

Surah At-Takathur

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Time is a commodity which is given in the same amount to each and every individual on the face of this earth. Exactly twenty four hours every day of our lives... this supply never varies but the way we use this time depends on our priorities. Each and every second, minute and hour is taking us towards our destination whatever that might be... but then how ignorant we are that we just go about our "routine lives" never stopping to think of what our journey is all about? Where is our time being spent? What is our direction and what is our destination? Maybe the reason for this mechanical attitude towards life is that we have assumed that the only purpose of our lives is to fulfil the needs of this life... and no matter how much we acquire, we are never satisfied because we are always comparing ourselves with someone or the other who has more than us. So materialism has become a universal nucleus around which the majority of the world is revolving. And we muslims despite having a clear knowledge of the reality of life, are also running along the world... not realizing that this mad race for material gains is nothing but a trap... an illusion... which becomes apparent only when it is too late...

أَلْهَاكُمْ التَّكَاثُرُ {1} حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ {2}

Competition in worldly increase diverts you... until you get into the grave

Now we must understand that making use of the blessings of this world is not a sin... rather it is a means of being connected to Allah and being grateful to Him. But it becomes a problem only when we make it the only concern of our life and forget the real goal for which Allah sent us to this earth. Death is the ultimate eye opener and it is not something which we can avoid simply by not giving it any attention... soon we will have to face the truth:

كَأَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ {3} ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ {4}

Nevertheless, soon you shall come to know. Again, nevertheless, soon you shall come to know

Allah gave us all the means to acquire knowledge of the reality of life and death, but he did not force us to be convinced... because it is a test of our faith whether we believe in Allah's words with utmost conviction or not. What a meaningful life we can have if we understand the Quran and Hadith and live according to its teachings... the peace and tranquillity of

knowing Allah and living according to His pleasure is the greatest pleasure of this world... but it can only be experienced by those who have “Yaqeen”...

كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ {5}

No! If you only knew with knowledge of certainty...

We don't realize that we cannot avoid the reality by denying it. No matter how firmly we close our eyes but the shining sun will not go away simply because we don't want to acknowledge its presence. Similarly the hereafter will come on its appointed time and the heaven and hell which Allah created for us will also become apparent to our eyes... whether we like it or not:

لَتَرَوُنَّ الْجَحِيمَ {6} ثُمَّ لَتَرَوُنَّهَا عَيْنَ الْيَقِينِ {7}

You will surely see the Hellfire... Then you will surely see it with the eye of certainty.

Here in this world we become boastful if we get any gift from Allah. We forget His mercy and we think that whatever we have is due to our own hard work or intelligence. We might impress people with this show of material greatness, but we forget that every blessing which Allah gives us is a test and we will be held accountable for each and every thing that we have:

ثُمَّ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ {8}

Then you shall surely be questioned, on that day, about the blessings (*faculties and resources that you were given in the worldly life - as to how you used them?*)

If we keep this accountability in our mind then our whole attitude will be different. Instead of boasting, we will feel the seriousness of responsibility... and do we even know what our responsibility is? Yes most people know that we must be grateful for our blessings but does being grateful mean only to be happy upon ones gifts and say “Alhamdulillah” or Thank you Allah? No... this is not the end of it... real gratitude is with your heart when you feel that Allah is the only one who deserves praise... so there will be no self praise. Secondly, gratitude is done by expressing thanks to Allah and also proclaiming His greatness to people. And finally the essence of gratitude is to use every blessing in the way of Allah...

He gave us everything and He has the greatest right over our lives. So how can we go against His wishes? Is there any excuse for our denial and disobedience? None at all...

