

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Making Use of the Time of Youth in Self-Building “Perfection of Worship and Perfection of Work”

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.

Our religion has paid special attention to the time of youth, stressing on the importance of this time on the building and formation of one’s character. The time of youth is the climax of vitality, and the moment of the culmination of mental maturity and physical development. The Almighty Allah said, **“It is Allah Who creates you weak, then gives you strength, then weakness after strength, together with your grey hair: He creates what He will; He is the All Knowing, the All Powerful.”** Also, Islam directs our attention to the significance of making use of the time of youth in what avails ourselves, our religion and our homeland, either through our worship and work. 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." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The feet of the slave of Allah shall not move [on the Day of Judgement] until he is asked about four things: about his life and what he did with it; about his youth and how he spent it; about his wealth and how he earned it and how he spent it; and about his knowledge and what he did with it."

Islam not only commands us to make use of our youth through worshiping Allah and working, but also it commands us to have perfection and excellence. The Almighty Allah said, "**Do good, for Allah loves those who do good.**" In another Qur'anic verse, Allah said, "**Allah commands justice, doing good.**" Allah also said, "**Allah does not let the reward of anyone who does a good deed go to waste.**" The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner."

Perfecting acts of worship is achieved through fulfilling their conditions and pillars, and completing their recommended acts and etiquettes. The Almighty Allah said about Prayer, "**[How] prosperous are the believers; those who pray humbly.**" The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Shall I tell you something by which Allah effaces the sins and elevates ranks (in Paradise)?" The Companions said; "Certainly, O Messenger of Allah." He (PBUH) said, "Performing the Wudu' thoroughly in spite of difficult

circumstances, walking with more paces to the mosque, and waiting for the next prayer after observing one Prayer; that is *Ar-Ribat*, and that is *Ar-Ribat* (being always mindful of Allah)." Regarding Zakah, the Almighty Allah said, **"You who believe, give charitably from the good things you have acquired and that We have produced for you from the earth. Do not give away the bad things that you yourself would only accept with your eyes closed: remember that God is self-sufficient, worthy of all praise."**

Regarding Fasting, the Prophet (BUH) said, "When any one of you is observing *Sawm* (Fasting) on a day, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise the voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him he should say: 'I am observing fast.'" Jabir ibn Abd Allah said, "When you are fasting, protect your hearing, eyes, and tongue from lying and prohibitions. Let the tranquility of your Fasting manifests itself on you." The Almighty Allah said, **"Complete the Hajj and 'Umrah for the sake of Allah."** Allah also said, **"When you have completed your rites, remember Allah as much as you remember your own fathers."** The command to have perfection even extends to include burying the dead. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "When any one of you shrouds his brother, he should shroud him well."

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 perfecting work is the path of civilized nations, which are driven by their love for their homelands, and their awareness of their role in their advancement and progress to perform good work, and perfect it in excellence. This is the best way to take advantage of the capabilities and energies of young people in what serves religion and homelands, since much of the progress and development that we witness in our world in the modern era in various fields is based on the shoulders of young people who have contributed with their efforts and mastery serving humanity.

In fact, we stress that people will not respect our religion unless we achieve progress in the affairs of our world life. When we achieve progress in the affairs of our world life, people will respect our religion and our world life. This superiority will not be achieved unless we make perfection of work a general culture in everything: in science, industry, culture, craft and vocational work, and all aspects of our lives. We have to realize that mastering work is a duty necessitated by our Shari'ah teachings and our patriotic spirit, and that work turns into an act of worship as long as it is associated with a lofty purpose. The Prophet (PBUH) said about a young man who once passed by the companions and they admired his vitality,,

“If works to supply provision for his children, then he is in the Cause of Allah; if he comes out to supply provision for his elderly parent, then he is in the Cause of Allah; if he works to keep his chastity, then he is in the cause of Allah; and if he works to supply provision for his family, then he is in the Cause of Allah.”

We ask Allah to guide us to everything He loves and is pleased with, and may Allah protect Egypt and its people against any evil and harm!