

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

20 January 2022



# Closer

by aa

*your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox*

I've realised that  
when I was craving  
for joy, what my soul  
was really craving  
for was Allah SWT.

Assalammualaikum my Champions,

I love happy people. There's just something beautiful about being in the company of people who are sincerely easy-going, always smiling, and

forever grateful. I'm blessed to know a handful in my life, Alhamdulillah, one of them being my dad. Ayah just turned 60 yesterday, and I really believe the reason why he still looks youthful Ma Sha Allah, is because he is always happy.



Not to say he has no problems and doesn't struggle, only Allah knows how hard he has been working for our family, and all of the other secret acts of service that he does for the people around him, but he's always cheerful, especially at home, and with us.

Here are some things I've witnessed my dad does which I believe has helped in increasing his joy:

**1) He is very protective of his prayers.** No matter where he is or what he is doing, as soon as the time for prayer comes, he stops everything and answers the call of his Lord. Doesn't matter if he is playing soccer, or if we are at the mall, travelling, or visiting a relative, whenever it is time for prayer, he will excuse himself and proceed to meet his Rabb. (I've only come to realise this, Subhanallah, but OMG this is why prioritising your Solah is so important when you want to be happier!)

**2) He is generous with his love, especially for his family.** My dad is always telling me how much he loves and misses me, and he continues to spoil me even though I am 35, married, and halfway across the world! And because he is always expressing his love towards our family, we remain tight-knit no matter how busy we can get. His love anchors the family, and the warm environment that we have at home only increases his happiness! When I think of my dad, I remember this Hadith where **Rasulullah SAW**

**said, "You will not enter Paradise until you have faith, and you will not have faith until you love each other." :)**

**3) He always thinks good of others and only thinks well of his Rabb.** No matter what happens, he will always give the benefit of the doubt to everyone and whenever our family had to go through some hardships in the past, his faith that Allah SWT always has a better plan for us is what grounds him. And because we always see Ayah calm and cheerful despite going through difficulty, the rest of us in the family, in turn, are motivated to not give up as well. It is Ayah who taught me that the best way to deal with tough times is with a healthy dose of humour and a lot of prayers, and this "strategy" has helped me immensely throughout my life.

But one thing is for sure: **Allah SWT is always at the core of Ayah's joy. And that is the only way to gain a permanent, stable, and healthy dose of happiness.** If Allah SWT is missing in the equation, then that "happiness" is just temporary, and could also be potentially distracting and / or destructive.

Champs, I really believe we all can be people of joy. Yes, we have to put in the work to be people of pure contentment, but it's well worth it! So here's a question to ask yourself today: ***What's the first step you can take today to be happy for His sake?***

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*This week on aa plus*

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**Study Date Asia: Thu, 20 Jan, 8.45pm SG**

**Study Date ROTW: Sun, 23 Jan, 7pm UK**

I don't know about you, but I am still high from last week's mind-blowing TKV episode, which is why I'm so excited to continue with this lesson on "Subhanallah"! In this episode, we will learn how the glorification of Allah SWT acts **as the best form of shield and protection for us!** Ustazah Huraidah will also expand on how perfect Allah SWT's perfection is **(this part just makes me fall in love with Allah SWT more!)**, and why "repetition" is so important in the process of purification of our hearts. Also, if you have always wanted to know what's the difference between "SubhanaAllah" and "MashaAllah", this lesson is for you!

**Listen to the Class Here**

**Join Study Date Here**

*PS: We highly recommend you to join the Study Dates, but if you can't, try to follow the Class with the [PDF Notes!](#) ❤️*

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*a beautiful Dua*

Ya Allah, use me to  
make things easier  
for my loved ones, to  
lighten anything that  
is burdening them, so  
that they may heal  
and be happy.

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aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

As much as I love happy people, I also would like to make people around me happier, and so I've been making this Dua for Allah to use me to help ease anyone's affairs even if it is through something small. One of my biggest motivations is this beautiful Hadith by Rasulullah SAW where he said, "Whoever is kind, affable and easy-going, Allah will forbid him from entering Hellfire" and pairing this with our recent class on [Selflessness with Ustazah Farhana](#), I've been trying to fight my Nafs from being less "me, me, me" and more "we, we, we"!

# The checklist



Making this checklist made me so happy! Most, if not all, of these simple activities on this list, are inspired by what Rasulullah SAW would teach us to do. So if you are looking for some practical tips on how to increase your joy today, I hope this helps! Feel free to share it with your loved ones! Let's start a revolution of joy, Bismillah! 🥰🥰

[Download The Checklist Here](#)

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*Your visual reminder*



During this week's Tadarus of Juzuk 23, I was sharing how Allah SWT, through His immense generosity and mercy, has definitely designed this Dunia in such a way that the only endgame for us believers is to win! (*Ask for the playback for ROTW Tadarus if you'd like to hear this discussion*) And so I had to get Nisa to design a wallpaper based on this reflection, and I LAV IT. Remember Champs, Allah wants you to win! He is always cheering you on, supporting and guiding you every step of the way! **YOU GOT THIS! *Fighting!***

[Download Wallpapers Here](#)

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*Muslim Meme*

#BLM

@mayor0fwhoville

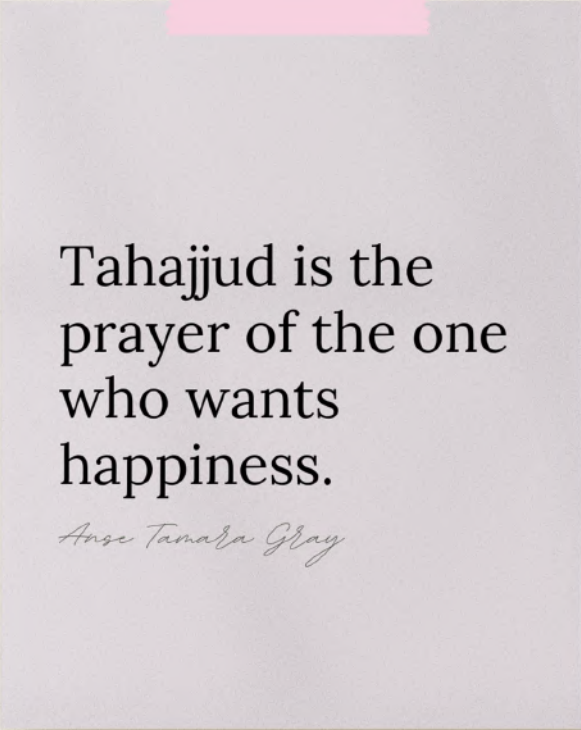
Am I the only weirdo who goes 'Ya Allah pleasepleasepleaseplease...' when I make dua for something I really want? lol

I've done this since I was 5 and I think I will continue to do this till I die. 😂😂 I pray may we never ever lose this "clinginess" and desperation with Allah SWT, for He loves it when we call on to Him for anything and everything! "Ya Allah, pleasepleasepleaseplease allow all of us Champs to be closest to You and only You!" Amin!

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*Something to Ponder*





Tahajjud is the  
prayer of the one  
who wants  
happiness.

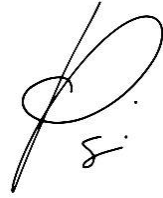
*Anse Tamara Gray*

When I read this quote from one of my teachers, Anse Tamara, I knew I had to take note because Anse Tamara is THE epitome of Joy! She's forever smiling, extremely hilarious, and always has Allah SWT at the very centre of her core, Ma Sha Allah. ([Listen to the podcast episode I did with Anse Tamara here!](#)) She also did an entire series with [Yaqeen on Tahajjud](#) and if you haven't watched it yet, you should! The power of waking up in the middle of the night to spend quality time with your

Creator knows no bounds, and it's that sacred connection that you make with Allah SWT during Tahajjud that prepares you for all your other responsibilities and obligations. One of the most practical tips I've personally tried is to identify one day of the week where it's "You and Allah Day" - meaning, come what may, you make preparations to ready yourself for Tahajjud that day. Choose a day where you can sleep earlier, where work is manageable, and make loooooots of intentions and duas for Allah to help you wake up for Tahajjud! Ustazah 'Alima, who led a lecture on Tahajjud with us last year, also shared another

practical tip: if you find yourself struggling to stay awake, keep making Wudhu! I know some Champs in Asia who wakes up for Tahajud and then join ROTW Calls, so that is something you can try to do as well! I pray may Allah SWT allow us to people of Tahajud, Champs! Amin!

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'P' with a vertical line through it, and a smaller 'S' below it.

*(ending it with His words)*

A rectangular button with a light green background and a white border. Inside, there is a white square containing the text 'Click for Ayah #1' in a teal, sans-serif font.

Click for  
Ayah #1

A rectangular button with a light pink background and a white border. Inside, there is a white square containing the text 'Click for Ayah #2' in a teal, sans-serif font.

Click for  
Ayah #2

*These Ayahs were chosen by some of the Champs to reflect on from Juzuk 23, 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!](#)*

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*With that, I hope you guys have enjoyed Closer.*

*f*  
*in*  
X  
a.

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