

TIME

DAR UT TAWHEED PUBLICATIONS

Time-this is an aspect of life that many take for granted. Some individuals use their time wisely, while others are unappreciative. The lifestyle and ideology of the West promotes the wasting of time with leisure activities, such as going to the movies, dance clubs, etc. Many people believe that they have time on their side and have their whole lives ahead of them. They give certainty to their predictions, yet they fail to realize the only element of life that is most certain-death!

Unfortunately those living in the West are very easily disillusioned. They fall into the love of material wealth and have made their ultimate goal in life to live in this world luxuriously. Sporting activities, tourism, going to beach parties, idle talk, and the careless consumption of money are things people do excessively. Sadly today we see the Muslim Ummah falling into the delusions of this world and consuming their time with unbeneficial activities. Many Muslims today have adopted the life of the disbelievers, thus resulting in their imprudent use of time. Verily, Rasoolullah (saw) spoke the truth when he said, "There are two blessings which many people lose: health and free time for doing good." [Bukhari]. Many of us are ungrateful for the blessing of time that Allaah ta'ala has given us. It is when we become ill and sick, when we realize the blessings of our good health; or when we are busy with other responsibilities, when we realize how much time we had before that could have been used to please Allaah (swt).

Many Muslims have given precedence to this life and material world and have forgotten about the Hereafter. Allaah (swt) says in Surah At-Takaathur [102], "The mutual rivalry for piling up of worldly things diverts you Until you visit the graves (i.e. till you die), Nay! You shall come to know! Again, Nay! You shall come to know! Nay! If you knew with a sure knowledge (the end result of piling up, you would not have occupied yourselves in worldly things). Verily, You shall see the blazing Fire! And again, you shall see it with certainty of sight! Then, on that Day, you shall be asked about the delight." We have fallen for the distractions of Shaytaan and have used our time striving to satisfy our whimsical desires. We have neglected the preparations for the Akhirah. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler." [Bukhari]. Imagine this world as a tunnel and we are at the beginning of it. Our goal is to reach to the end of the tunnel, where there is light. While you are going through the tunnel you meet many individuals building houses and settlements there, trying to make you sign contracts for businesses in the tunnel, while your main goal is to reach to the end of the tunnel. As Muslims, we need not to waste our time "settling in the tunnel," but on the contrast focus on our goal – to get to the end of the tunnel without being distracted (attaining paradise Insha' Allaah). Let us not waste our times in front of the television, going to cinemas or involving in useless talk. We must strive in the world as strangers and use our time wisely to prepare for the real life-the Hereafter.

Allaah (swt) says in Suratul Zalzalah , "Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it! And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil, shall see it." On the Day of Resurrection, all we will take with us is our deeds. Even the smallest of deeds, on this Day we shall see it. So that five minutes that we used on reading the Qur'an, we shall see it, or that same five minutes that we used listening to music we shall see it! We must indulge ourselves in doing good deeds and fulfilling our obligations as Muslims.

On the Day of Judgment, when there will be no refuge or protection given except through Allaah, Allaah (swt) will give shade to seven. One of them is "a youth who has been brought up in the worship of Allaah..." [Bukhari, Volume 1, Book 11, Number 629]. The Muslim Youth mustn't think they have their whole lives to get into Deen. They should use the energy and time Allaah has blessed them with in the way of Allaah (azj). If we look at some of the lives of the Sahabas (ra), we see at the ages of 15 and 16, their lives were filled with da'wah and the sacrificing of their time, energy, wealth, and families. They are the best of generations and we must strive to emulate their example.

In summation, Allaah ta'ala says in Al-Qur'an, "By Al-'Asr (the time). Verily! Man is in loss, Except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience." [Suratul 'Asr 103]. Indeed, we are in loss if we are not those of 'Imaan, those who sincerely sacrifice our time and wealth in giving the call of Tawheed, command ma'rouf (good), forbid munkar (evil) and remaining pleased with the decree of Allaah ta'ala. May Allaah (swt) make us of those who use their time beneficially; May the Ummah return back to the implementation of this Deen and remember the Day when we will face our Rabb. Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alaamin

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The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Make the most of five things before five others: life before death, health before sickness, free time before becoming busy, youth before old age, and wealth before poverty." See Saheeh al-Jaami, no. 1077.

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