

# The End? ... or a New Beginning?

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In this world, Allāh Ta'ālā has decreed a fixed time span for everything, having a beginning and an end. There is nothing in this world; living or non-living, which will last forever. Life begins but undoubtedly has its end. Years, hours, minutes and seconds all pass by only to lead each thing to its end. Every person and every item will perish exactly at the time Allāh Ta'ālā has decreed.

Allāh Ta'ālā clearly states in the Glorious Qur'ān, "Everything is going to perish..." (28:88) Similarly, Allāh Ta'ālā states, "Everyone who is on it (the earth) has to perish." (55:26)

## Time to Reflect

As we approach the final few remaining days of the year 2023, the mention of the 'New Year' is heard all around us. Many will rejoice and celebrate the ending of this year and the beginning of the next. However, as Muslims, we believe that instead of celebration, the ending of a year or the beginning of a new one serves as a valuable reminder for us to reflect and take account, as to whether this year was profitable for us by following the commands of Allāh Ta'ālā or whether we made a loss by going against them. Consequently, we can make resolutions and targets in order to achieve true success and make the following year fruitful for ourselves.

Allāh Ta'ālā says, "O you who believe, fear Allāh, and everybody must consider what he (or she) has sent ahead for tomorrow (the hereafter)." (59:18) In this verse Allāh Ta'ālā very beautifully reminds us that as the day of Qiyāmah draws more and more closer, consider and ponder over your actions.

Take the example of a successful businessman. At the end of the financial year, he does not immediately celebrate. First of all, he will take stock of the past year, very carefully checking each area of his business to see whether it was profitable or not. If it was profitable, only then will he celebrate. And regardless, he will make new targets and plans for the upcoming year.

We must do the same with our lives. 'Umar رضي الله عنه says,

"Take stock of your own lives before Allāh Ta'ālā reckons you. And, assess yourself before you are assessed by Allāh Ta'ālā. And, prepare yourselves for the great summoning." (Tafseer Al-Qur'ān Al-Azeem)

## Time Never Stops

Just as this year is coming to and end, so will our lives. A poet says in Urdu,

ہو رہی ہے عمر مثل برف کم چپکے چپکے رفتہ رفتہ دم بدم  
'Life is decreasing in the manner of ice  
Silently, steadily, breath by breath.'

Time does not wait for anyone. Once time passes it will never return. How many seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years have passed? When has this time ever stopped or even paused for a slight moment? Have we ever been able to retrieve any of that time?

Hasan Al-Basri rahimahullāh once said, "O son of Ādam! You are only (a collection of) days; when a day passes, a part of you passes." (Hilyatul Awliyā)

Hence, we should reflect and take stock of how we have spent our moments during this year. We should be grateful and make shukr upon those moments which were spent in good deeds. Allāh Ta'ālā says, "If you express gratitude, I shall certainly give you more..." (14:7) Likewise, we must make tawbah and istighfār upon those moments which were spent in the disobedience of Allāh Ta'ālā. Our beloved prophet ﷺ said, "The one who repents from his sins is like the one who has no sins." (Ibne Mājah)

## Make A Firm Resolution

When a new year begins, we must ponder over the previous year. We must ensure we do not commit the same mistakes again. We must turn to Allāh Ta'ālā, repent and seek forgiveness. Ultimately, we must make a firm resolution that from now on we will live a life that will bring the pleasure of Allāh Ta'ālā. Yes, it may be the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. But for ourselves, let us make it the end of a sinful life and the beginning of an obedient one.

