





Published by:
Dakwah Corner Bookstore (M) Sdn. Bhd.
No. 5, Jalan Dato Abdul Aziz, Section 14,
46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan,
MALAYSIA
T: +603-7956 4664

1st Published:
2025

ISBN:
978-629-7545-51-6

Printed by:
Fussian Advertising &
Printing Sdn. Bhd.

Title:
The Wayfarer's Journey
Towards Allah
- An Abridgement of
Madarij Al-Salikin

Cover Design:
Samo Press Group

Typesetting:
Samo Press Group

**For suggestions and
comments:**
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@gmail.com

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Distributors:

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Ilannoor Publication
Bangladesh
Tel: +88014 0707 0265

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IMAM IBN QAYYIM AL-JAWZIYYAH

THE WAYFARER'S JOURNEY TOWARDS ALLAH



AN ABRIDGEMENT OF
MADĀRIJ AL-SĀLIKĪN

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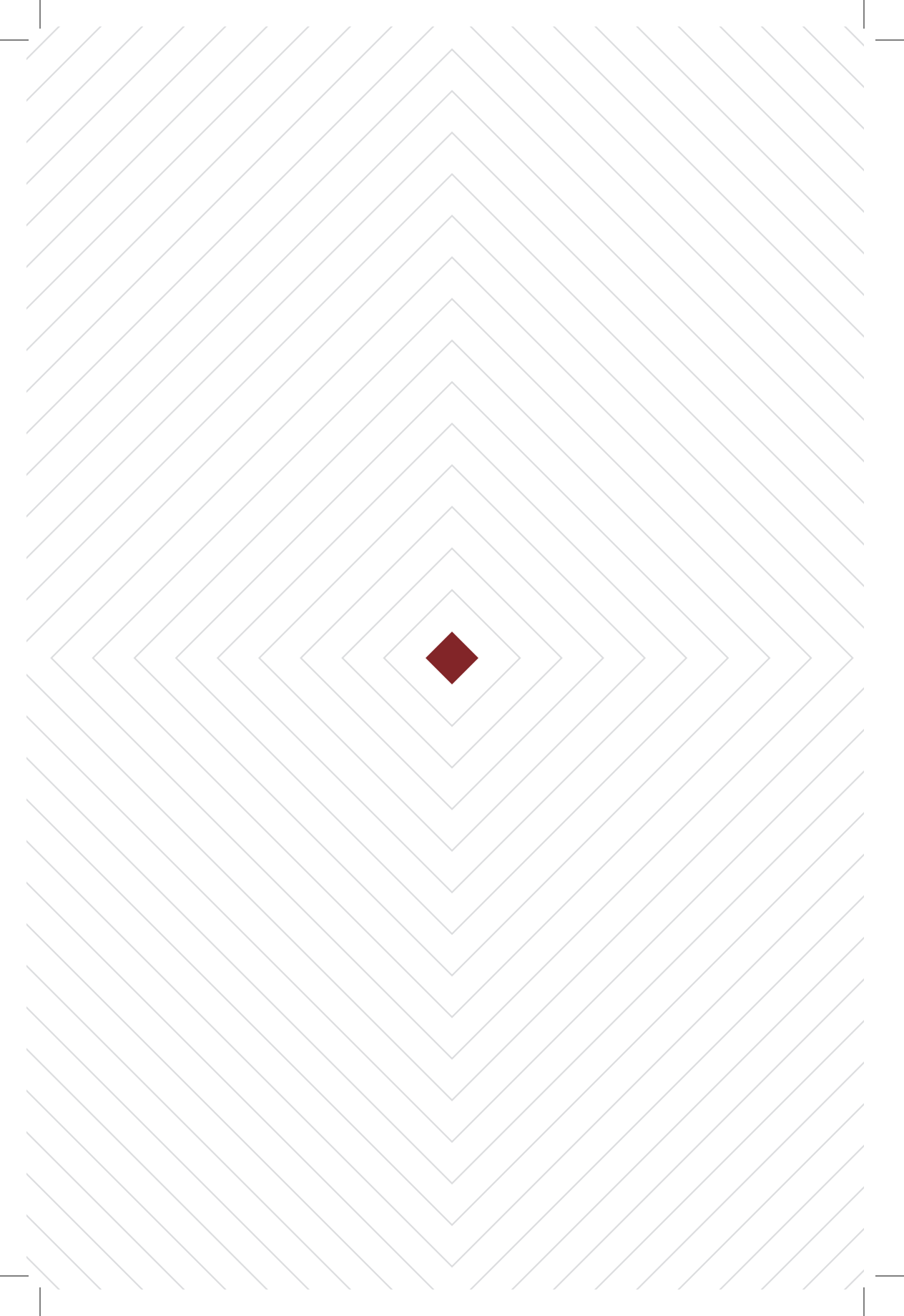


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INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allāh⁽¹⁾ ﷻ who has shown His servants the way that they should take to go to Him. He has enabled them to undertake the journey towards Him, and He explained through His messengers ﷺ how they should travel to Him. Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ was the last of Allāh's messengers ﷺ and he showed the way to Allāh ﷻ clearly, setting a practical example that stands out for all generations. Wherever they live, believers are able to emulate his conduct and be certain of earning Allāh's pleasure.

Across the centuries, scholars wrote books encouraging Muslims to follow the Sunnah and devote time for voluntary worship. They also showed that this is not limited to formal and physical worship, but that there is much that comes under what is termed as, 'the heart's action'. This refers to consciousness whereby whatever a person may be doing, his deed should be acceptable to Allāh ﷻ and in line with the teachings of the Divine faith.

One of the best books in this field is Imām Ibn al-Qayyim's *Madārij al-Sālikīn*, a title which may be translated as, "Steps of the Wayfarers." The Arabic title connotes something like the steps of a ladder, but they are steps along the way to a definite goal. The goal he defines as

(1) **Disclaimer:** The word is the arabic word for God.

being with Allāh ﷻ in the life to come. Over the years the book has received much praise by scholars and general readers.

In recent years, a shorter version of the book was published, deleting the portions that are not directly related to the book's theme. Following the method of many Islamic scholars, Ibn al-Qayyim often includes a detailed discussion of a side point that occurs during his general treatment of his subject. Removing such side discussions makes the book more focused and easier for the general reader. This version is called *Taqrīb Madārij al-Sālikīn*. The word *Taqrīb* means, "to bring something closer, to make it easier to learn, or to understand."

The present work is a translation of an abridgement of this shorter version. However, it gives a complete discussion of the theme of the original book and takes the reader along the journey in a pleasant and progressive way, using the author's flowing style.

The book takes the form of a journey which should be undertaken by believers who want to ensure for themselves the best outcome in their future lives. Its destination is to be with Allāh ﷻ. In other words, it is a lifelong journey towards Allāh ﷻ. The book divides the journey into stages, but these are not consecutive stages. Some extend throughout the journey itself, such as the stages of repentance, patience, and truthfulness. Others are completed and the traveller progresses onto another stage. Ultimately, the traveler arrives at a stage of life accompanied by the stage of Allāh's oneness, which is the last aspect addressed by the book. All in all, it is a pleasant journey that helps to produce the best in man.

