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YOU WILL CRY OVER SPILLED TIME

The English Poet, Edward Young, has placed an insightful quotation in his book, *The Complaint*: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop". This proverb depicts the life of a Madrasah student very well, as it clearly reveals

one of the most common problems that students in all fields of life face, the worry that they are wasting their God-given talents. Below are a few points worthy of note regarding the time in a student's life.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Things to do in Muharram

1. **Avoid Sin**

Sinning in this month is more serious than sinning in other months. Allah, Glorified and High, says "Verily, the number of months with Allaah is twelve ... of them, four are sacred ... so wrong not yourselves therein." (al-Tawbah 9:36)

2. **Spend on Your Family**

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said "One who spends generously on his family on the day of Aashura, Allah will increase (his provision) for the whole year." (Baihaqi)

3. **Fast on the 10th of Muharram**

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said "This fast is a compensation for the (minor) sins of the past year." (Muslim) Before fasting in the month of Ramadhan was made compulsory, the fast of Aashura was compulsory upon the Ummah.

4. **Fast on the 9th or 11th of Muharram**

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said, "Observe the fast of Aashura, and oppose the Jews: fast a day before it or a day after." (Baihaqi)

5. **Fast on Other Days in Muharram**

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said "The best fasts after Ramadan is fasting in Allah's month of Muharram." (Muslim) "The one who keeps a fast in the month of Muharram will receive the reward of thirty fasts."

Talent is not an obstacle

Allah *Subhanahu Wata'alalah* has created each human with distinct specialties; therefore one cannot regard one's self as untalented. Hence, one should realize one's potential, try and specialize in one's strengths, while constantly reducing one's weaknesses. This allows an individual to gain maximum benefit from this life, resulting to success in both the worlds.

The problem with the students of this era is not that they are unintelligent and unable to learn, but it is instead that they do not realize their potential and ask for guidance from their

elders.

Do not take your youth for granted

The early years of one's life are most suited for attaining knowledge, for this is a crucial period in which the mind remains free of responsibilities. Therefore, one should not waste this precious time in futile actions. Our beloved Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said:

«نعمتان مغبون فيهما كثير من الناس: الصّحة والفراغ»

"The two blessings regarding which most people are in deception: good health and free time."

You will cry over spilled time

In all ages, we find many elderly individuals reminiscing and regretting over the time they wasted in their past. It is mentioned in an article in *Sunday Times* (1962) by Barry Ronge, "Every man is the author of his own destiny." People who have wasted their time surely have none to blame but themselves. Suppose a man goes to an island in which there is a cave of gold. The owner of the cave allows the man to take out gold from that cave as he desires till a certain date, but the expiry date is kept hidden from the man. Now consider, will that man waste any moment in sitting down, or will he spend as much time as possible in extracting as much gold as possible? Will he postpone the work of collecting the gold and prefer to go about in the island to enjoy its beautiful scenes for some time? That man shall never do so. Instead, he will have the constant anxiety to spend his time and efforts in extracting as much gold as possible, because that gold will become his own. If instead, he decides to sit aside, then he unmistakably shall incur a great loss because of his negligence.



Words to live by

The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) has said: "Control yourself and utilize the periods of your good health and vacant hours and leisure to prepare yourself for the Hereafter. None knows what shall happen the next day."

Concluding with the aforementioned idea, we should all realize the value of every moment of our lives and try to spend it in the remembrance of Almighty Allah. After all, how nicely has a poet said:

یہ کہاں کا فسانہ سود و زیاں
جو گیا سو گیا جو ملا سو ملا
کہو دل سے کہ فرصت عمر ہے کم
جو دلا تو خدا کی یاد دلا

WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK!

Juha once mounted on his donkey while his son walked by his side. As they passed by a town, the people said, "Look at this inconsiderate father! He rides the donkey in comfort while his son is walking by him in the sweltering sun!" When Juha heard them, he halted his mule, dismounted, and let his son ride instead.

[4]

They continued on, and shortly they reached another town. One of the townspeople said, "Look at this disobedient son! He rides while leaving his father pacing behind him in the sun's heat!" Juha heard this, stopped his donkey, and mounted it along with his son.

Not before long, they passed through another town where the people shouted, "Look at these inconsiderate people! They don't have any pity on the animal they ride!" Both Juha and his son descended from the donkey, walking along its side.

Thereafter they travelled through another town, wherein the people exclaimed, "Look at these two foolish people! They walk while no one is riding the donkey! Why was the donkey created if not to be mounted on?" Shouting from the top of his lungs, Juha dragged his son, sat beneath the donkey, and they both lifted it above their shoulders carrying the four-legged animal until they reached their destination.


In the walk of life one tends to come across many people with their countless opinions on how you should carry out a certain task. To take into account and act upon every opinion, trying to please one and all, will lead to falling short in accomplishing the task, if not resulting in failure.

FEAR OF ALLAH (SWT)

Hadhrat Ali (RA) once mentioned that he has two great fears for people: (1) An increase in their hopes and desires. (2) The pursuit in the fulfilling of those desires.

An increase in ones hope in the luxury of this world; a life of a few years, makes one forget and neglect the Hereafter; a life of eternity.

Furthermore, the pursuit to fulfilling those hopes and desires become the means of straying and deviating from the straight path. Today man is capable of action without reckoning whereas tomorrow, standing in front of Allah (SWT) there will be reckoning and no action. Whatever you can do, do it *today*, for *tomorrow* you will not be able to do anything.



**TODAY MAN IS CAPABLE OF
ACTION WITHOUT RECKONING
WHEREAS TOMORROW,
STANDING IN FRONT OF ALLAH
SWT THERE WILL BE
RECKONING AND NO ACTION.**

Talibul Ilm

A title which many have heard time and again. On whose path the angels spread their wings. Who the fish in the sea the birds in the sky and the beasts over the land pray for. Who is a Talibul Ilm? Is it a resident in a Madrassah? Is it one who is present for meals in the cafeteria? Or perhaps one who attends Deeni classes? Whenever a term is defined then the characteristics and features of that term must be scrutinized.

The qualities of a Talibul Ilm are numerous. Amongst them, the defining factor is Taqwa. Allah Subhanahu wa Taala has made mention of Taqwa many times in the Quran Majeed, such as this verse;

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

"Surely, the most noblest of you in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous. " (Cont. pg.7)

POETRY CORNER

The Search for Allah

*I searched for the greatness of Allah
Inside deep rugged hills and open blue skies
And I found it*

*I searched for the greatness of Allah
In the tiny legs of a minute ant
And I found it*

*But then I searched for Allah's greatness
Inside the deep and dark chambers of my own heart
I really, have not found it yet.*

*For we have become like chameleons,
Changing to whatever society tells us is suitable
We shaved off the lion's mane
and called it beautiful*

*For we used to cry to Allah, all throughout the plains
But now... I whisper, to the Lord who is closer to
me than my jugular veins*

(Poetry Corner cont. pg 8)

"Humanity: the most intelligent species on the planet, capable of doing anything, but is governed by its aggression and youth. A species fast in developing, but slow in maturing. Once a species that cared for its provider and that cared for its home, let its ego dominate its decisions. A period of ignorance and neglect has had profound effects across the world. Effects which can be reversed if man would abandon a life governed by his ego."

A Letter to the Sleepy Student

To: Mr Sleepy Student,

We, the United Muslim Mutual fund Agency of Hidayat (U.M.M.A.H) would like to remind you about the terms of our investments, which were agreed upon with your request to study as a student of Deen.

In our previous revision of your agreement we had agreed to provide you with respect, status and total aid for the completion and success of your goals. The U.M.M.A.H. has already spent millions of rands in investment in order to provide you with a space to study, play and live. Furthermore, the U.M.M.A.H. continues to supply you with regular investments to help aid finance your studies i.e. electricity, water and food expenses. A worldwide recruitment strategy had also ensured that the most proficient of professional teachers be brought from all over the world to provide you the best education possible under our agreement. Finally, a large staff has been provided, to cater to your every need, and to ensure that your time under our agreement is as comfortable as possible.

We would also like to remind you of the priceless non-monetary contributions that the U.M.M.A.H. has made for you, before and during your studies. As soon as you set foot on this Earth, two U.M.M.A.H. members had already been employed to work day and night in your service, and bestow upon you invaluable treasures such as love, affection, and a spiritual upbringing. Then you were accompanied with many U.M.M.A.H. agents for years which prepared you to take the position of the Student of Deen. We would like to emphasize that from the 1.6 billion U.M.M.A.H. members, you were one of the rare members to have their application accepted for this position.

Unfortunately, we are remorseful to report that the treaty has continuously been violated and dishonored due to your insolence in the past years. All the treaty required you to do was to take all that was offered to you, and use it in order to attain your dreams, and hence also fulfill the hopes and the dreams of the U.M.M.A.H. However, you chose to return the years of investments spent upon you, by laziness and insolence. You valued the priceless time, and the pearls of advices showered upon you by your teachers, by forgetting them. You valued the tears of your mother, by wasting her sacrifice in vain.

In conclusion, the U.M.M.A.H. has no choice but to warn you that further ignorance and insolence on your behalf will result to decrease of divine payment, a series of questioning, termination of agreement, which may lead to further penalties. We sincerely hope you change your ways.

Sincerely,
United Muslim Mutual fund Agency of Hidayat,
or your trusted Ummah, for short.



Taqwa has also been mention in the Haadeeth,

انك لست بخير من أحمر و لا أسود الا أن تفضله بتقوى

"There is none amongst you who is better than a fair skinned person nor a dark skinned person except that he excels him in Taqwa."

One who resolves to protect himself from sin and that which is doubtful is called a Mutaqi and the resolve he endeavours to take is called Taqwa. In essence Taqwa is abstinence motivated by the fear of Allah. For a Talibul Ilm, to prevent himself from sin and that which is doubtful is essential for his progress in the field of Deeni knowledge.

Shaikh Zulfikar Naqshabandi (DB) narrated an incident where a student of the Quran was struggling in his memorization. In one year he could only memorize one and a half portions of the Quran. His teacher investigated his predicament and found that the student was eating at a Haram McDonalds. The student was prevented from eating there and within one year he completed the memorization of the Quran. It can be observed from this incident that a prerequisite for a seeker of knowledge is abstinence from sin. The more one stays away from the darkness of sin the more one is illuminated by the light of beneficial knowledge.

"Knowledge can be likened to a warrior's sword and Taqwa to his shield. With his sword he attacks his enemies weakening their defenses and perseveres forward. With his shield he parries the enemy's attacks and protects himself from harm."

Hence, let the seekers of knowledge inculcate within themselves the wealth of Taqwa. For the knowledge of Quran, Hadith and that which brings one closer to Allah Taala is divine light, and sin, lewdness and

oppression is darkness. Light and darkness are opposites which cannot coexist, just as a man travelling west gets further from the east. Sin like a towering obelisk blocks the divine effulgence of knowledge from illuminating the heart. Taqwa is a resolve that everyone must take, but it is of paramount importance for a seeker of knowledge, for Taqwa and knowledge, go hand in hand. Knowledge can be likened to a warrior's sword and Taqwa to his shield. With his sword he attacks his enemies weakening their defences and perseveres forward. With his shield he parries off the enemies attacks and protects himself from harm. In the same way we with our swords of divine knowledge protect the Deen of Allah Subhanahu wa Taala, and with our shields of Taqwa and abstinence we defend ourselves from being influenced and engulfed by the evil of sin.

We invoke Allah the Most High to bestow upon each thirsty seeker of knowledge the bounty of Taqwa, to create within us an impetus to drive us forward in the performance of righteous deeds amidst the trying times of today, and to include us amongst the great scholars and saints of the past who made Taqwa the foundation and basis of their lives.

KNOWLEDGE ONLY COMES WITH SOLITUDE

يَكْنَدُخُ فِي مَصْلَحَةِ الْأَهْلِ
خَالٍ مِنَ الْأَفْكَارِ وَالشُّغْلِ
سَارَتْ بِهِ الرُّكْبَانُ بِالْفَضْلِ
فَرَّقَ بَيْنَ التَّبْنِ وَالْبَقْلِ

لَا يُدْرِكُ الْحَكْمَةَ مَنْ عُرِّهُ
وَلَا يَنَالُ الْعِلْمَ إِلَّا فَتًى
لَوْ أَنَّ لُقْمَانَ الْحَكِيمِ الَّذِي
بُلِيَ بِفَقْرٍ وَعِيَالٍ لَمَا

The one who is always engaged in fulfilling the needs of his close ones can never acquire knowledge.

Only the young man who has freed himself from all worries and occupations can acquire knowledge.

If Luqman the wise, whose anecdotes are quite famous

Should engross himself in the fulfillment of the needs of his close ones, then he too would not be able to differentiate between grass and vegetables.

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