

Productive Time Investment
[How to Make Productive Use of One's Time]
First Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْعَمَ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَوْقَاتِ، لِنُغْتِنِمَهَا فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ:
فَأَوْصِيكُمْ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ وَنَفْسِي بِالتَّقْوَى، قَالَ تَعَالَى: (وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ
خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى)

All Praise be to Allah, Who has bestowed upon us the blessing of time, in order that we may use it as an opportunity to engage in good and do good things. I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah Alone, Who has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah. O Allah, send blessings, salutations and benedictions upon him, his family, all of his Companions and those who follow them in benevolence until the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows: I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah (i.e. reverential consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah). Allah Almighty says: (وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى)

[Q2:197] [... And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is *Taqwa* (reverential consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah).]

O Believers: The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

«نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ: الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ»

(“Two blessings which many people squander: Good health and free time.”) (Narrated by al-Bukhari)

That is to say, not many people know the real value and true worth of good health and free time. Time is a blessing that should be invested not squandered. ‘Abdullah ibn Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) would say:

“I detest to see a man free and idle, not engaged in the works of this life nor in the works of the Afterlife”. Time management and investment shows the individual and society’s level of advancement and progress. Scholars, scientists, creatives and outstanding performers and achievers all take time investment seriously, which is why they are able to produce numerous achievements for the benefit of human society.

Hence, the best of people are those who invest all their time in producing the work necessary to be produced in that time. Thus, offering prayer is the best of works when it is the time of prayer, for the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him) was asked: “Which deeds are most pleasing and beloved to Allah? He replied:

«الصَّلَاةُ عَلَيَّ وَفِتْهَا»

(Prayer in its prescribed time) (Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

When it comes to worktime, the employee occupies his time diligently with the work he is required to do and productively with the tasks assigned to him. Times of meetings and appointments should be promptly observed and strictly adhered to. The same also applies to other people’s time. Special times should be set aside for the family, sitting with the kids, visiting next of kin, and enquiring into the wellbeing of one’s relatives. In doing so, one is acting in accordance with the noble Prophetic hadith

which states: «إِنَّ لِرَبِّكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا، وَلِنَفْسِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا،

وَلِأَهْلِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقًّا، فَأَعْطِ كُلَّ ذِي حَقٍّ حَقَّهُ»

(Indeed, your body has a right over you, your soul has a right over you, your wife has a right over you, so give everyone his due right) (Narrated by al-Bukhari)

Time passes, and the productive use, organization and investment of time is a hallmark of civilized cultures and progressive societies and a noble

religious value, for the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was asked: Which people are the best? He replied:

«مَنْ طَالَ عُمُرُهُ وَحَسَنَ عَمَلُهُ»

“He whose life is long and actions good” (Narrated by Ahmad)

Therefore, a person should take care and make sure that he spends his time either in an obligation he is required to carry out, a duty he is obliged to fulfill, knowledge he needs to learn, or some good deed he is engaged in. In this way, he not only benefits himself, but also his family, community and country at large. We ask Allah Most High to bless us in the time we have left in this life and to grant us the success and enabling grace to make the best use of our time.

I say these words of mine while I seek Allah's Forgiveness for you and me, so seek His Forgiveness, for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَحْدَهُ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى مَنْ لَا نَبِيَّ بَعْدَهُ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ تَبَعَ هَدْيِهِ. أُوصِيكُمْ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ.

All Praise be to Allah Alone and Peace and Blessings be upon him after whom there is not Prophet, and upon his Family, Companions and those who follow his guidance. Furthermore, I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah

O Believers: The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) informed us that the human being will be made to stand before His Lord to be questioned about his time and life: how he used his time and how he spent his life. We are at the start of the Summer holidays, and our children have lots of leisure time on their hands. Let us help them to invest and manage their time well, and to derive maximum benefit from it by learning and memorizing the Holy Qur'an. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

«خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ»

(The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it (to others))

(Narrated by al-Bukhari)

Similarly, by occupying one's time with beneficial reading and philanthropic and charitable activities, and basically everything that is of benefit to our children and the communities in which they reside.

So take care, O Servants of Allah, of the time that you have at your disposal and the time that your children have at their disposal, and see to it that it is always connected to something good and positive, and Allah will bless you in your lifetime on earth and your achievements will multiply manifold and your country will be pleased and happy with you.

Having said this, request Allah to send peace, blessings and salutations upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send peace, blessings and salutations upon him, his Family and all of his Companions.

O Allah: continue to bestow on the UAE Your Blessings and Bounties forever more, and spread happiness amongst its people.

O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his Deputy, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good.

O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. O Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace.

O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable and loyal martyrs of our nation and increase their reward.

O Allah have mercy on the Muslim men and Muslim women, those of them who are living and those of them who have passed on. O Allah remove from us and the entire world this pandemic and heal those who have been inflicted with this disease, and grant us sound health and wellbeing and safeguard us against every disease, through Your Generosity, O Answerer of Prayers.

O our Lord, grant us in this life what is good; and in the next life what is good, and save us from the fire.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Supremely Magnificent and He will remember you, and stand up and establish the prayer.