

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

26 May 2022



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

There is a
difference between
listening and waiting
for your turn to
speak.

Assalammualaikum my Champions,

I will be the first to admit that I am not the best listener - it's a trait that I'm trying to be better at, but Subhanallah, if I'm not consciously asking Allah SWT for help and reminding myself to mindfully listen, I

am guilty of just hearing **to react**, instead of purely, thoughtfully listening to the other party. I don't know if it's an occupational hazard but I find myself being "Zoom-Call-Aida" even when I'm with friends and family! 😞😞

There was something that one of our Champs, Salwa, reflected upon in one of our Tadarus Sessions (PS: *Heads up, Champs! Tadarus is coming back in June, In Sha Allah!* 😊😊) and till today, it's still something I think about from time to time. She said, **"We should all try to challenge ourselves to not talk for a day, or at least for the first few hours in the morning. Not just verbally, but virtually as well, so no Social Media, no texting, just try to be still and be quiet, and then see what we can learn and observe from that silence."**

I tried doing this for 30 minutes today, and it was HARD. To be in complete, utter silence, and to just listen... boy did my mind wander. It took serious effort to just, be, in that present moment and to truly listen in silence. There were so many things that ran through my mind, but it was in that silence that I realised, "Subhanallah, **nobody understands silence better than You, Ya Rabb. Only You understand every vibration, every unspoken word, every body language. Because You truly are as-Sami', the All-Listening! You "listen" perfectly to us beyond just the verbal and superficial, but You listen to every single one of our worries, our concerns, our desires, at every second of every day!"**

So Champs, even though I have to seriously work on the art of listening, my heart is comforted knowing that I have a Rabb that is ever-listening to me. And I know that He hears my prayer of wanting to be a better listener, not just to the people around me, but also to be a better listener to my consciousness, to my gut feeling, and most of all, **to be a better listener to Him** so I can obey His commandments and heed His guidance.

I pray that in this time and age where everybody is "speaking" and voicing out their opinions all the time, may we be one of those rare ones who listen. For they say before you give your heart to anyone, we should give your ears first. ❤️

this week on aa plus



With Eid and Summer in full swing, I've been blessed to be able to reunite with most of my friends and family, and if there's one thing I've learned from all of our conversations together is that our future is a big, big mystery. And that could scare even the best of us. **From studies to career, to marriage, to babies, to houses, to travel plans - you name it, there is absolutely no aspect of our lives that is guaranteed with certainty and this, my champs, is**

why having Tawakkul (full trust and contentment) in Allah SWT is important! I've always been fascinated with the concept of Tawakkul (I used to think that only the super-religious have this!) but I have come to learn that having full reliance on Allah SWT is like a muscle we all have to regularly train. I hope you can make time and space for this Sunday's event, because it is a topic that is dear to me, and I cannot wait to share with and learn from all of you about it!

[Join The Tawakkul Session Here](#)

a beautiful Dua

Ya Allah, allow me to
have many silly, funny,
spur-of-the-moment,
secret conversations
with You throughout
my day, for I'd like to
be nowhere else but
close to You.

aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

This morning when I looked out of my window, I was greeted by a sight that was beyond magical. I saw the beautiful green leaves of a robust tree dancing, glistening, sparkling as the light of the glorious sun bounces on it. The wind was gentle, and because of the breeze, the leaves looked like they were a company of dainty ballerinas doing a performance, and I, was their audience. They captured my attention for a while, and it was at that moment that my heart started having a conversation with Allah. "Ya Allah, is this how they glorify You? Coz that's so cool! Look at them dance! [And wow, Ya Allah, the fact that You know every single leaf that falls!!](#) Meaning to say if there are a million other trees in this world "dancing" at this moment, You know about them too! Ya Allah, YOU ARE SO COOL! I love You!" That little conversation uplifted my spirit so much and it recharged me to continue writing this Closer email, so I prayed to have more of such conversations with Him about anything and everything, coz I just know how much my life would change if I do. :)

note to self

NOTE

TO *myself* DATE *today*

*Be teachable.
You are not always right.*

an plus

My #NTS this week is a much needed reality check for my ego. I am not always right, and in those humbling moments that I am not, I have to allow myself to be teachable. Because what's worse than making a mistake is not learning from it. :(

My prophet taught me...



On this week's "**My Prophet taught me...**" I was reminded of this [so very compassionate Hadith](#) where Rasulullah SAW said "When you are three persons sitting together, then no two of you should hold secret counsel excluding the third person until you are with some other people too, **for that would grieve him.**" Subhanallah! Look at how compassionate, how emotionally intelligent, and how thoughtful

Rasulullah SAW is! This Hadith also reminded me of all the kind souls who have translated conversations for me during my time in Morocco, because yes, I did grieve and felt left out when I could not understand a single word that was being spoken. :(


Muslim Meme

Yesterday I wore something from 5 years ago and it actually still fit! So proud of myself.

It was a scarf, but still. Lets be positive here.

OH HOW I LOL-ED READING THIS. I'm struggling with Eid weight gain but hey, my shawl still fits, Alhamdulillah! 😂😂

Something to Ponder

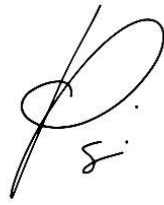


Champs:

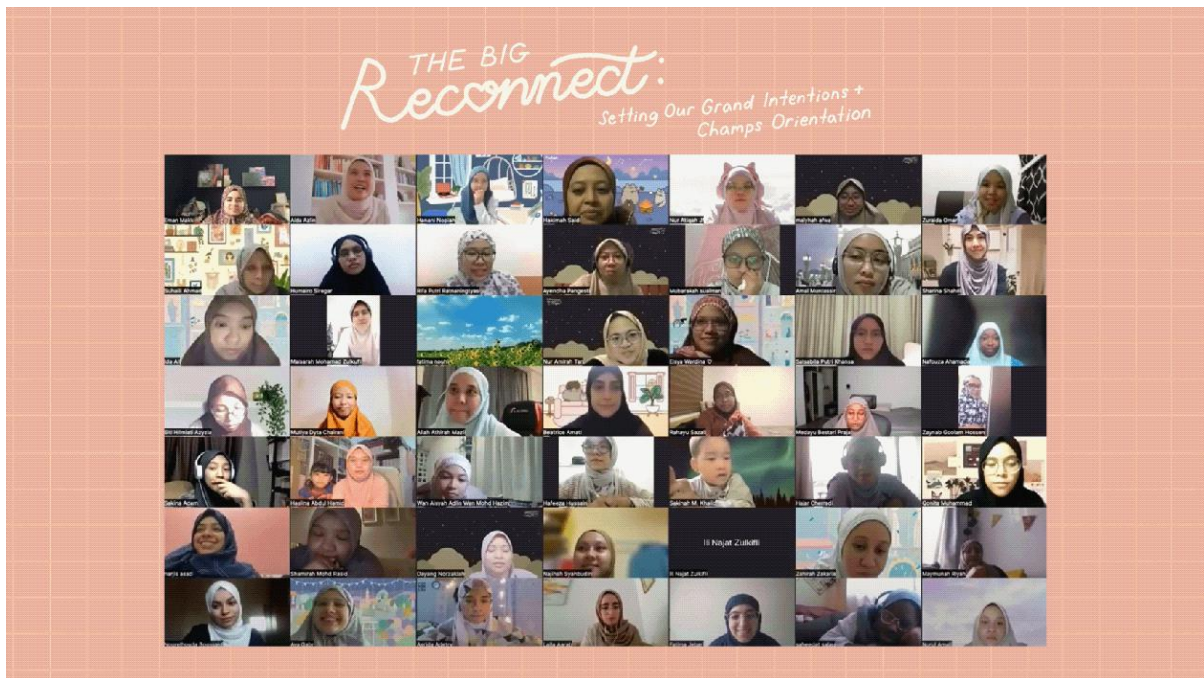
Every day,
make tiny little
agreements with
your **best** self and
follow through
with it.

I realised I make plans and agreements with everyone around me, so why do I not do the same with myself? But I don't want to make agreements with my lazy self, my procrastinator self, or my excuses self. **I want to make agreements with my best self, for I want to worship as my best self, choose as my best self, love as my best self, serve as my best self, write as my best self, and strive as my best self.** So that's what I'm trying to do more of, trying to ground myself with this one question, "Is this my best self showing up at this present moment?" throughout the day. But but but Champs, do note that your "best self" will look different at different moments on

different days, so it is important to hold yourself to a standard that is honourable, but also gentle! Remember, best self. Not perfect self. :)



(if you missed last week's The Big Reconnect)



We had a blast last week at The Big Reconnect and over 300 of you showed up, Ma Sha Allah! We revised on intentions (you gotta see the cute short animation videos my team and I made, even Ustazah Farhana squealed when she saw it!) and had a lovely time getting to know one another (this part wasn't recorded to protect everyone's privacy!) so if you missed the session, click below for the playback!

[Click Here for The Big Reconnect Playback!](#)

*With that, I hope you guys have enjoyed Closer.
I'll "see you" in your Inbox on the 1st of June for June's Intro Email!*

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a.

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Because you signed up to become an AA Plus member.

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