed and whose descendants followed them in faith - We will join with them their descendants, and We will not deprive them of anything of their deeds. Every person, for what he earned, is retained.

- For those who believe and their family believes, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will join them together. If one family member is in a higher level in paradise and the others are in a lesser, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will elevate the other family members and upgrade them to the highest level attained.
- Imagine if you are in first class and your children are in economy, then they would all be joined together in first class.
- Perhaps not all of our family members are seeking knowledge, but we have hope from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and believe in Him to reward them and elevate them all.

◦ Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is so great and vast and we always want to ask from His favors with no limit. We ask Him for His love, pleasure and Firdaous Al 'Ala.

START OF SURAH AAL IMRAAN

◦ In order to remain firm, and we need both Surah Al Baqarah and Surah Aal Imraan together. They will both shade us on the Day of Judgement.

SURAH AL BAQARAH AND SURAH AAL IMRAAN WILL SHADE THE PERSON ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

يَقُولُ حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو أُمَامَةَ، الْبَاهِلِيُّ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ "اْقْرَءُوا الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ
شَفِيعًا لِأَصْحَابِهِ اْقْرَءُوا الْبَقَرَةَ وَسُورَةَ آلِ عِمْرَانَ

فَإِنَّمَا تَأْتِيَانِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كَأَنَّهُمَا غَمَامَتَانِ أَوْ كَأَنَّهُمَا غَيَّابَاتَانِ أَوْ
 كَأَنَّهُمَا فِرْقَانِ مِنْ طَيْرِ صَوَافَّ تُحَاجَّانِ عَنْ أَصْحَابِهِمَا اقْرَءُوا
 سُورَةَ الْبَقَرَةِ فَإِنَّ أَخْذَهَا بَرَكَةٌ وَتَرْكَهَا حَسْرَةٌ وَلَا تَسْتَطِعُهَا
 "الْبَطْلَةُ"

Abu Umama said he heard Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) say: Recite the Qur'an, for on the Day of Resurrection it will come as an intercessor for those who recite it. Recite the two bright ones, al-Baqarah and Surah Al 'Imran, for on the Day of Resurrection they will come as two clouds or two shades, or two flocks of birds in ranks, pleading for those who recite them. Recite Surah al-Baqarah, for to take recourse to it is a blessing and to give it up is a cause of grief, and the magicians cannot confront it.²

- We all want to be firm on faith, gratitude, patience, the connections we have and to be firm on the truth. We want to be firm on any

² Sahih Muslim 804

good Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has given us, even if faced with trials and calamities that can shake us.

REASONS FOR FIRMNESS FROM SURAH AAL IMRAAN

1. THERE IS NO ONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ)

2. THE WRITTEN BOOK – THE QUR'AN – SURAH AL FATIHA

3. INVOKING ALLAH (سبحانه وتعالى) FOR FIRMNESS

4. REMEMBERING THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

REASONS FOR LACK OF FIRMNESS

1. SHIRK: ASSOCIATING WITH ALLAH (سبحانه وتعالى)

2. STATEMENTS WITHOUT EVIDENCE

- People can say things that can place doubts, but it is important to be confident in the Book Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has given us.
- Sometimes people can say something about someone or a place, but there is no evidence. It is just talk out of desire, but we should judge for ourselves.
- Sometimes we do something that we truly like and then someone tells us, “you actually like this?”, and then it makes us feel down; as if a part of ourself has been erased. And this stops us from appreciating what we do and have.
- We need firmness so that we do not lose our identity.
- In the Battle of Uhud, it is not only about the Companions leaving their place, but how Allah

(سبحانه وتعالى) nurtured the Prophet (ﷺ) to not lose his image and standard of being a messenger. It is not for the messenger to judge or account, but to be merciful and soft because Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will judge and account them.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 159

فِيمَا رَحْمَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنَتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْكُنْتَ فَظًا غَلِيظًا الْقَلْبِ
لَا نَفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي
الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ

So by mercy from Allah, [O Muhammad (ﷺ)], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him].

- When we are in charge of something, we can quickly place a “crown” on our head thinking we have full authority over everyone, but then what happens? We will show a different face and our standard changes. For example a mother can feel so responsible of our home and children that she becomes so stressed and harsh when doing anything, so the softness goes away.
- To be firm on faith is to be merciful, kind and gentle, regardless of what our role may be. Even if others make mistakes, we still want to be kind and that is firmness. Firmness is not about being harsh or rough.

3. DOUBTFUL OR UNCLEAR MATTERS

- There are some matters that are clear, and some matters that are “gray” where everyone has a different opinion or interpretation.
- And similarly there are ayat that are very clear and some with other interpretations, but a person should not make it a gap in their mind.

4. RELY ON OURSELVES AND NOT MAKE DUA OR ASK ALLAH FOR FIRMNESS

- We will not be firm if we rely on ourselves and do not make dua asking Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to keep us firm. We can take it for granted thinking we can attend class, we can pray, we can wear hijab, but it is important to always Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to keep us firm.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 8

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

[Who say], "Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.

- To be firm does not mean to be harsh or so bold. Firmness is when we are merciful, compassionate and make dua.
- When someone goes through difficult situations, it can make them rough, but faith and belief in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) makes us soft.
- The worship of tawwakul (relying on Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)) is repeated throughout Surah Aal Imraan so that we can take it easy and go back to what we know. While taqwa (to not follow our

desires) is repeated throughout Surah Al Baqarah.

END OF SURAH AAL IMRAAN

- The start of Surah Aal Imraan tells us about means of firmness that are related to the religion. While the end of Surah Aal Imraan tells us more about nature.
- The Prophet (ﷺ) said if a person wakes up at night, then let them recite the final ten ayat of Surah Aal Imraan and he said “woe to the one who does not ponder these ayat”.

RECITE THE LAST TEN VERSES OF AAL IMRAAN

أَنَّ ابْنَ عَبَّاسٍ، أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّهُ، بَاتَ عِنْدَ مَيْمُونَةَ، وَهِيَ خَالِتُهُ،
فَاضْطَجَعْتُ فِي عَرْضِ وِسَادَةٍ، وَاضْطَجَعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَهْلُهُ فِي طُولِهَا، فَنَامَ حَتَّى انْتَصَرَ اللَّيْلُ أَوْ قَرِيبًا

مِنْهُ، فَاسْتَيْقَظَ يَمْسَحُ النَّوْمَ عَنْ وَجْهِهِ، ثُمَّ قَرَأَ عَشْرَ آيَاتٍ مِنْ

آلِ عِمْرَانَ

Narrated Ibn `Abbas: Once I passed the night in the house of Maimuna (his aunt). I slept across the bed while Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and his wife slept length-wise. The Prophet (ﷺ) slept till midnight or nearly so and woke up rubbing his face and recited ten verses from Surat "Al-`Imran."³

WOE TO WHOMEVER RECITES THE LAST
TEN VERSES OF SURAH AAL IMRAAN
AND DOES NOT PONDER THEM

لَقَدْ أَنْزَلْتُ عَلَىَّ اللَّيْلَةَ آيَةً ؛ وَيْلٌ لِمَنْ قَرَأَهَا وَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرْ فِيهَا : إِنْ فِي
خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَيْهِ كُلُّهَا

Verses have been revealed to me tonight. Woe to whomever recites them and does not ponder

³ Sahih al-Bukhari 992

them. They are “verily in the creation of the heavens and the earth” until the end.⁴

- After going through different nurturing throughout Surah Aal Imraan, it ends with reflecting about the universe.
- No one has a problem with nature and who will reflect and look at the universe? People of understanding (لّوْلی اَلْبَابِ).
- A person “graduates” from Surah Al Baqarah knowing it will be sufficient and a person “graduates” from Surah Aal Imraan as a reflector.
- The Abrar are the mentioned in the final ayat. They are people whose hearts are pure that are boiling with goodness.

⁴ Sahih At Targheeb 1468, Authenticated by Al Albani as Hasan

- The end of Surah Aal Imraan is about someone who reflects, and notice this comes at the end and not in the beginning. A person needs to first have a strong foundation of the Book. Otherwise reflecting without a foundation will lead to deviation and misinterpretation.
- A person needs to go back to the foundation and essentials; to have a foundation of Surah Al Baqarah and be concrete in knowledge (راسخون في العلم).
- Someone who does not know Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) or His Book or commands and starts to reflect then they will transgress against their Creator and start to make up things with no evidence.
- And the people of understanding will not reflect by saying “why did Allah create this?”. Rather they go back to basics and say, “our

Lord did not create this in vain", then they invoke Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect them from the fire.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 191

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَى جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بِأَطْلَالِ سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.

○ We do not know what the people of understanding went through they end up asking Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to protect them from the fire.

- And someone who reflects does not forget remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). When they see things, it reminds them of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), it reminds them to make dua.
- The last verse of Surah Aal Imraan is a command in order to be successful.

SURAH AAL IMRAAN 200

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اصْبِرُوا وَصَابِرُوا وَرَابِطُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) commands the believers:
 - (اصْبِرُوا): to remain patient

- (وَصَابِرُوا): help others to remain patient as well. We do not want to “push the buttons” of others.
- (وَرَابِطُوا): to place “guards” in the places of gaps and weakness. If we know saying or doing something will cause someone to be upset then we should avoid it.
- (وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ): to have taqwa and choose what is pleasing to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

DIVINE NURTURING LESSONS

- (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ) joins the hearts and makes everything go in harmony, even when we are different.
- To be firm on faith is to be merciful, kind and gentle, regardless of what our role may be.

Even if others make mistakes, we still want to be kind and that is firmness. Firmness is not about being harsh or rough.

◦ When someone goes through difficult situations, it can make them rough, but faith and belief in Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) makes us soft.

MAY ALLAH KEEP US FIRM AND MAKE US FROM THE
GRATEFUL ONES. AMEEN

REFERENCES

1. تفسير الشيخ السعدي - TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY
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