

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Awqaf  
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## Working is Honor

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Say [Prophet], ‘Take action! Allah will see your actions- as will His Messenger and the believers- and then you will be returned to Him who knows what is seen and unseen, and He will tell you what you have been doing.’”** 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.

Islam highly appreciates work, considering it the path of progress and advancement. When reviewing the Glorious Qur’an, one finds that it clearly calls for work and action that achieves development in our universe and brings about welfare for the whole world. The Almighty Allah said, **“It was He who brought you into being from the earth and made you inhabit it.”** In another verse, Allah said, **“It is He who has made the earth manageable for you-travel its regions; eat His provision- and to Him you will be resurrected.”** Allah, Most High, also said, **“Then when the prayer ends, disperse in the land and seek out Allah’s bounty. Remember Allah**

**often so that you may prosper.”** Thus, as work is very important, the command to work comes immediately after the Prayer. It is reported from ‘Irak Ibn Malik that whenever he prayed Jum‘ah Prayer, he used to stand at the Mosque door and say, “O Allah, I have answered Your command and performed the obligation of Jum‘ah Prayer, and now I’m about to go in land as You commanded, So bless me with provision from Your Grace as You are the Best Provider.”

The Sunnah of our Prophet (PBUH) is rich with statements calling for work and diligence as work is the way to preserve one’s honor. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The best type of earning is man’s work with his hand and every business transaction which is lawful.” He (PBUH) also said, “It is better for anyone of you to carry a bundle of wood on his back and sell it than to beg of someone whether he gives him or refuses.” Once Imam Sufyan al-Thawri passed by a group of people sitting in the Holy Mosque. He said, “Why do you sit here?” They replied, “What should we do?” He replied, “Seek provision from the Grace of Allah, and do not live independent on other Muslims.” Umar Ibn al-Khattab said, “Let not one of you refrain from working for his provision, supplicating to Allah to provide, for you know that the sky does not rain gold and silver.”

Given the value and significance of working, all Messengers of Allah (Peace and blessing be upon them all) used to work. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Prophet David used to eat from what he had worked for with his hands,” and said, “Zakariyya (PBUH) was a carpenter.” The Prophet

(PBUH) used to work and serve his family. Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said, "He used to mend his sandals and sew his garment." Even at the time of his death, the Prophet (PBUH) was keen to call us for work saying, "If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it."

One of the manifestations of the honor of working in Islam is that the Islamic Shari'ah gives the one who works to get the livelihood for himself and his children the same reward of a Martyr, as the Almighty Allah said, **"Some of you traveling through the land seeking Allah's bounty, some of you fighting in Allah's way."** Once a man passed by the Prophet (PBUH) and his Companions. When the Companions saw him so active, they admired it and said, "Had this been for the sake of Allah!" the prophet (PBUH) commented saying, "If he is working to provide for his young children, then he is working for the sake of Allah. If he is working to provide for his old parents, then he is working for the sake of Allah. If he is working to get lawful earning, then he is working for the sake of Allah. If he is working to provide for his family, then he is working for the sake of Allah."

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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: -

Islam does not call upon us just to simply work, but rather to perfect our work. The Almighty Allah has promised great reward for those who perfect their work saying, **"As for those who believe and do good deeds- We do not let the reward of anyone who does a good deed go to waste."** Also the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner."

Work is a responsibility for every worker and official. Therefore, they have to be mindful of Allah he Allah said, **"Allah is always watching over you."** Allah also said, **"In whatever matter you may be engaged, and whatever part of the Quran you are reciting, whatever work you are doing, We witness you when you are engaged in it. Not even the weight of a speck of dust in the earth or sky escapes your Lord, nor anything lesser or greater: it is all written in a clear record."** When the Prophet (PBUH) was asked, "What is *Ihsan* (perfection or benevolence)?" he (PBUH) said, "*Ihsan* is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not see Him, Allah sees you."

We ask You Allah to guide us to the good deeds, and to protect Egypt and all countries of the World from all evils!