

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا، نَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ
حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا طَيِّبًا، جَعَلَ سُبْحَانَهُ لِمَنْ اتَّقَاهُ مِنْ كُلِّ هَمٍّ فَرَجًا، وَمِنْ كُلِّ ضِيقٍ
مَخْرَجًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ،
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،
صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّم وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ
بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, who has sent down upon His Servant the Book and has not made therein any deviance. We thank Him as it pleases Him.

He who offers to bring relief to those who obey Him and remove their distress. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship, except for Him alone without any partners or peers. To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is within them, and He is over all things Mighty. I also bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May the peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, his companions and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As each day & year passes & comes to an end - so do we. We are merely a makeup & output of time & space. We bid farewell to **2019**, but also to a **DECADE, 2010-2019** reflecting on our achievements, failures & challenges.

“He who created death and life to test you which of you is best in deed.” (67:2) “Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” (13:11) “It is He who made the sun a shining light & the moon a derived light & determined for it phases - that you may know the number of years & time. Allah has not created this except in truth. He details the signs for a people who know.” (10:5)

This decade has been extremely difficult & challenging. We are living in troubled times, an age where everything is inverted & peoples' trust & focus is placed in all the wrong things – this is the age of **Ruwaybida**.

“There will come a time of great deceit when the words of liars will be believed and the words of the truthful will be rejected, a time when the faithless will be trusted and the faithful will be deemed untrustworthy, a time when the Ruwaybida will speak forth.” “What are the Ruwaybida?” they asked. He replied, “Insignificant little men holding command over the masses.” (Ibn Majah)

Humanity in 2010 - 2019

Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Ukraine, ISIS, ISIL, Yemen, Pak-Ind, Civil Wars, Protests, Revolutions, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Tunisia, Hong Kong, Yellow Vests, Kashmir, Syria Civil War, Terrorist Attacks, Mosco, Mumbai, Norway, Peshawar, Turkish Coup, Manchester Arena, Sri-Lanka Easter, London Bridge, New Zealand, Trade Wars, Sanctions, Elections, Genocides, Myanmar, China, Camps Iran, Scandals, Brexit, Referendums, Assassinations, Osama bin Laden, Ghaddafi, Lee Rigby, Jo Cox, Tsunamis, Earthquakes, Haiti, Floods, Disasters, Airlines, Mining, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Fukushima, Heat Waves, Drought, Amazon Wildfire, Global Financial Crisis, NSA, Wikileaks, Snowden, Assange, Panama Papers, Zika Virus, Ebola, Cryptocurrency, VR, Smartphones, Social Media, Tesla, E-cigarette, Aging Population, Gender Fluidity, LGBTQ, Environmentalism, Humans...

That is the reality of the world in which we live. A world in tatters. Yet that reality does not and need not apply to us, the people of Islam.

EVERY LITTLE THING MATTERS “Whoever does an atom’s weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom’s weight of evil will see it,” (99:7-8)

THE VALUE OF TIME - Your time is your life, & your life is your capital; it is the basis of your transactions with Allah ﷻ, & the means to attain to everlasting felicity. “By time, indeed, man is in loss, except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.” (103:1-3)

Mindless, meaningless entertainment is a complete waste of life & time. Be vigilant with your time & consciously decide how to spend it.

PROBLEMS ARE OPPORTUNITIES Those who make a big difference in the world think of their problems as opportunities and go after them. Allah ﷻ is our Rabb, He wants you to grow, so He challenges us & pushes us to be better, therein lies the key to our growth: “For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.” (94:5-6)

This verse tells us that with the problem comes the solution. The solution is not separate from the problem. Allah is pushing us to grow & develop.

SELF-CONFIDENCE THROUGH RELIANCE ON ALLAH ﷻ

Self-confidence comes from depending on Allah ﷻ and knowing that He is there to help and protect us. **“We will ease him toward ease.” (92:7) & “whoever gives & fears Allah & believes in the best reward” (92:5-6)**

WILLPOWER AS A RESULT OF FAITH

Strong willpower & perseverance are required to achieve any goal in life. Without willpower and sustained effort, a person cannot do anything.

“And We had already taken a promise from Adam before, but he forgot; and We found not in him determination” (20:115)

RESOLVE, WILLPOWER, DETERMINATION & IRADA IS FAITH. Faith is the very thing that gives us the strength to systematically and continuously persevere in our efforts. Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ achieved so much in his life because of his strong faith, which he acquired through prayer & the constant remembrance of Allah ﷻ. Prayer sustained him and allowed him to always act with strength, determination, conviction and hope.

“Those who strive hard for our sake, we shall guide them along on Our ways, Allah is with those who do good” (29:69)