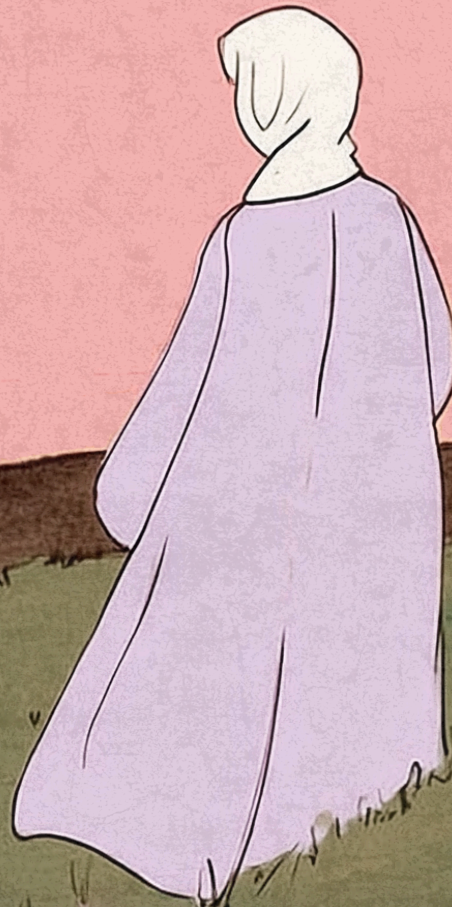


EDITION 35
23/10/25

closer



**EMBRACING YOUR STRANGENESS
IN THIS TREND-CHASING WORLD**

Rasulullah ﷺ promised glad tidings to the Strangers, and that promise shines for you

23 October 2025



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

Rasulullah ﷺ said,

*“Islam began as
something strange
and will go back to
being strange,
so **glad tidings**
to the strangers.”*

(Sahih Muslim 145)

Assalamualaikum my Champions,

I wrote a note to myself and wanted to share a portion of it with you:

*"No matter how loud and distracting the world gets, no matter what it tries to sell, market or label you, know this: you belong solely to Allah SWT. Look beyond the surface, and dive deep into the Truth. Question everything, stay curious, and root yourself firmly in the Quran and the teachings of Rasulullah ﷺ. And don't be afraid to be strange; in fact, **embrace your strangeness** that stems from your faith. Because Rasulullah ﷺ promised glad tidings to the strangers, and that promise shines for you."*

If you are the only one in Hijab in the office, embrace it.

If you are the only one who chooses forgiveness, embrace it.

If you are the only one awake at 4am for Tahajud, embrace it.

If you are the only one stepping away to pray, embrace it.

If you are the only one avoiding gossip during a lively chat, embrace it.

If you are the only one turning down interest-based loans, embrace it.

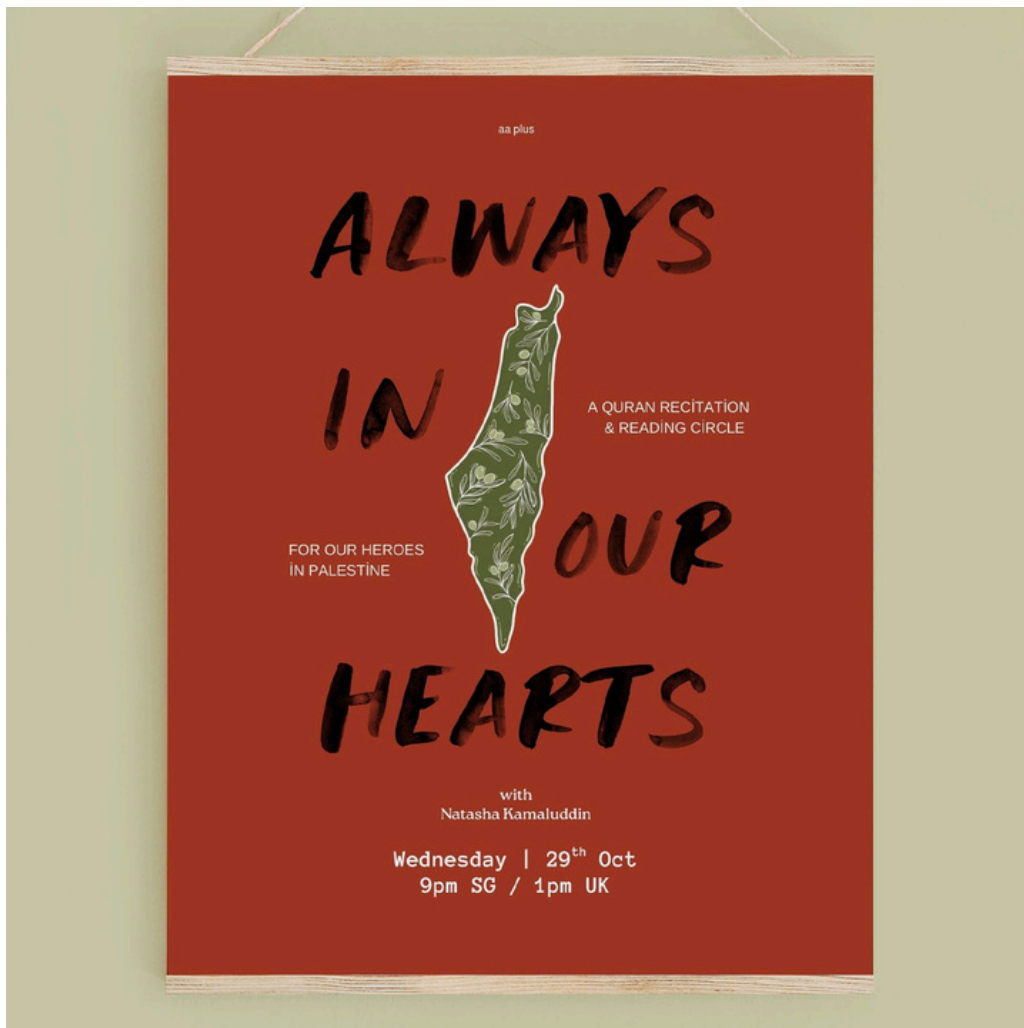
If you are the only one refusing to be with the opposite gender, embrace it.

Champs, may we remain steadfast to our Deen, and be wary of everything forbidden that has unfortunately slipped into normalcy. Find your fellow strangers, support them, and remind one another that our hearts beat to please only the Creator, not the creation.

And in that sacred strangeness, we will find a profound sense of peace that only He can give. ❤️

PS: Share with me an act of "strangeness" that you can do today, for His sake!

a special champs circle



Champs, In Sha Allah, we will be hosting an intimate Quran and reading circle next Wednesday with the theme set around the blessed people of Palestine. We will begin with the recitation of Surah Yasin, followed by a 15-minute collective silent reading (best if you can bring your own book on Palestine / by Palestinian writers), and to wrap up our session, our beloved Kak Natasha will then lead a sharing circle. Come and join us as we honour the special people who have taught us resilience, steadfastness and courage as a nation. ❤️

[Join the Quran + Reading Session Here](#)

a beautiful du'a

Ya Allah, cradle
my heart's
restless tides in
the gentle
rhythm of Your
remembrance.

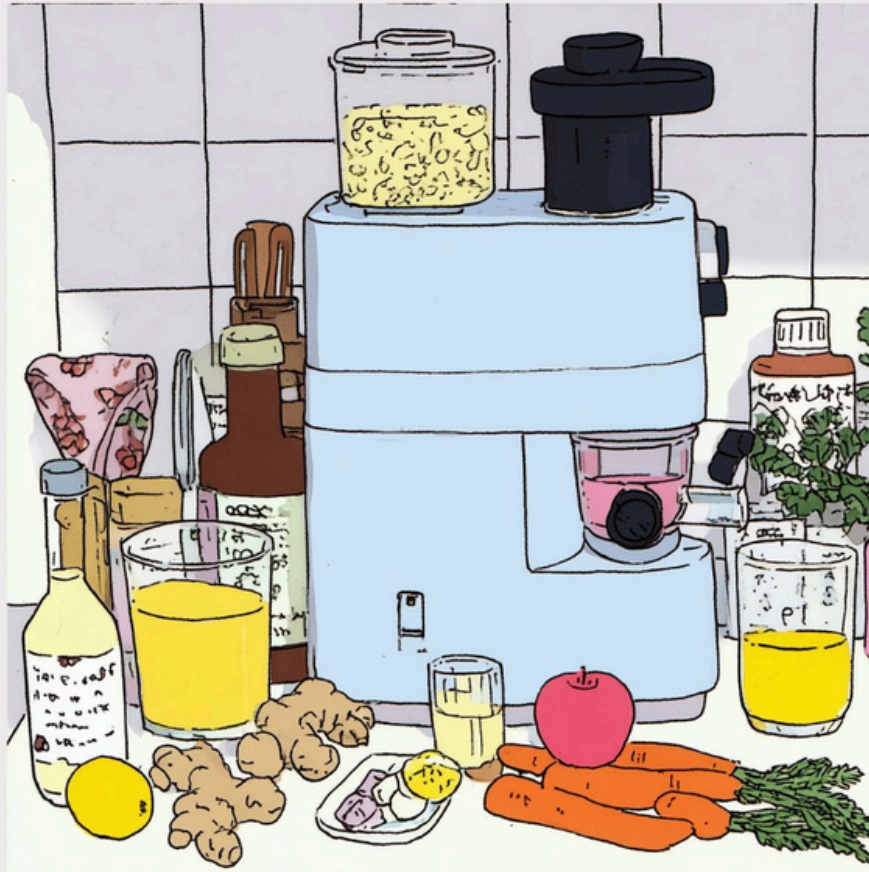
aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

I don't know what I would do without Zikir because it is the one sure way I regulate my emotions and anchor my heart. The repetition of Zikir, the mindfulness that it demands, and the way it helps steady my breath - no other practice brings me to rest than the remembrance of Him. So if your heart is doing somersaults, and your mind is loud with doubts and anxiety, Zikir. For how true are Allah SWT's Words when He said in the Quran, "Truly, it is in the Remembrance of Allah do hearts surely find rest." ([Quran 13:28](#)) PS: Our mixtapes are my go-to whenever I need a Zikir buddy!

[Listen to Mixtapes for the Soul Here](#)

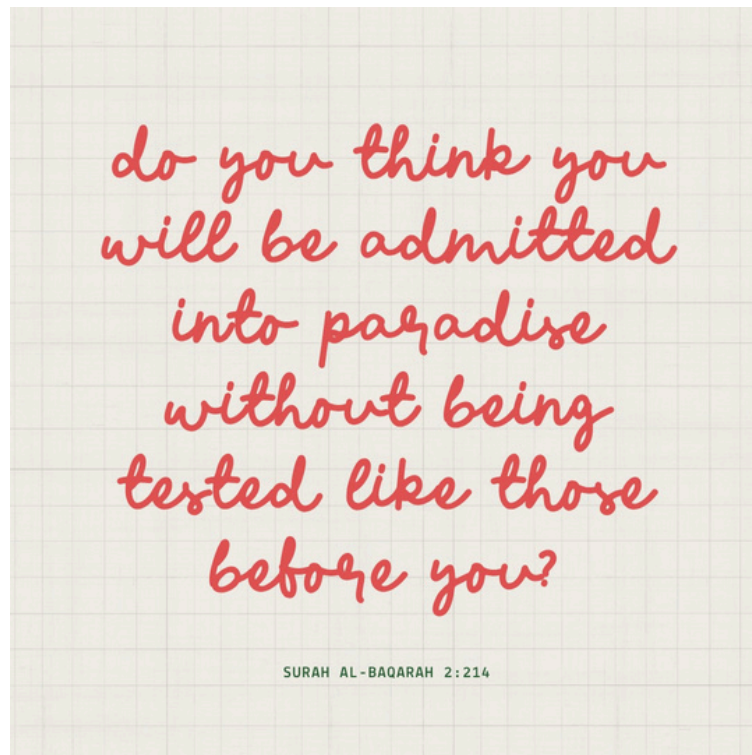
gratitude garden



GRATEFUL FOR JUICING!

As the seasons change, I have been trying to boost my immunity by making and juicing my own "power shots"! My go to recipe is ginger, carrots and apples and drinking them every morning just makes me feel so ALIVE! 😂 I love making it so much that I even have a "brand name" on standby if I ever start a juicing business: "GINGERLY GOOD" with my ginger cat, Noor, as a mascot! 😂😂😂

Questions from the Quran



I was reading some of the Ayahs from Juzuk 2 (we will be reading it today on [The 114 Club](#)) and this Ayah brought me to a halt. It humbled me, reminding me that trials and hardships are part and parcel of our journey back to Allah SWT. In fact, the full Ayah beautifully reads as such: “Do you think you will be admitted into Paradise without being tested like those before you?”

They were afflicted with suffering and adversity and were so ‘violently’ shaken that ‘even’ the Messenger and the believers with him cried out, “When will Allah’s help come?” Indeed, Allah’s help is ‘always’ near.” SubhanAllah, struggling for His sake has always been the Sunnah (the way) of all of the past Prophets and their pious companions. **It’s a gentle reminder that when we go through difficulties, we are, in essence, in the company of the righteous, and** to trust that Allah’s relief is always near, even when the wait may feel endless. PS: Come rest with the Quran as we intend to finish the recitation of the entire Quran by next Ramadhan, In Sha Allah. [More details here.](#)

Join The 114 Club Here

visual reminder



It was only natural to pay homage to one of my favourite Hadiths for our wallpaper this week! May this be a gentle reminder for all of us to embrace our "strangeness" and stand tall with our "Islam-ness". ❤️

[Download Wallpaper Here](#)

mindset shift

OVERTHINK
THE BEST
SCENARIOS &
ALL THE WAYS
IT COULD
WORK OUT!

aapius

If you are a recovering overthinker like me, why not try flipping the script and overthink all the ways things could go right? Overthink, overdream and then over-dua (no such thing as excessive Du'as btw) and intend for every positive thought to be a prayer! Try it, it'll make you blush and smile! 😊

ps:



Champs, I'm thrilled to share that we're almost done finalising all the details for our **4th AA Plus Event: Rediscovering Solah!** In Sha Allah, I will have the full itinerary in the next Closer email, but in the meantime, please keep all of my team and our beloved teachers in your Du'as!

FIN.
X
a