

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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The Qur'an's Concern with Time and Its Discourse about Days and Years

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Allah alternates night and day- there truly is a lesson in [all] this for those who have eyes to see.”** 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.

When contemplating the Glorious Qur'an, one realizes that it pays much care for time, which indicates its importance, and the need to utilize it for the performance of good and righteous deeds. The Almighty Allah makes many oaths in the Qur'an with different timings of the day. He (the Most High) swore by the dawn in the Surah that carries this name, i.e., Surat al-Fajr (The Dawn). Allah said, **“By the Dawn, by the Ten Nights, by the even and the odd.”** Also, the Almighty Allah swore by the early hours of the day, saying: **“By the morning brightnes, and by the night when it grows still, your Lord has not forsaken you [Prophet], nor does He hate you.”** Also, athe Almighty Allah swore by the Asr (late afternoon), saying: **“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." In other Qur'anic verse, Allah said, "By the shining morning," and "By the enshrouding night, by the radiant day."

The Almighty Allah has made the passage of time, days and years as one of the miracles indicating His absolute Power and Knowledge. The Almighty Allah said, **"We made the night and the day as two signs, then darkened the night and made the daylight for seeing, for you to seek your Lord's bounty and to know how to count the years and calculate. We have explained everything in detail."** The universe works according to a marvelous and accurate system that never changes or breaks down. The Almighty Allah said, **"The sun, too, runs its determined course laid down for it by the Almighty, the All Knowing. We have determined phases for the moon until finally it becomes like an old date-stalk. The sun cannot overtake the moon, nor can the night outrun the day: each floats in [its own] orbit."** Allah, the Almighty said, **"Say [Prophet], 'Just think, if Allah were to cast perpetual night over you until the Day of Resurrection, what god other than He could bring you light? Do you not listen? Say, 'Just think, if God were to cast perpetual day over you until the Day of Resurrection, what god other than He could give you night in which to rest? Do you not see. In His mercy He has given you night and day, so that you may rest and seek His bounty and be grateful."** Also, Allah (Glory be to Him) said, **"He makes the night merge into the day and the day into the night; He has subjected the sun and the moon- each runs for an appointed term. Such is Allah your Lord: all control belongs to Him.**

Those you invoke beside Him do not even control the skin of a date stone."

To maximize the value of time and show its importance, the Qur'an related the acts of worship with specific timings, as the Almighty Allah said about Prayer, **"Prayer is obligatory for the believers at prescribed times."** Also Allah said, **"So perform the regular prayers from the decline of the sun until the darkness of the night, and [recite] the Qur'an at dawn- dawn recitation is always witnessed."** Also, regarding Fasting, the Almighty Allah said, **"It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed as guidance for mankind, clear messages giving guidance and distinguishing between right and wrong. So any one of you who is present that month should fast."** About Zakah (Charity), Allah said, **"Pay what is due on the day of harvest,"** Also, about Hajj, the Almighty Allah said, **"The pilgrimage takes place during the prescribed months."**

As the Glorious Qur'an guides us to think over and take lessons from the past times, and the previous nations, as the Almighty Allah said, **"What are they waiting for but the punishment that came to those before them?"** and said, **"We alternate these days among people."** Allah also said, **"Remind them of the Days of Allah."** Abd Allah Ibn Abbas commented on this verse, saying, **"That is: remind them of the incidents that occurred for previous nations."** Al-Tabari said, **"It means: Exhort them by the stories of old nations and their fortunes and misfortunes."**

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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:

As the Glorious Qur'an talks about the days of this world life, it reminds us of the days of the Hereafter, in order to do the best work for it, and to best prepare ourselves for it, as it is to Allah we all shall return. The Almighty Allah said, **"You who believe, give from what We have provided for you, before the Day comes when there is no bargaining, no friendship, and no intercession. It is the disbelievers who are wrong."** Allah also said, **"The angels and the Spirit ascend to Him, on a Day whose length is fifty thousand years. So be patient, [Prophet], as befits you. The disbelievers think it is distant, but We know it to be close. On a Day when the heavens will be like molten brass, and the mountains like tufts of wool, when no friend will ask about his friend."** Allah also said, **"A Day with your Lord is like a thousand years by your reckoning."** Also, Allah said, **"On the Day when the sky sways back and forth, and the mountains float away."** In another verse, Allah said, **"On the Day when every soul finds all the good it has done present before it, it will wish all the bad it has done to be far, far away. Allah warns you to beware of Him, but Allah is compassionate towards His servants."**

How much do we need to be aware of the value of time, and take lessons from the passage of days and years, and work for the sake of our religion and life, for ourselves and our homelands. This is a reminder that urges us to work hard and make use of our times in what benefits ourselves, our homelands, and all people. The Almighty Allah said, **“It is He who made the night and day follow each other- so anyone who wishes may be mindful or show gratitude.”** The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Man's feet will not move on the Day of Judgement before he is asked about four things: his life, how did he consume it, his knowledge, what did he do with it, his wealth, how did he earn it and how did he dispose of it, and about his body, how did he wear it out."

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