

Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Shafi Uthmāni (rahmatullāhi alayhi) & his Value for Time

Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmāni hafizahullāh quotes his honourable father, the great Mufti Muhammad Shafi Uthmāni rahmatullāhi alayhi, "I assess my time very carefully and spend it very efficiently so that not a moment goes to waste. It should either be spent in a deeni activity, or a worldly necessity (which if done with the correct intention also becomes a part of deen)."

To explain his value and concern for time, he once said, "I feel embarrassed to say this, but I am mentioning it to explain the importance of time. When a person visits the lavatory, that is a time when a person is not able to engage in a deeni activity like zikr etc., nor is he able to do anything else. However, I feel very concerned that my time is being spent futile, so during my time in the lavatory, I wash the water jug that is used for istinjā. Hence, my time is spent in something beneficial as the next person will find a clean jug and be pleased by it."

He would also say, "I plan my time ahead. I work out in advance where I will get even a 5 or 10 minute opportunity and I plan what to do in that time."

Hadhrat Mufti Taqi Uthmāni hafizahullāh mentions, "Many who have travelled with my beloved father will have noticed that even in the car or rickshaw, he would be busy in writing despite the bumpy journey."

Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Shafi Uthmāni rahmatullāhi alayhi would advise, "If you leave a task hoping to do it whenever you get time, then that task will never be done. The way to get things done is to squeeze one new task in between another two."

(Adapted from Islāhi Khutubāt: vol 4, pg 200/201)

Moral

Our elders achieved so much in their lives; whether it be their lectures, their books, their worship, their written letters or their travels. Their single achievements are no match for many of us combined. One of the main reasons behind this was their value for time. As they managed each and every second, they were able to accomplish so much. Even if we are unable to match their level, we should still take inspiration from them and make the best use of our time.