



Clouds of Thought

Winter Series 2018-2019 – Class #5

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Cloud of Thought – Obstacles – Part 2

- When going to the top, there will surely be obstacles along the way to Allah (ﷻ).

Third Obstacle: Bridge along the way

- This means we need to cross this bridge in order to continue our path. What is this bridge? Afflictions and trials. We ask Allah (ﷻ) for the well-being. Ameen.
- Why do we face trials and afflictions? In order to know ourselves and what it needs in order to be purified.
- It's a bridge to make us better and to go higher.

Surah Al 'Ankaboot 1 -2

الم

Alif-Lam-Mim. [These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'an, and none but Allah (Alone) knows their meanings.]

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ

Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: "We believe," and will not be tested.

- Do people think they will not be tested if they claim faith? We shouldn't fear this trial because with these tests we may go higher and be established in the land. The life of Yusuf (عليه السلام) is a great example of going through trials. All that he faced were bridges to make him established on the earth.

How can we cross this bridge?

- **Patience:** verily victory is with patience.
- **Think good of Allah (ﷻ):** it's a bridge to take us higher. We need to be pleased with Allah (ﷻ) and anyone whom Allah (ﷻ) is pleased with then surely He will make him cross the bridge.
- The higher we go in life, the steeper it will be, but with patience and thinking good of Allah (ﷻ) we can reach.



- As we overcome these trials then we will reach paradise by the permission of Allah (ﷻ).

Fourth obstacle: Mountain along the way

- As we go down the path, there's a big mountain that we need to climb. What is this mountain? The self. We seek refuge from the evil of ourselves and the bad consequences of our deeds. Ameen.
- Climbing a mountain is not straight, but has ridges and we need to climb it in order to reach the top. On the top of the mountain is the shaitan telling us to stay low and not continue up. It's important we don't listen to the shaitan but overcome our nafs.
- There are thorns and valleys along the way on this mountain and these represent sicknesses of the heart.
- We need faith to make the way easy to reach the top. When we're only fulfilling the desires of our nafs then it will take us down.
- We also need yaqeen so that we can reach the end. **Surah Al Hijr 99: (وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ)**
(And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e. death).)

Fifth obstacle: Thief along the way

- Who's this thief which comes along the way? The shaitan. The shaitan is at the top of the mountain discouraging us and make us fear going up. He will steal our time by making us panic and be afraid.
- And the more we go, the more he'll discourage us. He wants to demotivate us and whisper to us 'do not go forward'. The plot of the shaitan is weak, it's just a sound, subhan Allah.
- What should we do? Seek refuge with Allah (ﷻ) from the accursed shaitan and surely He will help us.
- After all of these obstacles and fears comes a wide land, a paradise prepared for those on the path to Allah (ﷻ). May Allah (ﷻ) make us among them. Ameen.

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

- Purify the nafs, seek help with Allah (ﷻ), be patient and think good of Him when facing trials
- Seek refuge with Allah (ﷻ) from the shaitan and know his plot is weak.

May Allah (ﷻ) make us reach His paradise with peace. Ameen.