

# ALI 608: Traveling the Spiritual Journey

The states that the wayfarer experiences as a result of constant attention and spiritual struggle . . . are just the beginning of the process to turn those states into a second nature (malakah).

رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَاعْبُدْهُ وَاصْطَبِرْ  
لِعِبَادَتِهِ ۖ هَلْ تَعْلَمُ لَهُ سَمِيًّا

The Lord of the heavens and the earth and  
whatever is between them. So worship Him and  
be steadfast in His worship. Do you know  
anyone equal to Him?

**Sura Maryam, no.19, verse 65**




# States - I

In the beginning of the spiritual journey, by resorting to asceticism (zuhd), contemplation on and awareness of the heedless and transient nature of the world and the futility of attachment to it, the traveler in the path of God should sever the chain of attachment to the world of multiplicity

## States - 2

Weaken the ties of self-love and self-centeredness, and eventually sever them all. He must recant this inner idol, which is the source of all vices; and consign it to oblivion once and for all so that all his deeds would be definitely for the sake of Sacred Divine Essence only, and his love for himself would be transformed into the love of God. This can only be attained through spiritual combat.



If an iota of love for  
wealth, glory, and  
status, or for pride,  
ambition, and self-  
love remains in his  
heart, he will never  
attain perfection.



## States - 3

After traversing this phase and having severed all his ties, the traveler no longer has any attachment to his corporeal being and its needs, even to the bondage of his soul. Now, whatever he does is for God's sake

He no longer sees his own self or any other face except the Infinite and Eternal Beauty of the Beloved. Gradually he will be drawn into that endless ocean without leaving any sign or trace of himself.

# Help from Allah

Success in overcoming the carnal soul and its forces is contingent upon Divine solicitude and special Grace of the Lord of lords (Rabb alarb`ab); for it is not possible to traverse this stage without His special grace and assistance.