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1

**احياء علوم الدين
للامام الغرالي**

Revival Circle
The Manners of Quranic Recitation

Book 9.1 :: Lesson 28
The Book of Invocations and Supplications


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2

The Merit of Remembrance (Dhikr)

{So remember Me, and I will remember you.
(2:152)
{...and remember God with abundant remembrance...}
(33:41)
{...those who remember Allah while standing, sitting,
and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of
the heavens and the earth...} (3:191)

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3

The Merit of Remembrance (Dhikr)

وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ

“And the remembrance of Allah is greater.” (29:45)

- 1) Allah's remembering you is greater than your remembering Him.
- 2) The remembrance of Allah is greater than any other act of worship.

The Merit of the Gatherings of Remembrance of Allah

- They bring divine mercy, the angels and a special mention from Allah Himself to the near angels.
- The whole gathering leaves forgiven for their sins.
- They are seen by the heavens like we see stars
- It is the place where the inheritance of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is distributed
- Saves from Hellfire and enters one into Paradise
- Even one who didn't intend Dhikr is blessed!

The Merit of *Tahlil* (La ilaha ill Allah)

- The best thing all prophets ever said (peace be upon them)
- Immense rewards
- Protection from Shaytan
- Relieves alienation in the grave and resurrection
- Outweighs all other sins + brings forgiveness of sins
- Renews one's faith
- Enters one into Paradise guaranteed

The Merit of *Tahlil* (La ilaha ill Allah)

Two instances:

- 1) Saying it upon entering the Marketplace
- 2) Saying it upon waking up in the middle of night

The Merit of *Tasbih* (Subhan Allah), *Tahmid* (Alhumdulillah) and more

- Brings forgiveness even if sins like foam of the sea
- The creation is given sustenance through “Subhan Allahi wa bi-Hamdihi”
- More beloved than anything under the Sun/in the world
- Most beloved of speech to Allah Most High

Why is Dhikr the greatest worship?

Why is Dhikr so meritorious?

It is so light on the tongue and takes little effort yet it becomes greater and more beneficial than all other worship despite how hard they are to do?

This cannot be fully realized except by the Knowledge of Spiritual Unveiling (Mukashafa)...

Why Dhikr?

What can be said according to the Knowledge of Dealing with Allah (ilm al-mu'amala) is this:

- 1) The beneficial, effective thing is a constant state of Dhikr with presence of heart.
- 2) Dhikr with a distracted tongue and heart is of little benefit;
- 3) Being present in heart during Dhikr then being distracted by Dunya after that is also of little benefit.

Why Dhikr?

But a constant state of Dhikr with presence of heart or **most** of the time is superior to all other worship

In fact, all other worship is honored by it, and is the end-goal and fruit of all true physical worship.

Why Dhikr?

Dhikr has a beginning and an end:

It's **beginning** causes **your** intimacy and love **for** Allah

It's **end** causes intimacy and love **from** Allah, to you.

At the start, the seeker may force themselves by having to turn the heart and tongue away from misgivings to the remembrance of Allah.

If gifted with consistency, the love for the One being remembered takes root in his heart.

Whoever loves something, remembers it much.

Whoever remembers something much – even if forcing themselves - ends up loving it.

Then they become impatient for it and cannot resist.
And blissful joy cannot come except from love and intimacy.

Once the Nafs (ego, self) becomes forced to become accustomed to something, it becomes its nature.

So when warmth and intimacy comes with Dhikr of Allah, the remembrance of other things other than Allah cuts off.

And “other things” are what is left behind at death, and this intimacy will bring savor for a servant after death until they meet Allah.

So they rise from Remembrance to Meeting.

Shahada is the Highest Degree of Remembrance

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ

{And never think that those who have been slain in the path of God are dead; rather, they are alive with their Lord, and well provided for.} [3:170]

Shahada is the Highest Degree of Remembrance

Due to the honor of Dhikr of Allah Most High, the rank of shahada (martyrdom) has been made great. Why?

Because the Khatima (one's end) is the Point, because it is the farewell to the world, and the meeting with Allah.

A heart drowned in Allah is cut off from all besides.
This is the point of Dhikr.

Shahada is the Highest Degree of Remembrance

Yet while a person can make all their aspirations drowned in Allah,

They cannot make that their final act and die in that state, except through *shahada* (martyrdom).

So because this cuts off all worldly desires, and turns to Allah in love and desire to meet Him, giving one's life is the highest form of Dhikr.

And because Allah has {...purchased the believer's lives and wealth in exchange for Paradise}...

Shahada is the Highest Degree of Remembrance

And because Allah has {...purchased the believer's lives and wealth in exchange for Paradise}...

Therefore, the state of shahada conforms to the meaning of saying La ilaha illa Allah,
only not by tongue,
but by one's *inner state*.

But whoever's tongue doesn't match his state, his affair is with Allah.

Shahada is the Highest Degree of Remembrance

But because the Tahlil's purpose is none other besides Allah,

And this is the point of living one's life, for Allah alone

And **this** is why the Prophet peace be upon preferred
"La ilaha ill Allah" over all other dhikr.
