

Fruits for the Week

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REFLECTION OF THE NEW YEAR

Today is the last day of the year 2004 and a year will elapse in the solar system and a new one is starting very soon. A page of this year will be closed very soon and a new page is open for the new year. The old page will be closed with a lot of miseries and some happiness, and a new page will be open with unpredicted news, unforeseen incidences and unfortold information.

While we are facing a new year, we should remember that one year is over of our lives and we are one year closer to our death. Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an: "*Every soul will taste death.*" (Ali Imran:185)

Let us remember that Allah (SWT) has created this universe with exact number of days, weeks, months and years so that we will be able to calculate our daily needs of times and mathematics. Remember what Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an about the number of months per year: "*The number of the months with Allah is twelve months by Allah's ordinance in the day that He created the heavens and the earth. Four of them are sacred: that is the right religion. So wrong not yourselves in them...*" (At-Taubah:36)

While reading the Qur'an, we find that the word 'day' is mentioned 461 times in different verses, in different cases and situations; the word 'month' is mentioned 19 times and the word 'year' is mentioned also 19 times. Because of their importance, they have been used frequently.

For a believing Muslim, the New Year means more than a passing incidence. It is an occasion to think, ponder and act accordingly. The New Year is an occasion when a Muslim

is to think about and ponder the following:

1. To think about and ponder the creation of Allah (SWT) such as the sun and the moon through which the days, the weeks, the months and the years have been established in the solar and lunar systems.

2. To think and ponder that one year of his/her life is over and he/she is one year closer to his/her death, to his/her final life to live and one year closer to his/her grave. A Muslim should remember death quite often so as to stay pure in his daily life. The second Caliph, Umar bin Khattab, used to wear a ring having a statement which read as follows: "*Death is enough an advice and a lesson for you, O Omar!*" We have to remember that sooner or later we are to die. Allah (SWT) says: "*Verily, you will die, and verily, they will die.*" (Azzumar:30)

3. A Muslim should evaluate himself whether he achieved his aims and objectives or not. He is to ask himself what he did for himself, for his family, for his community, for the *ummah* and for people all over the world? Did he perform the daily prayers regularly on time? Did he help those who need his help? Is he fulfilling his role in this world as a Muslim?

May Allah (SWT) make the New Year a happy one for us and all the creatures that He created and make us a source of happiness to mankind. Ameen. Wallahu A'lam.

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