

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

6 January 2022



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

big change
comes from
hundreds of
tiny steps and
they all *matter*

Assalammualaikum my Champions,
(and a special welcome to our new Baby Champs!)

I think it took me a long time to **unlearn** that **fast doesn't mean better**. In a world where everyone and everything is in a rush, I was swept away by the notion that speed equals success and slow means

you are not good enough. But one day, I stopped and asked myself, "what exactly is "success" and why are you following their definition?".

As I reflected on that more, Allah SWT beautifully guided me to the answer, and it was actually found in our beautiful Athan. (BTW if you haven't listened to the [TKV Episode on Athan](#), you guys are missing out!) **Every day, 5 times a day, Muazzins all over the world says, "Come to prayer, come to success."** When I remembered this, a lightbulb went off my head! I thought, "OK Aida, if you want success, Allah SWT is teaching you that taking care of your prayers is the answer!".

And the more I thought about it, the more I realised that Solah is the best productivity / mental health / soul-recharge tool, and having productivity, sound mental health and a fulfilled soul **are** some of the important keys to success!

First of all, there is perfect wisdom in the timings of our 5 daily prayers - if you want to manage your time better, then plan your schedule around the 5 daily prayers. **We shouldn't fit our prayers into our lives, but fit our lives around our prayers instead.**

Solah has also been my lifejacket when I'm drowning in my anxiety and when things get too overwhelming. How? I will allow myself to feel whatever I need to feel in that moment but when the time comes for the next prayer, I know I will have to get up, purify myself, stand on the prayer mat, and **come back to "Allahu Akhbar", i.e Allah is the Greatest, and He is Greater than whatever I'm worried about.** I also know that I have to come back to "Alhamdulillah hirobbil alamin", i.e a reminder for me to focus back on Gratitude, to the fact that in this present moment, I have **more than enough** and I am exactly where Allah SWT wants me to be.

That peacefulness and tranquillity that one gets in Solah are now how I define success. Because what good is having the world in your possession if your heart is plagued with sins, worries and confusion?

And you know what is crazy? Solah doesn't even take 10 minutes to do. But protecting this lifeline for our souls, honouring this one on one time with Allah SWT, and prioritising this sacred activity **is** our first step to success. And taking this first step, bit by bit, slowly but consistently, will eventually be the cause of a major change in your life, In Sha Allah! Just you wait and see! :)

So today, take this first step, my dear. **Because no matter** how tired, broken or afraid you are, success is waiting for you. 5 times a day, every day.

This week on aa plus



In Focus Lecture: Setting Sincere Intentions
Fri 7 Jan 8.45pm SG | 7.45pm WIB | 12.45pm UK

Okay Champs, there was no way I would let us enter the new year without doing a Class on Intentions! I am a HUGE intentions fangirl, and there's nothing I want more than to make you fall in love with

making beautiful, sincere and grand intentions as well! Which is why I am urging you to do your bestest to come for our In Focus Lecture this Friday, with our beloved Ustazah Farhana Munshi this Friday, In Sha Allah! **Pro-tip:** Make sincere intentions for Allah SWT to allow you to come to this Class and In Sha Allah, He will open doors of ease and grant you the rizq of time and health for you! Amin!

[Join In Focus Lecture Here](#)

PS: Playbacks will be available in the next Closer, In Sha Allah

a beautiful Dua

Ya Allah, allow me to fully trust in Your timings, to honour the present moment, and to be grateful for my small steps forward, no matter how shaky it may be.

aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

Yesterday, when I did an impromptu IG Live on AA Plus's IG, I asked what have been some of the things that have been on your mind. Some of the concerns you shared were: worrying about the future, overthinking, and being unsure about how to stay consistent with your new year resolutions. When I thought about this, I realised that there is one common solution to all of these challenges: to focus on the present moment, and to take one tiny step forward at a time. Shaytan wants us to be hasty, to rush, and to worry, but Allah SWT taught us to trust in His timings, to honour the present moment and take small and consistent actions forward. That's the best way to go from here! PS: Baby Champs, [this TKV episode on Al-Mujeeb](#) changed my perspective on Duas! Give it a listen if you can!

The Checklist



I'm obsessed with making lists because lists clarify, edify, and simplify what could be a very ginormous task. So this year, In Sha Allah, I will be adding this section to our Closer emails! To kickstart this, I'm sharing with you the "Calm Champ" list - if you ever need some tranquillity, I hope this will be of benefit! Also sharing my Qasidah playlist here ([YouTube](#) | [Soundcloud](#) | [AA Plus Soul Mixtape](#)) in case you need some good vibes to accompany you throughout the day!

[Download The Checklist Here](#)

in case you missed it



Alhamdulillah, we had such a blast last Sunday during Baby Champs Orientation and I still can't believe that Allah SWT has blessed us with so many beautiful souls this launch, Alhamdulillah! Here's the playback if you missed it, and Baby Champs, even though Orientation is over, my door (aka my Inbox) is always open for you. So if there's anything you need help with, feel free to email us ok?

[Watch The Playback for Orientation Here](#)


Muslim Meme

I know you're all feeling me on this one



OH HOW ACCURATE!!!! Isyak is the trickiest for me, but I try to remember that if I want to end my day well, then I have to take care of my Isyak prayers. I can't tell you the amount of time I regret delaying it and having to pray while fighting to stifle my yawns 🤔🤔🤔🤔.

Something to Ponder



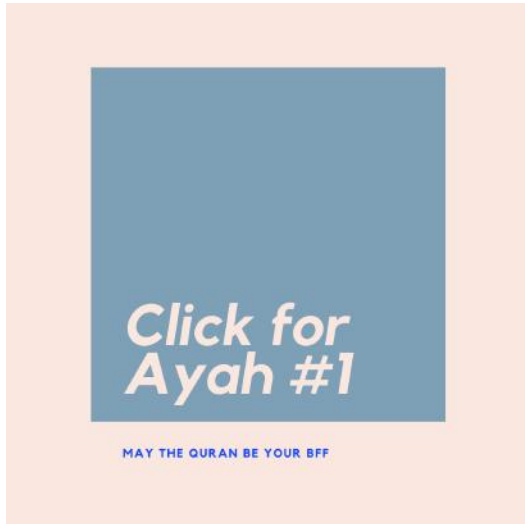
Champs

Taking a small
step now is more
effective than
taking a big step
in the future.

One of the worst things we can do to ourselves is to steal the present moment **from ourselves**, by worrying or obsessing over the future that is not guaranteed. I don't think we understand just how many blessings there are in the now, this very moment that Allah SWT has loaned to us. At this moment, we have a choice to either make a change, do a good deed, correct a mistake, love fully, create freely, pursue a curiosity, serve sincerely... the possibility of this very moment is endless so why do we rob from ourselves and waste it away by worrying about a future that is not here? I pray that today, starting from this very second, **may we never underestimate the power of small and the gift of now, Amin!**

PS.

(ending it with His words)



These Ayahs were chosen by some of the Champs to reflect on from Juzuk 21, which we covered together during Tadarus last week. Praying that I get to see more of you in these soul-fixing sessions. ❤️ [Click here for the schedule!](#)

With that, I hope you guys have enjoyed Closer.

fin
X
a.