

Be in this World as a traveller

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 18 April 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

A person's time in this world is destined: if a person uses this time productively then they have profited, but if they have used this time doing wrongful acts up to the time they meet God - then they are surely from amongst the losers.

The intelligent one is someone:

- who accounts himself or herself before the time comes for God's accounting them;
- who fears for his sins before they become a means of his ruin.

Ibn Masood (may God be pleased with him - RA) said: 'A believer perceives his sins as though he was standing at the foot of a mountain, fearing that at any time it would fall on top of him'.

How many of us belittle a sin, thinking it is only a small thing, yet we do not recall that it could indeed be the very thing that leads us to have a bad end.

Anas Ibn Malik RA said: "You do things which in your eyes are less significant than a hair, but at the time of the Messenger of God (peace and blessings of God be upon him - pbuh), we used to count them as things that could destroy a man."

God (glory be to Him the Most High), in His noble Book, has drawn our attention to doing good in this world and to seek a good end as He says in 3:102:

"O believers! Fear God as He should be feared, and do not die except as Muslims."

And He says: "Worship your Lord until you have come to certainty"

God (glory be to Him the Most High) describes His believing slaves as those who combine fear of Him with goodness/perfection in the actions they do. He (glory be to Him the Most High) says 23:58-61:

"Indeed, those who tremble with fear of their Lord, And who believe in the revelations of their Lord, And those who do not ascribe partners to their Lord, And those who give what they give while their hearts are full of fear that to their Lord they will return- These it is who hasten to do good works, and they are foremost in doing them."

O Muslims- this was the state of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh). It was narrated that Abu Bakr RA said "I wish I was hair in the back of a believer" (meaning he wanted to be an insignificant part of someone likely to be accounted little) and he would take hold of his tongue and say "This is what took me towards bad."

Ali ibn Abi Talib RA said two things were to be feared - having long hopes and following one's desires as he said: "As for hoping at length, it makes one forget the afterlife. Following one's desire stops you from the truth. "The world has almost gone and the hereafter is coming very quickly. For each has their own children, so be from the children of the hereafter not from the

children of this worldly life world. Today there is a world without accounting and tomorrow there is accounting without work (meaning do the work in this world whilst it can count for you in the next life when you will be accounted)."

The meaning of this, O Muslims, is that if one has short hopes, it will incline a person towards doing good action and to make the most of the time he or she has so it can benefit in both this world and the Next. Our time is measured, each breath we take is calculated, what has passed. On this path there are many obstacles and for this reason the prophet (pbuh) said: "Make use of your good deed, but you are afflicted by seven things, firstly a poverty which makes you forget, secondly your wealth that makes you transgress, thirdly an illness which corrupts your living, fourthly old age which separates you from the people, fifthly a death which ends your life, sixthly Ad-dajjal (the anti-Christ) which is a great coming evil, and lastly the Hour, and the Hour is the severest hardship"

Take provision from the world because you are a traveller, your place in the world is a delusion but many Muslims today are immersed in these long hopes. And they are heedless of God. They continue in doing wrong deeds and this is wrong. There is no doubt that this path will lead to ruin. God (glory be to Him the Most High) said "inform my slave that I am the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful; and that my punishment is very severe. For God is all merciful, all compassionate and severe in his retribution. And God warns you against Himself." [al Imran 3:30]

"Your days are spent in delusion and heedlessness.
Your nights are full of sleep.
You concern yourself with that which is temporary
And you find joy in this just as you do in your sleep as you dream."

Abdullah Ibn Umar who said: The messenger of God took me by the shoulder and said: "Be in the world as though you were a stranger or a wayfarer." Ibn Omar also used to say: "At evening do not expect [to live till] morning, and at morning do not expect [to live till] evening. Take from your health for your illness and from your life for your death." [Related by Bukhari]

How can you not be a stranger in this world - you are a traveller, there is no doubt and you will not have a more lasting place in this world than your place amongst the people of the grave.

So O Muslims - make the most of your time and your lives so that you can benefit on the day when there will be no ability to benefit yourself anymore by wealth or children - except the one who comes to God with a sound heart.

"Eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous, who give to charity during the good times, as well as the bad times. And those who restrain (their) anger and pardon men; and God loves the doers of good (to others). And those who when they commit an indecency or do injustice to their souls remember God and ask forgiveness for their faults -- and who forgives the faults but God, and (who) do not knowingly persist in what they have done. (As for) these -- their reward is forgiveness from their Lord, and gardens beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them, and excellent is the reward for the workers".