

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

7 September 2023



Closer
by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

Let Allah SWT,
not the Dunia,
determine your
markers of **success**

Assalamualaikum my Champions,

I think I am going through a strange but beautiful transition in my life, and I am... extremely grateful for it. Perhaps it's because we are slowly bidding goodbye to Summer, or maybe it's because I am turning 36 next month, In Sha Allah, (*I am not exactly sure of the reason*), but I

know something is whirling inside me, and I am more than OK with it.
:)

This new change is coming in as gently as a soft breeze, and as opposed to my 20s, where I would feel a deep fear or anxiety about any sort of adjustments and shifts in my life, this time round, I am striving to speak to Him at every turn and anchor myself with His Mercy. My heart is also at rest with the Truth that Allah SWT has always beautifully planned my life and He will continue to do so with perfect subtlety, so I should just breathe and allow myself to go through this motion of change instead of fighting against it.

I consider this surrendering to Him a personal mark of Success.

And as I reflect on this, **I've come to realise that Allah SWT has also slowly but surely reminded me that my markers of Success should never be Dunia-based, but Allah-centred.** It's no longer about acquiring another worldly possession, obtaining a rank or a status, or even being loved and applauded by His fickle creations, but about being able to pull closer to Him and always being in the remembrance of Him.

Success to me now comes in day-to-day moments of gratitude, like being able to show up and give my all for His sake even when my Nafs is stubbornly telling me not to. It could also take the shape of being able to get my parents to smile a little wider because I called to just say "*I miss you!*". Or when I am able to stay quiet and not engage in the noise of this world because I know it will make Him be pleased with me. Sometimes success could also be in the form of me triumphantly standing over my recently-vacuumed living room, dry and empty kitchen sink, and heart all full after completing my chores while *zikir*-ing repeatedly "Ya Wadud", "Ya Noor", and "Ya Jameel" with the hopes that Allah SWT fills my home with Love, Light and Beauty.

:)

Champs, today I'd like to ask you, what are *your* markers of Success?

Whatever it is, I hope they are deeply intertwined with Allah SWT and not this lowly world. Because with the Dunia, we always have to grovel a little harder and run around a little faster, but with Allah SWT... all we have to do is submit and surrender, and In Sha Allah, we'll be of the successful ones.

get excited for



If I have to sum up this TKV episode with one word, it would be LOVE.

Yes, it is about diving deeper into the meaning of the Selawat, yes Ustazah Huraidah would talk about how we are told to send Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ - a commandment by Allah SWT Himself in the Quran, and yes it's also about how Allah SWT **and** His Angels also send Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ. It is about all of that, **and more**, but what makes this TKV Episode so, so, so special to my heart is how Ustazah Huraidah beautifully connects all of the dots to make us realise that everything is all about **our Love Story with Allah SWT**. This episode is all at once deep, thought-provoking, reflective **AND** romantic - I highly suggest you listen to it alongside [the PDF notes](#) that we did or come join us for our Listening Party this Sunday (we edited a few special short videos based on it coz we loved it so much!).

[Listen to the new TKV episode here!](#)

[Join Our Listening Party Here!](#)

[Add Sunday's Listening Party to your GCal](#)

heartwork that heals



ask yourself why
ask yourself why
ask yourself why
ask yourself why
ask yourself why

One of my biggest fears is to carelessly sleepwalk through life like a zombie, not knowing why I do what I do, so I have been trying to ask myself "why" before I do something with the hopes that it will help realign my intentions. This is not as easy as it sounds, especially in times of automation and modernization, but Champs, I hope we try to fight against the numbness and mindlessness that our hearts might be feeling and start asking ourselves "why" before we act and react.

a beautiful dua

Ya Allah, please pull
me out of every dark
thought and replace
it with purpose,
hope, and daydreams
of Jannah.

aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

I believe all of us struggle and spiral into some dark thoughts that could leave us incapacitated from time to time, and instead of pretending it never happens, I have learned to just repeatedly call out to Allah SWT to beg for His Help. When I say repeatedly, I mean a thousand times over. I ask Him to rescue me from drowning even further, and I pray for Him to replace all of those unwanted thoughts with hope and beautiful sceneries of Jannah. This prayer has helped me tremendously, and I pray it will be a rope to anyone who needs it. :)

muslim meme



Champs ❤️ Memes
@aaplus_memes

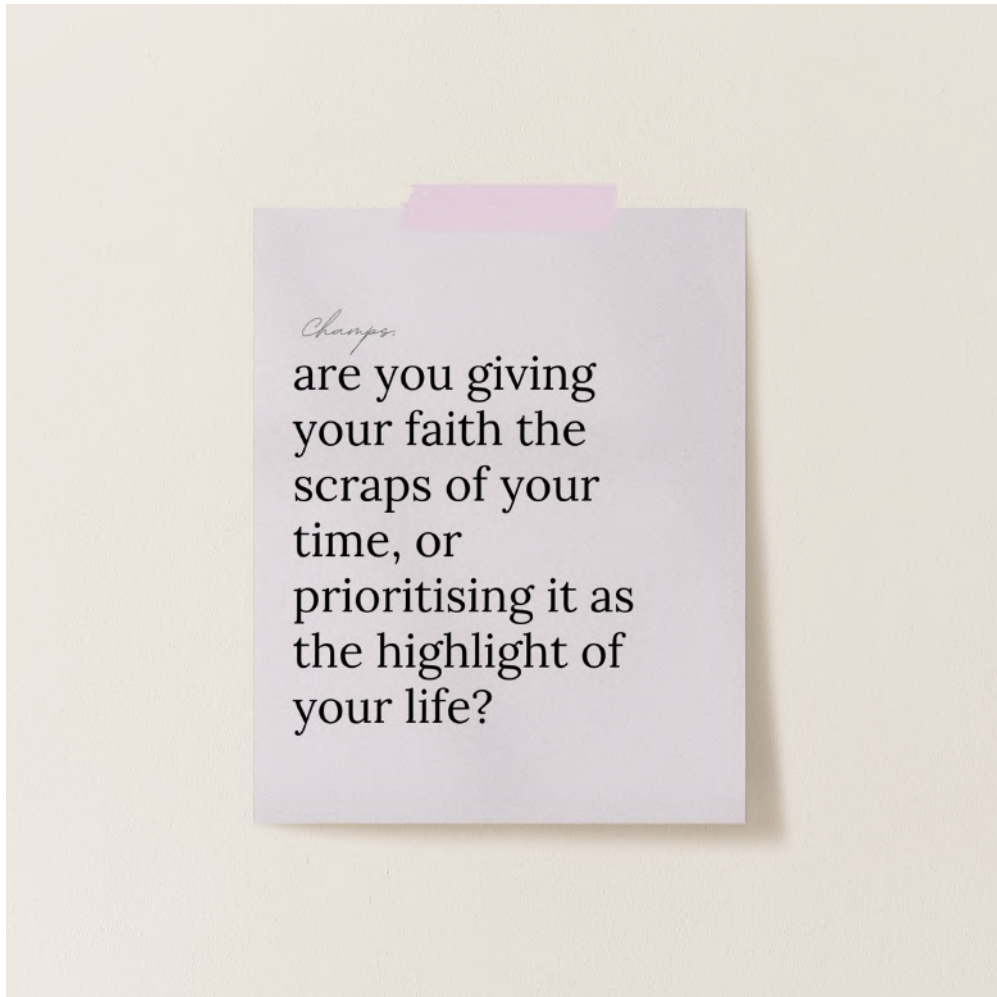


I had the inspiration to do this Meme right after our The 114 Club sessions this week because I legit feel like a brand new woman after spending time with the Quran and all of you beautiful Champs. :) Honestly, if there's only ONE message I can send out to EVERYBODY in the world, it would be, "Make time to dive into the Quran with an open heart!" PS: We will have another round of The 114 Sessions [coming up next week](#) (11-13th September), and I hope to see you!

[Join The 114 Club Here!](#)

Add [Asia](#) | [ROTW](#) | [Special](#) 114 Club Session to your GCal

to ponder



Our time in this world is one of the greatest gifts that Allah SWT has given all of us, but how are we using it? What are we prioritising with our time? Are we wasting it or investing it? What is occupying most of it, and what are we merely giving scraps of our time to? As we will definitely be asked how we've used this precious gift, I pray that we can all humbly answer that we did our best to use our time only for Him.

P.S.:



I am super excited to share that we have created a new [Community](#) tab just for you on our [AA Plus website](#) so that you can see all of the details of our Tahajjud Night, The 114 Club Session, and all other community events that are happening during the month at a glance! These sessions are usually never recorded to protect your privacy and ensure everyone attending is comfortable, so I hope you'll try to make it to some of these sessions live. PS: They are also super fun + good for your heart, mind and soul. ❤️

[Visit The Community Page Here](#)

And with that, my dearest Champs, I pray may Allah SWT drench you with His Mercy so that you will only feel tranquillity and calmness in your every breath.

fin

x
a.