

Allah's Most Beautiful Names

Allah's Most Beautiful Name Al-Hadi

The Supreme Guide, The Leader To The Right Path and The Provider of Guidance

The divine blessing of guidance is a great grace, rather an unparalleled favor. We feel the impact of this blessing and grace in this world, and it makes us happy; for there is no perfect and real happiness without guidance. The boon of divine guidance affects us in the most critical hours and difficult moments when facts are revealed and things appear clearly.

Life is ephemeral, youth is transient, our life will come to an end soon, and the hereafter is imminent when the angels will descend on us, and the angel of death is commissioned to seize our souls. We will be transferred from the life of this world to the eternal abode of the hereafter. Indeed, the grace of divine guidance benefits us in the dark and desolate grave that we are heedless of now. We dwell in palaces and forget graves, we live in the light and overlook the darkness of tombs. There in the graves, nothing will benefit us except the blessing of guidance when Allah, Exalted be He, will make us, and all believers steadfast and firm. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(يُنَبِّئُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ... [سورة إبراهيم: 27])

✚ ***“Allâh will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allâh Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter.” (Surat Ibrahim, 27)***

And whoever is given firmness by Allah in the grave, will be kept firm by Allah on **As-Sirāt**, that is, the bridge which everyone must pass on the "Day of Resurrection" to enter Paradise. Below this path are the fires of Hell, and in the stages of resurrection, until Allah enters him into the home of those who are steadfast in faith, the abode of the rightly guided – may Allah make us all among them.

👉 Allah's Most Beautiful Name {Al-Hadi} (The Supreme Guide and Leader To the Right Path) is mentioned "**twice**" in the Holy Quran in Allah's sayings:

{وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا} [سورة الفرقان: 31]

✚ "But Sufficient is your Lord as a Guide and Helper." (Surat Al-Furqan, 31)

{وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ} [الحج: 54].

✚ "And verily, Allâh is the Guide of those who believe, to the Straight Path." (Surat Al-Hajj, 54)

🌀 Linguistically, "guidance" means righteousness and direction to the right path.

🌀 **The meaning of guidance and Hadi (i.e. the Guide) when attributed to Allah, Glorified be He:**

○ The eminent scholar, Az-Zaggagi, may Allah have mercy on him, said: [Allah, Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, The Provider of Guidance} guides His slaves to Him, and to the path of goodness, righteousness and to do the deeds that please Him, The Almighty.]

○ Al-Khattabi said: [It is Allah, Al-Hadi, Who provides whomsoever He wills with His divine guidance, and endows them with the light of **Monotheism** (i.e. the belief in Allah's Oneness). This is manifest in Allah's saying:

{وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ} [يونس: 25]

✚ "Allâh calls to the Home of Peace (i.e. Paradise, by accepting Allâh's religion of Islâmic Monotheism and by doing righteous good deeds and abstaining from polytheism and evil deeds) and guides whom He wills to the Straight Path." (Surat Yunus, 25)

In addition, It is Allah, Exalted be He, Who guides the rest of creations, namely animals and creatures other than the human being, to search for food and shelter,

seek what benefits them and the methods of having them done. With Allah's guidance, they become aware of the harms and risks and the means to avoid them as Allah, The Almighty, says:

{الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَى} [طه: 50]

✚ [Mûsâ (Moses)] said: "Our Lord is He Who gave to each thing its form and nature, then guided it aright." (Surat Ta-Ha, 50)

○ Al-Sa'di said: [Allah's Most Beautiful Name Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance} means that It is Allah Who guides and directs His slaves to all benefits, and shows them how to repel harm away. It is Allah Who has taught men that which they knew not, guiding them to what they do not know, endowing them with the guidance of "Divine Inspiration", inspiring them to successively follow the divine way of Allah, and be pious, as their hearts turn penitently to Him and obey His orders.

○ Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance} is The One Who guides hearts to know Him, and directs souls to obey Him. An eminent scholar said: [It is Allah Who guides the sinners to repent, and guides the sincere worshippers to do more righteous deeds to attain His pleasure and come closer to Him.]

Another eminent scholar said: [Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance} is The One Who makes heart believe the divine truth and behave properly and with good manners with people.]

✉ Allah endows with His special guidance the Auliyâ' (His patrons¹) [i.e. those who believe in the Oneness of Allah and fear Allah much (abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which he has forbidden), and love Allah much (perform all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained)], the pious worshippers and righteous people: thus, they are guided to what Allah loves and pleases Him most. Allah, The Almighty, inspires them with beautiful ethics and manners, directing their hearts to seek all deeds that make Him pleased and contented with them.

Allah, Exalted be He, guides them to belittle the life of this world and despise its gains, hence they will never be enslaved by the humiliation of greed, nor will they be tainted by committing any sin.

¹ Allah's Auliyâ' (i.e. patrons) are those who believe in the Oneness of Allâh and fear Allâh much (abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which he has forbidden), and love Allâh much (perform all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained

- Allah, Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance}: is The One Who guides whomsoever He wills of His slaves and directs His creatures to know Him and **to believe in the Oneness of His Lordship.**

Allah is Ar-Rabb {The Lord}: It is He Who nurtures and disciplines all His slaves by managing their affairs and by endowing them with various types of graces and blessings. Allah directs them to know Him with His Lordship (*Rububyyiah*), and to believe in The Oneness of Allah's Lordship, that is, to believe that Allah alone has created the universe, that He alone is its Sustainer, and that He has complete ownership and power over His creation. Allah has guided people to know about Him and His Most Beautiful Names, Most Divine Attributes and *Uluhyyah* (the belief that It is Allah alone Who possess divinity (*al-Uluhiyyah*) and none deserves to be worshipped but Him. *Uluhyyah* means worship, and "worship" has three pillars: complete love (and adoration), complete humiliation, as well as reverence and glorification. Moreover, Allah has guided them to the path of salvation, which is, embracing Islam and following close Allah's Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him.

 **Ibn Al- Qayyim said: “There are Four Types of Divine Guidance:**

- ① **The First Type: The “General Divine Guidance”:** this is one of the most general and common types of divine guidance that is endowed to all creations. Allah, The Almighty, says:

{الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَى} [طه: 50]

✚ [Mûsâ (Moses)] said: "Our Lord is He Who gave to each thing its form and nature, then guided it aright." (Surat Ta-Ha, 50)

- ☰ It means that Allah has given everything its unique form that resembles none else, and He has endowed every organ with its shape and form, and every existing thing with its own nature and creation, then guided it to its function in life and how it will survive and act.

⇒ This is the divine guidance of the beast that is guided by Allah to what benefits it and to keep away from what harms it. Chief among this is the bee and Allah's inspiration to it to eat but what is pure and good, as is related in the holy Quran; Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنْ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ * ثُمَّ كُلِي مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ فَاسْلُكِي سُبُلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلُلًا) [النحل: 69-68]

✚ *“And your Lord inspired the bees, saying: "Take you habitations in the mountains and in the trees and in what they erect. "Then, eat of all fruits, and follow the ways of your Lord made easy (for you).” (Surat An-Nahl, 68-69)*

Allah has guided all creations and beings not to approach the fire lest it be burnt, and to flee from the predatory beasts so as not to prey on them, and to search for food, and be protected from the sun and rain. Allah, Glorified be He, says:

{وَمَا مِن دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أُمَمٌ أَمْثَلُكُمْ} [الأنعام: 38]

✚ *“There is not a moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book, then unto their Lord they (all) shall be gathered.” (Surat Al-An'am, 38)*

Allah, Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance}, guides every creature to its social life, even the animals.

⇒ Likewise, every member is divinely guided in a way that befits it. Allah, The Almighty, guides the two legs to walk, the hands are guided to do its functions: touch, grasp, feel, hold, manipulate, and the tongue is guided to speak, the ear to listen, the eye to view and see, and every member is guided to what it is created for. Moreover, Allah has guided as well the two pairs of each animal to procreate, and reproduce. Even the baby is guided to suck its mother's breasts, just after its birth.

A poet once said:

**Ask the green oasis, the running water,
and these deserts and the mountains, who has guided them?**

Ask the garden decorated with flowers and dews, and
Ask the nights and mornings, and the chanting birds,
Who has guided them?
Ask the breeze, the earth and the sky;
Ask everything and you will definitely hear:
The entire universe praising their Lord,
And declaring:
'There is none worthy of worship except Allah'!
Thus, if the night falls and extends for long,
Then who can ever, other than my Lord,
bring forth from the night the morning again?!!

⇒ As for the ranks and of the guidance of Allah, Glorified be He, they are countless, no one can know or count them except Him, so Blessed and Exalted be Allah, The Lord of the worlds!

✿ **Whoever contemplates some of Allah's guidance that is propagated and instilled throughout the universe, will testify that: Allâh! Lâ ilâha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah). Surely, He is The Knower of the unseen and the seen, The Almighty, The All-Wise.**

All existence bears witness to Your Existence, and
All beings acknowledge and testify thereto!
Indeed, it is wondrous how God is disobeyed or
How the polytheist denies Him and His verses,
Though in everything there is a divine sign
That indicates that He is The One and Only Lord!

② **The Second Type: the Divine Guidance of Instruction and Clarification: therewith:** people are directed to the paths of good and evil, and ways of salvation and destruction. This guidance does not require or necessitate the slave to be guided to the right path. Allah, The Almighty, says:

{وَأَنَّكَ لَتَهْدِي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ} [سورة الشورى: 52]

✦ *"And verily, you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه و سلم) are indeed guiding (mankind) to the Straight Path (i.e. Allâh's Religion of Islâmic Monotheism)" (Surat Ash-Shura, 52)*

{وَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ فَاسْتَحَبُّوا الْعَمَىٰ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ} [سورة فصلت: 17]

- ✚ *“And as for Thamûd, We showed and made clear to them the Path of Truth (Islâmic Monotheism) through Our Messenger, (i.e. showed them the way of success), but they preferred blindness to guidance; so the Sâ’iqah (a destructive awful cry, torment, hit, a thunderbolt) of disgracing torment seized them because of what they used to earn.” (Surat Fussilat, 17)*

((Allah, Exalted be He, created man, instructed and guided him; He showed him clearly the path of good and evil, for Allah does not torture His slaves until He establishes the argument against them by sending to them prophets and messengers, righteous preachers, those who enjoin good and forbid evil, and lead them to the straight path.))

- ③ **The Third Type: the Divine Guidance of “Inspiration”:** Allah, The Almighty, inspires His slave and makes him successively follow the divine guidance. When a person is endowed with “the Divine Guidance of Inspiration”, then he will be surely led to the right path. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

{إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ} [القصص: 56]

- ✚ *“Verily you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) guide not whom you like, but Allâh guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided.” (Surat Al-Qasas, 56)*

This verse states that Allah’s Messenger (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) could not endow persons with the **Divine Guidance of “Inspiration”** and that he **could just guide and instruct them and direct them to the paths of good and evil, and ways of salvation and destruction.** Allah, The Almighty, says:

{وَإِنَّكَ لَتَهْدِي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ} [الشورى: 52]

- ✚ *“And verily, you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) are indeed guiding (mankind) to the Straight Path (i.e. Allâh’s Religion of Islâmic Monotheism)” (Surat Ash-Shura, 52)*
- ✚ **There is no contradiction between the two verses (Surat Al-Qasas, 56) and (Surat Ash-Shura, 52). The first verse negated that Allah’s Messenger (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) could endow anyone with this specific type of divine guidance of inspiration that is endowed by none except Allah. The second verse affirmed and stated that he (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) can**

help people to the Divine Guidance of Instruction and Clarification, by calling people to Allah and show them the paths of good and evil, and ways of salvation and destruction. This is because Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) had no impact on hearts, that are in The Hand of Allah, The Knower of the hidden realms and the unseen, Exalted be He.

((In fact, by virtue of the Guidance of "Divine Inspiration", one succeeds to follow the divine guidance. This guidance is the guidance of "spiritual success" that no one possesses, neither an angel, nor a prophet. If the Prophet, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, could help any person with the "Guidance of Divine Inspiration", he would have guided his uncle Abu Talib to the path of Allah and to embrace Islam. Thus, we should seek the divine guidance and exert all efforts on Allah's path, and to strive hard, and to ask our Lord for guidance and to grant us the guidance of "spiritual and divine success" that make us proceed successively on Allah's path.)

☰ This divine guidance implants faith in the person's heart, and it is the greatest blessing and favor that *Allah, Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance}*, bestows upon His slaves.

Know for sure, dear reader, that any endowment or blessing, other than divine guidance is ephemeral and fleeting and that the more you are endowed with divine guidance, the happier you are in this world, and the more comfortable you will be, not to mention the high rank you will attain in the Hereafter.

Allah, Exalted be He, says:

وَالَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا زَادَهُمْ هُدًى وَآتَاهُمْ تَقْوَاهُمْ) [سورة محمد: 17].

✚ "While as for those who accept guidance, He increases their guidance and bestows on them their piety." (Surat Muhammad, 17)

(وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ) [سورة العنكبوت: 69].

✚ *“As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), We will surely guide them to Our Paths (i.e. Allâh’s religion - Islâmîc Monotheism). And verily, Allâh is with the Muhsinûn (good doers).” (Surat Al-`Ankabut, 69)*

- ④ **The Fourth Type: the end result and purpose of this Divine Guidance, that is the guidance to paradise and hell, when people are driven to paradise and other people are driven to hell on Doomsday: Allah, Exalted be He, says:**

{إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ يَهْدِيَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِإِيمَانِهِمْ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ} [سورة يونس: 9]

✚ *“Verily, those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness, their Lord will guide them through their Faith; under them will flow rivers in the Gardens of Delight (Paradise).” (Yunus, 9)*

{وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رَبَّنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَنُودُوا أَنْ تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ} [سورة الأعراف: (43)]

✚ *“and they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allâh, Who has guided us to this, and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allâh had guided us! Indeed, the Messengers of our Lord did come with the truth." And it will be cried out to them: "This is the Paradise which you have inherited for what you used to do."” (Surat Al-`Araf, 43)*

As for the dwellers of the fire, Allah, The Almighty, says:

{اِحْشَرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ *مَنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ} [الصافات: 22 - 23]

✚ *“(It will be said to the angels): "Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions (from the devils) and what they used to worship, instead of Allâh, and lead them on to the way of flaming Fire (Hell);” (Surat As-Saffat, 22-23)*

✉ Asking Allah for guidance is the greatest supplication that Allah has commanded us to keep repeating and seeking. Allah, Glorified be He, has obligated His slaves to pray to Him and invoke Him for guidance in every rak'ah of prayer, whether the prayer is an obligatory or a supererogatory prayer, saying:

“Guide us to the Straight Way.” (Surat Al-Fatihah, 6)

This is because it is the greatest, most gracious and most honorable blessing that Allah, Exalted be He, bestows upon His slaves is the blessing of guidance to faith and belief in His Oneness.

📄 The eminent scholar Al-Junaid commented on Allah’s saying:

(اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ) [سورة الفاتحة: 6]

“Guide us to the Straight Way.” (Surat Al-Fatihah, 6)

and said: [It is as if the believer is supplicating and saying: O our Lord, make our hearts long for You, guide our souls to believe in You and worship You; inspire us to exert best efforts to Your path and be our Divine Guide to You!]

☰ The eminent scholar of Islam Ibn Taymiyyah said: *[Every person’s need for divine guidance is greater than his/her need for victory and sustenance; this is because when that person is guided to the right path, he/she will be one of the pious. Allah, The Almighty, says:*

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا * وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾. [سورة الطلاق: 2-3]

✚ *“And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty), and He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine.” (Surat At-Talaq, 2-3)*

📖 It is really astonishing that a Muslim who asks his Lord, The Almighty, seventeen times, every day and night, to guide him to the straight path and to save him from the ways of those whom Allah is displeased with (i.e. the Jews), and those who are astray (i.e. the Christians), follows their way, and imitates them.

📖 **Guidance** means: knowing the truth and acting upon it. It is not enough to know the truth, but rather you must act upon it. Many people know the truth yet they do not act upon it; for instance, the Jews know the truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, yet they do not follow him.

📖 Ibn Al-Qayyim said: *[The greatest and best supplication ever and the most beneficial of it is to invoke Allah to guide you to the straight path, for this includes acquiring perfect knowledge about Allah, The Almighty, and believing in His Oneness (monotheism), worshiping Him by doing what He has commanded us to do and avoiding what He forbade, and adhering to Allah's straight path till one's death.*

✉ Moreover Allah, Glorified be He, has warned us against the evident enemy who sits in wait against us (human beings) on His Straight path, trying to hinder us from Allah's way and lead us astray.

⇒ So, in His warning against our sworn enemy, Allah, The Almighty, says:

﴿قَالَ فِيمَا أُغْوَيْتَنِي لأفُودَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ (16) ثُمَّ لَأَتِيَنَّهُمْ مِّن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ﴾ [سورة الأعراف: (17)]

✚ *“(Iblīs) said: "Because You have sent me astray, surely, I will sit in wait against them (human beings) on Your Straight Path. "Then I will come to them from before them and behind them, from their right and from their left, and You will not find most of them as thankful ones (i.e. they will not be dutiful to You)." (Surat Al-A`raf, 16-17)*

⇒ Allah, The Almighty, took the pledge of and made a Covenant with mankind to not obey Iblis, the evident enemy:

﴿أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ (60) وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي ۗ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ (61) وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِبِلًّا كَثِيرًا أَفَلَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ﴾ [سورة يس: 62]

✚ *“Did I not command you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship Shaitân (Satan). Verily, he is a plain enemy to you, and that you should worship Me [Alone - Islâmîc Monotheism, and set up not rivals, associate-gods with Me]. That is the Straight Path. And indeed he (Satan) did lead astray a great multitude of you. Did you not, then, understand?” (Surat Ya-Sin, 60-62)*

☰ We must be totally humble and humiliated to our Lord and ask Him subserviently to guide us to the straight path and ordain us to successively follow His path so that we eventually attain His satisfaction. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ) [سورة الفاتحة: 6]

✚ *“Guide us to the Straight Way.” (Surat Al-Fatihah, 6)*

This includes seeking and invoking Allah to endow us with:

- the Divine Guidance and Instruction and
- the Divine Guidance of “Inspiration”.

☰ Ibn al-Qayyim said: *[The Word of Allah, Glorified be He, is All-Wise and Prudent, His Deed is All-Wise and Prudent, and He, The Almighty, is The Guide of any straying misguided person, so He directs him to the straight path, clarifying it and its teachings to him, and making him successfully follow His path. In fact, Allah’s sayings by which He creates things and manages affairs: are all True, as they denote divine wisdom, goodness and perfection. Moreover, Allah’s religious legal sayings and rulings are his sayings that he said in his divine Books, and on the tongues of his messengers that represent perfect truthfulness and complete honesty in revelation and complete divine justice in command and prohibition; And who is truer in statement than Allah? (of course, none) And whose words can be truer than those of Allah? (Of course, none). Allah, Glorified be He, says:*

(وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا ۗ لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ) [سورة الأنعام: 115]

✚ *“And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice. None can change His Words. And He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.” (Surat Al-An`am, 115)*

No one is truer in statement than Allah in commands and prohibitions, these are the greatest and most supreme guides without which the

slaves would have been led astray. And whoever seeks guidance in anything other than them, will stray. This is because Allah's divine statements and rulings of Allah demonstrate facts, principles, branches, benefits and harms, both religious and worldly.

By virtue of these divine statements, souls are purified, and hearts are refined as people are called therewith to the best of deeds and the greatest manners, and will be encouraged to every beautiful righteous act. They intimidate persons of every reprehensible and evil deed.

☰ **Moreover, Allah has deprived the oppressors and the unbelievers of the guidance of divine inspiration and piety that is endowed only to those who sincerely seek divine guidance, and He, The Almighty, deprived those oppressors and unbelievers of the eternal reward in Paradise. Allah, Exalted be He, says:**

(وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ) [سورة آل عمران: 86]

✚ *“And Allâh guides not the people who are Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers).” (Surat Ali-`Imran, 86)*

(ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اسْتَحَبُّوا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا عَلَى الْأَجْرَةِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ) [سورة النحل: 107]

✚ *“That is because they loved and preferred the life of this world over that of the Hereafter. And Allâh guides not the people who disbelieve.” (Surat Al-Nahl, 107)*

📖 Ibn Al-Qayyim said: [Whoever is guided to Allah's straight path in this worldly life, will be guided to the straight path in the hereafter, that leads to His paradise and the abode of His reward. If the slave is steadfast and firm on this path, that Allah set up for His slaves in the life of this world, then he will stand firm on *As-Sirāt*, that is, the bridge which every human must pass on the "Day of

Resurrection" to enter Paradise. Below this path are the fires of Hell, may Allah save us all from His hell!]

Only those believers who stuck to Allah's straight path during their lives will cross swiftly and fast on that "Sirat". In other words, some of the believers will cross the bridge as quickly as the wink of an eye, some others as quick as lightning, a strong wind, fast horses or riding camels. This will be an exact recompense!! Allah, The Almighty, says:

[هَلْ تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ] [سورة النمل: 90]

✚ "Are you being recompensed anything except what you used to do?" (Surat Al-Naml, 90)

☞ According to the Prophet, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, the devils of mankind and the jinn call people to indulge in lusts and doubtful matters; some of them call to usury, and to adultery and fornication, and others call people to consider musical instruments lawful and permissible, and so on....

فعن عبد الله بن مسعود أن النبي ﷺ خطَّ خطًّا مستقيماً، فقال: هذا سبيلُ الله، ثم خطَّ خطوطاً عن يمينه وشماله، وقال: هذه السبيلُ على كلِّ سبيلٍ منها شيطانٌ يدعو إليه، ثم تلا هذه الآية: (وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السَّبِيلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ).

Abdullah bin Masoud reported that that the Prophet, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, drew a straight line (with his hand in the sand) and said: 'This is Allah's path!' then he drew lines to its right and to its left, then said: 'These are the other paths, on each path there is a devil who calls to it.' Then he recited Allah's saying:

(وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السَّبِيلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ) [سورة الأنعام: 153]

"And verily, this (i.e. Allâh's Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you that you may become Al-Muttaqûn (the pious)."

ففي الحديث المرفوع عن النَّوَّاسِ بْنِ سَمْعَانَ ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ ، قَالَ : " ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا ، وَعَلَى جَنْبَيْ الصِّرَاطِ سُورٌ فِيهِ أَبْوَابٌ مُفْتَحَةٌ ، وَعَلَى الْأَبْوَابِ أُرَاهُ ، قَالَ : سُورٌ مُرَخَّاةٌ ، وَعَلَى بَابِ الصِّرَاطِ دَاعٍ : يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ، ادْخُلُوا الصِّرَاطَ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَتَعَوَّجُوا ، وَدَاعٍ يَدْعُو مِنْ فَوْقِ الصِّرَاطِ ، فَإِذَا أَرَادَ فُتْحَ شَيْءٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ الْأَبْوَابِ ، قَالَ : وَيْحَكَ لَا تَفْتَحْهُ ؛

فَأَنَّكَ إِن تَفْتَحَهُ تَلَجُهُ ، فَالصِّرَاطُ الْإِسْلَامُ ، وَالسُّورَانِ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ ، وَالْأَبْوَابُ الْمَفْتَحَةُ مَحَارِمُ اللَّهِ ، وَذَلِكَ الدَّاعِي عَلَى رَأْسِ الصِّرَاطِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ ، وَالِدَّاعِي مِنْ فَوْقَ وَعَظُّ اللَّهِ فِي قَلْبِ كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ " .
صحيح الترغيب والترهيب

An-Nawwas bin Samaan reported that Allah's Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, said: "Allah has set an example of the straight path, and on the two sides of this path, there are two walls with open doorways. On these doorways, there are curtains that are lowered down. on the gate of this path there is a caller heralding, 'O people! come and enter the straight path all together and do not divide. ' There is also another caller that heralds from above the path, who says when a person wants to open any of these doorways and remove the curtains, 'Woe to you! Do not open this doorway or remove the curtain, for if you do so, you will inevitably enter it.' The (straight) path is Islam, the two walls are Allah's set limits, the open doorways are Allah's prohibitions, and the caller on the gate of the path is Allah's Book (the holy Qur'an), while the caller from above the path is Allah's admonition in the heart of every Muslim."

📖 How has Allah guided us? and what are the means of divine guidance?

❶ **The first means is the pure human "Fitrah"** (the natural Way of Allah which He has instilled in "all" people, that is the natural disposition of every person to believe in the absolute Oneness of Allah):

((وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ شَهِدْنَا أَنْ تَقُولُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّا كُنَّا عَنْ هَذَا غَافِلِينَ)) (سورة الأعراف: 172).

✚ *"And (remember) when your Lord brought forth from the Children of Adam, from their loins, their seed (or from Adam's loin his offspring) and made them testify as to themselves (saying): "Am I not your Lord?" They said: "Yes! We testify," lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection: "Verily, we have been unaware of this.""* (Surat Al-A`raf, 172)

⇒ Allah, our Creator put in the person's heart self-evident postulates of some things such as: every existing thing must have an originator and a creator, and every craft has a maker. Moreover, He, Exalted be He, has made some things beautified and desired to us such as love of justice, truthfulness, honesty, integrity..., and other things are abhorred to us like, injustice, falsehood and

betrayal. Also, Allah, Glorified be He, has instilled in our **human "Fitrah"**, **how to differentiate between what is right** from what is wrong, and the knowledge of the path of good and the path of evil. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا * فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا) [سورة الشمس: 7-8]

✚ ***"By Nafs (Adam or a person or a soul), and Him Who perfected him in proportion; then He showed him what is wrong for him and what is right for him."* (Surat Ash-Shams 7-8)**

② **The second means is the cosmic signs:** this is because in everything there is an evident sign indicating that He is The One and Only God, Omniscient, The All-Knowing, The All-Powerful, and All-Merciful. And among Allah's signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, so whoever looks at the sky in its beauty, perfect creation, and loftiness, will realize how Great and Perfect is Allah's Power and Creation. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ) [سورة الذاريات: 47]

✚ ***"With power did We construct the heaven. Verily, We are Able to extend the vastness of space thereof."* (Surat Adh-Dharyyat, 47)**

(أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ (17) وَإِلَى السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ رُفِعَتْ (18) وَإِلَى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ (19) وَإِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ) [سورة الغاشية" 20-17]

✚ ***"Do they not look at the camels, how they are created? And at the heaven, how it is raised? And at the mountains, how they are rooted (and fixed firm)? And at the earth, how it is outspread?"* (Surat Al-Ghashyiah, 17-20)**

Whoever looks at the earth, will be amazed when he sees how Allah made it like a bed, spread out and has opened roads (ways and paths) for us therein, and placed therein (i.e. the earth) firm mountains from above it, showered His blessings upon it, and ordained **'all'** its **means of sustenance**. Indeed, Allah has made all means therein eased for His slaves, and made the earth subservient to us, to walk in the path thereof and eat of His provision, thus they plow and sow seeds, and draw water from earth, so they irrigate, water and drink. Whoever contemplates Allah's creation and how He, Glorified be He, has made the earth

as a place of settlement and a fixed abode for all creations; it never shakes or quakes except by the permission of Allah.

Allah, Glorified be He, says:

﴿وَفِي الْأَرْضِ آيَاتٌ لِلْمُوقِنِينَ﴾ [سورة الذاريات: 20]

✚ **“And on the earth are signs for those who have Faith with certainty.” (Surat Adh-Dharyyat, 20)**

③ **The third means is the the divine revelations:** that the messengers were brought with, including the Noble Qur’an. The impact of the Noble Qur’an on the hearts and souls is clear and evident, no matter how these hearts are cruel or harsh, and no matter how the person is wretched and misguided. Indeed, the Holy Qur’an guides to that which is most just and upright in all matters of the life of this world and the hereafter, all its sayings and statements are truthful and its rulings and judgement of authority are perfectly just.

☞ Indeed, Allah, Exalted be He, has instilled guidance in our human fitrah (natural disposition), then gave us reason, so we came to know and believe in Him through the universe, the-so-called ‘the visible book of the universe’.

Then Allah has showed us the path that leads to his contentment and paradise in the Noble Quran, His divine Book. **Hence, the integration between the fitrah, the mind that contemplates the universe, and reflects on the Holy Qur’an that addresses every seeker of truth, and acceptance of the truth: these are our way to divine guidance in the life of this world and the hereafter.**

☞ Jubayr bin Mut`am said: **“I heard the Prophet, Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him, reciting Surat At-Tur in the sunset prayer, then when he, Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him, reached these verses:**

﴿أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ (35) أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ، بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ (36) أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُصَيِّرُونَ﴾ [سورة الطور: 35 - 37]

“Were they created by nothing? Or were they themselves the creators? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Nay, but they have no firm Belief. Or are with them the treasures of your Lord? Or are they the tyrants with the authority to do as they like?” (Surat At-Tur, 35-37) I felt my heart will fly out of my chest.”] [Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

📖 **The story of the repentance of al-Fudayl ibn 'Iyad:** in his youth Al-Fudayl was a thief and highway robber who used to frighten passers-by, and loot travelers. One day, he was climbing the wall of a house, when he heard a man reciting this verse:

(أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ) [سورة الحديد: 16]

✚ *“Has not the time come for the hearts of those who believe (in the Oneness of Allâh - Islâmic Monotheism) to be affected by Allâh’s Reminder (this Qur’ân)” (Surat Al-Hadid, 16)*

At that moment, Al-Fudayl said, **"O my Lord, indeed, the time has come!"** At that moment, he repented to his Lord and ever since he was renowned as an ascetic, pious believer and a fervent worshipper.

④ **The fourth means is the Call to Allah:**

Ibn al-Qayyim said: [Know for sure that the highest ranks of servitude to Allah is the rank of the callers to Allah. Indeed, it is the rank of the prophets, because they called people to Allah and His path, thus they are the beloved of Allah, and they are the closest people to Allah. They gained this great rank because they guided people to Allah, Al-Hadi, **The Supreme Guide, Leader To The Right Path and The Provider of Guidance**, Glorified be He.

Allah, Glorified be He, has subjected to us all these means so that no one will come on the Day of Resurrection and say that the divine guidance did not reach him. Even Fir'aun (Pharaoh) could not claim that divine guidance had not reached out to him for Allah, The Almighty, had commanded Moses, Allah’s peace be upon him, to go to him and gently call him to worship Allah.

📖 **The Main Causes of Guidance:**

Firstly, the person’s belief in the Oneness of Allah: this is the greatest cause of his guidance to the right path. That is why when Allah, The Almighty, has mentioned polytheism, He says:

(وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا) [سورة النساء: 116].

✚ *“and whoever sets up partners in worship with Allâh, has indeed strayed far away.” (Surat Al-Nisa’, 116)*

The person who believes in the Oneness of his Lord follows the right path, and he is closer to all righteousness and goodness. Moreover, Allah, Exalted be He, says in His Book:

(الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ) [سورة الأنعام: 82].

✚ *“It is those who believe (in the Oneness of Allâh and worship none but Him Alone) and confuse not their belief with Zulm (wrong i.e. by worshipping others besides Allâh), for them (only) there is security and they are the guided.” (Surat Al-An’am, 82)*

This is a divine promise to those who believe in the Oneness of Allah to be surely guided to the right path.

Secondly, the person’s abidance by the orders of Allah and His Messenger (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) and avoidance of all what they forbade: Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ فَعَلُوا مَا يُوعَظُونَ بِهِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ تَثْبِيثًا (66) وَإِذْ أَلَيْنَاهُمْ مِنْ لَدُنَّا أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا (67) وَلَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا) (68) النساء (سورة النساء: 66-68).

✚ *“but if they had done what they were told, it would have been better for them, and would have strengthened their (Faith). And indeed We should then have bestowed upon them a great reward from Ourselves. And indeed We should have guided them to the Straight Way.” (Surat Al-Nisa’, 66-68)*

📖 Al-Hafiz Ibn Katheer said: [If they had obeyed and abided by whatsoever they were commanded and abstained whatsoever they were forbidden, it would have been better for them, i.e. it would have been better for them **and would have strengthened their Faith**.

The eminent scholar Al-Suddi said: [That is, If they had obeyed and abided by whatsoever they were commanded and abstained from whatsoever they were forbidden, it would have been better for them and would have made the Religion the most believable to them and most reassuring, and Allah would then have given them, by His grace, a great reward, i.e. Paradise, and We would have guided them to a straight path, that is, in the life of this world and the hereafter.

⇒ **Obeying Allah’s commands**, such as strictly observing the (five compulsory) prayers, for example, and performing them as Allah has commanded; in addition, it is a cause of the Muslim’s avoidance of *Al-Fahshâ’* (i.e. great sins of

every kind, unlawful sexual intercourse) and Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism, and every kind of evil wicked deed). Allah, Glorified be He, says:

(وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ... [سورة العنكبوت: 45].

✚ *“and perform As-Salât (Iqamât-as-Salât). Verily, As-Salât (the prayer) prevents from Al-Fahshâ’ (i.e. great sins of every kind, unlawful sexual intercourse) and Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism, and every kind of evil wicked deed) and the remembering (praising) of (you by) Allâh (in front of the angels) is greater indeed [than your remembering (praising) of Allâh in prayers. And Allâh knows what you do.” (Surat Al-Ankabut, 45)*

And the servant seeks help in the prayer to be patient and forbearing in order to be able to face calamities of life; Allah, The Almighty, says:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ) [سورة البقرة: 153]

✚ *“O you who believe! Seek help in patience and As-Salât (the prayer). Truly! Allâh is with As-Sâbirûn (the patient).” (Surat Al-Baqarah, 153)*

📖 The eminent scholar Ibn Katheer said: *[Indeed, “the prayer” is one of the person’s greatest helpers that enable the Muslim to be steadfast in Allah’s religion and abide firmly by all His orders, as with “the prayer” he seeks support and assistance in adversity.]*

⇒ **Abandoning the prohibitions:** as committing sins leads the person to have his heart sealed up, and is the cause of his bad ending at his moment of death, then if he abandons sins and abstains from committing them, he will surely be guided to the right path, and will be most steadfast in Allah’s true religion, Islam.

⇒ **Struggling and striving hard to do acts of obedience and abandon sins, and patiently persevere in seeking our Lord’s pleasure leads us to be guided to the right path and succeed in abiding by Allah’s orders and commands. Allah, The Almighty, says:**

(وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ) [سورة العنكبوت: 69].

✚ *As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), We will surely guide them to Our Paths (i.e. Allâh’s religion - Islâmic Monotheism). And verily, Allâh is with the Muhsinûn (good doers).” (Surat Al-Ankabut, 69)*

⇒ **Indeed, doing** good and righteous deeds brings the slave closer to his Lord, The Knower of the unseen, so whoever does the commands and avoids the prohibited acts, will surely be guided by Allah, Glorified be He.

☞ And when Allah, Exalted be He, has mentioned some of His Prophets and Messengers, He said to His Prophet Muhammad, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him:

(أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهِدَاهُمْ أَقْتَدُهُمْ ...) [سورة الأنعام: 90].

✚ *"They are those whom Allâh had guided. So follow their guidance. Say: "No reward I ask of you for this (the Qur'ân). It is only a reminder for the 'Âlamîn (mankind and jinn)." (Surat Al-An`am, 90)*

Thirdly: the person's repentance, and turning to Allah, Exalted be He: especially upon committing any sin.

Allah, The Almighty, has promised those, who repent to Him, to be surely guided to the right path.

(اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يُنِيبُ) [الشورى: 13]

✚ *"Allâh chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance and in obedience." (Surat Ash-Shura, 13)*

(قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ أَنْابَ) [الرعد: 27].

✚ *"Say: "Verily, Allâh sends astray whom He wills and guides unto Himself those who turn to Him in repentance." (Surat Ar-Ra`d, 27)*

☞ **These three aforementioned "Causes:**

- 1) the person's belief in the Oneness of Allah,
- 2) the person's abidance by the orders of Allah and His Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) and avoidance of all what they forbade, and
- 3) his repentance to Allah

are all mentioned together in Allah's saying:

وَالَّذِينَ اجْتَنَبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهَا وَأَنَابُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ لَهُمُ الْبُشْرَى فَبَشِّرْ عِبَادِ (17) الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمْ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ (18) [سورة الزمر: 17-18].

✚ “Those who avoid At-Tâghût¹ (false deities) by not worshipping them and turn to Allâh (in repentance), for them are glad tidings; so announce the good news to My slaves – Those who listen to the Word [good advice Lâ ilâha illallâh - (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh) and Islâmîc Monotheism] and follow the best thereof (i.e. worship Allâh Alone, repent to Him and avoid Tâghût) those are (the ones) whom Allâh has guided and those are men of understanding.” (Surat Az-Zummar, 17-18)

✚ Indeed, **those who** {have abstained from associating anything with Allah, kept repenting and turning back to Him, Glorified be He, and listen to what is said and follow the best of it: **are the rightly-guided people**.

⇒ Surely, Allah, Exalted be He, *loves those who turn unto Him in repentance* as He says:

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ) [سورة البقرة: 222].

✚ “Truly, Allâh loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves (by taking a bath and cleaning and washing thoroughly their private parts, bodies, for their prayers).” (Surat Al-Baqarah, 222)

✚ When Allah loves them, He guides them. Surely, Allah, Exalted be He, will love anyone turning and repenting to Him, and whomsoever Allah loves will be guided by Him.

Fourthly: the person’s holding firmly and adherence to Allah, Glorified be He:

Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَمَنْ يَعْصِمْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ هُدِيَ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ) [سورة آل عمران: 101].

✚ *"And whoever holds firmly to Allâh, (i.e. follows Islâm - Allâh's Religion, and obeys all that Allâh has ordered, practically), then he is indeed guided to the Right Path." (Surat Aal-`Imran, 101)*

(فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَاعْتَصَمُوا بِهِ فَسَيُدْخِلُهُمْ فِي رَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلٍ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيمًا (175) [سورة النساء: 175])

✚ *"So, as for those who believed in Allâh and held fast to Him, He will admit them to His Mercy and Grace (i.e. Paradise), and guide them to Himself by the Straight Path." (Surat An-Nisa', 175)*

✿ A slave can hold fast to Allah by holding fast on to "His Strong Rope", that is the Holy Qur'an. This can be carried out by reciting Allah's Book, pondering over its verses, submissively; this could mend and correct every deviation arises in the slave's heart, words or actions. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا) [سورة الإسراء: 9]

✚ *"Verily, this Qur'ân guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers (in the Oneness of Allâh and His Messenger, Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward (Paradise)." (Surat Al-Isra', 9)*

✿ **The person's adherence to Allah's Book, the Holy Quran, makes him secure from misguidance, and so is his adherence to the Sunnah (i.e. the Prophetic traditions).**

روى الإمام مالك أن رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ: (تركتُ فيكم أمرينِ لن تَضِلُّوا ما تَمَسَّكْتُمُ بهما: كتابَ اللَّهِ وسُنَّةَ نبيِّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) الموطأ.

Imam Malek narrated that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, said, "I have left amongst you two things, you will never go astray as long as you hold onto them: the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him)."

✿ **The Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right in this world and in the hereafter.**

⇒ **As for the life of this world, Allah, the Most High, says:**

يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ [سورة المائدة: 16]

✚ *“Wherewith Allâh guides all those who seek His Good Pleasure to ways of peace, and He brings them out of darkness by His Will unto light and guides them to the Straight Way (Islâmic Monotheism).” (Surat Al-Maidah, 16)*

➡ The jinn realized that when they listened to the holy Quran, so they said:

قُلْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا قُرْآنًا عَجَبًا (1) يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ فَآمَنَّا بِهِ وَلَنْ نُشْرِكَ بِرَبِّنَا أَحَدًا ((2)) [الجن: 1-2].

✚ *“Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): “It has been revealed to me that a group (from three to ten in number) of jinn¹ listened (to this Qur’ân). They said: ‘Verily, we have heard a wonderful Recitation (this Qur’ân). ‘It guides to the Right Path, and we have believed therein, and we shall never join (in worship) anything with our Lord (Allâh).” (Surat Al-Jinn, 1-2)*

⇒ As for the hereafter, this is evident in the saying of Allah’s Messenger (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him):

قال ﷺ: (يُقَالُ لِصَاحِبِ الْقُرْآنِ: اقْرَأْ وَارْتَقِ وَرَتِّلْ، كَمَا كُنْتَ تُرْتِّلُ فِي الدُّنْيَا، فَإِنَّ مَنْزِلَكَ عِنْدَ آخِرِ آيَةٍ تَقْرُؤُهَا).
رواه أبو داود

*“It will be said to the companion of the Qur'an: 'Recite and ascend (in the ranks of Paradise) and beautify your voice as you used to do during your worldly life; for verily your position (i.e. in Paradise) will be at the last verse you recite.’”
[Narrated by Abu Dawud]*

Fifthly: Purifying and dedicating one’s religion faithfully and sincerely to Allah, Glorified be He (by worshipping none but Allah, and doing good for Allah’s sake only, not to show off): a Muslim might do a certain deed and falsely think that he is righteous and his deed is good and accepted by Allah, while this is not the case. In this concern, Allah, The Almighty, says:

(يَوْمَ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا فَيَحْلِفُونَ لَهُ كَمَا يَحْلِفُونَ لَكُمْ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ ءَآلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ)
[سورة المجادلة: 18]

✚ *“On the Day when Allâh will resurrect them all together (for their account); then they will swear to Him as they swear to you (O Muslims). And they*

think that they have something (to stand upon). Verily, they are liars!”
(Surat Al-Mujadila, 18)

⇒ Some peoples will come on the Day of Resurrection, and it will appear to them from Allah what they never anticipated. Allah, The Almighty, says:

[وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ] [سورة الزمر: 47]

✚ *“and there will become apparent to them from Allâh what they had not been reckoning.”* (Surat Az-Zumar, 47)

They assumed that they were righteous and that they had been doing well, yet their efforts were wasted.

📖 When Al-Fudayl bin Iyadh, may Allah have mercy on him, listened to this verse:

[وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ] [سورة الزمر: 47]

✚ *“and there will become apparent to them from Allâh what they had not been reckoning.”* (Surat Az-Zumar, 47)

He said: [They did deeds and thought that they were good and righteous deeds, but it turned out that they were evil deeds!]

📖 Sufyan bin Uyaynah, may Allah have mercy on him, said: “When Ibn Al-Munkadir was in his throes of death, he was terrified, so his family summoned for him the eminent preacher of the time, Abu Hazem. When he entered upon Ibn Al-Munkadir, the latter reminded him of the saying of Allah, The Almighty:

[وَبَدَا لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ] [سورة الزمر: 47]

✚ *“and there will become apparent to them from Allâh what they had not been reckoning.”* (Surat Az-Zumar, 47)

Then Ibn Al-Munkadir said: “That is why I am afraid, lest I see from Allah what I have never anticipated after my death.” Then, both of them burst out crying.

In addition, Allah, Glorified be He, says:

قُلْ هَلْ نُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا (103) الَّذِينَ ضَلَّ سَعِيُهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُحْسِنُونَ صُنْعًا) [سورة الكهف: 104]

✚ **“Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): ‘Shall We tell you the greatest losers in respect of (their) deeds? Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life while they thought that they were acquiring good by their deeds.’” (Surat Al-Kahf, 104)**

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: "إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَعْمَلُ عَمَلًا أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ -فِيَمَا يَبْدُو لِلنَّاسِ- وَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَعْمَلُ عَمَلًا أَهْلِ النَّارِ -فِيَمَا يَبْدُو لِلنَّاسِ- وَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ". رواه بخاري

Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said, "Indeed, a person might seem to the people as if he were doing the deeds of the dweller of Paradise while he is, in fact, one of the people of the Fire; and another person might seem to the people as if he were doing the deeds of the people of the Fire, while he is, in fact, one of the dwellers of Paradise." [Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

⇒ **If the slave's deed is not done sincerely and purely for the sake of Allah, The Almighty, then it will lead him to misguidance and setback, and even will have terrible consequences on him on the Day of Resurrection.**

Sixthly: Supplicating to Allah and doing one's best to invoke Him

sincerely: Ibn Masoud reported that Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said:

ثَبِتَ فِي صَحِيحِ مُسْلِمٍ مِنْ حَدِيثِ ابْنِ مَسْعُودٍ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ كَانَ يَقُولُ: "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى وَالتَّقَى، وَالْعَفَافَ وَالْغِنَى".

"O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, chastity and affluence."

قَالَ عَلِيٌّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ: قَالَ لِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: "قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي وَسَدِّدْنِي، وَأَذْكَرْ، بِالْهُدَى هِدَايَتِكَ الطَّرِيقَ، وَالسَّدَادَ، سَدَادَ السَّهْمِ". صحيح مسلم

'Ali bin Abu Taleb said: Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) told me: [Say, " O Allah, direct me to the right path and make me succeed on your straight path and be straight as an arrow," and when you make mention of 'right guidance', keep in mind the right path and when you ask Allah to 'make you succeed on His straight path and be straight as an arrow', keep in mind 'the perfect and straight shooting of an arrow"'.] (Narrated by Muslim]

وَعَلَّمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ سِبْطَهُ الْحَسَنَ بْنَ عَلِيٍّ، عَلَّمَهُ دَعَاءَ الْقُنُوتِ الْمَشْهُورِ، فَقَالَ الْحَسَنُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا، أَنَّهُ قَالَ: ((عَلَّمَنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ كَلِمَاتٍ أَقُولُهُنَّ فِي قُنُوتِ الْوَيْتْرِ: اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي فِيمَنْ هَدَيْتَ)) رواه أبو داود وغيره.

In addition, Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) taught his grandson, Al-Hassan bin `Ali the supplication of Qunut (a supplication to be said while standing in prayer) thus Al-Hassan (may Allah be pleased with him) said: [Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) taught me words to say as the supplication of Qunut in the Witr prayer (i.e. the prayer performed at night after Isha (night-time) prayer or before fajr (dawn) prayer: "O Allah, guide me among those whom You have guided".

ومن دعائه ﷺ: "اللَّهُمَّ زَيِّنَا بِزِينَةِ الْإِيمَانِ واجعلنا هداةً مُهْتَدِينَ". صحيح النسائي

Moreover, Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) used to supplicate and say: "O Allah, beautify us with the adornment of faith and make us guides, guiding ourselves and others to the right path."

وكان النبي ﷺ يدعو يقول "... واهدني ويسر الهدى لي وانصرني على من بغى عليّ ربّ اجعلني لك شكَارًا لك ذَكَارًا لك رَهَابًا لك مطوعًا لك مَخْبِتًا إِلَيْكَ أَوْأَهَا مَنِيبًا رَبِّ تَقَبَّلْ تَوْبَتِي واغسل حوبتي وأجب دعوتي وثبّت حجّتي وسدّد لساني واهد قلبي واسأل سخيمة صدري "صحيح الترمذي

Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) used to supplicate by saying: "and guide me and make guidance easy for me, and help me against those who wrong me. O my Lord! Make me most grateful to You, make me remember You much, make me fearful of You, most obedient to You, most humble before You, invoking and turning to You in humility, ever repenting to You, all the time, again and again! O my Lord! Accept my repentance, wash away my sins, answer my

supplication, make firm my argument, make firm my tongue, guide my heart, and remove resentment from my heart)."

وسئلت عائشة أم المؤمنين، بأي شيء كان نبي الله ﷺ يفتتح صلاته إذا قام من الليل؟ قالت: كان إذا قام من الليل افتتح صلاته: "اللهم رب جبرائيل، وميكائيل، وإسرافيل، فاطر السموات والأرض، عالم الغيب والشهادة، أنت تحكم بين عبادك فيما كانوا فيه يختلفون، اهدني لما اختلف فيه من الحق بإذنك، إنك تهدي من تشاء إلى صراط مستقيم". صحيح مسلم

'Aisha, the mother of the believers, may Allah be pleased with her, was asked, about the supererogatory prayer of Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) at night and his opening supplication in it. She said: "When Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) performed voluntary night prayer, he used to supplicate to Allah at the beginning of the prayer and say: "O Allah, Lord of Jibrail, Mikail and Israfil (great angels), Creator of the heavens and the Earth, Knower of the seen and the unseen! You are the arbitrator between Your servants in that which they have disputed. Guide me to the truth by Your leave, in that which they have differed, for verily You guide whom You will to a straight path." [Narrated by Muslim]

❁ All this establishes and highlights that Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon) used to strive hard and exert his best in supplicating to his Lord, and earnestly enjoined his companions and all Muslims to supplicate to Allah. Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) paid special attention to teach his companions and all Muslim generations how to invoke their Lord and supplicate to Him.

وفيما يرويه رسول الله ﷺ عن ربه تبارك وتعالى أنه قال: "يا عبادي كلُّكم ضالٌّ إلا من هدَّيْتُهُ، فاستهدُوني أَهْدِكُمْ" صحيح مسلم.

Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) reported that Allah, Exalted be He, said: "O My slaves, all of you are straying except for those whom I have guided, so seek guidance of Me and I shall guide you to the straight path." [Narrated by Muslim]

⇒ Do we really feel that were it not for the divine guidance of Allah, The Almighty, we would have been straying?!

Know for sure that if you really seek the divine guidance of Allah in every step of your life, feeling how you stand in need of Allah, and how you are completely poor and humiliated to Him, He would have guided you to His straight path as per Allah's promise!! And whose words can be truer than those of Allâh?! (Of course, none).

✿ We do ask Allah, Al-Hadi, **The Supreme Guide, The Leader to the right path and The Provider of Guidance, Exalted be He**, to guide us all to His straight path. Prophet Ibrahim, whom Allah had taken as an intimate friend, asked Allah for His divine guidance. Allah, The Almighty, relates to us in the holy Quran that when Prophet Ibrahim saw the moon rising up, he said: "This is my lord." But when it set, he said:

[قَالَ لَئِن لَّمْ يَهْدِنِي رَبِّي لَأَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الضَّالِّينَ] [سورة الأنعام: 77]

✚ **"Unless my Lord guides me, I shall surely be among the people who went astray." (Surat Al-An'am, 77)**

✿ In addition, one of the believers' supplications that is mentioned in the holy Quran is:

[رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ] [سورة آل عمران: 8]

✚ **"(They say): "Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate (from the truth) after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from You. Truly, You are the Bestower." (Surat Aal-Imran, 8)**

Seventhly: Reflecting on Allah's creation, in His marvelous and miraculous creation of people's souls and the universe: many people were guided to Allah's path and came to believe in The Oneness of Allah just because they contemplated and reflected on Allah's creation, Exalted and Glorified be He, The Great Creator!

It was reported that in ancient time a Bedouin was asked: **'how do you know that your Lord exists?'** He replied: **"The camel dung indicates the existence of a camel, and footprints denotes that a person passed on the sand. So, how come the sky, with its constellations, and the land with its passages and the seas with its waves**

do not denote the existence of Allah, The Most Kind and Courteous (to His slaves), The All-Aware (of everything).”

Indeed, Allah, The Most High, has informed us that contemplating and thinking deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth has led people to acknowledge and admit the Majesty and Magnificence of Allah, The Almighty, and seek refuge with Allah from His fire.

(إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لآيَاتٍ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ * الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ) [آل عمران: 190-191].

✚ *“Verily! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding. Those who remember Allâh (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying): "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted are You above all that they associate with You as partners). Give us salvation from the torment of the Fire.” (Surat Al-`Imran, 190-191)*

Eighthly: the person’s engagement much in Allah’s praise and remembrance: indeed, the person’s remembrance of Allah much with his heart and tongue, in all his states and under all conditions, leads his heart to be serene and find rest, tranquility and comfort; Allah, The Almighty, says:

(أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ) [سورة الرعد: 28].

✚ *“verily, in the remembrance of Allâh do hearts find rest.” (Surat Ar-Ra`d, 28)*

Indeed, when the person turns away from the remembrance of Allah, then this will lead him to be misguided and will make him dominated by the human and jinn devils, as Allah, Exalted be He, says:

(وَمَنْ يَعْشُ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ (36) وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَصُدُّونَهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ) [سورة الزخرف: 36-37].

✚ *And whosoever turns away blindly from the remembrance of the Most Gracious (Allâh) (i.e. this Qur’ân and worship of Allâh), We appoint for him Shaitan (Satan - devil) to be a Qarîn (a companion) to him. And verily, they*

(Satan / devils) hinder them from the Path (of Allâh), but they think that they are guided aright!” (Surat Az-Zukhruf, 36-37)

- ✿ This divine guidance is not facilitated, at all times, for the Muslim, that’s why he must accept it once it is presented to him, and not reject it due to his selfish whims, worldly gains or desires. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ ۖ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ) [سورة الأنفال: 24].

✚ *“O you who believe! Answer Allâh (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allâh comes in between a person and his heart (i.e. He prevents an evil person to decide anything). And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered.” (Surat Al-Anfal, 24)*

- ✿ This verse urges every Muslim to hasten to answer and respond to Allah and His Messenger, Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him, before a day comes when he seeks his heart to be sincere, yet with no benefit, i.e., when Allah intervenes and comes in between him and his heart.

☰ This is established and proved in the story of **Jabalah ibn al-Aiham** because what had happened to that man demonstrates how Allah, The Almighty, intervenes between someone and his heart.

☞ It is the story of **Jabalah ibn al-Aiham**, one of the kings of the Christians who had embraced Islam at the days of Umar ibn Al-Khattab, and he performed pilgrimage (Hajj) with him. While he was circumambulating the Kaaba, a man mistakenly stepped on his lower garment, and his lower garment was loosened. Jabalah almost tripped over. This angered him so much that he hit the man’s nose, after which the man went to the Caliph 'Umar bin Khattab, who then requested that Jabalah be summoned to trial. Jabalah came to the Caliph and confessed. After displaying the facts of the case, 'Umar ordered that Jabalah be hit by the poor man on the nose in the same manner the man himself was hit, but Jabala resisted this arrogantly and requested that the Caliph carry out the sentence the next morning, and he fled to his country, Syria, during the night. He then apostatized and went to the land of the Greeks (the Byzantines).

☰ After a period of time, when it occurred to Jabalah to convert to Islam, he couldn’t as something came in between him and his heart. He realized this and said:

A noble man converted to Christianity due to the shame of a blow,
Indeed, it would have been far better for him to endure patiently
Any pains or disgrace,
To escape my current fate,
For verily I am surrounded by darkness and dishonor!!
I wish my mother had not given birth to me, and
I wish I had given in to Umar's sentence!

This story was mentioned by many historians, such as Ibn al-Jawzi, Ibn Asaker, and Ibn Katheer.

📖 On the other hand, **what are the impediments to guidance?**

Ibn al-Qayyim mentioned these impediments and they can be summed up as follows:

The first impediment: the person's lack of knowledge about this great blessing, that is, the divine guidance, and his underestimation of it:

🌀 **Contemplate this, dear reader- may Allah protect you!**

Many people are wealthy and attained higher positions in life and are successful as businessmen, nevertheless they are misguided and persist in polytheism. Indeed, Allah's saying typically applies to them:

(يَعْلَمُونَ ظَاهِرًا مِّنَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ عَنِ الْآخِرَةِ هُمْ غَافِلُونَ) [سورة الروم: 7].

✚ ***"They know only the outside appearance of the life of the world (i.e. the matters of their livelihood, like irrigating or sowing or reaping, etc.), and they are heedless of the Hereafter." (Surat Ar-Rum, 7)***

The second impediment: ineligibility:

🌀 If the person's heart is so harsh and hardened that he does not accept advice nor respond to divine refinement, then he won't benefit from divine knowledge and revelations just as the solid earth that could not be cultivated, even if heavy rain falls on it. Likewise, if someone is a "spiritually sick", and has neither stamina, nor determination, then divine knowledge and revelation won't affect him.

قال ﷺ: مَثَلُ مَا بَعَثَنِي اللَّهُ بِهِ مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْعِلْمِ، كَمَثَلِ الْغَيْثِ الْكَثِيرِ أَصَابَ أَرْضًا، فَكَانَ مِنْهَا نَقِيَّةٌ، قَبِلَتِ الْمَاءَ، فَأَنْبَتَتِ الْكَلَّاءَ وَالْعُشْبَ الْكَثِيرَ، وَكَانَتْ مِنْهَا أَجَادِبُ، أُمْسَكَتِ الْمَاءَ، فَتَفَعَّ اللَّهُ بِهَا النَّاسَ، فَشَرِبُوا وَسَقَوْا وَزَرَعُوا، وَأَصَابَتْ مِنْهَا طَائِفَةٌ أُخْرَى، إِنَّمَا هِيَ قِيعَانٌ لَا تُمْسِكُ مَاءً وَلَا تُنْبِتُ كَلَّاءً، فَذَلِكَ مَثَلُ مَنْ فَقَّهَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ، وَتَفَعَّهَ مَا بَعَثَنِي اللَّهُ بِهِ فَعَلِمَ وَعَلَّمَ، وَمَثَلُ مَنْ لَمْ يَرْفَعْ بِذَلِكَ رَأْسًا، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلْ هُدَى اللَّهِ الَّذِي أُزِيلَتْ بِهِ. صحیح البخاری

The Prophet said, "The likeness of guidance and knowledge with which Allah has sent me is as the likeness of the abundant rain that fell on the earth; part of it was fertile soil that absorbed rain water and brought forth vegetation and grass in abundance. And another part thereof was infertile, so it retained the rain water, thus, Allah benefited the people with it, and they utilized it in drinking, making their animals drink from it, and in irrigation. And another part of it was a plain leveled land that neither retained water nor brought forth vegetation (then that land gave no benefits). The first is the example of the person who comprehends Allah's religion and gets benefit from the knowledge which Allah has revealed through me, thus he learns and teaches it to others. The last example is that of a person who does not care for it and does not take Allah's guidance revealed through me." [Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

The third impediment: the person's arrogance or envy of others:

✿ This prevented the cursed Iblis from submitting to Allah's command; it is the inward disease of our forefathers and the later ones, except for those whom Allah safeguards. **Due to this impediment (i.e. envy and arrogance), the Jews at the time of Allah's Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, acted hostilely toward him and didn't embrace Islam. Although they were aware of the truthfulness of Allah's Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, and that he is Allah's Seal of Prophets, they lagged behind and opposed him.**

☞ **Allah, The Almighty, says about the polytheists:**

(وَمَا مَنَعَ النَّاسَ أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا إِذْ جَاءَهُمُ الْهُدَىٰ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا أَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ بَشَرًا رَسُولًا) [سورة الإسراء: 94].

✚ **"And nothing prevented men from believing when the guidance came to them, except that they said: "Has Allâh sent a man as (His) Messenger?" (Surat Al-Isra', 94)**

⇒ **Then, the answer to this question is mentioned in the following verse:**

(قُلْ لَوْ كَانَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَلَائِكَةٌ يَمْسُونَ مُطْمَئِنِّينَ لَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَلَكًا رَسُولًا) (سورة الإسراء: 95).

✚ *"Say: "If there were on the earth, angels walking about in peace and security, We should certainly have sent down for them from the heaven an angel as a Messenger." (Surat Al-Isra', 95)*

✿ The real cause of their attitude was their stubbornness and arrogance; even if an angel had come to them, they would have said: 'He (the angel) has a nature different from ours, because he came from another world; indeed, he can bear what we cannot withstand!

The fourth impediment: the person's desire to be a leader: according to Ibn Al-Qayyim, even if the person is not envious of his peers and is not too arrogant to submit to the divine truth, he cannot give in to the truth submissively, due to his desire to be a leader and have authority over others. Thus, he could not offer up his leadership and presidency in order to embrace Islam. A good example of this is Heraclius; he and the likes of him, I mean, the infidel kings, were dead sure that Allah's Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, is truthful, and that he is Allah's Messenger, sent by Allah to all the worlds. They loved to embrace his religion but feared for their kingship and higher ranks.

✿ Allah, Exalted be He, has informed us about Fir'aun (Pharaoh) who was certain of the truthfulness of Moses yet his desire to lead and his arrogance and stubbornness had prevented him from embracing Islam and submitting to his Lord. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْهُمْ آيَاتُنَا مُبْصِرَةً قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ (13) وَجَحَدُوا بِهَا وَاسْتَيْقَنَتْهَا أَنفُسُهُمْ ظُلْمًا وَعُلُوًّا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ) [سورة النمل: 13-14].

✚ *"But when Our Ayât (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) came to them, clear to see, they said: "This is a manifest magic." And they belied them (those Ayât) wrongfully and arrogantly, though their own selves were convinced thereof [i.e. those (Ayât) are from Allâh, and Mûsâ (Moses) is the Messenger of Allâh in truth, but they disliked to obey Mûsâ (Moses), and hated to believe in his Message of Monotheism]. So, see what was the end of the Mufsidûn (disbelievers, disobedient to Allâh, evil-doers and liars.)." (Surat Al-Naml, 13-14)*

✿ Similarly, the chiefs of Fir'aun's (Pharaoh) and the eminent people whom Allah, The Almighty, has mentioned in the holy Quran: they were so keen to retain their powers and higher ranks in society to the extent that they rejected faith.

The fifth impediment: the barrier of desires and wealth: in fact, this barrier prevented many of the People of the Book, the Christians and the Jews, from believing in Allah because they feared they would lose their worldly gains and wealth they gained from their people. For instance, the infidels of Quraish used to hinder people from the path of Allah by offering them lures and carnal desires. They used to entice men who couldn't abandon adultery and fornication by saying: "Muhammad forbids adultery and alcohol".

The sixth impediment: people's love for their family and clan: many people thought that if they embraced Islam and opposed their relatives and clan, they would expel and renunciate them. That's why many people didn't embrace Islam to remain loyal to their families and clans.

قال ﷺ : إن الشيطان قعد لابن آدم بأطرقه، فقعد له بطريق الإسلام فقال له: فقال : تسلم وتذر دينك ودين آباءك وأبائك ، فعصاه فأسلم، ثم قعد له بطريق الهجرة، فقال: تُهاجر وتَدعُ أرضك وسماعك، وإنما مثل المهاجر كمثل الفرس في الطول، فعصاه فهاجر، ثم قعد له بطريق الجهاد، فقال: تُجاهد فهو جهد النفس والمال، فتقاتل فتقتل، فتتزوج المرأة، ويُقسم المال، فعصاه فجاهد، فقال رسول الله: فمن فعل ذلك كان حقاً على الله عز وجل أن يدخله الجنة. صحيح النسائي.

The Messenger of Allah (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said: *"The Devil sits in the paths of the son of Adam. He sits waiting for him, in the path to Islam, and says: 'Will you embrace Islam, and abandon your religion, and the religion of your forefathers?' But he disobeys him and embraces Islam. Then he sits waiting for him, on the path to migration, and he says: 'Will you migrate and leave behind your land and sky? Indeed, the one who migrates is like a horse that is tethered to a peg.' But he disobeys him and migrates. Then he sits, waiting for him, in the path to Jihad (contention and fight in the Cause of Allah), and he says: 'Will you fight in Jihad, it will cost you your life and your wealth?! You will fight and will be killed, then your wife will marry (again after your death), and your wealth will be divided (among your heirs).' But he disobeys him and fights in the Cause of Allah."* Then the Messenger of Allah (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said: *"Whoever does this, then it is incumbent upon Allah, Exalted and Glorified be He, to admit him to paradise."*

The seventh impediment: keeping company with evil people: this is one of the barriers to guidance as it hinders persons from following Allah's straight path and accepting divine guidance. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

(وَيَوْمَ يَعْصُ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا يَا وَيْلَتَى لَيْتَنِي لَمْ أَتَّخِذْ فَلَانًا خَلِيلًا لَقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَذُولًا) [الفرقان: 27 - 29].

✚ *“And (remember) the Day when the Zâlim (wrong-doer, oppressor, polytheist) will bite at his hands, he will say: "Oh! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم). "Ah! Woe to me! Would that I had never taken so-and-so as a Khalîl (an intimate friend)! "He indeed led me astray from the Reminder (this Qur'ân) after it had come to me. And Shaitân (Satan) is to man ever a deserter in the hour of need.” (Surat Al-Furqan, 27-29)*

✚ When Abu Talib was in the throes of death, Abu Jahl and Abdullah bin Abu Umayyah came to him and said: “Would you abandon the religion of 'Abdul-Muttalib?” The Messenger of Allah (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) kept calling his uncle to embrace Islam nevertheless, Abu Talib stuck to the religion of 'Abdul-Muttalib and his forefathers and refused to embrace Islam. Abu Jahl and Abdullah bin Abu Umayyah discouraged Abu Talib to embrace Islam; they kept mocking and ridiculing him, pushing him to reject faith, as they had rejected faith, and thus that they all become equal (like one another).

Allah’s Messenger (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) informed us that a good and righteous companion has a great effect on his companion, just as a bad companion affects his companion negatively.

فَعَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ قَالَ: " مَثَلُ الْجَلِيسِ الصَّالِحِ وَالْجَلِيسِ السَّوِّءِ، كَمَثَلِ صَاحِبِ الْمِسْكِ وَكَبِيرِ الْحَدَّادِ؛ لَا يَعْذَمُكَ مِنْ صَاحِبِ الْمِسْكِ إِلَّا مَا تَشْتَرِيهِ أَوْ تَجِدُ رِيحَهُ، وَكَبِيرُ الْحَدَّادِ يُحْرِقُ بَدَنَكَ أَوْ ثَوْبَكَ، أَوْ تَجِدُ مِنْهُ رِيحًا خَبِيثَةً." (متفق عليه).

Abu Musa Al-Asha`ri reported that the Prophet (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) said: *"The example of a good companion (who sits with you) and that of a bad one is like the musk seller and blacksmith’s bellows. As for the musk seller, you would inevitably benefit from him by either buying it from him, or enjoying its pleasant fragrance; whereas the blacksmith’s bellows will either burn your body or clothes, otherwise you will find a repugnant smell thereof."* [Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

قال ﷺ: "لا تصاحب إلا مؤمناً، ولا يأكل طعامك إلا تقيّ."

The Prophet (Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) said, "Don’t befriend except a believer and let only the pious eat your food".

Good and righteous companionship is one of the main causes of divine guidance. Thus, when you keep the company of the righteous, you will surely be guided to the right path.

The eighth impediment: the customs and traditions: these customs and traditions might augment until it overcomes the rule of nature.

Allah, Exalted be He, has stated that nothing prevented polytheists from believing and following His Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, except that they found their forefathers embracing this religion and liked to follow what they had found them following.

Allah, The Almighty, says:

وَمَكَذِبِكُمْ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّنْ نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّقْتَدُونَ (23) [سورة الزخرف: 23].

✚ *And similarly, We sent not a warner before you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) to any town (people) but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps." (Surat Az-Zukhruf, 23)*

This impediment had never prevented the Prophet's Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, from following the Prophet, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, and believing him and complying with his command. They used to abide by all his orders and abstain from any forbidden act. This is evident in their stance when liquor was banned. Although the Arabs used to indulge in drinking liquor, they obeyed immediately to Allah's order when the divine orders descended on His Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) forbidding this act.

قال أنس رضي الله عنه: إِنِّي لَقَانِمٌ أَسْقِيهَا (الخمير) أَبَا طَلْحَةَ، وَأَبَا أَيُّوبَ، وَرَجَالًا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ فِي بَيْتِنَا إِذْ جَاءَ رَجُلٌ، فَقَالَ: هَلْ يَلْعَكُمُ الْخَبِرُ؟ قُلْنَا: لَا، قَالَ: فَإِنَّ الْخَمْرَ قَدْ حُرِّمَتْ، فَقَالَ: يَا أُنْسُ، أَرِقْ هَذِهِ الْقِلَالَ قَالَ: فَمَا رَاجِعُوهَا، وَلَا سَأَلُوا عَنْهَا بَعْدَ خَبَرِ الرَّجُلِ. متفق عليه.

Anas – may Allah be pleased with him- reported: *[I had been serving (liquor) to Abu Talha and Abu Ayyub and some of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) in our house, when a man came up and said: 'Has the latest news reached you?' We said, 'No.' He said: 'Verily, liquor is forbidden.' Thereupon, Abu Talha said: 'Anas, spill liquor from these large jars!'*

He (the narrator) said: They then never sipped it, nor even asked about it, after the announcement made by that man.] [Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

The ninth impediment: abstaining from obeying and complying with the commands of Allah, and His Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him. Allah, The Almighty, says:

(وَمَنْ يَعِصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُّبِينًا) [سورة الأحزاب: 36].

✚ **"And whoever disobeys Allâh and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed into a plain error." (Surat Al-Ahzab, 36)**

✿ Likewise, if the person does not believe in Allah's revelations that He sent His Messenger, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, with or becomes skeptical about them, then he will eventually be misguided. Allah, Glorified be He, says:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَا يَهْدِيهِمُ اللَّهُ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ) [سورة النحل: 104].

✚ **"Verily! Those who believe not in the Ayât (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allâh, Allâh will not guide them and theirs will be a painful torment." (Surat Al-Nahl, 104)**

The tenth impediment, following one's lusts and desires:

(أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ) [سورة الجاثية: 23].

✚ **"Have you seen him who takes his own lust (vain desires) as his ilâh (god)? And Allâh knowing (him as such), left him astray, and sealed his hearing and his heart, and put a cover on his sight. Who then will guide him after Allâh? Will you not then remember?" (Surat Al-Jathya, 23)**

☰ The predecessors were keen to guide people to the straight path, because they realized the merits of this divine guidance. Indeed, when the Prophet, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, gave Ali bin Abu Talib the banner of war in the battle of Khaiber, Ali said: **"O Allah's Messenger! Shall I fight with them till they**

become like us (i.e. embrace Islam)?" Allah's Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said:

(انفذ على رسلك حتى تنزل بساحتهم، ثم ادعهم إلى الإسلام، وأخبرهم بما يجب عليهم من حق الله تعالى فيه، فوالله لأن يهدي الله بك رجلاً واحداً خير لك من أن يكون لك حمر النعم.)

"Proceed and do not hurry till you enter their territory, then call them to embrace Islam and inform them of Allah's Rights which they should observe, for by Allah, if Allah guides even one person through you to the right path (of Islam), it will be better for you than possessing a lot of red camels."

- ⇒ So, take heed, dear reader, may Allah endow you with His blessings, and be keen to be a guide to others, a guiding beacon for your family for you can convey to your husband and your kids all divine knowledge you learn about Allah and His Messenger (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him).
- ⇒ And let everybody know that divine guidance is a great blessing and a gracious favor; it can only be attained with Allah's grace and one's exertion of best efforts.

📖 Ibn al-Qayyim said: *[If the divine path is not facilitated for the person, and all obstacles and distractions that would prevent him from being guided, he will not benefit from this guidance. Know for sure that the devilish whispers and the person's thoughts and the desires of falsehood in his heart, prevent him from benefiting from the divine guidance or from attaining it. Thus, if Allah, The Almighty, does not expel them away from him, he will not be completely guided, because he badly needs Allah's guidance even more than his need for air to breathe and live.]*

Last but not least, dear reader, contemplate these great verses:

(وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلُمُوا لَهُ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصِرُونَ (54) وَاتَّبِعُوا أَحْسَنَ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ بَغْتَةً وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ (55) أَنْ تَقُولَ نَفْسٌ يَا حَسْرَتَىٰ عَلَىٰ مَا فَرَّطْتُ فِي جَنْبِ اللَّهِ وَإِن كُنْتُ لَمِنَ السَّآخِرِينَ (56) أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ (57) [سورة الزمر: 54-57])

✚ *""And turn in repentance and in obedience with true Faith (Islâmic Monotheism) to your Lord and submit to Him (in Islâm) before the torment*

comes upon you, (and) then you will not be helped. "And follow the best of that which is sent down to you from your Lord (i.e. this Qur'ân, do what it orders you to do and keep away from what it forbids), before the torment comes on you suddenly while you perceive not!" Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allâh (i.e. I have not done what Allâh has ordered me to do), and I was indeed among those who mocked [at the truth! i.e. Lâ ilâha illallâh (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh), the Qur'ân, and Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and at the faithful believers]" Or (lest) he should say: "If only Allâh had guided me, I should indeed have been among the Muttaqûn (the pious)."' (Surat Az-Zumar, 54-57)

⇒ Allah, The Almighty, says that the sinful person will say on the Day of Judgment: *"If only Allah had guided me"* although he had not exerted efforts or used the means that bring forth divine guidance.

Sheikh of Islam Ibn Taymiyyah said: One of Allah's greatest blessings and most honorable favors that He endows to His slaves is His great bestowment on them by sending His messengers to them, and sent down His books to them, and made clear to them the straight path. And if it had not been for that grace, they would have been like cattle and beasts, rather they would have been worse than them. Thus, those who embrace Islam and follow Allah's straight path, then those will be the best of creatures and whoever rejects Islam and abandons Allah's path, them he will be among the evil of creatures, and even worse off than dogs, pigs, and the brute animals.

Then Sheikh of Islam Ibn Taymiyyah mentioned the hadith (prophetic saying) of Abu Musa that we have previously mentioned [[*The likeness of guidance and knowledge with which Allah has sent me*](#)] and then said: *[All praises be to Allah Who sent us a Messenger from ourselves, reciting Allah's verses upon us, purifying us, and teaching us and instructing us (in) the Book and the divine wisdom [the Sunnah of the Prophet (i.e. his legal ways, statements, acts of worship)], while before that we had been in manifest error.]*

The dwellers of paradise will say as mentioned in the holy Quran:

(وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُ رَبِّنَا بِالْحَقِّ) [سورة الأعراف: 43]

✚ *"and they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allâh, Who has guided us to this, and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allâh had guided us! Indeed, the Messengers of our Lord did come with the truth." And it will be cried out to them: "This is the Paradise which you have inherited for what you used to do." (Surat Al-A`raf, 43)*

✿ **Indeed, the person's happiness, tranquility, reassurance and comfort could only be attained as per his closeness to Allah, Exalted be He!**

✉ ***We ask Allah, Al-Hadi {The Supreme Guide, The Leader To the Right Path, and The Provider of Guidance} to guide us, and guide our children, our brothers, our loved ones, neighbors, and all Muslims, for, indeed, this is a great and generous bestowment. So, let us invoke Allah and keep supplicating to Him, without ever tiring, rather we must keep asking our Lord, by morning and night; for it is the greatest invocation and most gracious endowment by Allah. That is why we have to be persistent in our prayers... and in our supplications to Allah till He, Glorified be He, to guide us, and make us stand firm on the truth, to Let not our hearts deviate from the truth after He has guided us! We ask!***

We ask Allah, Exalted be He, to guide us and enable us adhere to our religion and our Islam, and to make us guides, guiding ourselves and others to the right path!

We invoke Allah, The Almighty, to ordain us be rightly-guided and guide our people and family to Allah's path with our good manner and high ethics and faith!

One of the supplications of the Prophet (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) was:

من أدعية النبي ﷺ: (اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي لَأَحْسَنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ وَالْأَعْمَالِ لَا يَهْدِي لِأَحْسَنِهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ، وَاصْرِفْ عَنِّي سَيِّئَهَا لَا يَصْرِفُ عَنِّي سَيِّئَهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ)

“O Allah! Guide me to the best character and deeds, for no one guides to the best of them but You, and avert from me the most evil of them, for no one can avert from me them but You!”

May Allah grant us His guidance to His straight path, and may He make us all stand firm on the truth and guidance until we meet with Him on the Day of Judgment!