Ramadan Lesson 3: High Motivation in Supplication

Sheikh Khalid Al-Husainan (May Allah protect him)

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I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed:

O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, that you may attain Taqwa. [They are] prescribed number of days."

Our topic for today is about having a strong motivation in supplicating. Our Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) taught us to have a strong motivation, even in supplication. He said, "When you ask Allah, then ask Him for Al-Firdaws," and in some narrations, "...Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, for it is the ceiling of Paradise." The ceiling of what? The highest thing in Jannah is what? Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa. We Ask Allah, Most Generous, Lord of the Magnificent Throne, to grant us from his Generous Bounty.

In another hadeeth, Allah's Messenger () said, "Ask for the best of things, for nothing is too great to give for Allah." Many people, when you ask them, "Why don't you ask for Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa?" You are not asking Allah for Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa by your works and worship. No, rather, you ask Allah to grant you Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa from His Mercy, Generosity and Bounty. For this reason, some scholars said, when explaining this hadeeth, that when you ask Allah, then ask Him for Al-Firdaws, that a person may reach Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa due to his supplications for it. Why did they say that? Because the Messenger () would not ask for something impossible. As long the Messenger () said that when you ask Allah, then ask for Al-Firdaws, then this is evidence that a person may achieve Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa due to what? Due to his supplications for it. Presently, our minds cannot perceive this. We think Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa is specifically for the scholars, the scholars of Fiqh and scholars of hadeeth. Yes, maybe for those who have memorized the Quran in its ten modes of recitation, memorized the six books of Hadeeth with their chains of narration, memorized the books of Fiqh and have read the books of Aqeedah. But if we are told, for example, that such and such person, a shepherd, was granted Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, we would find this strange. A shepherd attained Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa! Why, my brother? Why are you restricting something which is open? He says, "What did this shepherd do for Islam and the Muslims? What has he memorized? What knowledge did he seek?" The Bounty of Allah is great. He is extremely generous. If Allah willed to place all those in the heavens and earth in Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, will that diminish His dominion at all? It will not diminish anything, because He is the Self-Sufficient, the Generous, the Merciful and Beneficent, Mighty and Majestic is He. You ask Allah Most High for Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa from His Mercy. You can say, "0 Truly Merciful! 0 Truly Generous! 0 Truly Bountiful! 0 Truly Magnanimous! 0 Truly Clement! 0 Truly Benevolent! 0 Truly Kind! 0 Giver of Gifts! I ask You from Your Mercy, Bounty, and Generosity! 0 You whose Hand is extended day and night! 0 You in whose Hands are the treasures of the universe!" You can praise Allah, magnify Him, and then you can say, "I ask you for Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa by Your Generosity, Mercy, and Bounty, o Lord of the Universe!" A person may not even pray voluntary prayers at night or voluntarily fast during daytime. He may not have that much worship, but he may attain Al-Firdaws. We should not restrict our minds and hearts and limit Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa to certain people. This is not proper. It may be that an unknown person attains Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, and a well known figure does not. That is the Bounty of Allah which He gives to whom He pleases. It may be given to an old woman who
knows nothing of the Quran except Surah Al-Fatihah, but due to her pure heart, her supplications and her humility before Allah Most High, at night, maybe even having some sins. Indeed Allah Most High is able to do all things. Do not limit what is open, may Allah protect you. Do not restrict the Generosity of Allah. His Generosity and Grace are great indeed. The only things you have to do, my dear brothers, is to beg Allah day and night. Imagine a person who begs Allah day and night in every prostration he makes: o Allah! Indeed I ask that you admit me to Al Firdaws Al-Alaa, by Your Mercy, Your Generosity, o Generous! o Beneficent! o Merciful! o Creator of the Heavens and Earth! o Majestic! o Bountiful! I ask you from your Mercy and Grace that you grant me Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa. He makes this prayer one or two hundred times. Allah will not refuse this person. He is extremely gracious and generous, Glory be to Him, the Most High.

So pay much importance, may Allah bless you, that you ask Allah Most High for Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa. Don't think you will achieve it with your deeds, worship, faith and knowledge. No. You may even fail the test. The Messenger ($) said, "Ask for the best of things." Do not think anything to be impossible. Some say, "Brother, ask Allah to grant you Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa." He says to you, "I don't think so. Its far from possible." Authu billah! Far from possible for Allah! Allah is able to do all things. What trait do you find in this person? You find that he harbors ill-feelings for Allah. Allah Most High has said in a Hadeeth Qudsi, "I am as My slave thinks of Me. So let him think of Me as he pleases." In some narration, it states, "If he thinks well of Me, then he may, and if he thinks ill of Me, then then he may." As long as you think Allah may grant you Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa and you beg Allah... you must persistently beg Allah, and repeat the prayer many times. You must have patience. My dear brothers, supplication requires patience. It requires strength. Call Allah and persistently beg of Him, and Allah Most High, through his Generosity, Grace and Mercy, will grant you Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, even if you do not perform that much voluntary worship, or you are not a scholar, a scholar of Fiqh, or a scholar of Hadeeth, and He will grant it. He is able to do all things. He is the Beneficent, the Merciful, and Generous, Most High.

I ask Allah, the Generous, the Lord of the Magnificent Throne, that He admit all of you into Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, and that you pray for your brothers. Few of us ask Allah to grant them Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa, as if it is in our hands and can admit who we please. We admit those who we like and reject those we don't! Dear brother, Firdaws is in the Hands of the Most Generous, the Most Merciful. Pray for your brothers! Like you pray for your brothers: o Allah, grant such and such person Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa. What will the angel say? He will say, "And to you the same, to you the same." So ask Allah, may Allah have mercy on you. Whenever you ask Allah for Firdaws, say, "those brothers with me," meaning all those you know, your friends, for family, relatives, or your best friends. Pray that Allah admits them into Al-Firdaws Al-Alaa. We ask Allah that He grant us the Guidance to do what He loves and is pleased with. May Allah reward you all.

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