

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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Taking Advantage of Time and the Dangers of Wasting it

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“By the declining day; man is [deep] in loss, except for those who believe, do good deeds, urge one another to the truth, and urge one another to steadfastness.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Time has great importance and a precious value in humans’ life. It is one of the blessings that Allah bestows on man, as He (Glory be to Him) said, **“He has made the sun and the moon useful to you, steady on their paths; He has made the night and day useful to you, and given you some of everything you asked Him for. If you tried to count Allah’s favours you could never calculate them.”**

When contemplating the Glorious Quran, one finds that it pays much attention for time. For example, four *Surahs* of the Qur'an are named after certain times: namely: *Surat al-Fajr* (Dawn), *Surat al-Layl* (Night), *Surat al-*

Duha (Morning Hours), and Surat al-Asr (Afternoon). In addition, the Almighty Allah has sworn by times in various *Ayahs* in the Quran. For example Allah said, **“By the Daybreak; by the Ten Nights; by the even and the odd.”** and said, **“By the morning brightness; and by the night when it grows still.”** In another Surah, Allah said, **“By the enshrouding night; by the radiant day.”**

The Qur'an's concern with time shows us its importance, and the necessity of making use of it in doing good acts that benefit one's soul, society, and nation. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Take benefit of five before five your youth before your old age; your health before your sickness; your wealth before your poverty; your free-time before your preoccupation; and your life before your death.” Al-Hassan al-Basri said, “O Son of Adam! You are nothing but a number of days, whenever each day passes then a part of you has gone.”

Therefore, we have to organize our times, take advantage of every part of it, and make use of every moment in our lives; activity breeds activity, while laziness leads to laziness. When one combine something little with something little, this would make much. Man's life is nothing but pieces of time, which all together form his whole life. Once a poet said:

A person's heartbeats tell him;
life is just minutes and seconds.

However, we stress that the real age of man is nothing but his knowledge, as well as his intellectual, scientific, theoretical and applied heritage that he produces or presents, and everything he presents to serve humanity, regardless of the amount of the time he lived. A poet said:

The age of man is his fame not Longevity;
and his death is the day of his disgrace not his demise.
So, achieve your fame with good deeds;
so that you can have various lives.

Blessing in one's life is not only to live for a long life, but also the amount of what man produces or offers during his life to serve his religion, the world or people. The best among humans are those who live for a long life, and make good deeds; while the worst among humans are ones who live for a long life but do evil deeds. The best humans are those who are beneficial to people. The Prophet (PBUH) was asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Which of the people is the best?" He said, "He whose life is long and his deeds are good." He was asked again, "Then which of the people is the worst?" He (PBUH) said, "He whose life is long and his deeds are bad." Another Hadith tells us that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people."

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers: -

The Islamic Shari'ah urges us to take advantage of time, and warns us not to waste it. The Almighty Allah said, **"Give out of what We have provided for you, before death comes to one of you and he says, 'My Lord, if You would only reprieve me for a little while, I would give in charity and become one of the righteous. God does not reprieve a soul when its turn comes: God is fully aware of what you do.'"**

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "There are two blessings which many people squander: good health and free time." He (PBUH) also said, "The feet of the slave of Allah shall not move [on the Day of Judgement] until he is asked about five things: about his life and what he did with it, about his knowledge and what he did with it, about his wealth and how he earned it and how he spent it, about his body and for what did he wear it out." Another Hadith says, "Give charity, before you get a time when you will not be able to give charity."

Some people are deceived by time. If not, he may try to kill time because he lives in a boring killing leisure time. He does not make anything useful either for his life or for his religion. Abd Allah Ibn Masoud said, "Indeed I hate to see a man idle, neither working for this world nor for the Hereafter." May Allah bless a poet who said:

Time is the most precious thing you can save;
However, it is the most thing that I see you waste.

How much we need to devote our time for everything that benefits us and benefits our society and our homeland, so that we can achieve success, progress and happiness in this world and the Hereafter.

May Allah grant us blessing in our time and lives!