

Of Subtle Openings

How Al Fattah & Al Lateef
Guides our Hearts to Success

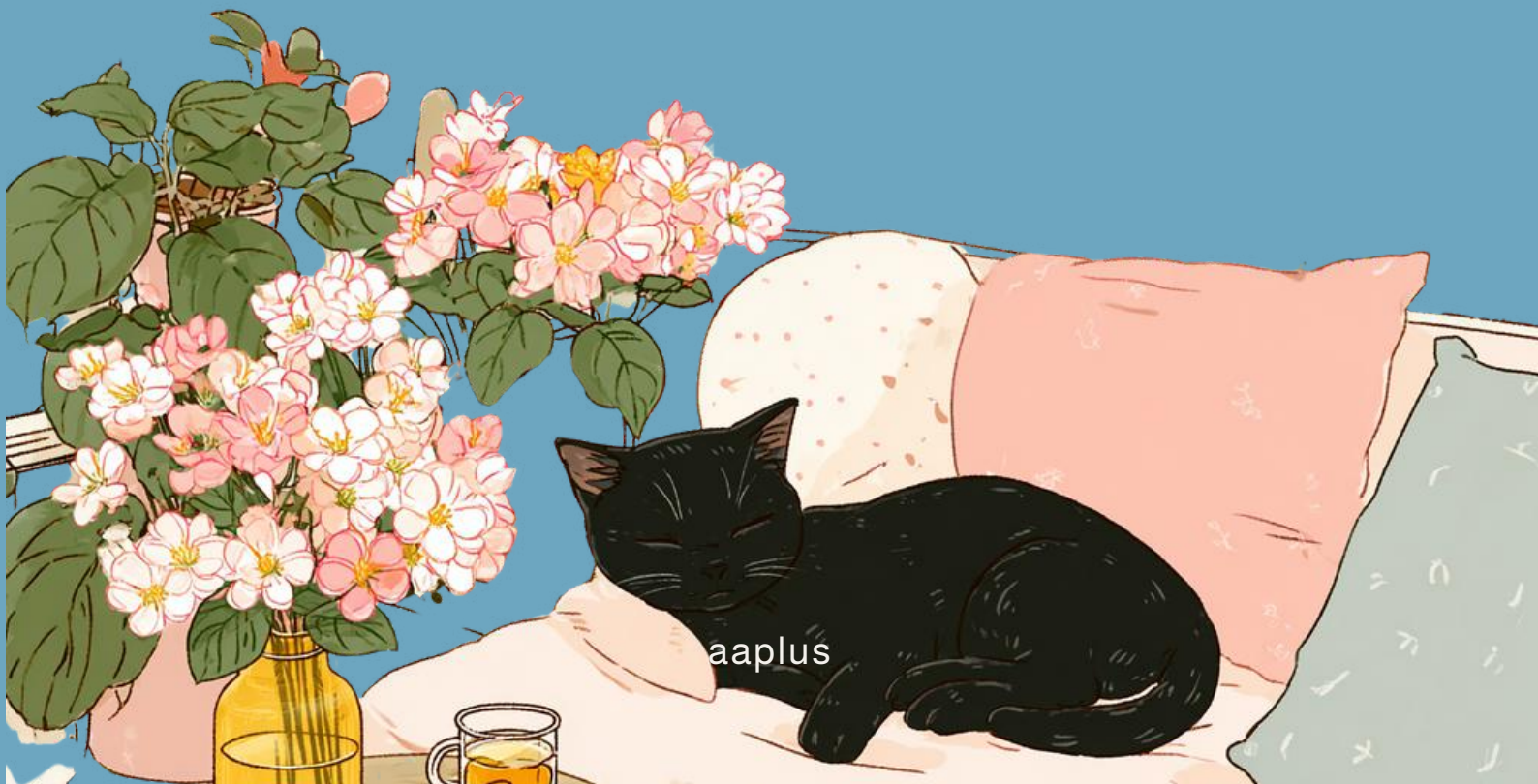
with Ustazah Mardhiyah Yusof



[● REC]

Diving
Deeper
into

اللَّطِيفُ



Ustazah's Personal Story

- Al-Fattah and Al-Lateef were two Names that Ustazah heard frequently during her time in Syria. They held **Majlis Latifiya** - where they would sit and recite “Ya Latif, Ya Latif” hundreds and thousands of times over. People in Syria also like to make Du’as for each other with “**Allahu yaftah ‘alaik**” - **May Allah grant you openings.**
- Ustazah has a special place for the word “Lateef” - with its root letters being ل ط ف - because she feels a calming sensation whenever she recites the letter ط . Al-Latif was also a Name that came easily to her tongue with Allah's Tawfiq. And it came during her times of difficulty, especially when she was going through labour.

Al Lateef & The Unseen

- In Arabic, the word لطيف has a few meanings, but there are two meanings which are suitable for Allah SWT.

1

The One who knows the minutest, most delicate and most obscure of matters, and the subtleties of interest or welfare.

- Allah SWT is also al-Alim (All-Knowing), and He's Khabir (All-Aware). He knows the delicate parts of every affair. Unlike us, who can only see the outer dimension, He knows the more delicate and obscure parts of things, parts which we'll never know the full dimension of their obscurity.

When we study science,
for example, we
realise that
everything is
made up
of smaller
and smaller
particles.



Now, Science has found
even smaller and smaller
particles, going deeper and
deeper into stuff.

But Allah SWT already
knows this and beyond.

He knows
the most obscure of matters,
the most minute,
& the most delicate.

Allah SWT knows, because
He's the One Who created it!

*We are the ones who do not know;
and we are only just finding
a small part of it out.*

Al Lateef & How He Brings Benefit

هُوَ يَعْلَمُ مَا دَقَّةٌ مِنَ الْمَصَالِحِ

the interest
or welfare
of people

the subtleties
or the
intricate parts
of things

- Allah SWT knows مَا دَقَّةٌ مِنَ الْمَصَالِحِ - He knows the subtleties or the intricate parts of things which will bring interest or welfare to the people. And from His Knowledge of this...

2

He is the One Who sends benefit & stops harm in ways that are unknown & unexpected, and in ways that a person is not able to achieve on his own, with the utmost Gentleness.



Allah SWT knows
every single thing,
so when He gives us
benefit, or He stops harm,
He does it in ways that
sometimes we do not
understand, and we don't
know why it's happening
this way, but it's actually
for our good.

And He lets us have it
with the utmost
Gentleness.

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Ayahs in the Quran with

اللَّطِيفُ



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يَبْنَىٰ إِنَّهَا إِن تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُن فِي
صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمُوتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

(Surah Luqman 31:16)

'Luqmân added,' "O my dear son! 'Even' if a deed were the weight of a mustard seed - be it 'hidden' in a rock or in the heavens or the earth - Allah will bring it forth. Surely Allah is Most Subtle, All-Aware.

- Something which is so hidden, so obscure, that nobody would know of, even if it is the size of a small mustard seed hidden under a rock, al-Lateef would bring it forth!



a Penny VS a Mustard Seed

Penny is 19.05 mm and a mustard seed is 2mm

- The Name al-Lateef comes together **five times with Al-Khabir (the All-Aware)**, in the Quran. He knows of every single minute detail that no one else will ever know.



وَأَسِرُّوا قَوْلَكُمْ أَوِ اجْهَرُوا بِهِ ۖ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ
 أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ

Whether you speak secretly or openly -
 He surely knows best what is 'hidden' in the heart.
 How could He not know His Own creation?
 For He 'alone' is the Most Subtle, All-Aware.

(*Surah Mulk 67:13-14*).

- “Whether you speak secretly or openly, He surely knows what is hidden in the heart.”
 For example, even when we sit next to somebody in the bus, we would never know what they're feeling in their hearts. Only Allah SWT knows. Then He asks this powerful question in the next Ayah...

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“How could He not know His own creation?”

(Surah Mulk 67:14)

[Read AA's TLL on this Ayah Here!](#)



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The (Subtle) Story of Yusuf AS.

إِنَّ رَبِّي لَطِيفٌ لِّمَا يَشَاءُ

Indeed my Lord is Subtle in fulfilling what He wills

(Surah Yusuf 12:100)

Prophet Yusuf A.S went through 3 big difficulties / misfortunes, which would actually be reasons for people to be totally destroyed.

1

As a child,
he was
thrown into
the well.

2

Then he
was sold
into
slavery.

3

And he
was then
unfairly
imprisoned.



- But from these three things, Prophet Yusuf AS didn't go down into the depths of destruction. He was instead brought up to the castle - to be a Minister, working closely with the King. He became one of the highest personnel in Egypt, SubhanAllah.
- He went through all these things to be brought up to the palace. **This is of Allah's Lutf.** A demonstration of how Allah's Lutf gives us benefit through ways which would seem the opposite, but it's actually bringing us to goodness.
- Sometimes Allah's Lutf brings us to Goodness in ways which we never expected - including through more "difficult" ways.

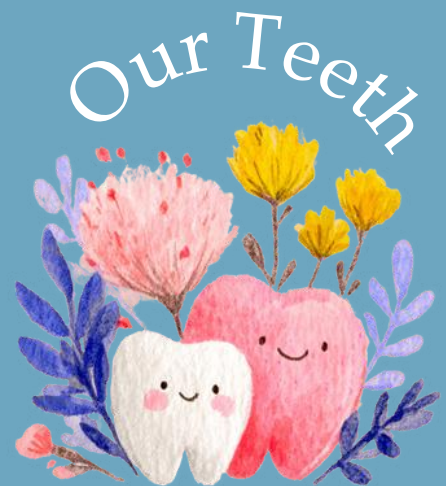
Examples of *His Lateef-ness*

by Imam Ghazali & Imam Qushayri



Imam Ghazali wrote how although the fetus is in three layers of darkness, as mentioned in Surah az-Zumar 39:6, the baby is still well protected by Allah SWT, with the fetus getting its nutrition through the umbilical cord.

Ponder upon our teeth - how it grows only when there is a need (normally, a baby starts to teeth only after 8 months). There are teeth which are used to chew, teeth which are used to bite, teeth of different sizes, and teeth of different shapes for different uses for our food. SubhanAllah.



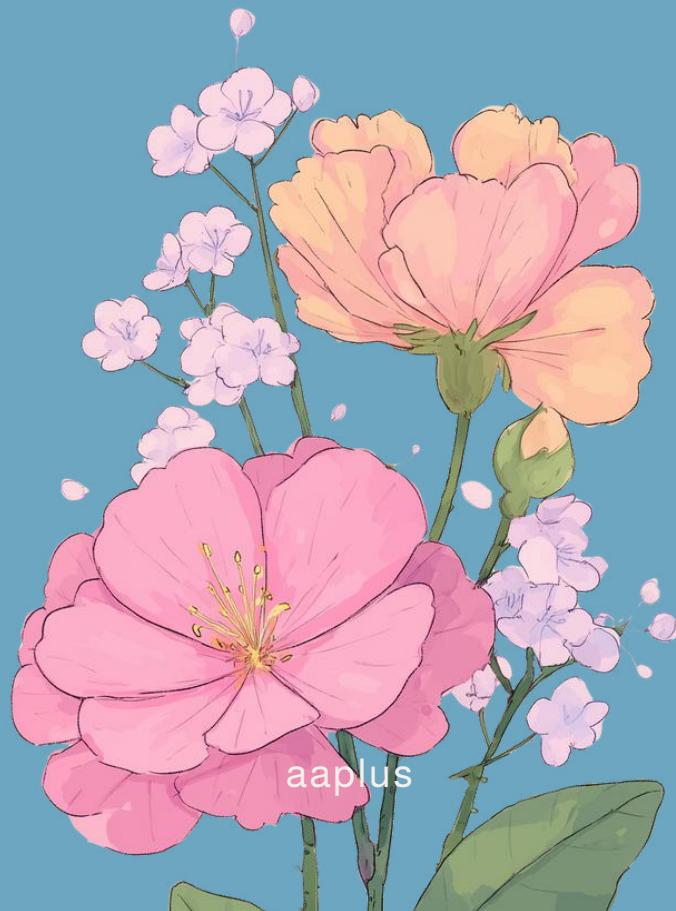
Our Food



Imam Qushayri wrote, "Think about how many eyes have been kept awake due to this piece of bread (that you are eating)?". We have the people who plant, who harvest, people who work in the bread factories and people who deliver the bread to the shops. So many people had to work for this piece of bread that reached us today. SubhanAllah!

*In His
Lateef-ness,
He divides our
provision,
our rizqi, &
He gives it to us
bit by bit by bit.*

He knows what we need, when we need, and how we need it.



He is Gentle in what He Gives & what He Asks.

- Out of His Gentleness is how He gives us our provision more than what we need. **He gives us Rizqi more than what we need. But on the other hand, He gives us responsibility which is less than what we are able to do.** So if He were to give us responsibilities equal to the energy He gives us, we'd be expected to do so much more.
- Even our 5 daily Prayers are so gently distributed in our day, and it is so light on us -it's just two and four and four and three and four (rakaats). SubhanAllah, all of these are examples of Allah's Lutf, Allah's Gentleness upon us that we normally tend to overlook.

Embodying Gentleness

- The middle word in the Quran is “ وَلَيَتَلَطَّفْ ” in Surah Kahf. (Quran 18:19) For context: this is where the group of youths who slept for hundreds of years in the cave finally woke up and one of them told his friends to go into the city to find food but to do it وَلَيَتَلَطَّفْ - cautiously, subtly! The fact that Allah SWT included this tiny but important detail reminds us that the character of a Muslim should always be gentle!
- Allah SWT is showing to us that the Akhlaq and the etiquette of a Muslim is that they have **Lutuf**. They are people who are gentle. They look at things and they understand that there is a gentleness in everything and they should be gentle to everyone around them. Subhanallah.



في كل لحظة
أنت تعيش بين فضل الله و لطفه

***In every moment,
we are living in
between Allah's Fadl
and Allah's Lutuf.***

In every moment, we are either getting
His Blessings or we are being
Protected of something by Him.

When Allah does not give us
something, it's not a deprivation,
but it's actually a protection.

It's a protection from some destruction
that He knows will come our way if we
were to get that very thing He is
Protecting us from.

When we know Allah SWT is al-Lateef...

- We become more calm and relaxed. We do not become people who complain because we know it's Allah's goodness or Allah's Lutuf at work. We know that He is the One Who's handling our affairs and He will settle it for us.
- We will also have Haya' (modesty and shyness) towards Allah. Because we know Allah SWT knows every single, delicate, minute detail of everything we are going through, we will naturally feel shy when we do anything wrong or when we feel something wrong, and we'll try to get rid of it from our hearts.
- We will also become gentler to all of Allah's creation. We want Allah to be gentle to us and so we are gentle to others. Being gentle is also a big part of our Deen.

اللَّهُمَّ لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رَدَّ الْقَضَاءِ
وَلَكِنْ نَسْأَلُكَ اللُّطْفَ فِيهِ

Ya Allah, we do not ask the
decree to be pushed away.
But we ask that You give us Your
Lutf, Your Gentleness when we
are going through it.

**we may not be able to avoid the difficulty,
but we can ask for a "soft landing".*



How do we acquire

Out of the 7 Ayahs that has al-Lateef, 5 of them is with al-Khabir, the All-Aware and All-Knowing. The scholars say this is a sign that to get more gentleness we have to increase in knowledge.



1) Increase in Knowledge



2) Increase in Remembrance of Allah

When we are in constant remembrance of Allah al-Lateef, it will bring us a lot closer to Allah Who is al-Lateef!

Lutf?

Observe the people of Allah who have a lot of gentleness when they interact with others. We see how they speak to others, we see how they correct people when they are wrong and we learn how to react with a lot of Lutf, a lot of rifaq, and a lot of gentleness.



3) Sit with the People of Lutf



4) Going against our Lower Nafs

Our Nafs is always in fighting between trying to do good or bad. In order for us to be gentle, we need a lot of **Mujahidah** (striving) to go against the lower self which wants to pull us down to become people who are angry, who are hard and who are harsh.



Bonus for the Believers!

- All of Allah's Names are for all of His creation. While they get portions of His Names and Attributes, the believers receive an extra portion.
- Everyone receives Allah SWT's Lutf, but Allah gives those who respond to His Call, those who do more obedience, **an extra Lutf**.
- Allah SWT sends benefit and stops harm to everyone too, but for the believers, He gives them extra benefit.

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Diving Deeper into

الْفَتْحُ



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Al Fattah & His Openings

- In Arabic, the word فَتْحَةٌ means 'to open'. Hence, when we say al-Fattah, Allah SWT is 'The Opener', 'He is the One Who opens'.
- Secondly, we see that the name al-Fattah is in the Sighah Mubalaghah (specific Arabic noun forms derived from verbs to indicate an **exaggeration.**)
- **Al-Fattah is the exaggeration of al-Fatih** (the one who opens) - meaning, He is the One Who **opens and opens and opens and opens.**

The One Who Unravels Knots



- We can say that Allah is the One Who opens the doors to paradise, or to this and that; these are the physical aspects of openings that we can see. We also see His openings through our 'basirah; (insights).

1

al-Fattah is the One Who settles problems. He opens closed doors and unravels knots which are too tight to be opened on our own.

- Allah SWT gives everybody a portion of provision in this world. They have varying qualities that they use to settle problems.

- For example, doctors help people solve their medical problems, lawyers help people solve their legal problems, and teachers help people settle their understanding problems. Allah gives them the strength to do openings or to settle things, **but not fully**, because Allah SWT is the One Who settles all problems.

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا^ط
وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ^ج
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Whatever Mercy Allah opens up for people, none can withhold it.
And whatever He withholds, none but Him can release it.
For He is the Almighty, All-Wise.

(*Surah Fatir 35:2*)

- If Allah closes the door, no one can open it, and if He opens the doors, no one can close it.

Al Fattah & His Judgments

2

al-Fattah is the One Who judges between people.

- When there's an issue that requires a judge's ruling, it's for a matter which is "closed". We do not know the way to settle it, and so we need someone to "open" it.
- A person who judges, gives a judgment in an issue between two people, is opening the problem and **giving it a solution.**



قَدْ أَفْتَرَيْنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا إِنْ عُدْنَا فِي مِلَّتِكُمْ بَعْدَ
إِذْ نَجَّيْنَا اللَّهُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَكُونُ لَنَا أَنْ نَعُودَ فِيهَا إِلَّا
أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَسِعَ رَبُّنَا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا عَلَى
اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا رَبَّنَا **أَفْتَحْ** بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا بِالْحَقِّ
وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْفَاتِحِينَ

(Surah Al-A'raf 7:89).

We would surely be fabricating a lie against Allah if we were to return to your faith after Allah has saved us from it. It does not benefit us to return to it unless it is the Will of Allah, our Lord. Our Lord has encompassed everything in 'His' knowledge. In Allah we trust. Our Lord! Judge between us and our people with truth. You are the best of those who judge."

- Allah is the one Who opens or Allah judges between people because it's a way of settling something.

Al Fattah & His Victories

3

al-Fattah is the One Who grants Victory.

- A victory is an opening after being closed. When something is closed, and Allah grants a victory, it's therefore an opening.

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِينًا

(Surah Al-Fath 48:1)

Indeed, We have granted you a clear triumph 'O Prophet'

- This verse came down when the Prophet ﷺ was on his way back after the Treaty of Hdaybiyyah.

Rejections are His Openings



- During Hajjatul Wada' (Farewell Hajj), the numbers multiplied to a hundred thousand. All these were from the “rejection” at Hdaybiyyah, which many of them were initially upset about.
- **Allah SWT in His Futh knows that He will be bringing them through this difficulty to some benefit.** He is the One Who opens the door, and He is the One who will give them victory after the difficulty!

1

Being granted
ease after
difficulty

2

Being granted
health after
illness

3

Being granted
knowledge
after ignorance

5 Examples
of Futh
(openings)
by al-Fattah

4

Being granted
obedience after
disobedience

5

Being granted
honour after
humiliation

*What do we do when
we know Allah is*



We must remain knocking
on His door, hoping and
begging, while being certain
that He'll open doors for us.

Remain knocking & remain begging at Allah's door.



إِنَّ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلْخَيْرِ مَغَالِيقَ لِلشَّرِّ وَإِنَّ مِنَ
النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلشَّرِّ مَغَالِيقَ لِلْخَيْرِ فَطُوبَى لِمَنْ
جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مَفَاتِيحَ الْخَيْرِ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ وَوَيْلٌ لِمَنْ
جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مَفَاتِيحَ الشَّرِّ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ

- Rasulullah ﷺ said, 'Some people open the door to good and close the door to evil, and some people open the door to evil and close the door to good. Glad tidings to those in whose hands Allah places the keys to good, and woe to those in whose hands Allah places the keys to evil.' (Ibn Majah) We ask Allah that He makes us the keys to goodness for His creation.

Ustazah's Closing Words:

ظاهره محنة وباطنه منحة

The scholars say “The outer dimension may be a trial or a problem, but it’s inner dimension is a gift from Allah SWT!”

We must remember that anything we are going through, we know that Al-Latif and Al-Fattah is giving us goodness through it.

And In Sha Allah, we will be people who are happy throughout everything because we know that Al-Fattah and Al-Latif is at work.