

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

24 February 2022



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

When you race towards
Dunia, expect to trip and
fall. But when you **race**
towards Allah, expect to
rise and soar.

Assalamualaikum my Champions,

There's an Ayah in the Quran whereby Allah SWT says, "[Compete with one another in doing good](#)" and for a while, I've always wondered wouldn't "competition" create unnecessary tense situations between

one another?

But a few days ago, Allah SWT cleared this doubt for me by granting me an answer through one of our Champs' reflections during Tadarus (this is why I *LOVE LOVE* Tadarus! I'm always learning so much from all of you ❤️). There was one line in her sharing that impacted me most, making everything click. She said, "**Allah SWT is Infinite.**"

That's when I realised that, Subhanallah, all this while, I've been defining "competition" solely in terms of the Dunia, whereby there is only one winner, and everyone else "loses". That was why I had an unsettling feeling about the whole thing. But! When I realised that my definition of "competition" was wrong, that we should be competing in terms of the Akhirah and for Allah SWT instead, that's when I breathed easy and felt relief!

Because when we compete for Allah - EVERYBODY WINS! **Everybody wins because Allah SWT is Infinite!**
Everybody wins because Allah SWT has more than enough to give everyone!

Rasulullah SAW expanded what it means to compete for the right reasons in this very interesting Hadith: "If the people were to know what excellence is there in the Adhan and in (praying) in the first row, and they could not get these opportunities except by drawing lots, they would have definitely done so. And if they were to know what excellence lies in joining the prayer in the first takbir, **they would have vied with one another.** And if they were to know what excellence lies in the night prayer and the morning prayer, they would have definitely come even if they crawl (on their knees)." ([Muslim](#))

In this Hadith, Rasulullah SAW is giving an example of what constitutes competing for Allah SWT, i.e. racing one another to do only good and to do what pleases Allah SWT. **Competing in everything else other than for Allah SWT will just lead to misery, but competing for Allah SWT brings only blessings and goodness.**

Champs, let's all only participate in one race and in one competition only: the Race to Allah SWT and the Competition to be closest to Him. ❤️ This is the only competition where we will ***all*** get to win, where we will all rise and soar, as the other "rat races", social media "competitions" and the likes will only make us trip and fall.

Over and over and over again. :(

So let's cheer each other on, be each other race companions so that we can all reach our finish line and be neighbours in Jannah ok?

this week on aa plus



***Joy Room: Celebrating The Gift of Solah
25th Feb, Friday, 9pm SG, 1pm UK***

Champs, we have to postpone this week's TKV as Ustazah is unwell

(please make dua for her!) but we will be having a special Joy Room this Friday, In Sha Allah, in its place! Allah SWT truly is the best of Planners as we were supposed to do Part 2 of our Joy Room anyways, so here's our chance! ❤️ In this Joy Room, we will be celebrating the blessed gift of Solah and continuing Part 2 of our special Israk Mikraj programme, just in time for the 27th of Rejab! I hope you are ready and excited to spend your Friday with me because I have my outfit, snack, and games all ready! WOOHOO!

Join Joy Room Here

a beautiful Dua

Ya Allah, You are the All-Powerful. Help me eliminate and fight thoughts that I shouldn't be having and replace it with thoughts of You.

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#abeautifuldua

GUYSSSSS. I am slightly embarrassed to share the reason behind this Dua but, here's the truth. As I am writing this Closer email (time check - 1.20 AM), I had a stronngggggggg desire to eat McSpicy (this ONE burger that is only available at Singapore's McDonalds) but I know in my heart of hearts that it's not the best and healthiest thing to do. But boy did my Nafs put on a good fight. I knew then that I cannot rely on myself, so I made the above Dua. **Repeatedly**. And then it suddenly started raining, Subhanallah, so I made that Dua even more. When I thought I had lost my battle to my Nafs because I caved in and went to check the food delivery app for McDonald's, I saw in big bold red font: CLOSED. UNAVAILABLE TO ORDER. I nearly screamed! 😂😂😂 "Thank You, Ya Allah! You literally closed that thought for me."

a little breather

Champs, Take What You Need Today

A BIG, TIGHT HUG

A TRIP TO THE BEACH

A LITTLE HELP

A SPIRITUAL RECHARGE

A SHORT NAP

A NICE HEALTHY MEAL

Champs, we are almost at the end of the week and of February, so it's only natural that you might be feeling a little tired. Here's a reminder to be gentle with yourself and to take whatever you need today ok?

Ramadan 2022



Champs, as my team and I go into full swing prepping for Ramadan 2022 (May Allah SWT grant us the rizq to meet this blessed month amin!), we would love to hear from you so that we can best understand what are some of your own Ramadan intentions and goals! If you have a spare minute (it will literally take a minute), please fill-up the form below. It will mean the world to me, and will be such a huge help. ❤️

Prep for Ramadan 2022: Champs Input

*Imagine Champs from all over the world coming together to do an activity in Ramadan because you suggested an idea / shared your thoughts! Your inputs could really make our Ramadan experience a more beautiful one, In Sha Allah!

Muslim Meme



I lol-ed so loud at this one! Alhamdulillah, I believe I don't have "fake friends" but can understand how this could be a possibility in a toxic work environment? Anyways, this meme just re-affirms that we can literally make dua for anything and everything. **As we all should!** :P
(Case in point: Forgetting McSpicy)

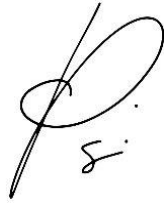
Something to Ponder

Champs

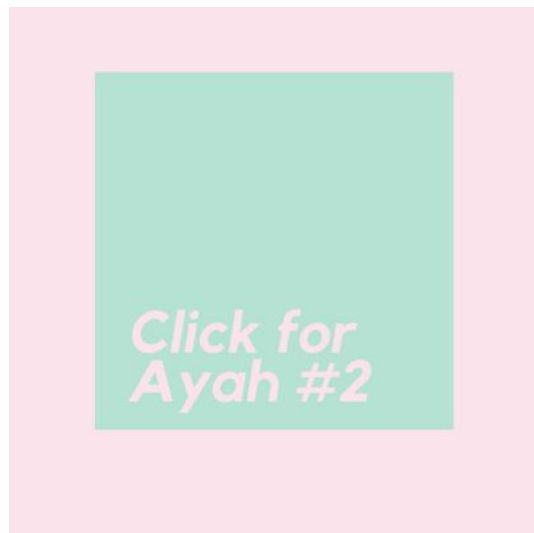
Our human-ness
means we will always
have questions,
but Islam has all
the answers.

As humans, we are always asking questions. They were pure and innocent when we were younger, but the questions became a lot more pressing and a tad bit "accusatory" as we get older. Questions such as, "when will my prayers be answered?", "why is this happening to me?" and "how will I overcome this?" might pass through our hearts every once in a while, and as much as we ask everyone around us for help, solutions and advice, the answers can only truly come from Allah SWT and this Deen. Ustazah Huraidah mentioned in [last week's TKV](#) that Islam is a religion that pampers us and my heart melted because that is absolute truth. This religion has laid out so many practical things for us (from how to clip our nails to inheritance!), explained so many truths for us, grant us so many blessings and assurances for us - it truly has all the answers we ever need to not just go through this world, but to succeed and thrive in this world **and** the next. ❤️ So Champs, if you are currently looking for an answer to a question that you may have,

may He grant you clarity and guide you to the answer through and within this Deen.



(ending it with His words)



These Ayahs were chosen by some of the Champs to reflect on from Juzuk 27. We are only 3 Juzuk away from completing the Quran together, In Sha Allah! Will you be joining us for a session before it ends? ❤️ **Some FAQ:** Yes, you can just come to listen, you don't have to recite, and yes, you can join the call even if you are on your time of the month, and no, you do not have to switch on your camera! If you are hesitating to come for whatever reasons, this is a sign that you shouldn't. Consider this a personal invitation! **The next Tadarus session will be on the 7th of March, In Sha Allah!**

With that, I hope you guys have enjoyed Closer.

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Because you signed up to become an AA Plus member.

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