

In the name of Allah Most Gracious most Merciful

Thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. Peace and prayers be upon the most honorable of all messengers Mohammad; and all his folks, companions, and followers to the day they are all summoned together.

Slaves of Allah: fear Allah the way He ought to be feared. Remember Him in your privacy, and in your calls to Him. Allah says: {Ye, believers, fear Allah His true fear. And do not die except when you are Muslims}

This sun that rises every day from the east and sets down at west carries a message that this life is not an everlasting one, but one which emerges and perishes. Those new moons are born just like infants, slowly grow. Just as a moon reaches its peak; it starts diminishing to nothing. This is very similar to human age or life.

One day after the next and one year after the next; they pass by. When a year starts, one thinks the end of that year is so far, yet it passes in a blink of an eye. Just as young people look at the end of their age as being so far and yet suddenly death shall approach unexpectedly. Man always dreams for longer life, and death always seems to destroy this dream.

These days we say good bye to a passing year; and we welcome a new approaching one. Abo-Darda'a (أبو الدرداء) said: "Son of Adam, you consist of days, when a day goes by, it is part of you has gone". Abo-Hazim (أبو حازم) said: "I am surprised by some who work for a place they are departing from; each day. And they forget to build a place they are departing to; each day." How can one be happy if his day is eating away into his month; and his month is eating away into his year; and his year is eating away into his life time. How could one be happy if his present time; leads to the time of his own death, and one whose living leads to his death. Ebn-Abbas (ابن عباس) said: "How can we be happy when we know death is following us from behind; and graves are ahead of us, and we have an appointment with the day of resurrection, over hell is the path we shall cross; and between the hands of Allah we shall stand!!". This worldly life has scored an arrow into our hearts, and took over the most part of our hearts. All we worry about in our day and our night is: How much we make? How can we make more? If we are given an appointment to gain more in this life, we approach it early, punctually, happily, with anticipation, and nothing remains in our heart for the life after. While if the Azzan is called out, how many we see in the road responding to it in the same enthusiasm? The prophet (PPUH) advised Omar once saying: "Be in this life like a stranger or like a passer by."

Mu-aad ben Jabal (معاذ بن جبل) at his death bed said: "Allah, you know I didn't like lingering in this life because the rivers and gardens in it, but I used to love lingering on for the staying up at night, and for the fasting thirst in the hot days, and for the crowding with the scholars in the learning circles."

The daily pressures of life have made it difficult for the slave to look at oneself. One is almost in a constant race with this life for more and better things. Saeed ben Masood (سعيد بن مسعود) said: "if you see a man with his worldly life is on the increase; and his life after is on the diminish; and he is happy with that; then he is a fool and he is a mislead or a betrayed one, and he does not feel it." Muhammed ben Wasee (مخمد بن واسع) said: "Wouldn't you be surprised if in paradise you see a man who cries?, What is more surprising than that is seeing a man in this life who laughs and he does not know where he will end up. "

Omar ben Khattab said: "bring your self to an account before you are brought to an account. And weight it up before you are weighed up.". Malik ben-Dinar (مالك بن دينار) said: "God bless some slave who says to himself 'didn't you do this? and didn't you do that?' then he gave out to him self, then limits him self with the limits in Allah's book. And he leads him self"

Do not trivialise any of your sins, for it may be considered big by Allah.

Bringing oneself to an account must produce feeling of sorry for committing a sin and a change to good. Let us question our selves: Have I fulfilled Allah's rights? Have I fulfilled the peoples rights? Have I done my prayers on time? In a group? Fulfilled all it conditions, requirements and in its deserving peaceful submissiveness? Are tears shed in fear of Allah? Remember that an eye which cried in fear of Allah will not enter hellfire. Are you still persistent in abandoning Fajr prayer? Are you still forgetful about reciting Allah's book? The sunnah or Nafilah prayers which are a sign of belief and the rout to the love of the Rahman? What was it that bothered you in the year passed? Was it some tasty meal, or some nice outfit or some moment of pleasure or some money gained, OR was it living for Allah, finding roads leading to his satisfaction and his gardens?

Were you in the past a person of good words and recommended actions? Or were you evil hurting others. Well, that is all a past; it can not be brought back. Though you can repent and ask for forgiveness.

How about your new approaching year? You are in control. Start it off with a great encouragement, and energetic intentions. Make Allah's rights as your priorities. And His rights are that He is to be obeyed and do not to be disobeyed. And He is to be thanked and not to deny his blessings, and for He to be remembered at all times rather than forgotten

Give your parents their deserving rights, in love caring and kindness. Give your spouse's his or her rights. Give your children their rights, your relatives and neighbors. Do not repel or expel the widows, the poor and the orphans.

Remind your self with the fact that in this life days will go to pass, its peak, beauty and pleasures are going, are diminishing and will not last. Remind your self of the ever lasting pleasures in God's paradise.

Remember that Allah is merciful and forgiving. He says Surat Zumar: {O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.} 39-53

Use your health while you have it; before your sickness be an obstacle, and use your life before your death approaches. Use your riches before you become poor. And use your youth before your old age.

In Ahzab Chapter 33, Aya 56 Allah says: {Allah and His Angels send blessings or prayers on the Prophet: O ye that believe! send ye blessings and prayers on to him, and salute him with all respect. }

Dear God send your blessings and prayers on to your messenger Muhammad.