

Serving like the Prophet ﷺ

Reviving The Forgotten Sunnah
of Selfless Service

with Ustazah' Alimtatumnisa



Salawat is a Remedy

The most basic idea of salawat is giving salam to Rasulullah ﷺ. Our scholars and teachers have always recommended **Salawat as a remedy to problems and illnesses** (physical, spiritual & emotional).

Salawat is the most basic and easiest worship we can do - it goes straight to Allah SWT. It is short and effortless, yet it **carries unimaginable benefits to our lives and weigh heavy on our Scale.**

If we combine the sincerity in our hearts with the **Salawat on our tongues, In Sha Allah it will help us to connect better, faster and stronger with Rasulullah ﷺ.**



Remember the analogy of the tree in your service -

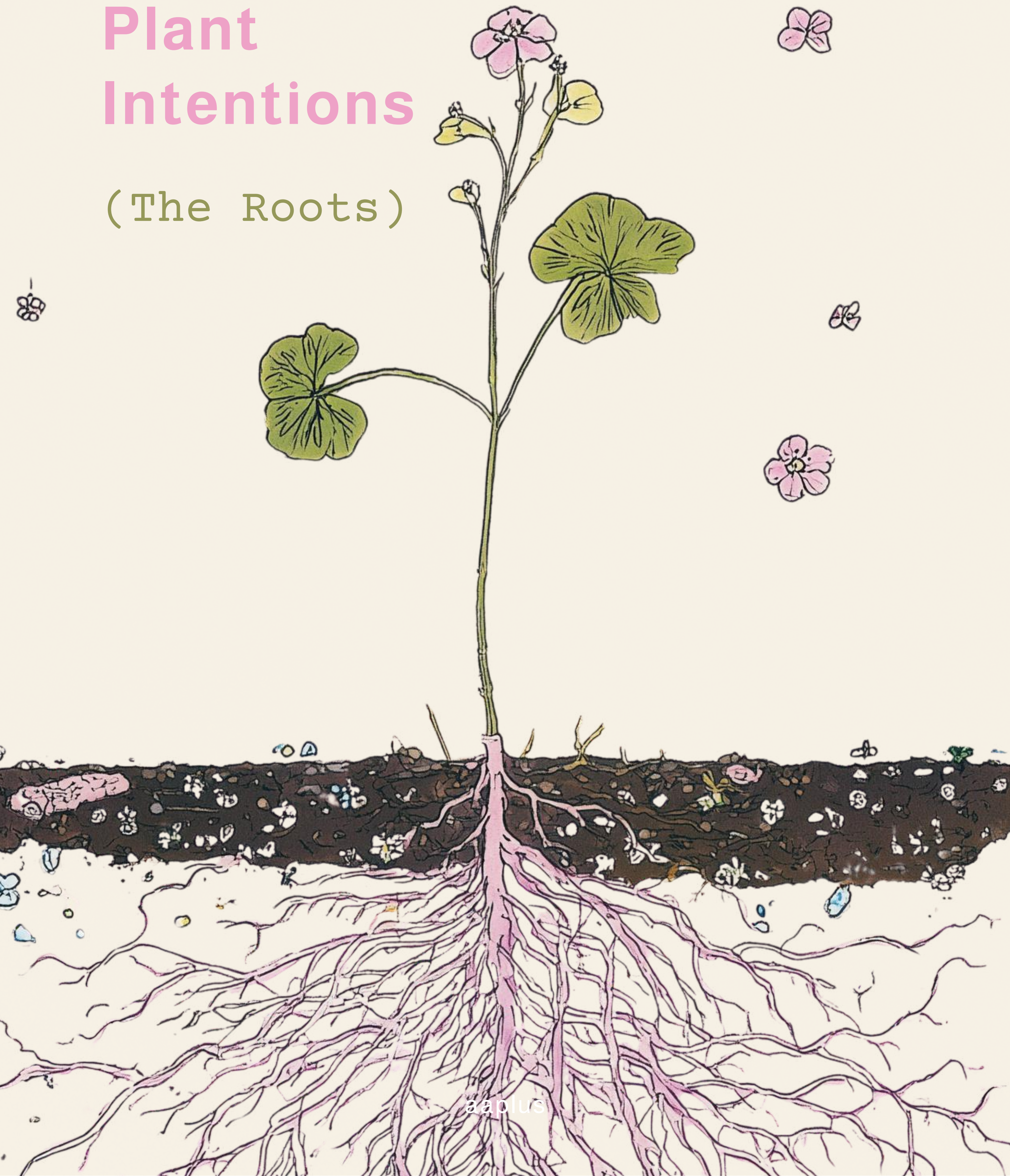
comprising of the roots, trunk,
branches and fruits.



Step #1:

Plant Intentions

(The Roots)



Elevate your daily tasks with Intentions

Every day, we are busy fulfilling our responsibilities. We might have a daily routine to follow at home or in our workplace/school, which we may regard as another chore to complete for the day, forgetting that when we do them with the intention to follow the teachings of Rasulullah ﷺ, we can elevate these simple tasks into sacred acts of worship.

Before we begin any tasks, let's ask ourselves, "Why are we doing this? It is **for Allah SWT?**"

This is why intentions are crucial.

Intentions distinguish our tasks from simply being a chore to us obtaining massive rewards!

إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّةِ
وَإِنَّمَا لِامْرِئٍ مَّا نَوَى

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

**“Actions are but
by intentions,
and each man
will have but
that which he
intended.”**

(Sunan an-Nasai)

*So go big on
your intentions!*

The more
intentions you
pack into a
single action,
the more
reward you'll
reap.

(See next page
for an example!)



Intentions for rising at night for worship

by al-Habib Muhammad
bin Alawi al-Aydarus

To obey the command of Allah
SWT when He says,

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَىٰ
أَنْ يَّبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا

‘And rise at ‘the last’ part of the
night, offering additional prayers,
so your Lord may raise you to a
station of praise’.

Quran 17:79



So that Allah SWT will
lift the affliction from
the people of the earth
on account of our
rising at night

To struggle against
the nafs

To supplicate for the
believing men and
women

To recite the Quran

To supplicate to Allah
with humility and fear

So that our rising at night
might coincide with the
hour of acceptance

To follow the example of
Rasulullah ﷺ and revive
this great sunnah

To receive blessed
openings by the Most
Generous

To ask for forgiveness
before dawn, as Allah swt
says,

وَبِالْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

‘and pray for forgiveness
before dawn’.

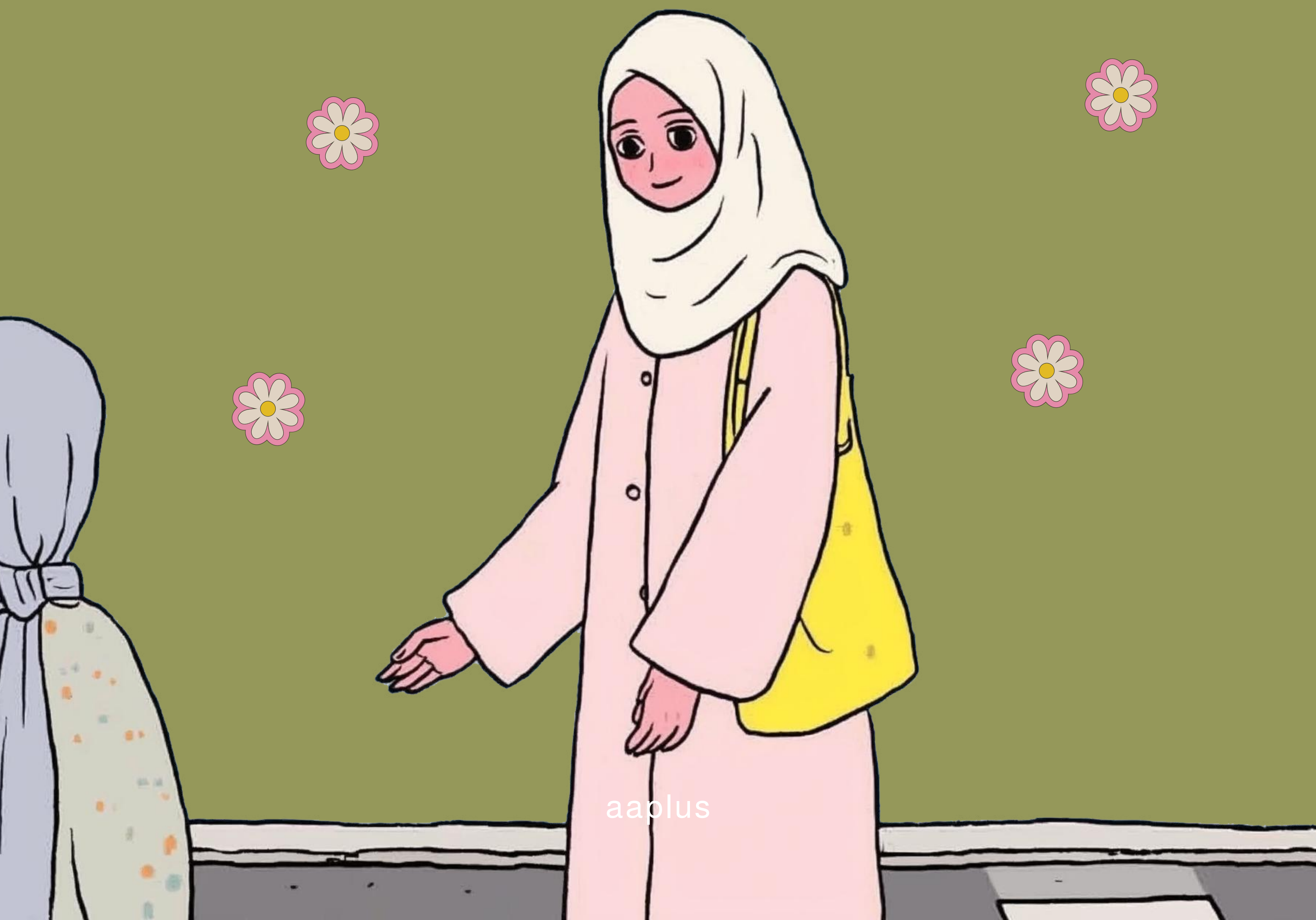
Quran 51:18

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

*"Verily, Allah (SWT) has ordered that the good and the bad deeds be written down. Then He explained it clearly how (to write): **He who intends to do a good deed but he does not do it, then Allah records it for him as a full good deed**, but if he carries out his intention, then Allah the Exalted, writes it down for him as from ten to seven hundred folds, and even more. But if he intends to do an evil act and has not done it, then Allah writes it down with Him as a full good deed, but if he intends it and has done it, Allah writes it down as one bad deed".*

(Bukhari and Muslim).

*If your heart
is in the right
place, your
service will
also be at the
right place.*



Step #2:

Remember Humility

(The Trunk)



Narrated Al-Aswad bin Yazid RA:
I asked `Aisha RA

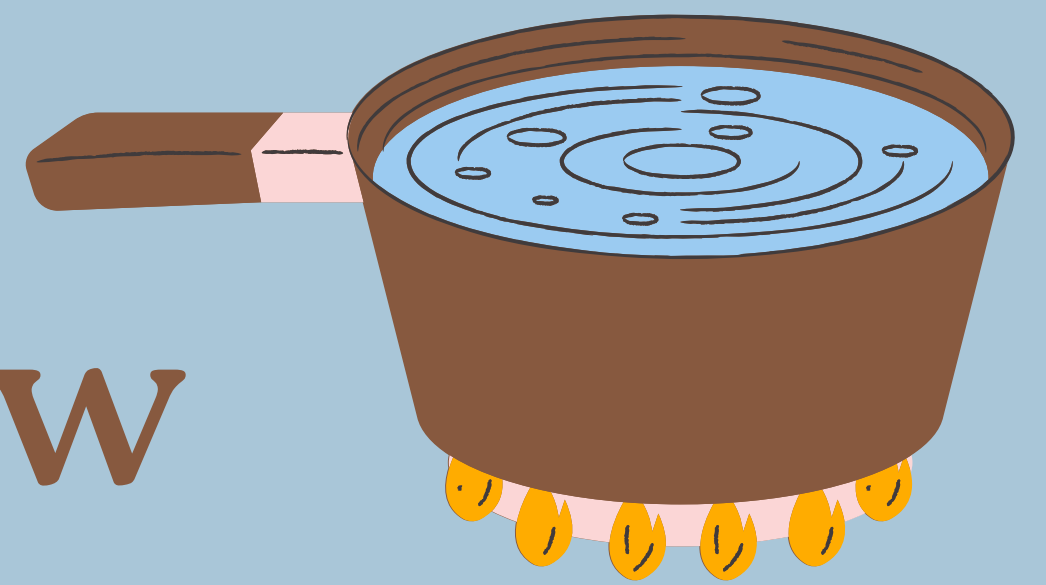
*"What did the
Prophet (ﷺ) use to
do at home?" She
said, **"He used to
work for his family,
and when he heard
the Adhan (call for
the prayer), he
would go out."***

(Bukhari)

Having Humility in Service

We need to remember Tawadhu' or humility in our service. In the book by Imam Nawawi, Riyadh as-Salihin, the hadith of Rasulallah ﷺ serving his family was listed as the first hadith under the topic of Humility. The hadith teaches us about the humility of Rasulallah ﷺ - despite having the highest status among the creation of Allah SWT, he ﷺ did not demand help from his family or relied on helpers. He prioritise ﷺ serving his family and fulfilled all of his responsibility in the best of ways, but not without compromising his priority with Allah SWT.

Umar RA and the poor widow



Sayyidina Umar RA used to walk the streets of Madinah when he was a Khalifah to check on his people. One night, he passed by a house and heard children crying. He approached the house and heard a mother comforting her children, “Don’t cry. **Wait a little bit more.** The food is going to be cooked and I’m going to feed you.”

Sayyidina Umar RA continued to listen for some time, but every time the woman was still saying the same thing to her children. So he said to himself, ‘Something is wrong.’

He knocked on the door of the house, gave his Salam and asked the woman what was happening.

Sayyidina Umar RA was shocked to find that there was no food boiling. Instead, the woman was boiling stones to fool her hungry children until they went to sleep.

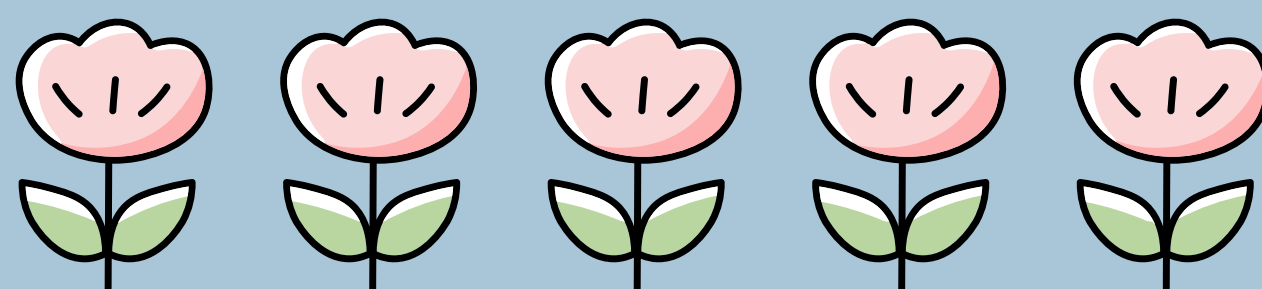
Sayyidina Umar RA went back to Baitulmal (the financial institution responsible for managing funds and property for the Muslim community). He RA collected some food essentials for the woman and her family, and he put them on his back. Ibn Abbas RA, who was with him at that time have watched the incident and offered to help him with the load.

At this, he said, **‘No. You are helping me here in this world, but how are you going to help me on the Judgment Day? So, for that, let me do. Because the burden (as a leader), it is on my neck.’** He RA carried it on his back until he reached the lady’s house.

It is okay NOT to be right

In leadership, we need humbleness.
And all of us are leaders in some way.

For example, we may be mothers or aunts
who have to deal with children. If we are in
the wrong, we have to acknowledge it. As
adults, we don't always have to be right.
We do not have to exert authority on the
young ones all the time.



Step #3:

Serve your family,
first.

(Branches of the tree)



The Top Priority

Before we go far and wide, we need to remember to serve our family first.

They should be our priority.

We have different roles in the family spectrum. Some of us may be daughters and sisters, but not yet a wife or mother. Some of us may be carrying a lot more roles than others. **Wherever we are in the family, our role carries a responsibility.**

Our family has a right over us that other people in our lives do not have. Even if our family member is a non-Muslim, they have rights that we need to fulfil.

Serve those closest to you

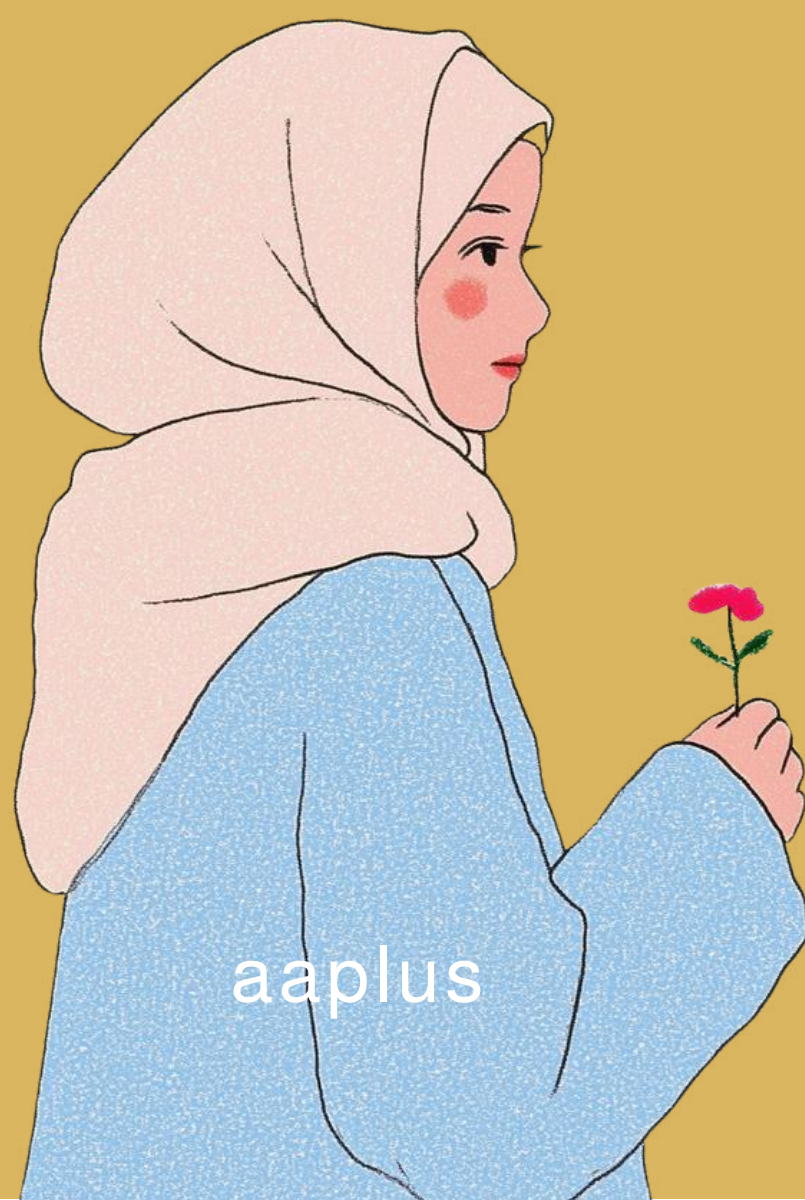
In Arabic, family is called أسرة , which shares the same root word as أسير (prisoner). We are essentially “imprisoned” with our family members as **we can't choose them, and we can't cut off our ties with them.** This is why maintaining ties (silaturrahim) is important in Islam, and those who sever the ties of kinship will gain the displeasure of Allah SWT.

Our service should be extended to those who are in the same household, as they are the closest ones to us. And then we extend it to the next nearest and so on.

Renew Intentions Daily

Performing our daily responsibilities can get mundane and routine. Hence, **we must change our mindset and renew our intentions daily.**

For example, if we send our children to school, we can intend, “This is the responsibility that Allah SWT tells me to do,” and “I want my children to be from the people of knowledge so that they will know Allah and Rasulallah ﷺ, and they can serve others.” etc.



Step #4:

Serve the Community & the Rest

(Fruits & Leaves)



The Community

To effectively serve the community, it is essential that the family unit is strong first. This is due to the fact that the community consists of smaller family units.

The Rest

This refers to anyone who comes near us that deserves our service. **Those ‘under our shade’**. For example, guests to our home. In Islam, it is essential to respect the rights of guests. We need to provide them with shelter, food, etc for, at least three days.

In conclusion, our service extends beyond those nearest to us to those furthest from us.

The Service of the Prophet ﷺ

Rasulullah ﷺ gave his service to everyone, even non-Muslims. If their right is to receive the respect and the right as a human being, Rasulallah ﷺ would give them.

He ﷺ did not give the Muslims the higher ground of winning just because they are a Muslim. He ﷺ would listen to both sides and would give it to the one who is at the right.

As Muslims, we have to uphold the teachings of Islam and ensure that we are not among the tyrants who oppress others and their rights.



*Rasulullah
ﷺ was a
shining light
everywhere
he went, and
his beautiful
light
continue to
shine till
today!*

The Patience of the Prophet ﷺ

What did Rasulullah ﷺ do during that night of the Battle of Badr? He ﷺ spent his night crying and begging Allah SWT for help and for victory. Even though he ﷺ is a Prophet, he ﷺ did not take his status for granted.

In a separate occurrence, he ﷺ encountered animosity in Taif. The townspeople threw stones at him, resulting in his sacred feet bleeding! When Allah SWT granted the angels the authority to crush the city of Taif with mountains, Rasulullah ﷺ refused and prayed for the future generation of Taif's inhabitants to embrace Islam instead.

To Ponder:

Is our service
genuinely for Allah
SWT? Will it endure
and continue for
future generations?

