

EDITION
16/7/26

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closer



**SHE BEFRIENDED THE
QURAN IN THIS LIFE**

*Our time here is short, but we can
make it count with the Quran.*

16 Jul 2026



Closer

by aa

your curated weekly spiritual booster delivered straight to your Inbox

Our **time** here is short.
But we can make it
count with **the Quran**.

Assalamualaikum my Champions 💖

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un.

Indeed to Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return.

This week, I write to you with a heavy but hopeful heart. On the 10th of July, on a blessed Friday in the blessed month of Muharram, our beloved Champ, Kafayat Oyekemi Bawa - or **Kemi**, as we lovingly called her - returned to Allah.

If you are an ROTW Champ, you might know Kemi. She was there almost every night during ROTW Tadarus in Ramadan, and every night she would give her all to read the Quran. Even on nights when she could not manage more than a little, she would still request to read.

"Can I please have half a page?" she'd ask.

Half a page. I keep coming back to that because Rasulullah ﷺ told us that the most beloved deeds to Allah are the most consistent ones, even if they are small. **Kemi lived that Hadith.**

I still remember the first time I "met" her: 16th September 2025, our very first call together. Her smile, Ma Sha Allah, the warmest smile I have ever seen. She told me that she was "in need of a spiritual circle" and "looking to gain strength and reminders by connecting with other Sisters." **This was her beautiful intention in joining AA Plus.**

And Subhan'Allah, she showed up for that intention over and over.

She would switch her video on in our calls even when she was unwell and had to lie down. And whenever a session was about the Quran, she would be one of the first to volunteer. **She was, and will always be, my Quran warrior.**

Not even a year, Champs.

That's all the time Allah wrote for us with her - and look how much barakah He placed in it. Kemi also performed her Hajj this year, SubhanAllah, and I'm just in awe at how Allah SWT beautifully planned for her!

There's one more thing about Kemi I can't stop thinking about. On the 28th of April, she emailed the team asking how to extend her AA Plus membership for another whole year - even though her current plan doesn't end until September. She was going through treatment for a chronic illness, and still, her heart was making plans to keep learning, keep reading, keep coming closer to Allah. **She was always planning for a future with the Quran in it, Ma Sha Allah.**

Reading this Hadith of Rasulullah ﷺ where he said, "Read the Quran, for it will come on the Day of Resurrection as an intercessor for its companion" ([Muslim](#)), I could not help but think of Kemi. She spent her nights befriending the Quran. I make dua that every huruf she reads comes for her now, as an intercessor and a companion in her grave, In Sha Allah.

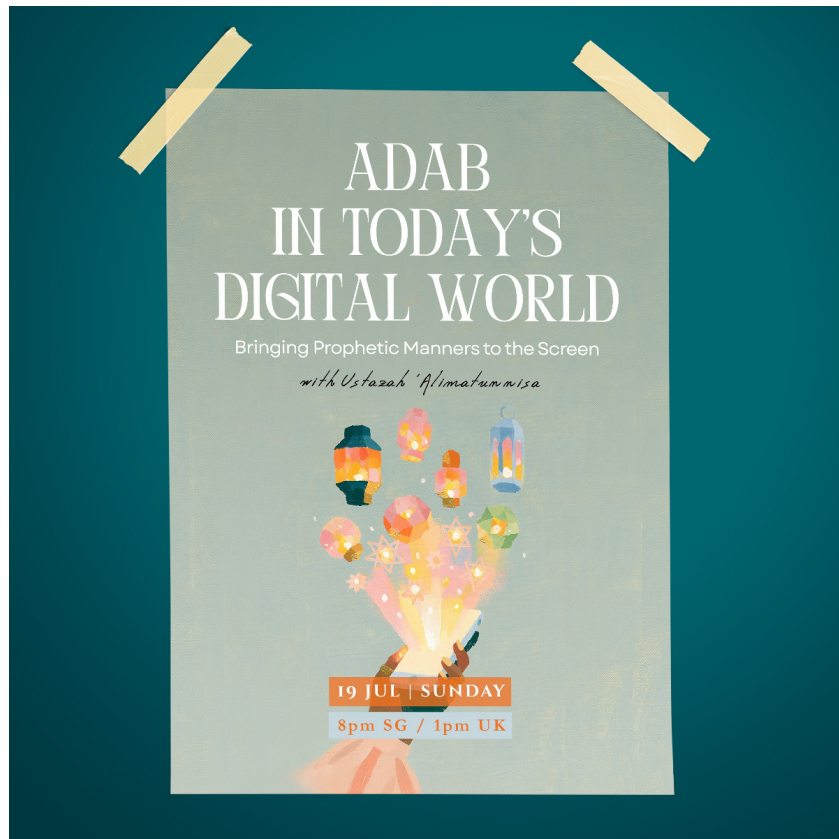
Kemi is the second Champ to have returned to Allah; the first was **Almarhumah Fatima Abdullah**, who was also another lover of the Quran. ***Ya Allah, what does it say about this community, that the ones You call back to You are the ones who loved Your Book? May You write us as a community who loves the Quran, Amin!***

To our dearest Kemi: we bonded with you through the Quran. We now grieve for you through the Quran. May you be remembered - in this community and in the Heavens - for your love of the Quran.

We started a [Khitmah for Kemi](#) a few days ago, and Subhan'Allah, we are already more than halfway through. If you have not joined yet, [please take a portion](#), even a page counts.

Al-Fatihah for Almarhumah Hajjah Kafayat Oyekemi Bawa and Almarhumah Fatima Abdullah.

coming up this week:



Champs, have you ever caught yourself typing something you would never say to a sister's face? Or scrolling past someone's pain the way you never would in person? Adab was never limited to a physical setting, as it governs the heart, the tongue, and how we treat one another, and the online space is simply our newest *majlis*. Rasulullah ﷺ said, "I was only sent to perfect good character" - and he ﷺ did not limit this beautiful character "only in person." So this Sunday, In Sha Allah, we're sitting with a question I think our generation was made to answer: **does our online self reflect our offline faith?** Join Ustazah 'Alimatunnisa as we explore how to bring Prophetic manners to the places we spend hours in every day. ❤️

 This Sunday, 19 July | 8PM SG / 1PM UK, In Sha Allah

[Join Event Here!](#)

a beautiful du'a

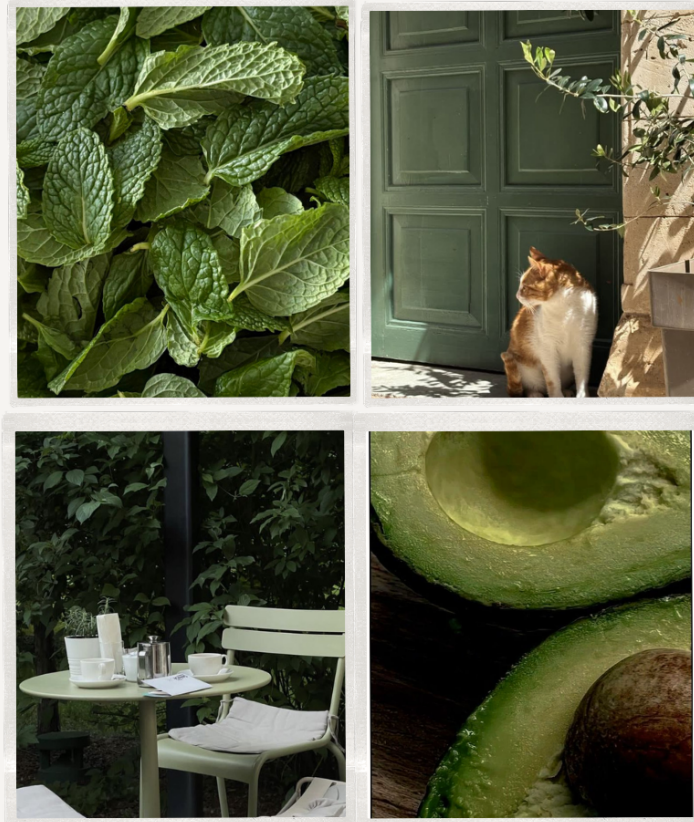
Ya Allah,
when my feelings
are out of sync with
Your Truth, please
steer me gently
back to You.

aaplus.co

#abeautifuldua

In our Session last Sunday, Ustazah Hidayah reminded us that every feeling passing through our hearts does so ***only*** by Allah's permission. Our hearts will drift as that's their nature. But the mercy is that every drift is an invitation to return to Him. ❤️ **So feel your feelings, Champs, but don't obey them**, for we are servants of Allah, not servants of our feelings.

the art of noticing



GREEN

THE ART OF NOTICING

This week, Champs, let us notice the colour **green**. This is the colour that was beloved to Rasulullah ﷺ and it's the colour of Jannah itself! Allah SWT describes its people wearing "green garments of fine silk" (Al-Insan 76:21) and reclining on green cushions (Ar-Rahman 55:76). SubhanAllah, even our eyes were designed for it: **green sits in the middle of the visible light spectrum, making it one of the easiest colours for the human eye to perceive - literally restful to look at.** Psychologists have found that even brief exposure to greenery calms the nervous system, lowers stress, and restores our depleted attention! Isn't it beautiful that what soothes us in this dunya is a glimpse of what awaits in the Akhirah? So this week: the leaf outside your window, the mint on your plate, a stranger's green hijab.

Pause, notice, and let it remind you of him ﷺ, and of Home. 💚

to ponder



My nieces and I were discussing this question, and one of them said something beautiful: "I want to know what it's like to live as someone who has memorised the entire Quran! How she revised, practised, and studied." The other one then said, "Well, I want to be rich like Mr Beast," and I LOL-ed. 😄 But when I sat with the question a little longer, I realised: whoever I thought I wanted to switch with, I would never truly be "happy", because Allah knows me best, and the life He wrote for me is the best one for me. ***I know, I know*** - this completely defeats the purpose of the question! But it reminded me that we often think the grass is greener on the other side, when really... the grass is green wherever we water it. So, Champs, I'll still ask: who would you pick? And more importantly: what's one patch of your own life that just needs a little more love and watering? 💕

ps:



Champs, if you missed Ustazah Hidayah's session, *The Line Between Striving and Surrendering*, or want to sit with it again, we're holding a **live replay session this Friday, 17 July, 6PM SG / 8PM MEL / 11AM UK**, In Sha Allah. Ustazah taught us that we must keep putting in our effort, i.e. building our sandcastles and standing on the shore, while accepting that the ocean and the waves belong to Allah alone. Through the opening Ayahs of Surah Al-Mulk and His Names al-Qadir and al-Qadeer, she showed us that **surrender was never passive resignation; it is itself an active striving**. If that stirs something in you, come; some sessions deserve a second sitting.

[Join the Live Replay Here!](#)

FIN.
x
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