EDITION 73
5/11/26

closer



LET'S MAKE TIME OUR ALLY, NOT OUR ENEMY.

Be on Allah's side, and time will be on yours.

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

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

5 Nov 2026

Closer by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

Be on Allah's side, and time will be on yours.

Assalamualaikum, my mindful Champions,

How often do we talk about time like it's working ***against*** us? *"I'm running out of time." "There's never enough time." "I'll do it when I have more time." "Time is slipping by so fast."*

I know I've said all of these.

And if I'm honest, that has been my mindset when it comes to time. Until pretty recently, when I re-listened to one of our older AA Plus classes with Ustazah Mardhiah, and she spoke on an Ayah in Surah Fatir. Allah ﷻ describes people in Hell crying out,

"Ya Rabb! Take us out ˹and send us back˺. We will do good, unlike what we used to do." ˹They will be told,˺ **"Did We not give you lives long enough so that whoever wanted to be mindful could have done so?"**

This Ayah stopped me in my tracks. Ustazah also said, **"This Ayah gives us no excuse."**

None of us will be able to stand before Him and say, "Ya Allah, You didn't give me enough time." **Because time was always there, given fully and proportionately to us by al-Hakim, the One Who is Perfect in His Wisdom, and in what He gives and withholds.**

That shifted something in me. Time was *given* to us, and time belongs to Allah ﷻ. So when we give a little of it back to Him (a few minutes of remembrance, a du'a before we begin, a solah on time), He puts barakah in the rest. **That's when time stops working against us, and starts working for us.**

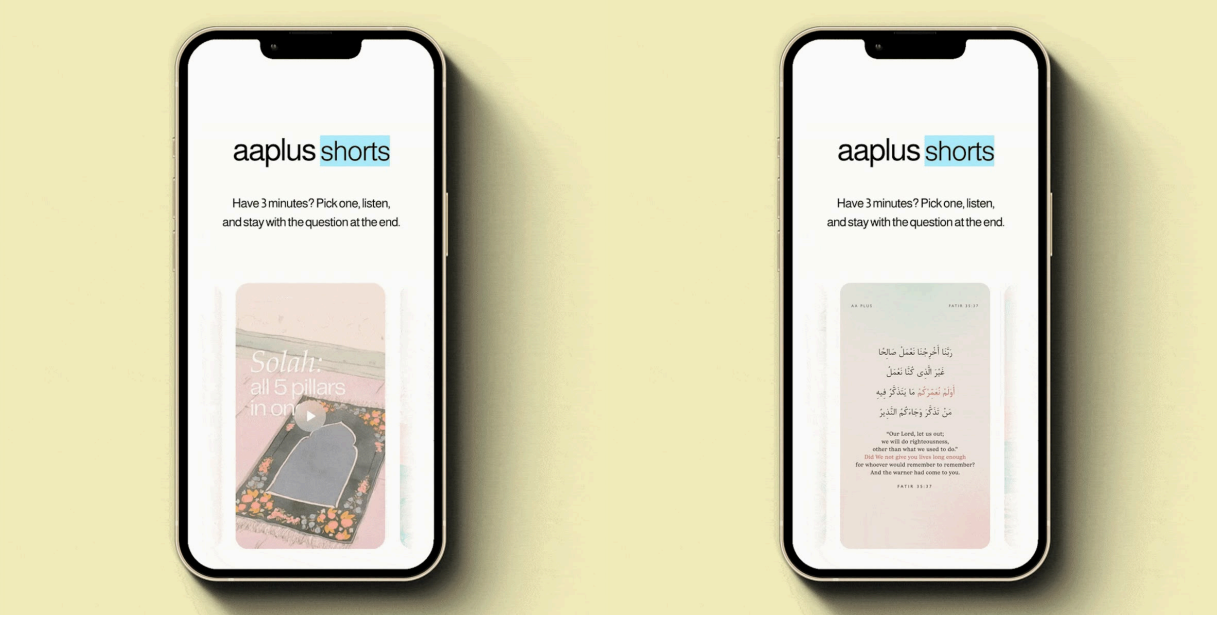
And we don't need our lives to be perfect first. *"When work calms down." "When life feels more organised." "When the kids are older."* I saw this in the lives of the Sahabah - **they lived such full lives, and they did not wait for ideal days to seek knowledge, to draw closer to Allah ﷻ, or to give their best to the Deen. They went out on trade, tended their families, fought in battles, and still found time.**

They learned a little, lived it straight away, and Allah ﷻ blessed it and made it grow!

Listening to that class, I realised I'd had an idea tucked away in my notes for the longest time: ***short videos for Champs who only have five minutes.*** And I kept telling myself I'd do it "when I have more time." The irony! 🙈

So I stopped waiting, and with a *Bismillah*, I just started.

I sat down with some of our classes, picked out the moments that moved me, and started editing them, one small clip at a time. And with Allah ﷻ's barakah in those small pockets of time, I'm so grateful to present **AA Shorts** ✨!



Watch AA Plus Shorts Here

(You can find it in our Studio tab on our website!)

Each *Short* is under 3 minutes, with a **To Ponder** question at the end. Buuuut.... They're not a shortcut, and they're not for bingeing either! The intention is to watch one mindfully, then let its question keep you company for the rest of your day. I tried it myself, and honestly, I've felt more mindful in my day-to-day since. One of the questions from the Shorts stayed with me the whole day: *"What's stopping you from making selawat?"* I kept catching myself, and then... making selawat. <3

So Champs, watch one, sit with the question, then come tell me your answer! Pondering is sweeter, together. 🤍

We will also be adding a few new Shorts every week, In Sha Allah, so please make du'a for us to have istiqomah. And if you're revisiting a past class and find a snippet you'd love to see as a Short, just hit reply and tell us!

We're building this little library together. :)

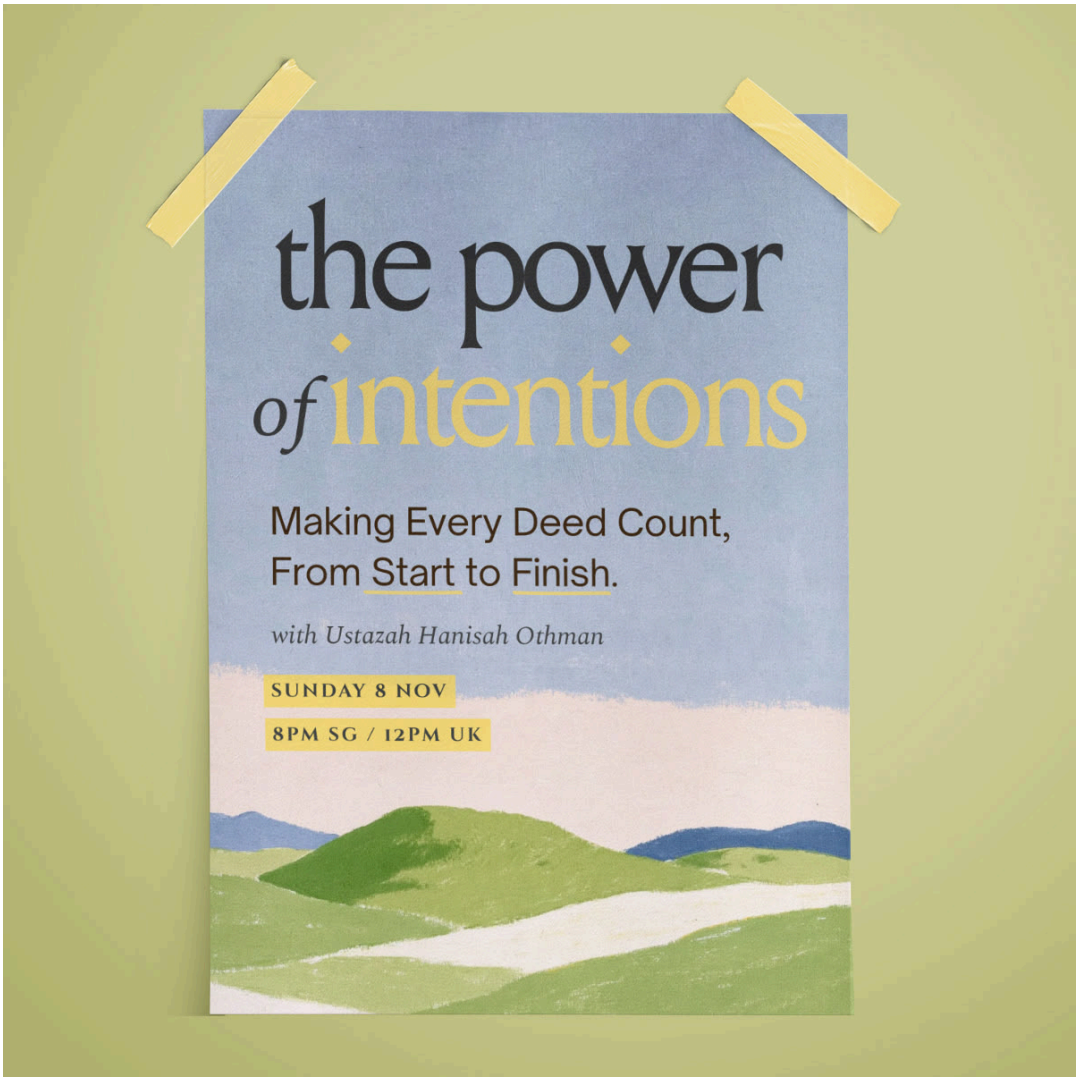
And Champs, whatever your days look like right now (full, slow, messy or tender), there's barakah waiting in them.

May Allah ﷻ make our time a friend to us and never a burden, put barakah in our hours, and let us meet Him with no regrets about how we spent them. Amin!

Watch AA Plus Shorts Here

---

coming up on aa plus:



This Sunday, In Sha Allah, we're so excited to welcome a new teacher to AA Plus: **Ustazah Hanisah Othman** from Brunei!

The Power of Intentions

Making every deed count, from start to finish

📅 Sunday, 8 November · 8PM SG / 12PM UK

What truly gives our deeds their value: what we do, **or what's in our hearts when we do it?** Together, we'll explore **ikhlas** (sincerity) and the quiet ways **riya'** (showing off) can creep in. We'll also learn **how to look after our niyyah at every stage of a deed**: before we begin, while we're doing it, and after it's done. Because sometimes the greatest change isn't in *what* we do, but in *why* we do it.

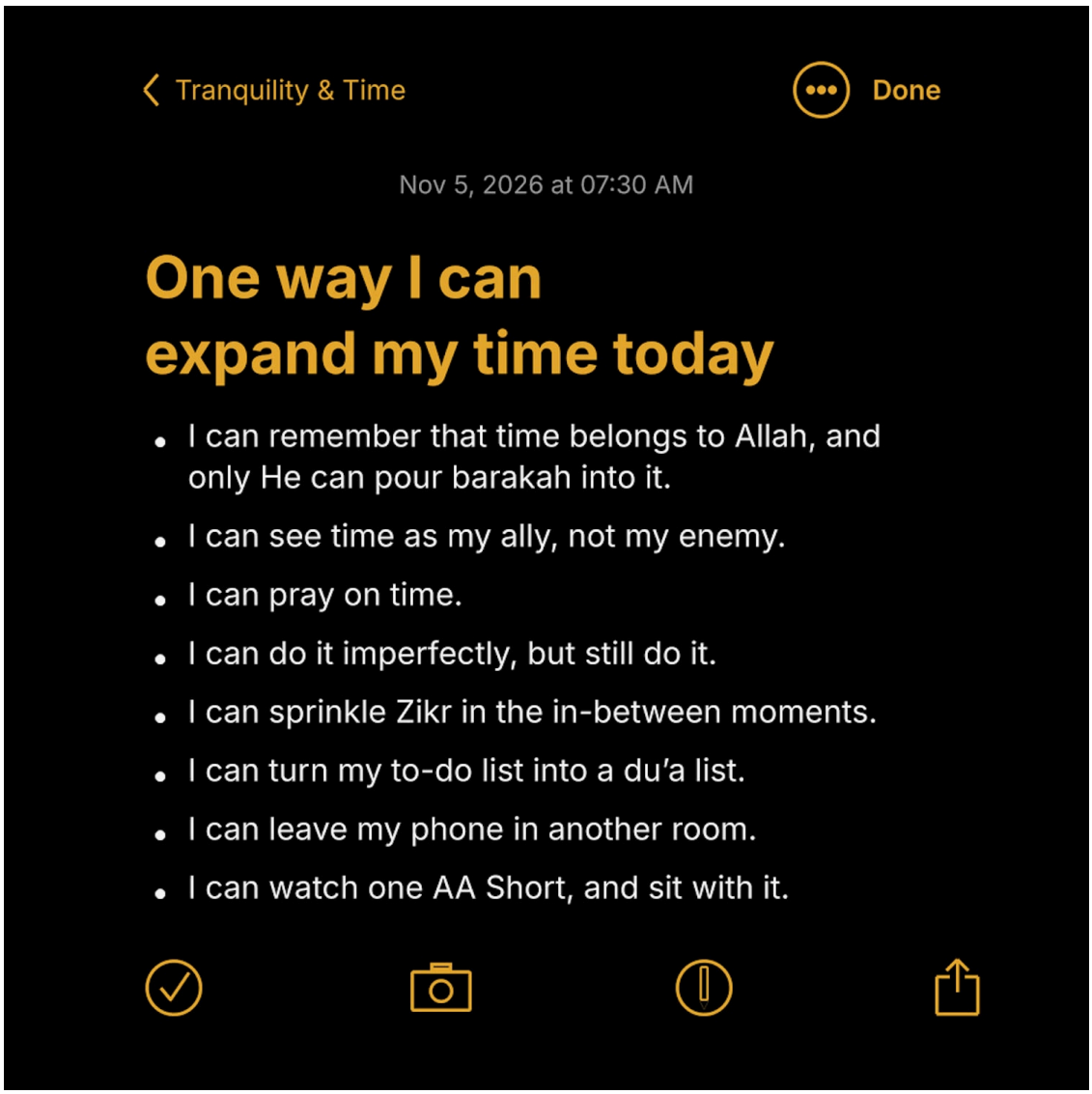
A little bit about Ustazah Hanisah

Ustazah is an Islamic motivational speaker accredited by the Brunei Islamic Religious Council and an alumna of Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. She has shared Islamic reflections on Brunei radio since 2016, and leads monthly workshops for Muslim women on purifying the heart and growing closer to Allah.

Join Event Here!

Sync Event to your GCal / iCal

tranquility & time



True barakah in time isn't about squeezing more into our day - it's about giving a portion of it back to Allah ﷻ and trusting Him to expand the rest. So here's a gentle list to choose from; no pressure to do everything, and no need for perfection. Just pick one that resonates with you and *Bismillah*. :)

icymi



Champs, the replay of *Lamps of the Night Sky: Part 1* with my very good friend, Nihal Mesbahi, is up, Alhamdulillah! What an evening it was, hanging out with Nihal and all of the beautiful stars, aka the "lamps" Allah ﷻ placed to beautify the sky and guide us home. Catch it before we have our Part 2 on planets, moons and galaxies, In Sha Allah.

Watch the Replay Here

ps:



I can't knock on your door, but I'd love to come to your time zone 🤍 Something new is coming, country by country. Could you help me plan it by filling in the Champs Directory? It only takes a minute, and it'll help me know where to find you. :P

Help me find you via the Champs Directory Here!

FIN.
x
a