



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

### THIS DUNYA VERSUS THE BEST RETURN

#### **ABOUT THE DUNYA:**

This worldly life is nearly worthless to Allah.

Sahl ibn Sa'd reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "If the world were as worthy to Allah as the wing of a mosquito, an unbeliever would not even be given a sip of water."

Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhi 2320

Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to Al-Albani

In another hadeeth:

Jabir b. Abdullah reported that Allah's Apostle (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) happened to walk through the bazaar coming from the side of 'Aliya and the people were on both his sides.

There he found a dead lamb with very short ears. He took hold of his ear and said:

Who amongst you would like to have this for a dirham?

They said: We do not like to have it even for less than that as it is of no use to us.

He said: Do you wish to have it (free of any cost)?

They said: By Allah, even if it were alive (we would not have liked to possess that), for there is defect in it as its ear is very short; now it is dead also.

Thereupon Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: By Allah, this world is more insignificant in the eye of Allah as it (this dead lamb) is in your eye.

**Source:** Sahih Muslim

The dunya is, however, the heaven for the disbelievers and sinners.

Imam Ahmad reported that the Prophet Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam said

The Dunya (life of this world) is the residence of those who have no residence, the wealth of those who have no wealth, and it is harvested by those who have no sense of reason.

*"Verily! We have made that which is on earth as an adornment for it, in order that We may test them (mankind) as to which of them are best in deeds." 18: 7*

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "The world is sweet and green. Verily, Allah will make you successors in it to see how you will behave. Beware of the world and beware of women. Verily, the first trial of the children of Israel was with women."

Source: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2742

Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to Muslim

On the authority of Thawbaan , the Prophet SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam said:

*"The People will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their food." Someone asked, "Will that be because of our small numbers at that time?" He replied, "No, you will be numerous at that time: but you will be froth and s.cum like that carried down by a torrent (of water), and Allah will take the fear of you from the breasts (hearts) of your enemy and cast al-wahn into your hearts." Someone asked, "O Messenger of Allah, what is al-wahn?" He replied, "Love of the world and dislike of death." [An authentic hadith recorded by Abu Dawud and Ahmad]*

*"Say: 'Short is the enjoyment of this world. And the Hereafter is the best for those who do right. And you will never be dealt with unjustly in the very least. Wherever you are, death will find you out, even if you are in towers built up strong and high." [An-Nisaa, 4:77-78]*

#### **ABOUT THE HEREAFTER:**

*"O man! Verily, you are returning towards your Lord with your deeds and actions (good or bad), a sure returning, so you will meet (i.e. the results of your deeds which you did)." 84: 6*

Allah Swears on His own Name:

*"Allah! La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He). Surely, He will gather you together on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. And who is truer in statement than Allah?" 4: 87*

*"Nay, you prefer the life of this world; Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting." 87: 16-17*

*"Beautified for men is the love of things they covet; women, children, much of gold and silver (wealth), branded beautiful horses, cattle and well-tilled land. This is the pleasure of the present world's life; but Allah has the excellent return (Paradise with flowing rivers, etc.) with Him.*

Say: "Shall I inform you of things far better than those? For Al-Muttaqun (the pious - see V.2:2) there are Gardens (Paradise) with their Lord, underneath which rivers flow. Therein (is their) eternal (home) and Azwajun Mutahharatun (purified mates or wives) [i.e. they will have no menses, urine, or stool, etc.], And Allah will be pleased with them. And Allah is All-Seer of the (His) slaves".

3: 14-15

Allah Reminded us on the time He Created Paradise and Hellfire:

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "When Allah created Paradise and Hellfire, he sent Gabriel to Paradise saying: Behold it and what I have prepared therein for its people. Gabriel came and looked at it and what Allah had prepared therein for its people. He returned to Allah and he said: By your might, no one will hear of it but that he will enter it. Allah ordered that it be surrounded by adversity and he said: Return to it and behold what I have prepared therein for its people. Gabriel returned and found that it was surrounded by hardship. He returned to Allah and he said: By your might, I fear that no one will enter it. Allah said: Go to the Hellfire and behold it and what I have prepared therein for its people. Gabriel found that it was in layers, one above another. He returned to Allah and he said: By your might, no one who hears of it will enter it. Allah ordered that it be surrounded by desires and he said: Return to it. Gabriel returned and he said: By your might, I fear that no one will escape it."

Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2560

Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to Al-Tirmidhi

***"If only you knew what you will certainly see upon your death, you would never eat again a single bite out of a craving appetite, and you would never again drink an extra sip of water for the pleasure of unquenchable and insatiable thirst."***

Once Muslims realise that the death is not the end, but the beginning, thereafter with ultimate justice and either excruciating torment or blissful reward, our situation will surely change.

People in Paradise and in hellfire:

Harithah ibn Wahb reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Shall I not tell you about the inhabitants of Paradise? Every meek, humble person, but if they swore an oath by Allah, he would fulfill it. Shall I not tell you about the inhabitants of Hellfire? Every cruel, rude, and arrogant person."

Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4634, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2853

ONE THIRD of the Qur'an consists of descriptions of the Hereafter. It is therefore a very important indications on the severity of our journey after death.

ONLY THOSE whom Allah chooses would be Protected from the temptations of the dunya:

Qatadah ibn al-Nu'man reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "When Allah loves a servant, he protects them from the world, just as one of you keeps the sick from drinking too much water."

Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2036

Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to Al-Albani

## **SO, WHY ARE MANKIND STILL SO MUCH FOCUSSED ON THE DUNYA AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HEREAFTER?**

### **1. Mankind was created forgetful**

We see many examples. One example was how Allah Warned Adam (AS) in Paradise to beware of shaytan because he is an enemy. BUT Adam (AS) forgot this important warning, and at he and his wife disobeyed Allah , and lost most of Allah's Blessings.

*117. Then We said: "O Adam! Verily, this is an enemy to you and to your wife. So let him not get you both out of Paradise, so that you be distressed in misery.*

*118. Verily, you have (a promise from Us) that you will never be hungry therein nor naked.*

*119. And you (will) suffer not from thirst therein nor from the sun's heat.*

*120. Then Shaitan (Satan) whispered to him, saying : "O Adam! Shall I lead you to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that will never waste away?"*

*121. Then they both ate of the tree, and so their private parts appeared to them, and they began to stick on themselves the leaves from Paradise for their covering. Thus did Adam disobey his Lord, so he went astray.*

20: 117-121

We also forget the various stories in the Qur'an where many previous nations were destroyed by Allah due to their disobedience.

*"Before thee We sent (Messengers) to many nations, and We afflicted the nations with suffering and adversity that they might learn humility. When the suffering reached them from Us, why then did they not learn humility? On the contrary, their*

*hearts became hardened, and Satan made their (sinful) acts seem alluring to them. But when they forget the warning they had received, We opened to them the gates of all (good) things, until, in the midst of their enjoyment of Our gifts, on a sudden, We called them to account, when lo! they were plunged in despair!" (al-Anam, 42-44)*

## **2. Ungratefulness of mankind**

In surah ar Rum(30) verses 33-34 Allah Reminded us:

*"And when harm touches men, they cry sincerely only to their Lord (Allah), turning to Him in repentance, but when He gives them a taste of His Mercy, behold! a party of them associate partners in worship with their Lord. So as to be ungrateful for the graces which We have bestowed on them. Then enjoy (your short life); but you will come to know."*

After Allah saved the children of Israel from the pharaoh (surah 20 verses 138-140

*"And We brought the Children of Israel (with safety) across the sea, and they came upon a people devoted to some of their idols (in worship). They said: "O Musa (Moses)! Make for us an ilahan (a god) as they have aliha (gods)." He said: "Verily, you are a people who know not (the Majesty and Greatness of Allah and what is obligatory upon you, i.e. to worship none but Allah Alone, the One and the Only God of all that exists)."*

*[Musa (Moses) added:] "Verily, these people will be destroyed for that which they are engaged in (idols-worship). And all that they are doing is in vain."*

*He said: "Shall I seek for you an Ilahan (a God) other than Allah, while He has given you superiority over the 'Alamin (mankind and jinns of your time)."*

When Allah Gave the children of Israel Manna and Salwa for free as provisions, they are ungrateful and demanded for more things:

*"And (remember) when you said, "O Musa (Moses)! We cannot endure one kind of food. So invoke your Lord for us to bring forth for us of what the earth grows, its herbs, its cucumbers, its Fum (wheat or garlic), its lentils and its onions." He said, "Would you exchange that which is better for that which is lower? Go you down to any town and you shall find what you want!" And they were covered with humiliation and misery, and they drew on themselves the Wrath of Allah. That was because they used to disbelieve the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allah and killed the Prophets wrongfully. That was because they disobeyed and used to transgress the bounds (in their disobedience to Allah, i.e. commit crimes and sins)." 2: 61*

Allah even Revealed surah ar Rahman to remind us NOT to deny His Favours upon us.

*“And He gave you of all that you asked for, and if you count the Blessings of Allah, never will you be able to count them. Verily! Man is indeed an extreme wrong-doer, - a disbeliever.” 14: 34*

### **3. Allah Guides whomever He Wills**

Allah Guided the wife of the pharaoh, even though the pharaoh would be in the lowest level of hellfire. The wives of prophets Nuh and Lut as well as the son for prophet Nuh, and the uncle of prophet Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam, Abu Talib, would all be in hellfire.

Guidance is in the hand of Allah. If Allah willed, He could guide all of mankind, for there is nothing that He cannot do on this earth or in the heavens. Nothing happens in His Dominion except that which He wills.

*“Say: ‘With Allah is the perfect proof and argument, (i.e. the Oneness of Allah, the sending of His Messengers and His Holy Books, to mankind); had He so willed, He would indeed have guided you all.’”*

[al-An’am 6:149 - interpretation of the meaning]

But in His Wisdom, Allah has created us with the ability to choose, and He has sent down to us guidance and the Criterion. So whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will enter Paradise and whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger will enter Hell, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

*“Verily, proofs have come to you from your Lord, so whosoever sees, will do so for (the good of) his ownself, and whosoever blinds himself, will do so to his own harm, and I (Muhammad) am not a watcher over you.”*

[al-An’am 6:104]

The Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has no part in guidance; all that he and the Muslims have to do is to explain and convey the message, and show them guidance but they cannot force people to follow it, as Allah said to His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) (interpretation of the meaning):

*“And had your Lord willed, those on earth would have believed, all of them together. So, will you (O Muhammad) then compel mankind, until they become believers?”*

[Yoonus 10:99]

And Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

*“And the duty of the Messenger is only to convey (the Message) plainly.”*

[al-'Ankaboot 29:18]

Guidance to the truth is in the hand of Allah alone and no human being has any share in that, as Allah said to His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) (interpretation of the meaning):

*"Verily, you (O Muhammad) guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided."*

[al-Qasas 28:56]

#### **4. Shaytan as number one enemy**

*"O Children of Adam! Let not Shaitan (Satan) deceive you, as he got your parents [Adam and Hawwa (Eve)] out of Paradise, stripping them of their raiments, to show them their private parts. Verily, he and Qabiluhu (his soldiers from the jinns or his tribe) see you from where you cannot see them. Verily, We made the Shayatin (devils) Auliya' (protectors and helpers) for those who believe not." 7: 27*

*"O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islam (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islamic religion) and follow not the footsteps of Shaitan (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy." 2: 208*

#### **5. Culture**

Many cultures have so much emphasis on the dunya – in weddings, such as mahr, wedding receptions, gifts, etc, even in funerals, now in circumcision ceremony and even when baby is born.

#### **6. Peer pressure**

Some employment have to compete with cars, clothings, watches, country club memberships, etc so that you can get the best clients, business dealings, etc.

#### **7. Wrong companions**

The Prophet SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam gave a good similitude regarding this, as he said: *"The example of a good companion (who sits with you) in comparison with a bad one is like that of the musk seller and the blacksmith's bellows; from the first you would either buy musk or enjoy its good smell while the bellows would either burn your body or your clothes or you get a bad nasty smell thereof."*

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

The Prophet SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam explained the matter of good companionship, so that no room is left for doubt or confusion, when he said:

*"A person is upon the religion of his close friend, so beware whom you befriend."*

[Abu Daawood and At-Tirmithi]

And keep yourself patiently with those who call on their Lord (i.e. your companions who remember their Lord with glorification, praising in prayers, etc., and other righteous deeds, etc.) morning and afternoon, seeking His Face, and let not your eyes overlook them, desiring the pomp and glitter of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our Remembrance, one who follows his own lusts and whose affair (deeds) has been lost. 18: 28

Allah Commanded that our awliya must have specific characteristics:

*“Verily, your Wali (Protector or Helper) is Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, - those who perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat), and give Zakat, and they bow down (submit themselves with obedience to Allah in prayer). “And whosoever takes Allah, His Messenger, and those who have believed, as Protectors, then the party of Allah will be the victorious. 5: 55-56*

## 8. Society

Singapore Society, for example places a lot of emphasis on the “6 Cs”

- Career
- Credit Cards
- Cash
- Car
- Condominium
- Country Club Membership

Success is measured by the amount of wealth, even though Allah warned us many times about wealth:

*“The mutual rivalry for piling up of worldly things diverts you, Until you visit the graves (i.e. till you die).” 102: 1-2*

*“Wealth and children are the adornment of the life of this world. But the good righteous deeds (five compulsory prayers, deeds of Allah's obedience, good and nice talk, remembrance of Allah with glorification, praises and thanks, etc.), that last, are better with your Lord for rewards and better in respect of hope.” 18: 46*

## 9. Treat Islam as a ritual

Islam means complete submission and it is a way of life. It must not be specified as only the prayers or only Ramadan, very ritualistic. Many people simply go to the mosque on Fridays because it is obligatory but fail to listen carefully to the sermon of the imam.

## 10. Fail to understand purpose of life



*"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone)." 51: 56*

If we fail to realise this, then our priorities in life will be focussed on this dunya. So a person saves money in order to buy a second car, or a second house, or an expensive holiday abroad instead of saving money to perform Hajj or helping the poor.

#### **11. Fail to read and ponder the Qur'an with understanding**

Failure of ponder and apply the content in the Qur'an would lead many people to be distracted by the dunya

Tadabbur, means pondering over the meaning of the verses of the Qur'an and contemplating them. Literally, it means to look into the consequence or the end result of the matters, e. g. if we did that what would happen to us.

It is not enough to learn the Qur'an and recite it profusely. But what is required from us is to understand the words and the meaning of the verses. To know the matter (or the case or what the verse says) and this can not be attained except by reading the Tafseer (the interpretation), by heart or heedful mind and not by ears and eyes.

It is also said that Tadabbur is comprehensive and deep thinking and consideration in order to reach to a guidance or indications.

The scholars also said: The Tadabbur can not be attained (or fulfilled) except by:

- (1) Good and correct recitation of the Qur'an.
- (2) Correct understanding of the meaning of the words and verses (using a translation if necessary) and by using the Tafseer.
- (3) Then last by acting upon it.

Undoubtedly, if you understand the meaning and the Tafseer, you will then reflect upon what you read because you will know what Allah wants from you.

Bear in mind that Tadabbur, pondering over the meanings of the verses of the Qur'an, is obligatory upon every Muslim reciting the Qur'an.

The Qur'an itself emphasizes that mere reading or reciting of it is insufficient. One needs to reflect upon what one reads, and then act upon it. Allah (Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala) said in Surat Saad (38:29):

*"(This is) a Book (the Qur'an) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings that they may ponder over its verses, and that men of understanding may remember."*

Allah (Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala) also said in Surat Muhammad (47:24):

“Do they not think deeply in the Qur'an, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding)?”

## 12. Thinks that death is so far away

To many people, death is not imminent, so they think they can prepare deaths when they reach 60 or 70. The dunya has distracted their views on death.

Death is a reality and a calamity that we will all face. When we remember death, we realise that this life is a temporary abode which is meant to please Allah (S) by doing a lot of good deeds and by worshiping him alone without associating any partners.

“The Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: ‘Frequently remember the destroyer of pleasures,’ meaning death.” Sunan Ibn Majah

Remembering death changes our outlook to life. We look at life more seriously and this world and its pleasures will become less significant.

It is narrated that Al-Hasan al-Basri (الله رحمه) went to see a sick man whom he used to visit, and he found him in the agony of death. He looked at his distress and the hardship that he was suffering, then he went back to his family with a different expression than that with which he had left them. They said to him, “Food is ready, may Allah have mercy on you.” He said, “O my family, enjoy your food and drink, for by Allah I have seen death and I will keep striving for that until I meet Him (Allah).”

Remembering death also helps to soften the heart. It is narrated that a woman complained to 'Aa'ishah (R) of the hardness in her heart. She said to her: “Remember death often, for that will soften your heart.” She did that, and her heart was softened (Qurtubi)

Qurtubi (الله رحمه) related: the scholars said: remembering death deters one from sin, softens the hard heart, stops one from delighting in this world, and makes disasters look bearable.

## 13. Embracing western secular lifestyle

Sadly many Muslims especially in Muslim countries perceive western, secular lifestyles as the best kind of life in this world. Many will soon be preparing for Christmas, with Christmas trees even being put up in Muslim houses and presents and shopping being exchanged. They think that Islamic lifestyle in

barbaric and backwards. Expensive presents during weddings, Valentines Day and other non Islamic traditions are prevalent in the Muslim society now.

## WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT IN THE HEREAFTER?

Allah continues after the verses above in surah 3, verses 16-19

*16. Those who say: "Our Lord! We have indeed believed, so forgive us our sins and save us from the punishment of the Fire."*

*17. (They are) those who are patient ones, those who are true (in Faith, words, and deeds), and obedient with sincere devotion in worship to Allah. Those who spend [give the Zakat and alms in the Way of Allah] and those who pray and beg Allah's Pardon in the last hours of the night.*

*18. Allah bears witness that La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), and the angels, and those having knowledge (also give this witness); (He is always) maintaining His creation in Justice. La ilah illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.*

*19. Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam. Those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) did not differ except, out of mutual jealousy, after knowledge had come to them. And whoever disbelieves in the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allah, then surely, Allah is Swift in calling to account.*

Lastly, do remember that:

### **1. Paradise - a special kept "secret"**

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Allaah says: 'I have prepared for My righteous slaves that which no eye has seen, no ear has heard and it has never crossed the mind of man. All of that is reserved, besides which all that you have known is as nothing.' Then he recited: 'No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do' [al-Sajdah 32:17 - interpretation of the meaning]."

Narrated by al-Bukhaari (3072) and Muslim (2824) -- the report narrated by Muslim adds: "apart from that of which Allaah has informed you."

### **2. We will recognise Paradise more than we recognise our homes**

### **3. The best reward is the gift of seeing Allah's Face**

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): “For those who have done good is the best reward and even more (i.e. having the honour of glancing at the Countenance of Allah)” [Yoonus 10:26]

The “best reward” is Paradise, and “even more” is looking upon the Face of Allah, as that was explained by the Messenger of Allah (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam), as was narrated by Muslim in his Sahih from Suhayb (radi Allahu anhu), according to whom the Prophet (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) said: “When the people of Paradise enter Paradise, Allah will say, ‘Do you want anything more?’ They will say, ‘Have You not brightened our faces, admitted us to Paradise and saved us from Hell?’ Then the veil will be lifted and they will not have seen anything more dear to them than looking upon their Lord, may He be glorified and exalted.

This is what is meant by ‘even more.’” Then he recited the verse (interpretation of the meaning): “For those who have done good is the best reward and even more (i.e. having the honour of glancing at the Countenance of Allah)” [Yoonus 10:26]

So once you know that the people of Paradise will not be given anything there that is more dear to them than looking upon the Face of their Lord, it will become clear to you just how great is the deprivation and loss that awaits the sinners whom Allah warns with the words (interpretation of the meaning): “Nay! Surely, they (evil doers) will be veiled from seeing their Lord that Day” [al-Mutafifoon 83:15]

The people of Paradise will have a gathering with their Lord every Friday on which they will have the blessing of gazing upon His noble Countenance. At-Tabaraani narrated in al-Mu’jam al-Kabeer (6717) that Anas ibn Maalik said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Jibreel came to me with something like a white mirror in his hand, on which there was a black spot. I said: ‘What is this, O Jibreel?’ He said: ‘This is Jumu’ah (Friday); it is the master of days and we call it Yawm al-Mazeed (the day of more - cf. “There they will have all that they desire, and We have more (for them, i.e. a glance at the All-Mighty, All-Majestic)” [Qaaf 50:35]).’ I said: ‘O Jibreel, what does “more” mean?’ He said: ‘That is because your Lord has allocated a valley in Paradise that is more fragrant than white musk. When Friday comes, among the days in the hereafter, the Lord, may He be blessed and exalted, will descend from His Throne (‘Arsh) to His Kursiy, and the Kursiy will be surrounded with seats of light on which the Prophets will sit. These seats will be surrounded with footstools of gold on which the martyrs will sit. The people of the chambers will come down from the chambers and sit on sand hills of musk, and those who sit on the sand hills will not think

that those who sit on the footstools and seats are any better off than them. Then the Owner of Majesty and Honour will appear and say: 'Ask of Me.' They will say: 'We ask for Your good pleasure, O Lord.' He will say: 'It is because I am pleased with you that you are in My Paradise, and you are honoured.' Then He will say (again): 'Ask of Me.' They will say all together: 'We ask for Your good pleasure.' He will ask them to testify that He is pleased with them. Then He will say (once more): 'Ask of Me,' and they will ask of Him until each one of them is finished. Then He will grant them that which no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and it has not crossed the mind of any human."

It was also narrated by Ibn Abi'd-Dunya in Sifat al-Jannah (88) via another isnaad; he added: "... there is nothing that they are more eager for than Friday; the more they gaze more upon their Lord, the more they will increase in honour."

Al-Mundhiri (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

It was narrated by Ibn Abi'd-Dunya and by at-Tabaraani in al-Awsat with two isnaads, one of which is jayyid qawiy. A shorter version was also narrated by Abu Ya'la; the men of its isnaad are the men of as-Saheeh. And it was also narrated by al-Bazaar.

End quote from at-Targheeb wa't-Tarheeb, 4/311; classed as hasan by al-Albaani in Saheeh at-Targheeb, 3761

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Ad-Daaraqutni narrated with a saheeh isnaad from Ibn al-Mubaarak: al-Mas'oodi told us, from al-Minhaal ibn 'Amr, from Abu 'Ubaydah, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ood, who said: "Hasten to Jumu'ah, for verily Allah will appear to the people of Paradise every Friday when they gather at a sand hill of camphor, and their closeness to Him will be commensurate with the degree to which they hastened to Jumu'ah in this world." Then he listed a number of isnaads for it, then he said:

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## WAYS TO DECREASE THE LOVE OF DUNYA

### 1. Understand the purpose of life

"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone)." Qur'an surah adh Dhariyat 51, verse 56

It should be noted that He has not created anything in vain; exalted be Allaah far above such a thing. Rather He creates things for great and wise reasons, and for sublime purposes. Those who know them know them and those who do not know

them do not know them. Allaah has stated that in His Holy Book, where He says that He has not created mankind in vain, and He has not created the heavens and the earth in vain. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose), and that you would not be brought back to Us?”

So Exalted be Allaah, the True King: *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Lord of the Supreme Throne!”

[al-Mu’minoos 23:115, 116]

“We created not the heavens and the earth and all that is between them for a (mere) play”

[al-Anbiya’ 21:16]

“And We created not the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, for mere play.

We created them not except with truth (i.e. to examine and test those who are obedient and those who are disobedient and then reward the obedient ones and punish the disobedient ones), but most of them know not”

[al-Dukhaan 44:38]

“And We created not the heaven and the earth and all that is between them without purpose! That is the consideration of those who disbelieve! Then woe to those who disbelieve (in Islamic Monotheism) from the Fire!”

[Saad 38:27]

Shaykh ‘Abd al-Rahmaan al-Sa’di (may Allaah have mercy on him) said:

Allaah tells us of His perfect wisdom in creating the heavens and the earth, and that He has not created them in vain, i.e., in play with no beneficial purpose.

## 2. Seek Guidance from Allah

“Say: ‘O you mankind! Now truth (i.e. the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad), has come to you from your Lord. So whosoever receives guidance, he does so for the good of his own self; and whosoever goes astray, he does so to his own loss; and I am not (set) over you as a Wakeel (disposer of affairs to oblige you for guidance).”

[Yoonus 10:108]

Guidance is in the hand of Allah. If Allah willed, He could guide all of mankind, for there is nothing that He cannot do on this earth or in the heavens. Nothing happens in His Dominion except that which He wills.

“Say: ‘With Allah is the perfect proof and argument, (i.e. the Oneness of Allah, the sending of His Messengers and His Holy Books, to mankind); had He so willed, He would indeed have guided you all.”

[al-An’am 6:149 - interpretation of the meaning]

But in His Wisdom, Allah has created us with the ability to choose, and He has sent down to us guidance and the Criterion. So whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will enter Paradise and whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger will enter Hell, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Verily, proofs have come to you from your Lord, so whosoever sees, will do so for (the good of) his ownself, and whosoever blinds himself, will do so to his own harm, and I (Muhammad) am not a watcher over you.”

[al-An'am 6:104]

### 3. Seek Protection from Allah from shaytan

O you who believe! Enter perfectly in Islam (by obeying all the rules and regulations of the Islamic religion) and follow not the footsteps of *Shaitan* (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy. 2: 208

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And if an evil whisper from *Shaitan* (Satan) tries to turn you away (O Muhammad [SAW]) (from doing good, etc.), then seek refuge in Allah. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower. 41: 36

And We have assigned them (devils) intimate companions (in this world), who have made fair-seeming to them, what was before them (evil deeds which they were doing in the present worldly life and disbelief in the Reckoning and the Resurrection, etc.) and what was behind them (denial of the matters in the coming life of the Hereafter as regards punishment or reward, etc.). And the Word (i.e. the torment) is justified against them as it was justified against those who were among the previous generations of jinns and men that had passed away before them. Indeed they (all) were the losers. 41: 25

And whosoever turns away (blinds himself) from the remembrance of the Most Beneficent (Allah) (i.e. this Qur'an and worship of Allah), We appoint for him *Shaitan* (Satan - devil) to be a *Qarin* (an intimate companion) to him. 43: 36

### 4. Taqwa

O you who believe! If you obey and fear Allah, He will grant you *Furqan* a criterion [(to judge between right and wrong), or (*Makhrāj*, i.e. making a way for you to get out from every difficulty)], and will expiate for you your sins, and forgive you, and Allah is the Owner of the Great Bounty. 8: 29

**14.** Beautified for men is the love of things they covet; women, children, much of gold and silver (wealth), branded beautiful horses, cattle and well-tilled land. This is the pleasure of the present world's life; but Allah has the excellent return (Paradise with flowing rivers, etc.) with Him.

**15.** Say: "Shall I inform you of things far better than those? For *Al-Muttaqun* (the pious - see V.2:2) there are Gardens (Paradise) with their Lord, underneath which

rivers flow. Therein (is their) eternal (home) and *Azwajun Mutahharatun* (purified mates or wives) [i.e. they will have no menses, urine, or stool, etc.], And Allah will be pleased with them. And Allah is All-Seer of the (His) slaves".

16. Those who say: "Our Lord! We have indeed believed, so forgive us our sins and save us from the punishment of the Fire."

17. (They are) those who are patient ones, those who are true (in Faith, words, and deeds), and obedient with sincere devotion in worship to Allah. Those who spend [give the *Zakat* and alms in the Way of Allah] and those who pray and beg Allah's Pardon in the last hours of the night.

3: 14-17

## 5. Seek good companions

And keep yourself (O Muhammad [SAW]) patiently with those who call on their Lord (i.e. your companions who remember their Lord with glorification, praising in prayers, etc., and other righteous deeds, etc.) morning and afternoon, seeking His Face, and let not your eyes overlook them, desiring the pomp and glitter of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our Remembrance, one who follows his own lusts and whose affair (deeds) has been lost. 18: 28

"And (remember) the Day when the *Zalim* (wrong-doer, oppressor, polytheist, etc.) will bite at his hands, he will say: "Oh! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger ( Muhammad [SAW]).

"Ah! Woe to me! Would that I had never taken so-and-so as a friend!

"He indeed led me astray from the Reminder (this Qur'an) after it had come to me. And *Shaitan* (Satan) is ever a deserter to man in the hour of need."

25: 27-29

## 6. Visit the grave and remember death

*Remember more often the destroyer of pleasures – death.* [The Messenger (saw) on the authority of Abu Hurairah]

*Wheresoever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in a fortress built up strong and high.* [Quran 4: 78].

### Are You Ready to Meet Allah?

Ibn al-Mubaarak said that Saalih Al-Mariy used to say, *If the remembrance of death leaves me for an hour my heart becomes spoilt.*

Ibne Umar (Radiyah 'Anhu) says: "I was one among ten people who came into the presence of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. One Ansari stood up and asked Nabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam: "Who is the most intelligent and careful person?"



Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam replied: "Those people who remember death most and prepare for it most. These are people who have excelled in the nobility of this world and the honor of the hereafter." [Reported by Ibne Abud Dunyaa and Tabraani, Jaamous Sagheer, Ibne Maajah, Targheeb ]

Abu Zarr (Radiyahallahu Anhu) says that Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) told me: "Visit the graveyard, it will remind you of the Aakhirah. Give ghusl (bath) to the dead, it is a remedy for those bodies which are devoid of good deeds. From it a lot of advice is attained. Take part in the janaazah Salaah. It is... possible that it will create some grief and sadness in you, for a person who is concerned with his Aakhirah is under the Shadow of Allah and he searches for every good." (Targheeb)

#### **7. Leave the culture that is unislamic which concentrates on dunya - wedding ceremonies, etc**

Comparing who has the bigger wedding, who has the bigger house and even who has the best grave!

#### **8. Understand the short moment in this life**

"It will be, on the Day they see it, as though they had not remained [in the world] except for an afternoon or a morning thereof." (79:46)

#### **9. Prioritise your time**

Especially the clock is changing to winter time

- ensure your programmes are scheduled according to the prayer time
- make time to seek knowledge
- make time for dhikr
- make time to read the Qur'an

#### **10. Use night hours**

Verily, the rising by night (for *Tahajjud* prayer) is very hard and most potent and good for governing (the soul), and most suitable for (understanding) the Word (of Allah). 73: 6