



JOURNEY TO IKHLAS IN THE LIGHT OF RISALAH AL-NUR

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**REFERENCE:
THE 21ST FLASH, THE
VOLUME OF FLASHES,
RISALAH AN-NUR**

*In the Name of God, the Merciful, the
Compassionate. Do not fall into dispute, lest you
lose heart and your power depart (Al-A'raf,
8:46) And stand before God in a devout frame
of mind (2:238) Truly he succeeds that purifies
it (the soul), And he fails that corrupts it (Al-
Shams, 91:9-10) Nor sell my signs for a small
price (2:41. etc.).*

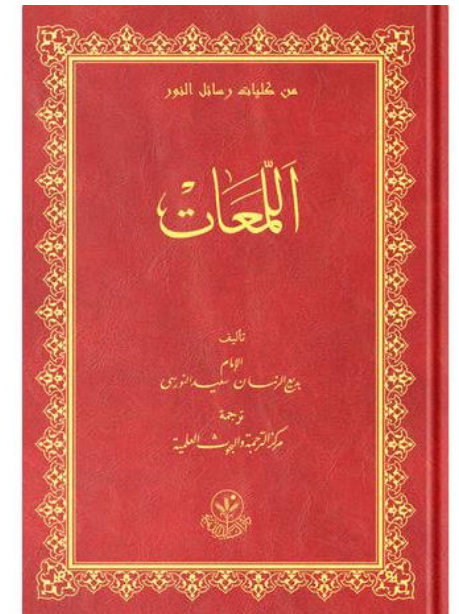
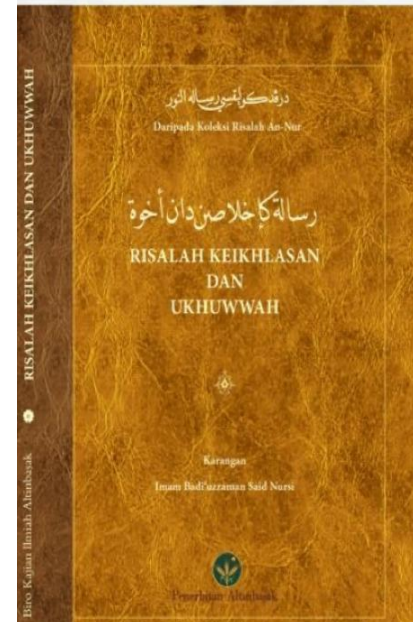
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَنَزَعُوا فَنَفْسَلُوا وَتَذَهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ

وَقَوْمُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ ﴿٢٣٨﴾

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّهَا ﴿١﴾ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّهَا ﴿١٠﴾

وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِآيَاتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا



THE IMPORTANCE OF SINCERITY

O my brothers of the hereafter! And O my companions in the service of the Qur'an! You know – and you should know – that in this world **sincerity is the most important principle in works pertaining to the hereafter; it is the greatest strength, the most acceptable intercessor (perantara), the firmest point of support, the shortest way to reality, the most acceptable prayer, the most wondrous means of achieving one's goal, the highest quality, and the purest worship.**

We need more than anything to instil sincerity in ourselves. Otherwise what we have achieved so far in our sacred service will in part be lost and will not persist; and we shall be held responsible; we shall manifest the severe threat contained in the divine prohibition, *Nor sell my signs for a small price.*(2:41, etc.)



وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِعَابَتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا

OBSTACLES

﴿ وَمَا أُبْرِيْ نَفْسِيْ ۚ إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوْءِ ۗ إِلَّا مَا رَحِمَ رَبِّي ﴾

(Surah Yusuf, 12:53)



My brothers! There are many obstacles before significant good works. Satans put up a powerful struggle against those who assist in them. **In the face of those obstacles and satans you have to rely on the strength of sincerity. You should avoid things that harm sincerity as you avoid snakes and scorpions.** In accordance with the words of Joseph (Upon whom be peace), *Nor do I absolve my own self of blame; the human soul is certainly prone to evil, unless my Sustainer do bestow His mercy,*(Yusuf, 12:53) the evil-commanding soul cannot be relied upon. **Do not let egotism and the soul deceive you!** To gain sincerity and preserve it you should take as your guide the following rules:

YOUR FIRST RULE:

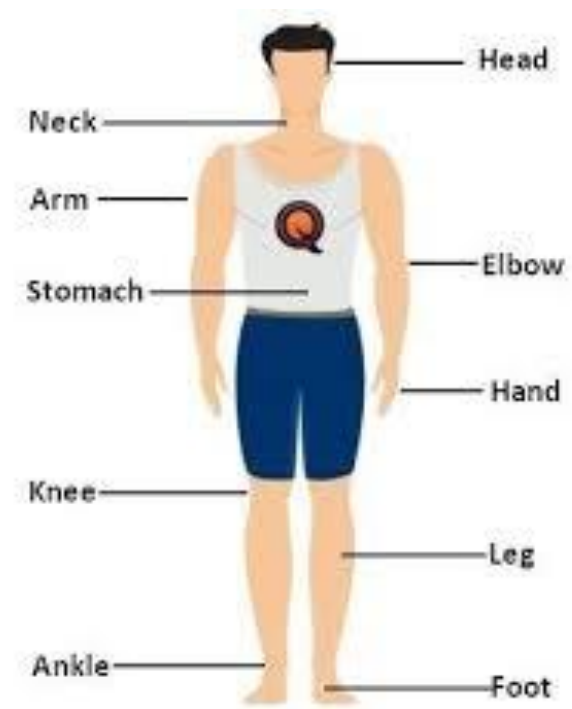
You should seek divine pleasure in your actions. If Almighty God is pleased, it is of no importance if the whole world even is displeased. If He accepts an action and everyone else rejects it, their rejection has no effect.

Once His pleasure has been gained and He has accepted an action, even if you do not ask it of Him, should He wish it and His wisdom requires it, He will make others accept it. He will make them consent to it too. For this reason, to seek divine pleasure should be the sole aim in this service.



YOUR SECOND RULE:

This is not to criticize your brothers who are employed in this service of the Qur'an, and not to excite their envy by displaying superior virtues. For just as one hand cannot compete with the other, so one eye cannot criticize the other, nor the tongue object to the ear, nor the heart see the spirit's faults. Each of a person's members completes the deficiencies of the others, veils their faults, assists their needs, and helps them out in their duties. Otherwise his life would be extinguished, his spirit flee, and his body fall apart.



Like the components of a factory's machinery...



Similarly, the components of a factory's machinery cannot compete with one another in rivalry, take precedence over each other, or dominate each other. They cannot spy out one another's faults and criticize each other, destroy the other's eagerness for work, and cause him to become idle. They rather assist each other's motions with all their capacity in order to achieve the common goal; they march towards the aim of their creation in true solidarity and unity. If **even the slightest aggression or desire to dominate were to interfere, it would throw the factory into confusion, cancelling its products and results. The factory's owner would then demolish the factory entirely.**

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$$\underline{4444}$$

O Risale-i Nur students and servants of the Qur'an! You and I are members of such a collective personality, **worthy of the title of the perfect man**. We are like the components of a factory's machinery which produces eternal happiness within eternal life. We are hands working on a dominical boat which will disembark the community of Muhammad (UWBP) at the realm of peace, the shore of salvation. So we are surely in need of solidarity and true union, obtained through gaining sincerity – **for the mystery of sincerity secures through four individuals the moral strength of one thousand one hundred and eleven** – indeed, we are compelled to obtain it.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ حَرِّضَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلَى الْقِتَالِ ۗ إِنْ يَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ عِشْرُونَ صَابِرُونَ
يَغْلِبُوا مِائَتِينَ ۗ وَإِنْ يَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ مِائَةٌ يَغْلِبُوا أَلْفًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا
يَفْقَهُونَ (٦٥) AL-ANFAL -



30,000 soldiers of Hamas
against 200,000 soldiers of Israel

Yes, if three alifs do not unite, they have the value of three, but on uniting, through the mystery of numbers they acquire the value of one hundred and eleven. If four times four remain apart, they have a value of sixteen. But if, through the mystery of brotherhood and having a common goal and joint duty, they unite coming together shoulder to shoulder on a line, they acquire the strength and value of four thousand four hundred and forty-four. Indeed, numerous historical events testify that the moral strength and value of sixteen self-sacrificing brothers have exceeded that of four thousand.

Unity values: $4 \times 4 = 16$

4444

THE POWER OF UNITY IN IKHLAS

The underlying reason for this mystery is this: each member of a true, sincere union may see with the eyes of the other brothers, and hear with their ears, as if each person of a true union of ten acquires the value and strength to see with **twenty eyes, think with ten minds, hear with twenty ears, and work with twenty hands.**

* COOPERATION VS.
COMPETITION



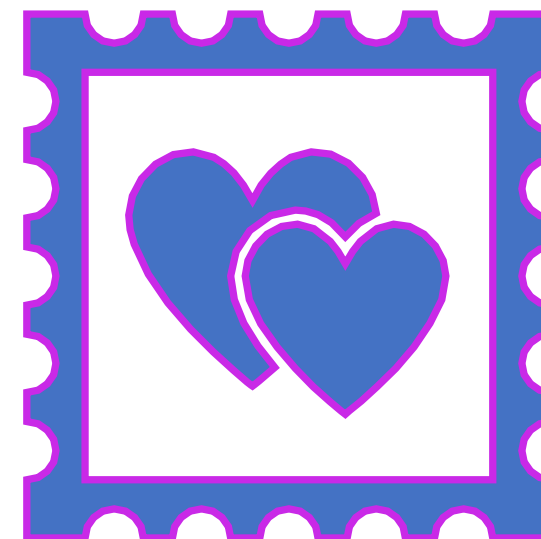
YOUR THIRD RULE



وَمَنْ يُوقَ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Surah al-Hashr, 59: 9

We must gain complete sincerity in accordance with the verse, *But give them preference over themselves (59:9)*. Prefer your brothers' souls to your own soul in honour, rank, acclaim (pujian), and in the things your soul enjoys like material benefits, and even in such innocent, harmless benefits as informing a needy believer about one of the fine truths of belief. **If possible, encourage one of your disinclined companions to inform him, so that your soul does not become conceited (superior). If you have the desire to tell him the edifying (enlightening) matter (arrogant) to gain the reward, it surely is not a sin and there is no harm in it, but the essence of sincerity between you might be damaged.**



WORLDLY AMBITION DAMAGES SINCERITY



O my companions in the service of the Qur'an! One of the most effective means of attaining and preserving sincerity is **"contemplation of death."** Yes, just as worldly ambition damages sincerity and drives a person to hypocrisy and the world, so the contemplation of death causes disgust at hypocrisy and gains sincerity. That is, to think of death and grasp that this world is transient, and so be saved from the **tricks of the soul.**such verses of the All-Wise Qur'an as, *Every soul shall taste death.(3:185) Truly you will die one day, and truly they too will die one day (39:30)* led them to make the contemplation of death fundamental to their spiritual journeyings; **it dispelled the illusion of eternity, the source of worldly ambition.**

A person is holding a white sign with Indonesian text. The text is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "MATI" is highlighted in red. The sign is held up against a blurred background of a crowd.

INGAT **“MATI”!!!**
KARENA KEMATIAN
TIDAK AKAN MELUPAKANMU

CONTEMPLATION OF DEATH

There are numerous advantages in this contemplation. It is taught by the Hadith which says something like, **“Frequently mention death which dispels pleasure and makes it bitter.”**

WHAT DESTROY SINCERITY AND DRIVE ONE TO HYPOCRISY



Of the very many things that destroy sincerity and drive one to hypocrisy, we shall briefly explain two or three.

THE FIRST:

Rivalry (Competition) towards material advantages slowly destroys sincerity. It is also detrimental (harmful) to the results of our service. So too it causes the material benefits to be lost.



THE SECOND:

Obstacle Destroying Sincerity:

This is to flatter the ego and give high status to the evil-commanding soul by **attracting attention to oneself and public acclaim, driven by the desire for fame, renown, and position.** This is a serious spiritual sickness that also opens the door to the **hypocrisy and self-centredness called the hidden association of partners with God,** and damages sincerity.



THE THIRD OBSTACLE:

This is fear and greed.

Dua: O God! For the sake of Sura al-Ikhlâs, place us among Your servants who attain sincerity. Amen. Amen. Glory be unto You! We have no knowledge save that which You have taught us; indeed, You are All-Knowing, All-Wise.(2:32)



سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٣٢﴾

المحمد لله رب العالمين