

Valuing The Gift of Time

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Allāh ﷻ has blessed each and every one of us with an infinite number of blessings and favours; whether it is the gift of Imān, our good health, our loved ones, our wealth, our property etc. Each and every person is engulfed in the blessings from Allāh ﷻ.

A Limited Gift of Allāh ﷻ

One of the greater blessings that we all have been granted is the blessing of time in this world. Without this gift from Allāh ﷻ, any other blessing or gift is rendered useless as there would be no opportunity to utilise it. Without time, how would we practise on our Islām and please Allāh ﷻ? Without time, how would we spend moments with our beloved ones? Without time, how would we utilise our wealth and property? Therefore, time proves to be a key bounty of Allāh ﷻ.

However, this is a very limited blessing of Allāh ﷻ, even such that the limit is unknown to mankind. Nobody knows how much time they have been granted in this world. Therefore, the only sensible thing to do, is to treat each moment as our last, each day as our last, each week, month and year as our last. If we were to know that this was our final moment in this world, we would definitely want to spend it in an action that would please Allāh ﷻ and take us into Jannah. As we are unaware of our final moment, we must treat every moment in this same way.

The Swift Passing of Time

Time does not stop for anyone. Whatever a person is going through, the seconds will continue to tick away, the minutes and hours will continue to pass and days will continue to change. One person can sit around all day and another can go out and work hard all day, both will pass through the same 24 hours. A poet has very beautifully explained the passing of time in Urdu,

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

Hasan Al-Basri ﷺ used to say, "O son of Ādam, you are only (a collection of) days. When a day passes, a part of you passes." (Hilyatul Awliyā)

As we can understand the swift passing of time and our limited period in this world, we must also understand the value of each and every second. The passing of time is not something to celebrate and be joyous over. In fact it is a time to reflect upon our past doings and rectify our mistakes. The passing of birthdays, anniversaries, calendar years and other milestones which are generally celebrated in this day and age, should actually serve as valuable reminders that our time in this world is passing by; are we making the most of our time and are we utilising this great gift of Allāh ﷻ?



What We Should Do

Let us all reflect on our past lives and identify our weaknesses and strengths and work on them. Our lives should be rid of those activities which displease Allāh ﷻ and filled with those that please him. Fortunately for a Muslim, he is not in need of a new year to make new resolutions. Using tawbah, a Muslim can make a new resolution at any moment in his life and receive a clean slate from Allāh ﷻ. Nabi ﷺ has mentioned, "The one who repents from sin is like the one who has no sin at all." (Ibn Mājah)

Thereafter, we should keep constant supervision on our use of time, on a daily basis. 'Abdullāh ibn Mas'ud ﷺ used to say, "I have not had such regret over anything like how I have over that day where the sun has set and my life has decreased but my (good) actions have not increased." (Daleel-us-Sā'ileen)