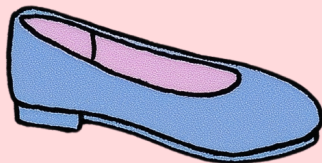
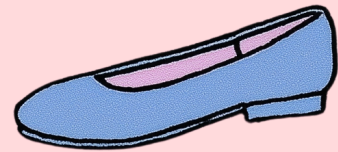
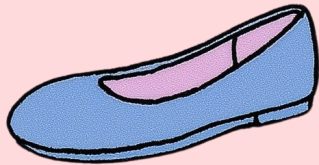


EDITION
1/1/26

45

closer



SMALL STEPS STILL
MOVES YOU FORWARD

Even the smallest movement invites His Nearness.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1 January 2026



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

*This is your
gentle nudge to
keep going,
no matter how
shaky or small
your step may be.*

Assalamualaikum my Champions,

There is one simple reminder that has been steadying me no matter what is going on in **and** around me, and that is Allah SWT never required nor demanded us to take perfect strides towards Him; He only wants us to keep trying, taking one tiny step forward at a time.

Pause and rest if you are tired.

But never stagnate, because Islam itself is a religion of movement.

In Morocco, we say **Harakah fiha Barakah**, meaning **there is blessing in the motion / action**. So no matter if it's a tired Isha' after a long day, a trembling hand reaching for the Quran, or a fatigued heart whispering a late-night istighfar, we continue to move towards Him.

When doubt clouds your mind, or fear freezes your feet, remember that the moment you move - however imperfectly - the fog begins to lift. That single step dissolves the weight of "what if," replacing it with the quiet power of **"Bismillah, let's begin."** Our faith calls us to this rhythm, from the bending of our Ruku' to the sadaqah that lightens our load, proving that **even the smallest movement invites His Nearness.**

Our return to Him unfolds in small, sincere acts - a whispered dua in traffic, a smile to your neighbour, a shared meal with your family. Each one plants a seed of light, and over time, they grow into a landscape of peace that reflects His endless care for us.

This year, may we keep reminding ourselves, and each other, of His beautiful Promise. In a Hadith Qudsi, Allah SWT says, "If My servant draws near to Me by a handspan, I draw near to him by an arm's length; if he draws near to Me by an arm's length, I draw near to him by a fathom's length; **and if he comes to Me walking, I come to him running.**" ([Bukhari](#)).

Your small move draws Him close, my dear. **And in our community, we, too, will walk alongside you, as fellow travellers, together.**

Here's to moving forward, one blessed step at a time!

heartwork



We loved diving into this therapeutic intention-setting exercise at our last Champs Huddle and I'm thrilled to pass these gentle prompts along to everyone today! They spark simple, heartfelt reflections across all corners of life: from easing into your daily and weekly rhythms to deepening your Solah, Quran moments, and Zikir flow.

Plus, there are soft nudges for tending to your soul, mind, body, relationships, wealth, and those quiet, secret deeds just between you and Him. So grab a pen and paper and let your intentions unfold. As our wise Champ Hadziqah reminded us, **"It's not a stage, it's just a page"** - there is simply no need to perform or chase perfection with your intentions, just start with one sincere word at a time!

[Set Your 2026 Intentions Here](#)

gratitude garden



A few days ago, one of my teenage neighbours texted me saying, "Aida, can I come down to pray with you?" My heart melted reading her message - "OF COURSE!" I replied. Our neighbours have rights upon us, and we must do our best to treat them with utmost kindness and respect.

Rasulullah ﷺ said in [a Hadith](#), "Jibra'il kept enjoining good treatment of neighbours until I thought he would make neighbours heirs."

SubhanAllah! And if you are wondering who constitutes your neighbours, [Sayidina Hasan RA said](#), "The term 'neighbour' includes the forty houses in front of a person, the forty houses behind him, the forty houses on his right and the forty houses on his left." MA SHA ALLAH! PS: As always, praying for all of you to be my neighbours in Jannah, Amin!

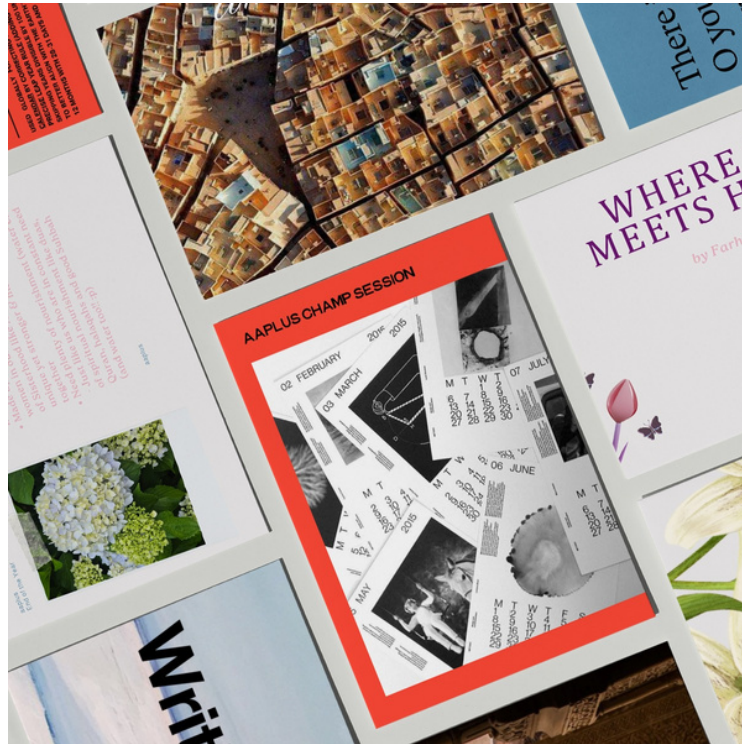
PS: See the Full Gratitude Garden for 2025

to ponder



I read this thought-provoking quote a few days ago about being a part of a community, and it resonated so much with me: **"The real transformation doesn't happen because you paid. It happens because you participated."** As we step into this new year, let's renew our intentions to gently participate more actively in our communities - AA Plus included! **Your voice and presence matter more than you know.** And participation isn't about coming into every single Zoom call or replying to every single email. Rather, it's in the small but sincere acts that weave us closer: a thoughtful comment in the Zoom Chat, sharing a Du'a or two for your fellow Champs, or simply logging in to listen to the replays even if it's for a minute! ***Just start where you are, as you are.***

ps:



What a joy it was to gather for our latest Champs Huddle, where our brilliant Champ-Presenters - Laila, Hani, Hadziqah, Salwa, and Farhanah - whisked us away on an inspiring journey through their Passion Projects. From the quirkiness of Calendars to the vibrant world of Floral Blooms, the intimate art of Writing as a Companion, the timeless grace of Islamic Architecture, and the profound path of Healing through Faith, their diverse stories sparked so many "aha" moments and heartfelt connections! If you missed the Session, don't worry - I'm thrilled to share their slides so that every Champ can take a dip into the adventure we had together!

[Read Through Our Champs Passion Projects Here!](#)

FIN.
X
a