

THE LINE BETWEEN

Striving AND Surrender

Knowing where to place our effort
and what's His to control

with Ustazah Nur Hidayah Azman

Event Notes



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalamualaikum Champs,

We had a beautiful session with Ustazah Hidayah, and it began with something as simple as looking out at the sea. The horizon is beautiful - but it is also the exact point where our sight stops. And surrender, we learned, begins right there: at the honest admission that our view and our capability will always be limited, unlike Allah's Limitless Power.

We learned about Al-Qadir القادر and Al-Qadeer القدير and somewhere between those two Names, we found our answer - that striving and surrender were never two separate phases at all.

These notes that you are reading capture some of our favourite takeaways from the Session. I pray they help you build your sandcastle with joy, and leave the tide to Him!

hida

THE LINE BETWEEN

Striving & Surrendering



Have you ever done everything you could, yet still felt entirely restless because the outcome was not in your hands? We are taught to 'tie our camel and trust in Allah.' But human anxiety pushes us to overthink: *Is it tied tight enough? Is it the right tree? What if someone steals it?* But finding peace isn't about achieving perfect control over the camel. **It's about looking at a much broader landscape.**

Our view is but a pixel.

When we struggle, we tend to zoom into just one delayed answer, one closed door, or one person's response. We lose the plot because we mistake a fraction of the story for the whole.

But Allah has the whole landscape.

Allah sees the wave, the shore, the horizon, and the unseen. Understanding the balance between striving and surrender requires us to zoom out and examine each element of our life's landscape in its proper place.



The Horizon

This is where our
sight naturally stops.

Human Planning: We make 5, 10, and 15-year plans as if we can see tomorrow. But like looking at the sea, our vision stops at the horizon line. We cannot see what lies beyond it. **And there's something very humbling about this.**



تَبْرَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

Blessed is He in whose hand is dominion,
and He is over all things competent.

Surah Al-Mulk : 67:1

Before addressing the world, Allah SWT establishes that dominion is His alone. It is as though He knew we would come carrying questions about life, about our struggles, about whether this is a moment to strive or a moment to surrender. And His answer begins not with instructions, but with an invitation: **remember**

**Who holds what your hands cannot hold.
Remember Who does what you cannot do.
Remember Who is in Control. Surrendering
starts now and it starts here.**

We struggle with
surrendering
because we don't
yet know to Whom
we're surrendering.

But once we have
clarity about Who
Allah is, it
changes everything.

Understanding Al-Qadeer: The One Who is Able

تَبْرَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

Right from the first Ayah in Surah al-Mulk, Allah SWT reminds us that He is Al-Qadeer, the One Who is All-Able, Who holds all Power, and He does what He wills, whether that means preventing something, delaying it, weakening it, or enabling it to come to pass. Allah's Ability is Vast! This teaches us that we were never tasked with holding the ocean. We are only asked to stand faithfully on the shore.



Our First Identity

At home you are 'Ummi', at work you carry a title, at the market you are just another customer – but beneath every role, you remain a Servant of Allah. Standing on the shoreline reminds us of our place: we are the servant, He is the Master. And mercifully, He never asks us to hold the sea, as He knows our limits. He only asks us to remember where we stand, for in remembering our place, we remember who we are, and that our truest work is to please Him. We strive humbly within the capacity He has granted us, because in the end, it is Al-Qadir Who does what we cannot, and reaches where we never could.



الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ
أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۚ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

[He] who created death and life to test you [as to]
which of you is best in deed - and He is the
Exalted in Might, the Forgiving -

Surah Al-Mulk : 67:2

The test of life, Allah tells us, is not who holds the most control or who appears most successful; **it is ahsanu 'amala: who is best in deed.** So the question is not 'Can I control the ocean?' Rather, the question is whether we can keep building our sandcastle with sincerity, excellence, patience, and trust. Because **what has always been within our control are the materials in our hands: our intentions, our daily actions, seeking advice, making Dua, maintaining discipline, and returning in repentance.** This is what striving really is - 'I will do what I can in the space You planted me, and I leave the rest to You.'

The Overwhelm

THE WAVE REPRESENTS EVERYTHING COMPLETELY OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL: WAITING FOR A RESULT, PRAYING FOR SOMEONE'S HEART TO CHANGE, THE TIMING OF AN OPEN DOOR, OR THE LONG JOURNEY OF HEALING.

The Reassurance

WHEN THE WAVE FEELS LARGER THAN OUR CAPACITY, WE LOOK TO AL-QADEER - THE ONE WHOSE POWER IS ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE, AND PERFECTLY MEASURED OVER SPECIFIC EVENTS. HIS CONTROL IS BIGGER THAN OUR BIGGEST WAVE.

The Redefinition

SURRENDER IS NOT GIVING UP OR SAYING 'I DON'T CARE.' SURRENDER IS SIMPLY STOPPING THE PRETENSE THAT WE CAN CONTROL THE TIDE.

القادر
Al-Qaadir

القدير

Al-Qadeer

ALLAH'S
COMPLETE,
PERFECT, &
UNRESTRICTED
POWER

ALLAH IS
ALL-ABLE,
HE CAN DO
ANYTHING
THAT HE
WILLS

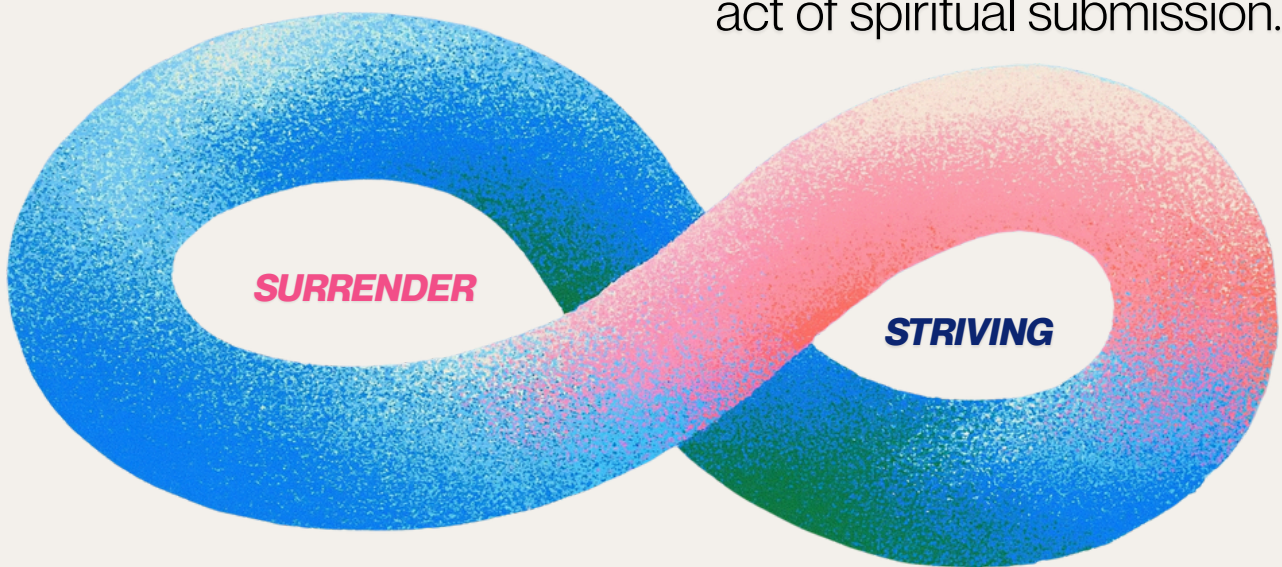


Al-Qaadir (القادر) teaches us not to overestimate our control while Al-Qadeer (القدير) teaches us not to underestimate Allah's Power.

The Infinite Loop for the Believer

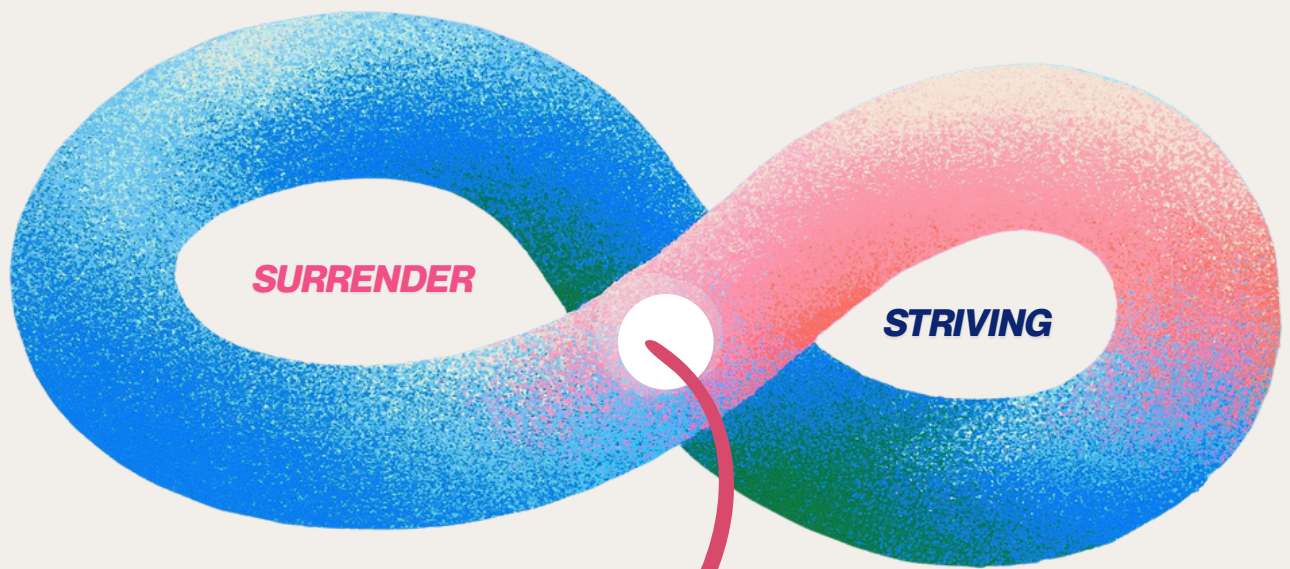
STRIVING IS SURRENDER.

When you take physical action (taking the means), you are submitting to what Allah has asked of you. Your physical effort is an act of spiritual submission.



SURRENDER IS STRIVING

Surrender is not passive. Releasing your desperate grip on the outcome requires immense, active striving of the heart to trust Allah's timing.



the middle part is our

ADAB

The line between effort and decree is not a brick wall; it is an overlapping shoreline. This is our Adab (Etiquette): We try without becoming arrogant. We wait without becoming bitter. We make dua without dictating expectations to the Creator.

Our Daily Realignment

Rasulullah ﷺ taught us to recite this specific Dua **after every single prayer** to remind ourselves who is in control.

1. The Glorification

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

There is no god but Allah.

He is alone, Who has no partner.

لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ

*To Him belongs the sovereignty
and to Him praise is due*

وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

and He has Power over all things.

2. The Surrender

اللَّهُمَّ لَا مَانِعَ لِمَا أُعْطِيتَ

O Allah! No one can prevent you from giving

وَلَا مُعْطِيَ لِمَا مَنَعْتَ

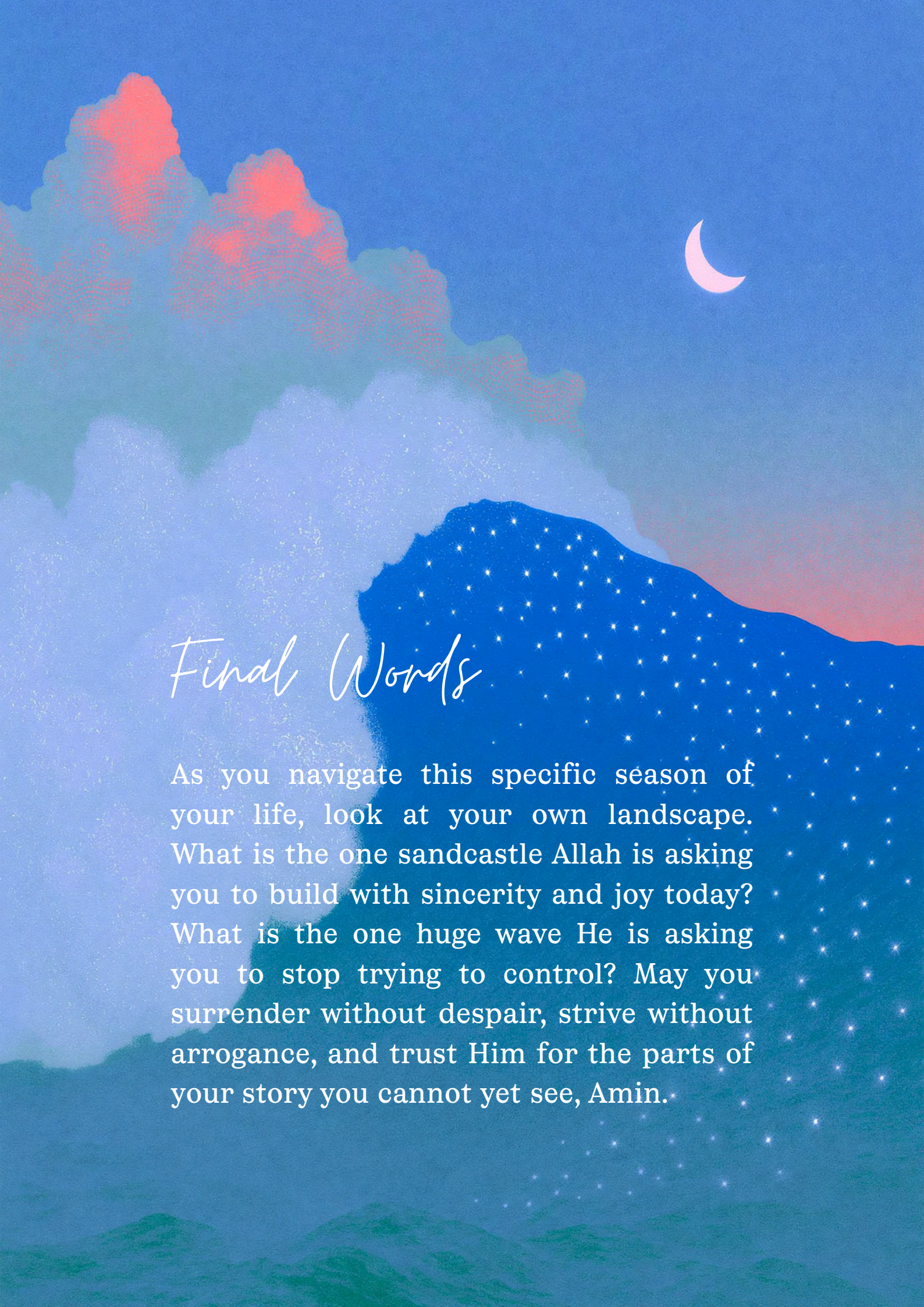
and none can give to whomever You prevent.

3. The Reality Check

وَلَا يَنْفَعُ ذَا الْجَدِّ مِنْكَ الْجَدُّ

*The riches of the rich are of
no avail against You.*

This all-encompassing Du'a establishes the vast limitlessness of His Sight against the limits of ours; it acknowledges Al-Qaadir - that none can stop the wave of His Giving, nor force an outcome before its decreed time; and it reminds us of our fragility: that we cannot dictate our terms to the One and Only.

The background of the entire page is a stylized night sky. In the upper right, a thin, light pink crescent moon is set against a deep blue sky. To the left, there are large, billowing clouds in shades of red, orange, and green, with a halftone dot pattern. Below these clouds, a dark blue, silhouetted horizon line is filled with numerous small, white, four-pointed stars. The bottom of the image shows dark, rolling hills or mountains in shades of green and blue.

Final Words

As you navigate this specific season of your life, look at your own landscape. What is the one sandcastle Allah is asking you to build with sincerity and joy today? What is the one huge wave He is asking you to stop trying to control? May you surrender without despair, strive without arrogance, and trust Him for the parts of your story you cannot yet see, Amin.