

Fruits for the Week

17 June 2005

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MANAGING VALUABLE TIME

Allah (SWT) says: “By (the token of) time (through ages), verily man is in (a state of) loss, except those who have faith, and do righteous deeds, and (join together) in the mutual teaching of truth, and of patience and constancy.” (Al-Asr: 1-3)

The above chapter tells us that Muslims should be people who possess an impressive way of managing time. Of all things placed at our service by Allah, time is the most important. We are given adequate training in our religious practices for time-saving and time-management and to be time conscious, but there are many who do not care to value time at its real worth.

Muslims, since Islam began, and by virtue of the teachings of Islam, have been very particular about the time factor in our religious undertakings. We are very particular about the exactness of the commencement and ending of many Islamic events and celebrations. For instance, look at the flurry that is created when we begin the fasting month. Muslim scholars not only calculate the exact time of the new moon of *Ramadhan*, but, in some Muslim countries, also take the trouble to sight it from mountains. The same goes with the beginning of *Shawwal* for the celebration of *Eid-ul-Fitr*.

We listen to the radio to know the exact time when we should stop taking the last meal for the commencement of the *Ramadhan* fast and the exact time when we should break our fast. We do not begin our fasting by eating after *Subuh azan* nor do we break the fast, even few minutes, before *Maghrib azan*. We also watch the time to perform our *salat*. Our 5 daily *salat* are governed by exact timing. Five times a day we hear the *azan* announcing the commencement of each of the *salat* time.

Look how disciplined we Muslims are in our religious practices. In the same way, we must be aware that our worldly responsibilities are part of *ibadah* (worship of Allah), and therefore, should not ignore their importance or be careless about them in our daily tasks, such as lessons, lectures, work, meetings and any other activities that

concern or are dependent on time and punctuality. We must be aware that only through punctuality that lessons, lectures and meetings can go on unimpeded or without any frustration, just as through discipline life becomes smooth and peaceful. To be punctual for lessons, institutional or public lectures, and meetings is the condition that results from attitude and discipline. Life has its trials, tribulations, and disappointments but it is our attitude and discipline that will enable us to remain calm and sensible amidst the stress and distress of life. Punctuality should be a feature in every stage of our life and at every place. Just as a child will become unhealthy if his feeding and sleeping times are not regulated through discipline, we too will lose our respect if we abandon our discipline with regard to punctuality.

Punctuality is very important in all Islamic activities. It is a commitment which is part of our Islamic way of life. It would be a great pity if we ignore it. Let us therefore make sure that we are on time for our appointments, lectures, meetings, lessons or work. Develop the habit of punctuality. This is a good and positive habit, a welcomed and desired habit.

Managing time is especially important to students. Now that the internet is available in most homes, students could easily get hooked surfing the internet for information for their project work and waste valuable time. They should learn to obtain the necessary information and then stop. The internet allows anyone to gain access to almost anything under the sun, and therein lies the danger of wasting one's time. There is also unwanted and useless information as well as pornography which could lead people astray. So, we should make use of the internet responsibly. This technology is a tool and like any other tools, we have to use it in a responsible way without wasting time.

Time consciousness is an Islamic attitude. Let us strive to acquire this attitude in the spirit of Islam. Wallahu A'lam

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