

EDITION
22/1/26

48

closer



TO BE FREE FROM
YOUR WORRIES

*The Selawat we send to Rasulullah ﷺ is for
us - our hearts need it more than we know.*

22 January 2026



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

Rasulullah ﷺ's reply
to a sahabah who asked him ﷺ
is he should devote all of his
supplications by sending
selawat to Rasulallah ﷺ.
*Then you will be freed
from your worries and
your sins will be forgiven.*

Riyadh Salihin / Tirmidhi

Assalamualaikum my Champions,

I pray you are having a gentle start to the month of Shaban.

The arrival of this blessed month, of which Rasulullah ﷺ himself said to be "a month to which people do not pay much attention (to)" ([Nasa'i](#)), always pulls me back to the importance of sending Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ.

When I learned that scholars have said the Ayah in which Allah SWT commanded us to send Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ -

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Indeed, Allah and His angels bestow their prayers upon the Prophet. O you who believe, bestow prayers and peace (Selawat) upon him in abundance. ([Quran 33:56](#))

- was also sent down during the month of Shaban, I felt even **more** motivated to send even more Selawat during this month!

This year, though, I was having an immensely difficult time when the moon of Shaban was sighted.

My heart was heavy with worries, and I felt incredibly overwhelmed with everything that was going on. I didn't know what to do, and I tried to hang on to everything I've learned, but nothing seemed to "work".

Until Allah SWT placed in my heart one of my favourite Hadiths of all time, a Hadith that I held on tightly when I was doing my Umrah too (because I was so in awe of the experience, that I did not know where or how to start making Du'a!):



[The Hadith, that Sayidina Ubayy bin Ka'b RA narrated, goes like this:](#)

I asked Rasulullah ﷺ :

"I frequently invoke Allah to elevate your rank. How much of my supplications should I devote to Selawat?"

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "You may devote as much as you wish."

When I suggested **a quarter**, Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Do whatever you wish, but **it will be better for you if you increase it.**"

I suggested **half**, and Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Do whatever you wish, but **it will be better for you if you increase it.**"

I suggested two-thirds, and Rasulullah ﷺ, "Do whatever you wish but **it will be better for you if you increase it.**"

I said, "**Shall I devote *all* my supplications to Selawat?**"

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Then you will be freed from your worries and your sins will be forgiven."

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This Hadith gives me great relief because Rasulullah ﷺ is reminding me that the Selawat I send to Rasulullah ﷺ is **for me**.

The Selawat I send to Rasulullah ﷺ is not a "ritual"; it builds my relationship with him ﷺ, for every Selawat I send is returned to me with even more love, attention and care, and that in itself will help free me from my worries and have my sins expiated!

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Today's Closer was sent a little late than scheduled because of a certain difficulty I was facing, but armed with this Hadith, my heart continued to send Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ and Ma Sha Allah, I have never felt so eased in my life.

This Shaban and beyond, I pray may we continue to send Selawat to Rasulullah ﷺ because we **need** it. **Our hearts need it. And there is absolutely no prerequisite to sending Selawat - do it even if you feel distant, detached, weary, or exhausted.**

Because Selawat has an immense effect on our states - *spiritual, emotional, mental, physical* - and through it, Allah SWT will purify, elevate, ease, and increase us in ways we can never imagine!

اللهم صل على سيدنا محمد

icymi



Ar-Rahman, Ar-Rahim may be the two Names of Allah that we recite every day, but how much do we **truly** know about their traits and attributes in our lives? Which of Allah's Mercy have we stopped to realise and be grateful for? Ustazah Syariati brings us through many reflections on these two Names, to make us contemplate on its significance in our lives in this world and also in our Akhirah, **where His Mercy is most needed.**

[Listen to the Replay Here](#)

Journaling with Champs



We've reached Part Three of our Champs Reflection Journal, Alhamdulillah, and what a profound unfolding this has been for our community. These pages feel like whispered reminders straight from the heart, echoing my own stumbles and graces in ways that leave me humbled and hopeful. My teammate, Ida, and her tender take on Al-Basit, felt like a warm embrace, Suad's raw honesty on Al-Muzill, through her friend's brave vulnerability at work, nudged me to question my own ego in those tempting moments of judgment. And Nida's gentle musings on Al-Lateef, drawing from Surah Yusuf amid health trials, reminded me that hardships are often hidden mercies in disguise. So many more treasures await from Intan, Esra Betul, Norshuhaidah, Nurin, Fatin, Mastura, and Oliv - so carve out a cozy corner and enjoy reading their beautiful reflections! And if you would like to join us in reflecting on some of Allah's Beautiful Names, reply to this email, and we'll share more.

[Read Champs Stories with His Names Here!](#)

a beautiful du'a

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ خَيْرَ هَذَا الْيَوْمِ ،
فَتْحَهُ ، وَنَصْرَهُ ، وَنُورَهُ وَبَرَكَتَهُ ، وَهُدَاهُ

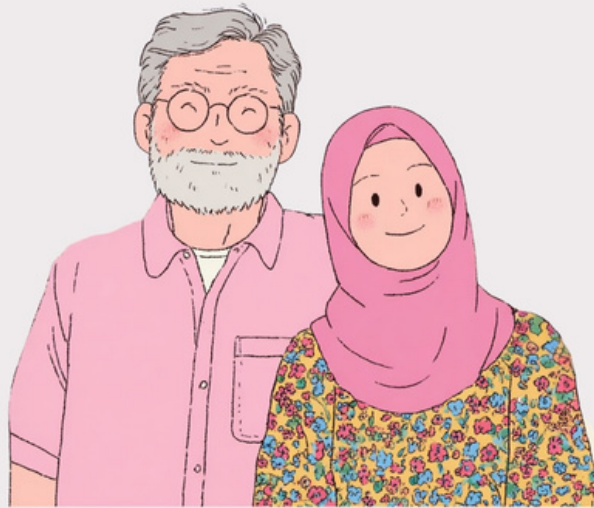
Ya Allah, I ask You for
the good of this day,
its openings, victories,
lights, blessings and
right-guidance.

aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

Recently, I've come to realise how important our morning and evening Zikirs are - they truly act as our shield and our protection as we go through our day-to-day. This Du'a above is one of the frequently recited Zikirs in the mornings and I just love how complete, wholesome and hopeful it is. I try to slow down at every Arabic word, while imagining it's meanings in my heart: خَيْرَ / good, فَتْحَ / openings, نَصْرَ / victories, نُورَ / light, بَرَكَ / blessings, هُدا / right guidance. PS: I also find it very cute that both my cats' names are in this Du'a. 😊

gratitude garden



GRATEFUL FOR OUR FATHERS

Last Monday, as my father embraced his 64th year with quiet joy, a cherished friend bid a heartbreaking farewell to her own father. A few days later, I then read Ida's sharing about her own father for her reflection on Al-Basit, "From the time I began my part-time job at 17 and throughout my 20s, I honestly can't remember a moment when my father ever said no to my request for him to pick me up from work or any other place I needed him to come to. He would always be there, patiently waiting around the corner, even at late hours. Never a sigh nor a complaint. He did the same for my sisters, too." It reminded me of all of the quiet sacrifices that our fathers and the father-figures in our lives have done for us, and I pray may we be given the chance to continue to serve them as best as we can. Ida beautifully wrote, "There is no relief and expansion greater than serving our parents and being kind and patient with them. When we make good intentions to honour them, Allah SWT, al-Basit, will provide the means for us, and from unexpected sources." 😊

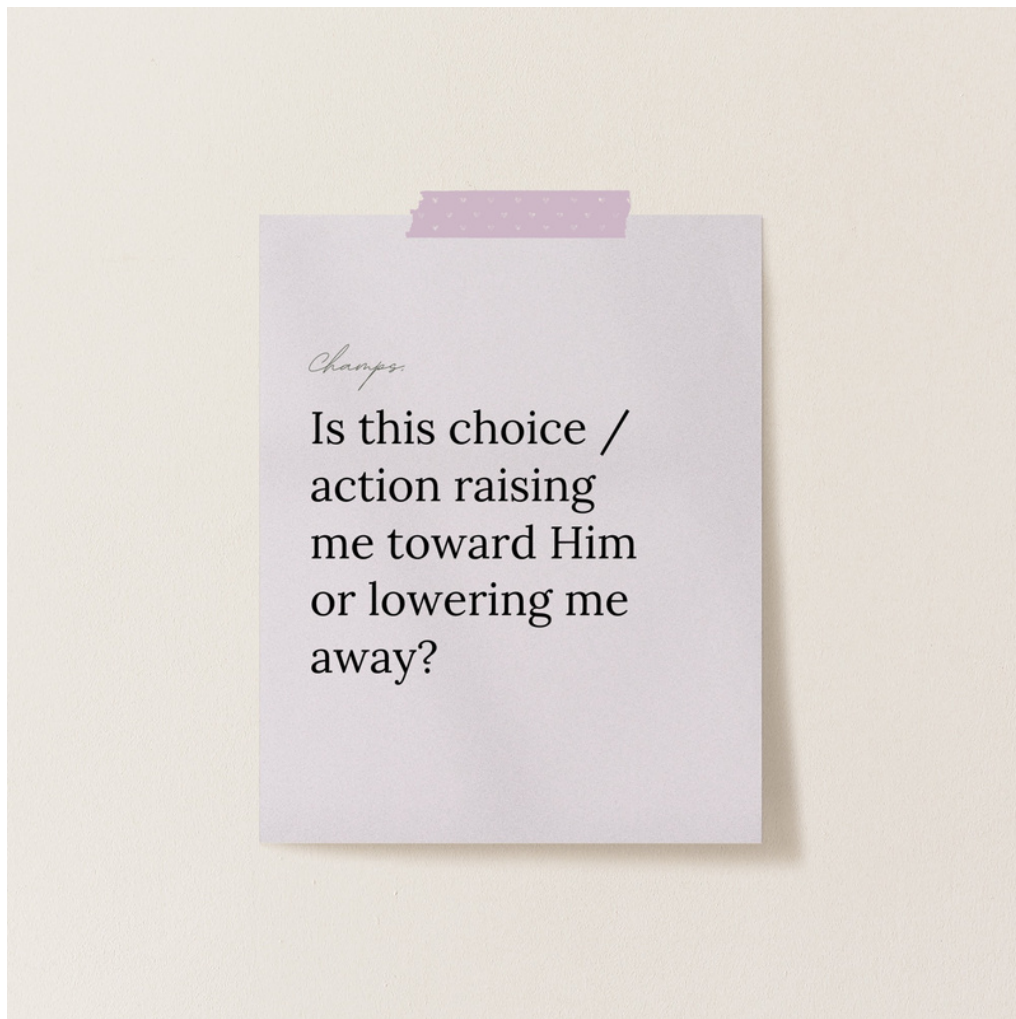
mixtape for the soul



I've been playing our 30-minute Selawat Medly on repeat and wanted to bring it back to your attention in case you have forgotten about it :P It has helped me be mindful of my time, too, and has been a balm for my heart.

[Listen to the 30-minutes Selawat Medley Here](#)

to ponder



I couldn't help but pause to reflect when I was reading Esra Betül's reflection on Ar-Rafi. She wrote, "**Elevation isn't worldly climbing. It's orienting every action, every choice, every breath toward Him.**" She had one question grounding her as she lived with the Name ar- Rafi (the One who Elevates) for our reflection project - Is this deed / choice / decision / action raising me towards Allah SWT or lowering me away? In that query lies our compass: a quiet audit of our soul's trajectory. May we, too, choose the path that helps us rise towards Him and His Light.

ps:



Champs, we are less than a month away from Ramadan, In Sha Allah, and my team and I are currently planning for our Quran Tadarus timings. It would help a lot if you can do a very short survey (30 seconds, MAX!) on when you would prefer our nightly tadarus sessions to be held. May Allah SWT allow us to spend another blessed Ramadan together, Amin!

Your Preferred Ramadan 2026 Quran Timings

FIN.
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