



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #4

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Cloud of Thought – Obstacles

- Ibn Al Qayyim said the path to Allah (ﷻ) is a tangible path but along the way there are obstacles and only the one who's expert on this path can recognize them.
- He said our goal to our destination will not be complete unless we're guided to reach it.

Surah Al Maeda 48: (لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا) (To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way.)

- Ibn 'Abbas (رضي الله عنه) said all of us have a path and it's detailed one telling us where all the curves and obstacles are located, subhan Allah.

First Obstacle: Fearing to be alone

- Not everyone sees what we see, and not everyone has the same goal as we do. And this is an obstacle when a person is alone.
- That's why it was mentioned before to choose a companion. Even if there is one companion who sees what you see and feels what you feels then this will help to overcome the obstacles and continue down the path.
- It's the way of Allah (ﷻ) that people of truth are few; they are not many, subhan Allah. May Allah (ﷻ) make us from the people of the truth. Ameen.

Surah Al Waqiah 10-14:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ

And those foremost [(in Islamic Faith of Monotheism and in performing righteous deeds) in the life of this world on the very first call for to embrace Islam] will be foremost (in Paradise).

أُولَئِكَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ

These will be the nearest (to Allah).

فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ

In the Gardens of Delight (Paradise).



ثَلَاثَةٌ مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ

A multitude of those (foremost) will be from the first generations (who embraced Islam).

وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ

And a few of those (foremost) will be from the later generations.

- To reach the top requires constant motivation, development, and increasing of faith. Only a few people want to increase their level, but the people of truth always want to be better; they always want to improve and be up to date. A person can always do better than before and for this reason there is no ceiling to ihsan. Something can always be better.

Surah Saad 24: (إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَقَلِيلٌ مَّا هُمْ) (except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and they are few)

- Only a few people believe and do righteous good deeds. It's important to always develop it and not remain at the same level.

Surah Saba 13: (وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّاكِرُونَ) (But few of My slaves are grateful.)

- It's important to improve and enhance our gratitude.
- On the other hand, those on falsehood are many. **Surah Yusuf 103: (وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ) (And most of mankind will not believe even if you desire it eagerly.)**. We don't want to lose our faith or have it go down.
- **Surah Al Maeda 49: (وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ لَفَاسِقُونَ) (And truly, most of men are Fasiqun (rebellious and disobedient to Allah).)** – the majority of people are rebellious as well.
- Thus we shouldn't feel demotivated if there are only a few with us and we shouldn't feel demotivated either if people don't want to go on that path either. In the end, only a few will reach the top, may Allah (ﷻ) make us among them. Ameen.

Second Obstacle: Dark Tunnel

- What is this dark tunnel? While a person is walking, it suddenly becomes dark and a person is trapped, he doesn't know what he's doing and doesn't know how to go out. This is the dark tunnel which is conflict between people. People become distracted when there's conflict between them and it can burn a tree from the roots. May Allah (ﷻ) protect us. Ameen

Surah Al Furqan 20: (وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لِيَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ ۗ وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ ۗ) (And We never sent before you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) any of the Messengers

but verily, they ate food and walked in the markets. And We have made some of you as a trial for others: will you have patience? And your Lord is Ever All-Seer (of everything).)

- People are a test for each other. The messengers eat and go to the market, and this shouldn't be a problem, but it was a fitna for the people thinking 'how could messengers do that?', subhan Allah.
- We need to have yaqeen and certainty that there's a way out and there will be a light when we come out. What is this light? Knowledge of Allah (ﷻ) will take a person out from all tunnels.

Surah An Noor 35: (اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ مَثَلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ الْمِصْبَاحُ فِي زُجَاجَةٍ الزُّجَاجَةُ كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ يُوقَدُ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ ۚ نُورٌ عَلَى نُورٍ ۗ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ لِنُورِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ) (Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as (if there were) a niche and within it a lamp: the lamp is in a glass, the glass as it were a brilliant star, lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east (i.e. neither it gets sun-rays only in the morning) nor of the west (i.e. nor it gets sun-rays only in the afternoon, but it is exposed to the sun all day long), whose oil would almost glow forth (of itself), though no fire touched it. Light upon Light! Allah guides to His Light whom He wills. And Allah sets forth parables for mankind, and Allah is All-Knower of everything.)

- And what else is needed to get out of the tunnel? Ihsan to the people. **Surah Ar Rahman 60:** (هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ) (Is there any reward for good other than good?) – in order to get out of darkness, it's important to always do what's best.

Surah Al Isra 53: (وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ ۚ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْزِعُ بَيْنَهُمْ ۚ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلِإِنْسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُبِينًا) (And say to My slaves (i.e. the true believers of Islamic Monotheism) that they should (only) say those words that are the best. (Because) Shaitan (Satan) verily, sows a state of conflict and disagreements among them. Surely, Shaitan (Satan) is to man a plain enemy.)

- A person shouldn't busy himself with people by flattering or arguing with them. A person becomes a failure when he busies himself with others and forgets himself and forgets Allah (ﷻ). Leave the people to Allah (ﷻ) and focus on yourself.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Always improve yourself
- Have yaqeen in Allah (ﷻ) and do ihsan to the people

May Allah (ﷻ) make us among the guided ones who reach. Ameen.