

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Self-Accountability

What Have You Made for Your Religion, World, and Homeland?

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Truly, man is a clear witness against himself.”** 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.

Self-accountability is the sustenance of the pious people and the way of salvation on the Day of Judgement. The Almighty Allah has sworn in the Qur’an with the noble soul that often blames a person and holds him accountable. Allah said, **“by the self-reproaching soul.”** Our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) called people to hold themselves accountable. He told us that the most wise among the believers is the one who always remember death and works for the Hereafter. When our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was asked, **“Which one among believers is wisest?”** He said: **“The one who remembers death the most and is best in preparing for it. Those are the wisest.”** Umar Ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) said: Hold yourselves accountable before you are held accountable and evaluate yourselves

before you are evaluated, and prepare your selves for the Day when “you will be brought to judgement and none of your secrets will remain hidden.”

If a person will surely meet his Lord, Almighty, Who will hold him accountable and ask him about everything, then he has to hold himself accountable before being held accountable on that Day. The Almighty Allah said, **“And halt them for questioning.”** Allah also said, **“The record of their deeds will be laid open and you will see the guilty, dismayed at what they contain, saying, ‘Woe to us! What a record this is! It does not leave any deed, small or large, unaccounted for!’ They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them: your Lord will not be unjust to anyone.”** In another verse, the Almighty Allah said, **“Indeed, ears, eyes, and heart, you will be questioned.”** The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “There will be none among you but will be talked to by Allah on the Day of Resurrection, without there being an interpreter between him and Him (Allah). He will look and see nothing ahead of him, and then he will look (again for the second time) in front of him, and the (Hell) Fire will confront him. So, whoever among you can save himself from the Fire, should do so even with one half of a date (to give in charity).”

A wise person is the one who adheres to holding himself accountable all the time and attain piety as a provision for the Day of Judgement. The

Almighty Allah said, **“Provide well for yourselves: the best provision is to be mindful of Allah.”** Allah also said, **“Beware of a Day when you will be returned to Allah: every soul will be paid in full for what it has earned, and no one will be wronged.”** Allah also said, “You who believe! Be mindful of Allah, and let every soul consider carefully what it sends ahead for tomorrow; be mindful of Allah, for Allah is well aware of everything you do. Do not be like those who forget Allah, so Allah causes them to forget their own souls: they are the disobedient ones.” Ibn Kathir (May Allah have mercy on him) said, “This means: Hold yourself accountable before you are held accountable in the Hereafter, and consider that which you have prepared for the Day of Judgement and being summoned before your Lord. Be aware that your Lord is All Aware of your actions and conditions, and there is nothing you did that is unknown for Him.

It is by this accountability, the soul elevates to the highest degrees and the perfect manners. The Almighty Allah said, **“The one who purifies his soul succeed; and the one who corrupts it fails.”** Al-Hasan al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him) said, “A slave of Allah will remain in a good state as long as he remains the warner of himself, and his concern is to held himself accountable.

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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:

There is no doubt that holding oneself accountable is not limited to investigating what a person has done for the Hereafter, including Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, Hajj, etc. Rather, this concept extends to investigating what a person has done for the universe and what a he has provided for his family, his country and humanity in terms of useful knowledge and serious work. A wise person is the one who develops the universe through his religion and serves his homeland whenever it is in need for him.

Our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) listed the pillars of Islam when saying: "Islam is built upon five [pillars]: the testimony that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, performance of Prayer, giving Zakat, fasting during the month of Ramadan, and performing Hajj for someone who can afford it." However, the concept of worship is much broader than this. Kindness to parents and providing for them are acts of worship; lawful earning is an act of worship; honesty is an act of worship; perfecting one's work is an act of worship; developing the universe is an act of worship. How is it beautiful to live for the sake of Allah by fulfilling people's needs and protecting them from harm?! Allah, the Almighty, said, **"It was He who brought you into being from the earth and assigned you to develop it."**

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said, "To leave your inheritors rich is better than to leave them poor and begging from people. Whatever you spend will be considered a charity for you, even the mouthful of food you put in the mouth of your wife." The Prophet (Peace be upon him) also said, "When a Muslim plants a tree, whatever is eaten from it by humans, birds, or animals is considered a charity from."

How much do we need to constantly hold ourselves accountable, repent to Allah, and have a sincere determination to reform. Our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) says: "Allah, the Exalted, will continue to stretch out His Hand in the night so that the sinners of the day may repent, and continue to stretch His Hand in the daytime so that the sinners of the night may repent, until the sun rises from the west."

May Allah protect Egypt and raise its flag high among all countries of the world!