

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## *Tafsir Surat al Fatiha (5)*

*Ihdinas siratal mustaqeem –  
verse 6*

*Tafsir al Mizan*

*Pooya / Ali tafsir*

*Profoundities of the Prayer (Khamenai)*

*Adaabus Salat (Khomeini)*

# إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- *Practical Islam*: lifestyle to fit the beliefs – sincerity of faith visible in actions, Worship is not just ritual, we commit ourselves to Him only – *to live and die as would please Him, & freedom from serving others*
- *This verse means “worship with purity of intention”* : covered pronouns going from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> person, “iyyaka” before “na'budu”, unconditional worship, negation of ego in plural declaration of allegiance, why second sentence comes after first and they share the style
- *Adab*: all *up to* “you do we worship” *completes journey to Allah*, ending with our servitude and His Ownership in “Maaliki yawmud deen” - after which we should “*see only Him*” and make this pledge, then ask help to keep it



# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- “Guide us to and in the Straight Path”
- It is straight and that path of those on whom He has bestowed bounties and favours, and it is the way to Allah.
- We ask to be guided to this path - *this is the ultimate goal of worship*, we pray that all our worship be clean from impurities and be performed in this path.



# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- Allah has decided a path for us, which will end with meeting Him: “O man! Surely thou art striving to thy Lord a hard striving, until thou art to meet Him” (84:6) & others
- There are 2 paths, the straight one is to Allah, and the other is worshipping Satan: “Did I not enjoin on you, O children of Adam, that you should not worship Satan? Surely he is your open enemy. And that you should worship Me, that is the straight path” (30:60-1)
- Allah is near to His servants, and the nearer path to Him is worship and Prayer. And the unbelievers are in a far off place (41:44), “And when My servant asks about Me then verily I am near; I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he calls on Me, so they should answer My call and believe in Me, that they may walk in the right way.” (2:186)

# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- **Differences between the 2 paths:**
  - 1) One is higher, it is near to Allah, the other is that of disbelievers and is far from Him (lower)
  - 2) **You can go from the lower to higher** “..the doors of heaven shall not be opened for them” (7:40) **or fall from higher to lower** (“and to whomsoever My wrath descends he shall “perish indeed” (20:81))
- **More about the Straight Path:**
- **the people on the straight path have excellent bounties, more than just perfect belief:** “and whoever obeys Allah and the apostle, **these are with those** upon whom Allah has bestowed favours from amongst the prophets and the truthful and the martyrs and the righteous ones, excellent are these as companions”(4:69).

# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- **Path vs Way:**
- Quran: Many “ways”, e.g. “...and follow the way of him who turns to Me” (31:15) “ways to Allah are as many as the breaths of the creatures”, but only one “path”
- “and most of them do not believe in Him without associating others (with Him)” (12:106) – believers still equated with some form of polytheism
- Many “ways” of various grades are in the “path” - people differ in capacity to receive divine knowledge: “He sends down water from the heavens then the valleys flow, each according to its measure...” (13:17),
- “Allah will exalt those of you who believe, and those who are given knowledge, in high degrees” (58:11)- higher grades are purer



# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- *The straight path is a sort of a controller of all the ways leading to Allah, a way can lead to Him as long as it remains one with the straight path; but the straight path leads to Him **unconditionally**.*
- **Ihdina** - guide us to (and in): Allah is the one who guides people to this path, and we seek His aid to find it and stay firm on it. it is the path He has decreed for us, which alone will lead us to the fulfilment of our collective (human) and individual destinies.
- **as-Sirat** - The path. has a fixed starting point, and an end.
- It leads all who follow it to the same place, provided they do not stray from it.
- No extra maps or directions are needed to get to the final destination, as long as it is followed.



# أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- **Sirat:** clear path, derived from “sarrattu sarttan” meaning “I swallowed it completely” - believers on it are swallowed into it and cant go out.
- **Mustaqim:** literally, the one who stands upright, having full control of himself: not subject to change or variation.
- **As Sirat al Mustaqeem** = *the straight path which never fails to guide and lead the walker to his destination. The path of Allah never changes, and never fails.*
- *Straight path* is same primordial destination, path towards humanity led to by all prophets, to which all men would develop if not for straying; road perfect state of being for man and *success and happiness in both worlds*

# أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- Those on the straight path (Prophets, Ahlul Bayt (as)) are higher in rank than others, and their path is superior to others' ways - because of knowledge of Divine Attributes.
- How do we know the straight path? **By those on it!**
- **Adab:** straight path is the shortest way of reaching Allah, which is the way of the **Ahlul Bayt (as)**
- **“We are the gates of Allah, and we are the straight path, and we are the treasure chest of His knowledge, and we are the interpreters of His revelation...”**

*narrated from Imam as Sajjad (as)*

- **“Say O group of the servants (of Allah): *Lead us to the love of Muhammad (saw) and his family*”**



# أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

“O people! I am the Straight Path of Allah whom He commanded you to follow. and such after me also is Ali, and then my offspring from his loins, the Imams who guide with truth and turn (people) to it.”

Then, the Prophet (PBUH&HF) recited the entire Quranic chapter of the opening (al- Fatiha) and said: “This (chapter) was revealed in my honor and in theirs (i.e., the Imams’) generally and specifically. They are the authorized friends of Allah, for whom there shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.”

Prophet Muhammad (saw), according to the Sermon of Ghadeer



# اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- Second part of Shahada: **PROPHETHOOD**. Status of the Prophet (saw) and Ahlul Bayt (as), and our responsibility to follow
- They are beautiful examples to learn from - a comprehensive, most direct, divinely sanctioned path to closeness to Allah.
- *Allah introduces the Prophets and Imams (as) to us, and teaches us our respective roles in life.*



# و الحمد لله رب العالمين

