

## **Me, Myself and Allah**

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#### **Questions to ask ourselves every day of our lives**

- Why are we here?
- Why do you do the things you do such as going to classes, attending halaqas, eating meals etc.?
- Do you benefit from the things you do?
- What is Islam to you as a person? For the majority of Muslims born into Islam, it is just a thing they do but not a part of them.

#### **What is Islam**

- It is a way for the creation to connect to the creator.
- But for some people it is just a culture; this makes Islam boring as it is just repetition of actions with no meaning to them because Allah (SWA) is taken out of the picture.
- Islam is all about Allah(SWA).
- Hadith; Allah(SWA) says 'when my slave comes to me by a hand's length, I come close to him by an arm's length... when my servant comes to me walking, I come to him running.'
- It is never too late to come back to Allah (SWA): He (SWA) is always ready to establish a relationship with us but are we ready to take the first step?

#### **What is a relationship with Allah(SWA)**

- It involves 3 steps/ aspects; knowing Allah(SWA), affirming that Allah(SWA) is our Rabb and acting as if Allah(SWA) is our Illah

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Aspect; Know Allah(SWA)**

- He (SWA) introduces Himself to us in surat Iqra, the first revelations
- Look at the names and attributes of Allah
- Ibn Al-Qayim mentions that our iman is like a bird; head (love), two wings (hope and fear). These are the emotions we should have in our ibada and they will make us stronger.
- But to get this iman, we have to understand Allah's names and attributes.
- The fear of Allah (SWA) should not drive us away from Him(SWA) but it should bring us back and closer to Him because He is the most forgiving.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> aspect; Affirming Allah (SWA) is our Rabb**

- Know that Allah(SWA) exists
- Know that He is our creator
- We aren't self-sufficient; we are weak and very deficient,
- We are helpless without Him
- He (SWA) sustains us, He(SWA) has everything we need

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> aspect; to affirm, believe in and act as Allah (SWA) Is our Illah;**

- The meaning of Allah is; something or someone who is worshipped and the actions are due to them for their values.
- This is the most essential level. Some Muslims don't pray saying that they are remembering Allah(SWA) all the time
- We need to show in actions that Allah (SWA) is the one we submit our actions to.
- The Quraish used to believe in Allah (SWA), they affirmed that Allah (SWA) is their rabb but they attributed actions to the idols e.g. sacrificing animals and their prayers.
- Even shaytan knows that Allah (SWA) is the rabb but he doesn't worship Him, he disobeyed Him.
- Allah is the one to which our actions are directed towards.

#### **Why did Allah (SWA) create us?**

- Through Him creating us; it is the exemplification of the glory and perfection of Allah(SWA), the capabilities He has; like how delicate but incredibly stable His creations are. Allah (SWA) deserves our actions; especially because of His generosity towards us; he doesn't need our worship but we need to worship Him- it is a way of showing thanks to Allah(SWA)

#### **How do we keep and strengthen the relationship?**

##### **The Quran;**

- It is a book that calls us to Allah (SWA); every single verse can be broken down in 5 (1.the names & capabilities of Allah (SWA), 2. the commandments that we should obey Allah (SWA), 3. the actual don't and does, 4. history/ stories/ futures of those who lived worshiping Allah (SWA) & 5. the stories of the people of who severed their r/ships with Allah (SWA) and their future
- Surat Maryam (19)1-14; these verses follow under the names and capabilities of Allah and the stories/ futures of those who lived worshiping Allah (SWA). These verses can be read on an average of 5-7 minutes in the English translation, if you read every day at this pace, we can finish the Quran in translation in a year. The point is to start, and get yourself attached to the Quran. Its purpose is to connect us to Allah (SWA).

##### **Swalah;**

- In the Quran, swalah is called iman; to signify the magnitude of swalah. We should at-least once a month do qiyam lail (the night prayer)- to communicate with Allah(SWA).
- In a hadith qudus; Allah (SWA) mentions that He divided the prayer into 2; Surat al-fatiha is a conversation between Him and His servant.
- We are having a dialogue with Allah (SWA)
- Hadith; when someone stands to pray; Allah (SWA) turns His attention towards that person until we break it.
- In the Quran He repeats this statement; remember me and I will remember you (with a much better remembrance). Our remembrance of Him is so weak but with His glory He remembers us

##### **Dhikr and Dua**

- It is a tool that is the most intimate and direct with Allah (SWA)
- In Surat baqarah; and if my servant asks you of me, I am near and I will respond to the dua of those making dua to me, because I am near.
- The stronger your relationship with Allah (SWA) is, the closer you will be with Him in the afterlife.