

Fruits for the Week

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THE LOSERS AND THE WINNERS

Allah (SWT) says: *“By the time, indeed, man surely is in loss, except those who believe and do good deeds and mutually enjoin truth and mutually enjoin patience.”* (Al- ‘Asr:1-3)

In this short *surah*, Allah (SWT) takes an oath of time (Al- ‘Asr). Time is a witness to all human history. It has seen rise and fall of empires and kingdoms. It has seen powerful people come and go. It has seen cities, palaces, citadels built and destroyed.

The passage of time has also seen that human beings have been losing. Every day brings us closer to our death. No matter how much we may progress, we have no control over our lives and our future. Everything in this life is uncertain except the coming of death.

When death overtakes us, we leave everything behind. All of our money, property, family, friends, and power will be of no help when death arrives. No matter how much we may love a person, at the time of death, we must part company and say good-bye. The only thing that will help us after our death is our faith and good deeds.

The Qur’ an (Al- ‘Asr:1-3) reminds us that everyone in this life is a loser except the people who have the following four characteristics:

- have the right beliefs, and
- act righteously, and
- strive to establish the Truth, and
- strive to remain patient in difficulties.

These are, in fact, the characteristics of true believers. It is important that our beliefs and actions are righteous. Both the right actions and the right beliefs are important in Islam.

A believer must invite others to the truth of Islam. He must do so regularly. If he suffers any hardship while working for the cause of Islam, he must show patience. If something bad happens to him in his personal life, he must turn to Allah (SWT) and ask His help.

Those who possess these characteristics are not the losers. They are the successful ones; their success is in both this world and in the Hereafter. Wallahu A’ lam

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