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MUSLIM YOUTH MAGAZINE

OUR FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

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The Muslim Youth Magazine
By Youth For Youth

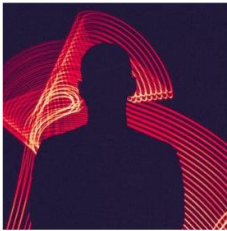
A periodical E magazine that embraces a community of youth who aspire to develop their societies for the better, through which they discuss the challenges and questions they face, and empower Muslim Youth to create positive impact.

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“Do not worry, surely Allah is with us”

Surat At-Tawbah 10:40



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATU ALLAH WA BARAKATUH,

DEAR READERS,

TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW HIJRI YEAR, A TIME OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL. ALTHOUGH THE PROPHET (PBUH) DID NOT EMIGRATE FROM MECCA TO MADINA IN MUHARRAM, THE MEMORY OF THIS OCCASION LIES IN THE ARABIC NAME, HIJRI, DERIVED FROM THE WORD "HIJRAH," MEANING IMMIGRATION. IT SYMBOLIZES THE PROFOUND JOURNEY OF THE PROPHET (PBUH) AND IMPARTS INVALUABLE LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN.

AT THIS MOMENT, I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THREE PRECIOUS LESSONS DRAWN FROM HIS MIGRATION (PBUH): SINCERITY, HARD WORK, AND TRUST. IN ALL THAT YOU DO, LET YOUR INTENTIONS BE PURE, DEDICATED SOLELY TO PLEASE ALLAH (SWT). AS YOU POUR YOUR HEART INTO YOUR ENDEAVORS, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE. AND KNOW THAT ALLAH (SWT) IS EVER BY YOUR SIDE. JUST AS THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) ON THAT JOURNEY REASSURED ABU BAKR (RAA), "DON'T WORRY, SURELY ALLAH IS WITH US."

WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE ON THE RIGHTEOUS PATH, REMEMBER, ALLAH IS WITH US. WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE AND TRIALS LOOM LARGE, REMEMBER, ALLAH IS WITH US. EVEN IN THE FACE OF THOSE WHO INSULT ISLAM AND DESECRATE THE NOBLE QURAN, REMEMBER, ALLAH IS WITH US. AS LONG AS YOUR INTENTIONS REMAIN SINCERE AND YOUR EFFORTS UNWAVERING, REMEMBER, ALLAH IS WITH US.

WHEN WE EMBODY SINCERITY, PRODUCTIVITY, DISCIPLINE, DETERMINATION, AND HARD WORK, WE SHAPE A FUTURE THAT TRANSCENDS EXPECTATIONS. AS TRUE WORSHIPPERS OF ALLAH, COMMITTED TO REALIZING OUR FULL POTENTIAL, WE CAN CREATE A WORLD WHERE INDIVIDUAL TALENTS FLOURISH, AMBITION THRIVES, AND PROGRESS KNOWS NO LIMITS. THE SYMPHONY OF OUR COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS RESOUNDS, WEAVING THE GLORIOUS OF TOMORROW.

REMEMBER, THE CHOICE IS YOURS TO MAKE. ARE YOU READY? YOU, THE YOUTH, HOLD THE KEY, AND THE WORLD EAGERLY AWAITS YOUR ANSWER.

ON BEHALF OF MYM TEAM,

SUHER KHIRALLAH, PH.D.

How To Be Productive?

By: Dr. Suher Khirallah with the collaboration of MYM members

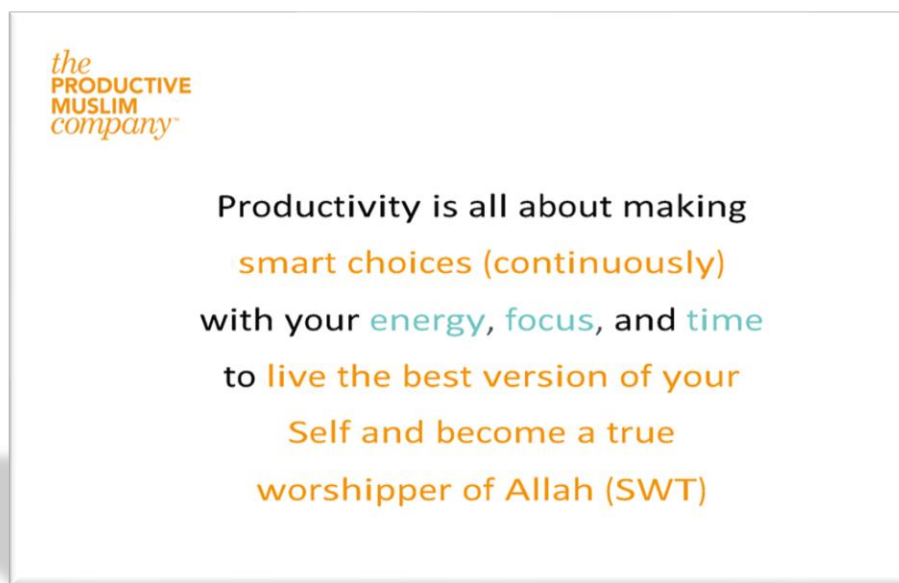
Ah, summer break! The much-awaited time of the year when school's out, and the world is yours to explore. Amidst the allure of lazy days and endless entertainment, Missy, a 16-year-old young girl, spent the entire day playing video games, enjoyed a lot of junk food, skipped her family dinner time because she was in the middle of a pointless chat on social media, watched Netflix until the early hours of the morning, fell asleep, missed Fajr prayer, woke up late with feelings of guilt. In an attempt to escape that emptiness inside her, she sought refuge in more entertainment, trapping herself in this endless cycle of unproductivity for the entire month of June.

Does that scenario look familiar to you? Well, you are not alone. In this article, we will address the common challenges faced by youth in their pursuit of productivity and provide practical tips to help you make the most of your time, have fun, and still accomplish meaningful goals. Bismillah:

1- The Purpose of Life: As Muslims, we believe that Allah (SWT) has created us with a purpose - to be true worshippers of Him- As stated in Surat Adh-Dhariyat, Ayah 56, "**And I did not create the Jinn and mankind except to worship Me.**" Our primary role as human beings is to worship Allah SWT. Understanding this fundamental purpose can guide us in our quest for productivity, putting what Allah (SWT) wants from us first, and having sincere intentions to please Him in every aspect of our life.

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٦﴾

2- The Link Between Productivity and Spirituality: If you study the Science of Productivity, you learn that it is all about how to manage your energy, focus, and time to maximize your output. [The Productive Muslim Company](#), founded by Mohammed Faris, recognizes the interconnectedness of productivity and spirituality. We are both body and soul, and neglecting one means neglecting who we truly are. Being a Productive Muslim requires making wise choices with our energy, focus, and time, all while aligning them with our spiritual goals. This way, we can live up to our fullest potential and fulfill our purpose as true worshippers of Allah



3- Three Questions to Assess Your Productivity: To assess your productivity, it is important to ask yourself three essential questions:

1. Am I Distracted?
2. Am I Lethargic?
3. Am I Hurried?



Answering these questions will help you evaluate your choices and identify unproductive behaviors. Understanding where you are on your productivity journey is a key to reach your goals.

4- The influence of bad companies: In our [first MYM Vol](#) we talked about the role our friends play in shaping our values, attitudes, and actions. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **“The example of a good companion in comparison with a bad companion, is like that of the musk seller musk and a blacksmith’s bellows; from the first you would either buy musk or enjoy its good smell. While the bellows would either burn your clothes or your house, or you get a bad smell thereof.”**¹



Surrounding ourselves with negative influences can lead us astray and stop our personal growth. Choose friends who inspire you, uplift you, and encourage you to strive for excellence. Seek companions who share your values and aspirations, for they will support you in becoming the best version of yourself. Remember, the company you keep plays a significant role in shaping your future.

5- Embrace Healthy Habits: let's address the ever-tempting allure of late nights and junk food. Sleepovers, midnight snacks, and binge-watching your favorite shows seem incredibly appealing. But remember, your body and mind need proper care to function at their best. Establish a healthy sleep routine, aiming for at least 6-8 hours of sleep each night. Yes, it's tough to resist those late-night adventures, but a well-rested night gives you more energy and focus throughout the day. Allah (SWT) created the night for sleep and rest for healthy wise reasons that were proved by [science](#). **“He is the One Who has made the night for you as a cover, and ʿmadeʼ sleep for resting, and the day for rising”**².

Now, onto food! While indulging in your favorite treats is part of the summer experience, remember to strike a balance. Allah (SWT) said: **“O mankind, eat from whatever is on earth (that is) lawful and good”**.³ While people think that the word (good- طيب) is for what we like, the fact that scholars said that it means what is good

¹ Sahih Bukhari 2101

² Surat Al-Furqan, Ayah 47

³ Surat A-Baqarah, Ayah 168

to your mind, body, and soul. Watch your mood, focus, and energy after each fatty or sugary meal and you will figure out why Allah (SWT) wants that.

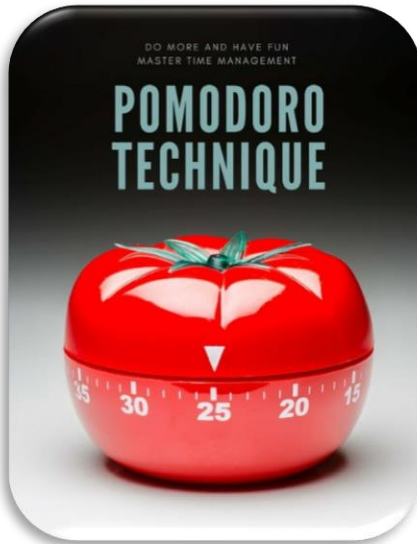
Opt for fresh fruits, vegetables, and wholesome meals that provide essential nutrients. Hey, who says healthy can't be delicious? Try experimenting with colorful smoothie bowls, homemade popsicles, or grilled veggies during those barbeque parties. Your body will thank you, and your energy levels will skyrocket!



Additionally, incorporate physical exercise into your routine. Whether it's swimming, biking, or hiking, staying active not only benefits your physical well-being but also improves your mood and mental clarity. Omar Ibn Al-Khatab (RAA) used to advise people to teach their children archery, swimming, and horse riding.

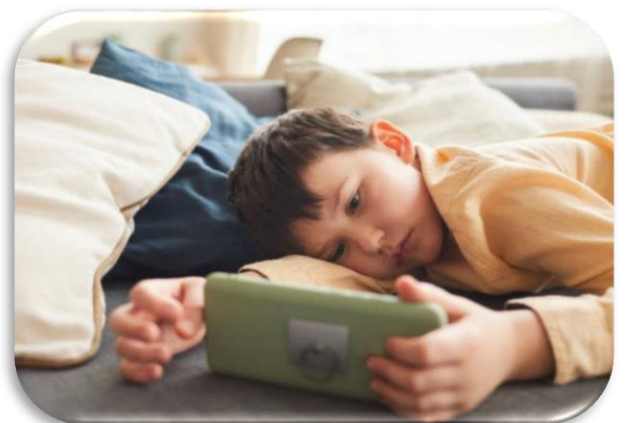


6- Effective Time Management: The way that Allah (SWT) and His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) talk about the importance of time is clear. The second we lose won't be revived till the day of Judgment when Allah (SWT) will ask us about it.⁴



Summer break offers ample free time, which can be both a blessing and a curse. The key is to manage your time effectively while still having fun. Set goals for yourself and break them down into manageable tasks. Create a daily or weekly schedule to keep yourself on track. To make time management more enjoyable, try the [Pomodoro Technique](#) – work for 25 minutes, then take a 5-minute break for some fun or relaxation. This technique helps you stay focused while infusing a playful element into your routine.

7- Unplug and Connect: As Muslim youth, summer can go one of two ways: either our summer holidays are filled with fun vacations and spontaneous activities, or we sit bored at home checking all the happy posts of our friends who are spending time on the beach, parties, and travel. In addition to the fact that most social media statuses failed to reflect the truth behind the happy posts, focusing on other people's activities or statuses can create a long list of sad and unthankful people as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **“Look to one who is lower than you, and do not look to one who is above you. For indeed that is more worthy (so that you will) not belittle Allah's favors upon you”**⁵. Limit social media use, to avoid negative feelings. Read the news and empathize with those who are suffering worldwide. Appreciate the blessings granted by Allah (SWT).



⁴ Jami' At-Tirmidhi 2417, classified it as Hadith Hasan Sahih

⁵ Jami' at-Tirmidhi 2513. Hadeeth Sahih

On the other hand, games, social media, and endless scrolling can easily swallow up hours of your life. While technology has its benefits, it's crucial to find a balance and create space for real-life connections. Unplug for a set amount of time each day and engage in activities that nourish your soul. Invite friends over for a picnic, explore nature, participate in Islamic events, or take up a new hobby. Offline activities stimulate your creativity, build relationships, and create lasting memories.

8- Pursue Your Passions: Summer break is the perfect time to explore your passions and discover new interests. Invest your time in activities that ignite your curiosity and bring you joy. Explore online courses, join local workshops, or seek mentorship opportunities to dive deeper into your chosen field. By pursuing your passions, you'll enhance your skills and cultivate a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

9- Moments of Reflection and Relaxation: Amidst the hustle and bustle of summer activities, don't forget to take moments for yourself. Find time to reflect, relax, and recharge. Take a walk in nature, meditate, journal your thoughts, or simply sit quietly and let your mind wander. These moments of stillness provide clarity, inspiration, and a break from constant stimulation.



10- Overcoming Challenges: As Muslim youth, we face unique challenges on our path to productivity and self-growth. From distractions to feelings of being a stranger, we must navigate these obstacles. Remember the purpose of our existence - to worship Allah (SWT). Strengthen your relationship with Him through Dhikr, Quran, Duaa, and seeking Islamic Knowledge. Surround yourself with friends who inspire you and help you grow closer to Allah (SWT). Practice gratitude, trust in Allah's plan, and seek help when needed.

11- Importance of Fajr Prayer: One of the key aspects of productivity and spiritual growth is establishing a strong connection with Allah through prayer. Fajr prayer holds immense blessings and sets the tone for the entire day. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "**He who offers the dawn (Fajr) prayers will come under the Protection of Allah. O son of Adam! Beware, lest Allah should call you to account in any respect from (for withdrawing) His Protection.**"⁶ What can make you worried if you are under divine protection?! Make a conscious effort to wake up for Fajr prayer and experience the serenity and peace it brings to your day. The barakah behind starting your day with Fajr prayer is immeasurable. It instills discipline, strengthens your faith, and aligns your actions with the purpose of your existence.



12- Conquering Distractions and Temptations: In the modern world, distractions and temptations surround us. It's easy to get caught up in mindless scrolling, watching TV shows, or engaging in unproductive discussions on social media. Recognize the impact of these distractions on your productivity and take steps to conquer them. Set limits on screen time, create a designated work/study area free from distractions, and practice self-discipline. Fill your time with beneficial activities, seek knowledge, and engage in meaningful conversations.

⁶ Sahih Muslim 657a

13- The Power of Goal Setting:

Setting goals is crucial for productivity and personal growth. Use the summer break as an opportunity to define your goals and create a roadmap to achieve them. Whether it's learning a new skill, reading a certain number of books, or working on a passion project, break down your goals into actionable steps. Track your progress, celebrate milestones, and stay motivated. Remember, every small step counts towards realizing your dreams.



14- Gratitude and Positivity:

A positive mindset and gratitude are powerful tools for productivity and personal well-being. Cultivate a habit of gratitude by regularly reflecting on your blessings, both big and small. Keep a gratitude journal or share moments of gratitude with family and friends. By focusing on the positives in your life, you shift your perspective and attract more blessings as Allah (SWT) promised He will increase those who are grateful in favors.⁷



15- Seeking Support and Guidance:

Productivity and personal growth are journeys that require support and guidance. Don't hesitate to seek help when needed. Reach out to mentors, elders, or professionals who can provide guidance and advice. Surround yourself with a supportive community that encourages your

⁷ Surat Ibrahim, Ayah 7

growth. Share your struggles and aspirations with trusted individuals who can offer valuable insights and support you on your path.



Dear youth,

Summer break is a precious time to explore, grow, and make lasting memories. You can transform this summer into a period of productivity.

Stay strong, resilient, and never lose hope on your journey of continuous growth. Embrace challenges, for they shape you into a stronger and wiser individual. You have the strength to overcome each hurdle that comes on your way. Unlock your potential for success, and become the best version of yourself.

Remember, productivity is not about sacrificing fun; it's about finding the perfect balance. Now, go out there, make the most of your life, and let the world witness the amazing things you can accomplish!

We hope that these tips are helpful to you and we pray that Allah SWT guides us all to be productive and sincere worshippers of Allah at all times.

Productivity

With Hijri Calendar



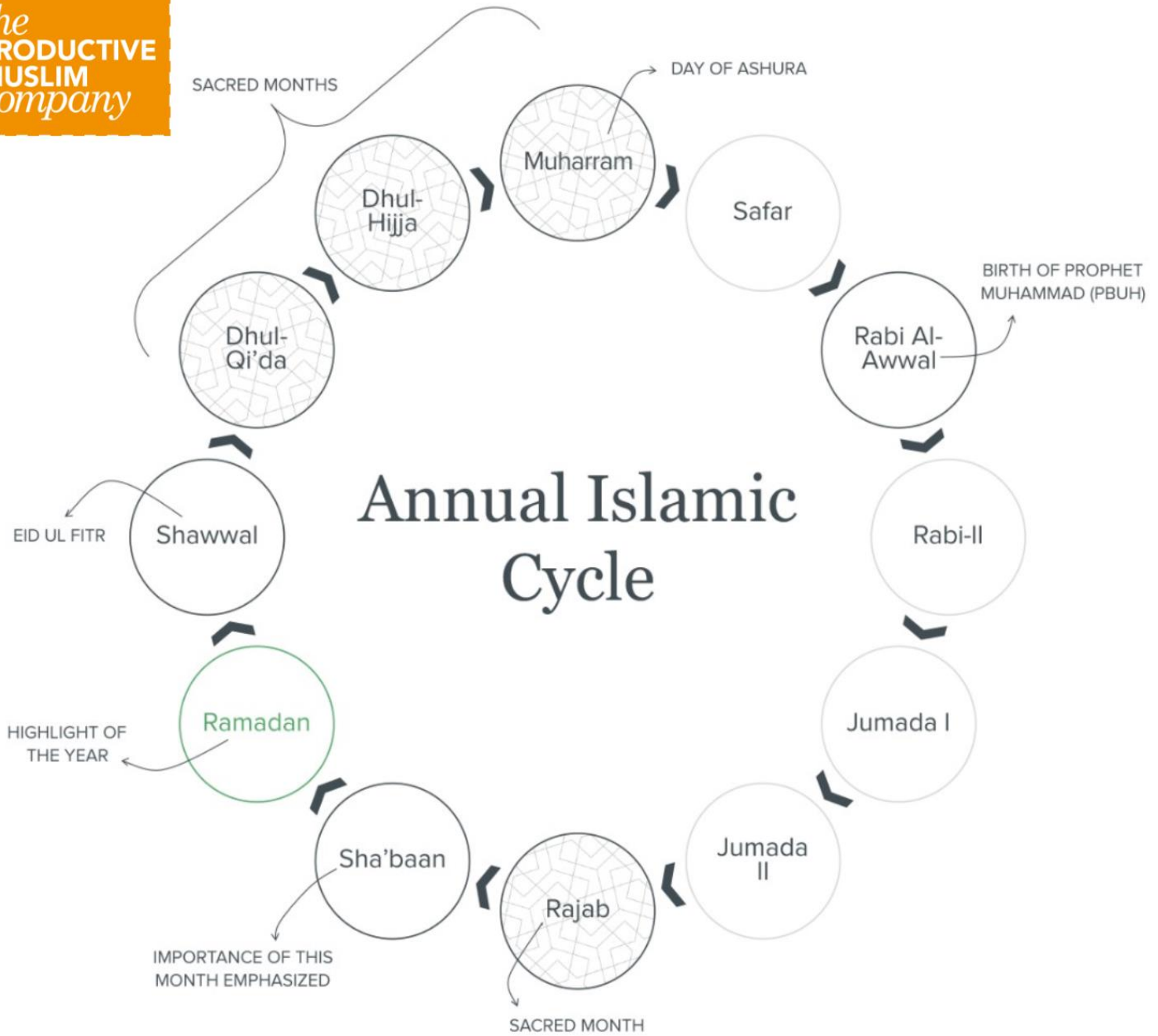
The Islamic lunar calendar is the chosen calendar that is aligned with Allah's Divine Order. Allah says in the Quran: "Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred..." [Quran 9:36]

Hijri Calendar

- Teaches us about the Islamic history
- Brings together all Muslims around the world
- Connects us to the spiritual realm
- Organizes our days into sacred and non-sacred



To Learn More Visit:
GoHijri.org



MYM Team members pray that Allah (SWT) makes this New Islamic Year full of Productivity and Barakah.

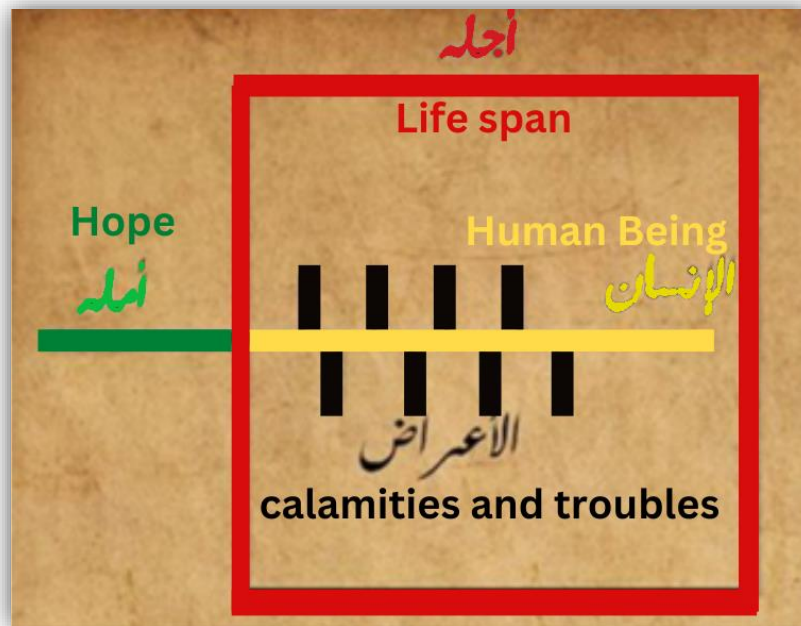


Look at Your Life Through the Lens of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

By: Huda Hussain



Abdullah Ibn Masoud (RAA) narrated that The Prophet (PBUH) drew a square and then drew a line in the middle of it and let it extend outside the square and then drew several small lines attached to that central line, and said, "This is the human being, and this, the square in his life span, encircles him from all sides. This line, which is outside the square, is his hope. These small lines are the calamities and troubles which may befall him, and if one misses him, another will overtake him, and if the other misses him, a third will overtake him."⁸



The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), our beloved guide, drew this simple illustration to teach us about the nature of life. Life is like a square, and you are the central line within it. The square represents your lifespan, enclosing you from all sides. But there is something beyond the square, extending outward - it is your hope.

You see, life is not without its challenges. Those challenges are like the small lines that attach to the central line. They may come unexpectedly, one after another. Just as one difficulty fades away, another may arise. It's the nature of our journey.

⁸ Sahih al-Bukhari 6417

The Prophet (PBUH) knew that we would face trials, but he also wanted us to understand the importance of hope. Hold on to the hope which is the driving force that keeps you going, and fuels your dreams, ambitions, and aspirations. Let it guide you through the ups and downs of life. Even in the face of adversity, maintain an optimistic outlook and trust in Allah's plan for you, and have faith in your own abilities.

On the other hand, be aware of the hope which makes you feel like you will live forever. This kind of hope will create a sinful procrastinator. This person thinks he has a lot of time to do good deeds or repent of bad deeds later. For this reason, focus on the obstacles you are faced with presently because your time on this Earth will be up sooner or later and you will regret all the time you wasted.

So, as you navigate through the square of your life this summer, remember the Prophet's words (PBUH), and prepare to make this summer the best time of your life through the following powerful prophetic Hadeeth:

1. Shaytan constantly works as your enemy, even when you're asleep

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger (PBUH) said, **“Shaytan ties three knots on the back of your head while you're asleep. On every knot he puts the saying: The night is long, stay asleep. When you wake up and remember Allah, one knot is undone. When you perform ablution, the second knot is undone. When you pray, the third knot is undone and you will wake up energetic with a good heart; otherwise, you will wake up lazy with a mischievous heart.”**⁹

Subhan'Allah, what an amazing and comprehensive hadith with so many lessons to take from:

- When you're asleep and don't feel like getting out of bed, **Shaytan uses that moment of weakness to make you forget about Allah (SWT)**. Don't let him win. Sleep early the night before if you know you have trouble waking up early.

⁹ Sahih al-Bukhari 1142, 3269

- **Fall in love with praying your salah, especially Fajr.** Of course in the summer, when Fajr starts getting very early and we start sleeping very late, waking up can get tough. Make it a habit. It'll be hard the first, second, third, and maybe even the fourth time, but once you start to see the amount of barakah (blessings) your morning will have, you will fall in love with waking up for Fajr.



2. Be steadfast on Allah's (SWT) path and don't waste time

Abu Barzah RA reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "**Man's feet will not move on the Day of Resurrection before he is asked about his life, how did he consume it, his knowledge, what did he do with it, his wealth, how did he earn it and how did he dispose of it, and about his body, how did he wear it out.**"¹⁰

This Hadeeth will shift our focus to our Akhirah when we stand in front of Allah and are asked:

- Your purpose on this earth is to worship Allah (SWT). When you want to do or say anything ask yourself a question: **How this will be aligned with what Allah (SWT) wants from me?**

¹⁰ Jami' At-Tirmidhi 2417, classified it as Hadith Hasan Sahih

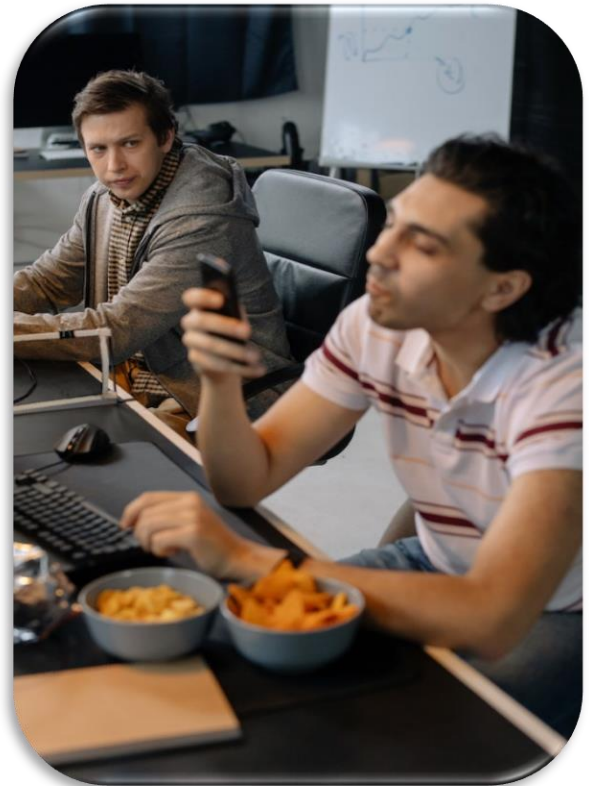
- Consider **any and every path other than Allah’s (SWT) path to be a waste of time**. This does not mean that one should abandon every aspect of life and subject themselves to constant worship, but it rather means that while you live your day-to-day life, don’t dwell on irrelevance to the point of losing your purpose in life.

3. Don’t let envy ruin all the good you’ve done

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger (PBUH) said, **“Envy consumes good deeds just as fire burns wood. Charity extinguishes sinful deeds just as water extinguishes fire. Prayer is the light of the believer, and fasting is his shield from the Hellfire.”**¹¹

This hadith is amazing not only because it warns us of the dangers of envy, but also provides a solution for it too:

- When the majority of your summer is spent staying at home with no vacations planned, it can be difficult to see your friends traveling to exotic and fun places on social media. Remember that **Allah (SWT) grants people gifts in different forms** (you might not be aware of the ones you have right at home). So don’t look at things that Allah (SWT) has given to others and not you, because that **envy can turn into a dangerous thing and can ruin all your good deeds** in the eyes of Allah (SWT).



- Of course, simply not being jealous is easier said than done. So to combat this issue, **give charity so your heart may stay humble and soft, and won’t succumb to envy**. As a youth, not everyone has a job to give money for Sadaqah (voluntary charity) let alone Zakat (obligatory charity), so instead be generous to the people

¹¹ Sunan ibn Majah 4210. The hadith is declared da’if (weak). Can be used as evidence for issues of adab (etiquettes) as it is here according to some of the scholars

around you. Invite your friends over and feed them food. Give your neighbors gifts (something small and hand-made always goes a long way). Even giving people your time or advice are ways of being generous. At least smile at your brothers, it is also a charity¹² 😊

● Lastly, don't forget to **pray your Salah on time and do a lot of voluntary fasts**. With the long summer days and blistering heat, the last thing on our minds is fasting, but remember the harder the act the greater the rewards from Allah (SWT). Hopefully, you have fasted the nine days of Dhul-Hijjah (especially Arafat), but if not, **mark your calendars to fast on the day of Ashura** (predicted to be on July 28th).

4. Learning is never over, not even during summer break

Ibn Abi al-Hudhayl reported: Abu Darda RA said, **“Whoever does not consider coming and going for the sake of knowledge to be an act of jihad, he has a shortcoming in his mind and his opinion.”**¹³

Yazid ibn Jabir reported: Mu'adh ibn Jabal RA said, **“Act as you wish after you have learned, for Allah Almighty will never reward you for knowledge until you act upon it.”**¹⁴



Oftentimes, we view summer as blissful months of no school/college, no homework, and no responsibilities. Although this is somewhat true, we have to realize that as Muslims, learning never stops until the day Allah (SWT) takes our soul. That might seem a little extreme and overwhelming, but take baby

¹² Sahih Muslim 2626

¹³ Jami Bayan al-'Ilm wa Fadlih 116

¹⁴ Sunan al-Darimi 266

steps and prioritize Islamic 'Ilm (knowledge) and elevate its standard and honor above school/college work:

- **The first hadith is telling us to view seeking education as a form of jihad (struggle).** Now obviously in a practical sense we can't exactly book a plane ticket to Madinah for Ilm, but there needs to be a conscious effort and intention when it comes to learning Islam right from our homes. Once we recognize that, we will be able to give 'Ilm its due diligence.

- Once we have established the jihad part, next comes actually obtaining the knowledge. This can be done in a variety of ways: watching YouTube videos from accredited Islamic scholars, doing beginner online courses, reading books of Tafseer, the options are endless. **The access to Islamic knowledge is greater now more than ever so take advantage of it and don't let time go to waste on senseless activities.**

- Once a source of knowledge has been established, next comes the implementation which is mentioned in the second hadith above. **Without the implementation of knowledge, consider all of what you've learned to be a waste.** Don't treat Islamic knowledge like some school subject; this isn't something you learn for the sake of "graduating", it's something you'll take with you until the moment you meet Allah (SWT). Make every second of learning count and Insha'Allah you will find yourself to be an ambassador of Islam in your community.

With the Prophet as our guide, there is wisdom, strength, and limitless potential. We ask Allah (SWT) to let the Prophet's teachings guide us, and may this summer be a transformative time of growth and spiritual connection.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَسَلَّمَ

The Sacrifice Which Brings Happiness

By: Hamood UrRehman

On the day of Eid, Anas and Hira, teenagers, went to their grandfather's house with their parents. Eid was a special occasion for them. It meant gathering with family, sitting together, and sharing happiness. The entire day was busy with slaughtering and distributing meat, but later, the whole family came together for a special dinner.



During the dinner, Anas' father, Abu Anas, made a heartfelt request to his own father. He wanted to bring back a cherished tradition that their family used to have - a "weekly study circle" where the entire family would come together to learn about their religion. Anas and Hira were already practicing this in their own home. Their grandfather appreciated and accepted Abu Anas' request.

Seated in the prominent chair, their grandfather, Jidd, addressed his beloved family, saying, "My dear ones, as you know, every year we make sacrifices by offering animals. It is important to remind ourselves of the concept and lessons behind this practice. It's not just a ritual but also a symbol of the profound sacrifice made by the

Prophet Ibraheem (AS). The story of Ibraheem (AS) holds valuable lessons, and it's important to understand its significance. Ibraheem (AS) lived without any children until he reached his 80s. He patiently waited and fervently prayed to Allah, seeking righteous offspring. After years of anticipation, Allah blessed Ibrahim with a patient and steadfast son, Ismael."

Jidd paused to let his words sink in, then continued, "One day, Allah commanded Ibraheem to leave Ismael and his mother in the barren desert of what is now known as Makkah. Ismael was raised by his mother, and Ibraheem could not spend much time with his son. As Ismael grew wiser, Ibrahim's love for him deepened. Then, Allah decided to test Ibrahim's commitment. He sent Ibrahim a dream, commanding him to sacrifice Ismael. Ibrahim shared this dream with Ismael, who replied with wisdom and patience, 'O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, among the steadfast¹⁵.'

Jidd emphasized the profound lesson, "Ismael, despite being raised by his mother, displayed remarkable faith at a young age. It shows the importance of mothers being strong in their faith and knowledge of Deen, so they can nurture children with a solid foundation of faith, just like Ismael. When these children grow up, get married, and have their own children, they will continue the legacy of raising a generation filled with strong faith."



Jidd continued, sharing another insight, "Let me tell you what Hussain (AS) once said: 'If death is the end of life, then dying in the way of Allah is the best end.' Trials and challenges are inevitable, but when Allah describes a trial as 'clear'¹⁶ in the Holy Quran, it signifies its immense difficulty."

¹⁵ As-Saffat 102 (Q 37: 102)

¹⁶ As-Saffat 106 (Q 37: 106)

Jidd took a deep breath, gathering their attention, and continued, "Ibrahim and Ismael, fully prepared to submit to Allah's command, encountered Satan on their journey. Satan tried to divert them from their righteous path by whispering doubts and fears. However, Ibrahim responded with firm resolve. He threw pebbles at Satan on the advice of Jabrail, an angel sent by Allah. This act, known as stoning the devil, has become an integral part of the Hajj pilgrimage, reminding us of Ibrahim's devotion and our commitment to resist evil."

Jidd said: "Whenever we strive to obey Allah's commands, Satan will inevitably attempt to distract and mislead us. Satan whispers doubts and fears into our hearts, seeking to weaken our resolve. But it is our duty to resist these temptations, just as Ibrahim did by stoning Satan. When we sincerely strive in the path of Allah, He aids His devoted servants." **"And those who strive for Us – we will surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good"**¹⁷.

As Ibrahim raised the knife to sacrifice Ismael, a miraculous event unfolded. Allah replaced Ismael with a ram, sparing his life and rewarding Ibrahim's unwavering faith and obedience. It was a test of great magnitude, and father and son emerged triumphant, demonstrating their complete submission to Allah's will.

Jidd took a moment to collect his thoughts, addressing his young grandson directly, "My little Anas, there is another important lesson we can draw from Ibrahim's story. Just as Ibrahim faced challenges and made sacrifices, we also encounter tests and struggles in our daily lives. By choosing Allah's path over our own, we not only earn His pleasure but also receive His abundant blessings."

Jidd's voice softened with affection as he concluded, "Now, my dear children, let us enjoy our meal and rest. Tomorrow, we will rise early to pray Fajr, for it marks the beginning of a blessed day filled with opportunities to continue our journey of faith."

The family sat in silence, their hearts touched by Jidd's profound message. They realized that Eid al-Adha was more than just a day of slaughtering animals. It was a

¹⁷ Al-Ankabut 69 (Q 29:69)

celebration of unyielding faith, obedience to Allah's commands, and the willingness to make sacrifices for His sake.

As they went to bed, each family member carried a newfound understanding of the sacrifices they needed to make in their own lives. They were now willing to give up their morning sleep, set aside distractions, and prioritize their prayers above all else. They were ready to sacrifice anything that hindered their relationship with their Lord.

In this spirit of devotion and sacrifice, the family embraced the essence of Eid al-Adha. They realized that true joy and fulfillment came from submitting to Allah's will and striving to strengthen their connection with Him. With this newfound clarity, they were prepared to embark on a journey of faith, ready to make the sacrifices necessary to deepen their relationship with their Creator.



Duaa Series -2

By: Ahmed Khan

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to say: "O Allah! I seek refuge in You from worry and grief, from incapacity and laziness, from cowardice and miserliness, from being heavily in debt, and from being overpowered by (other) men."

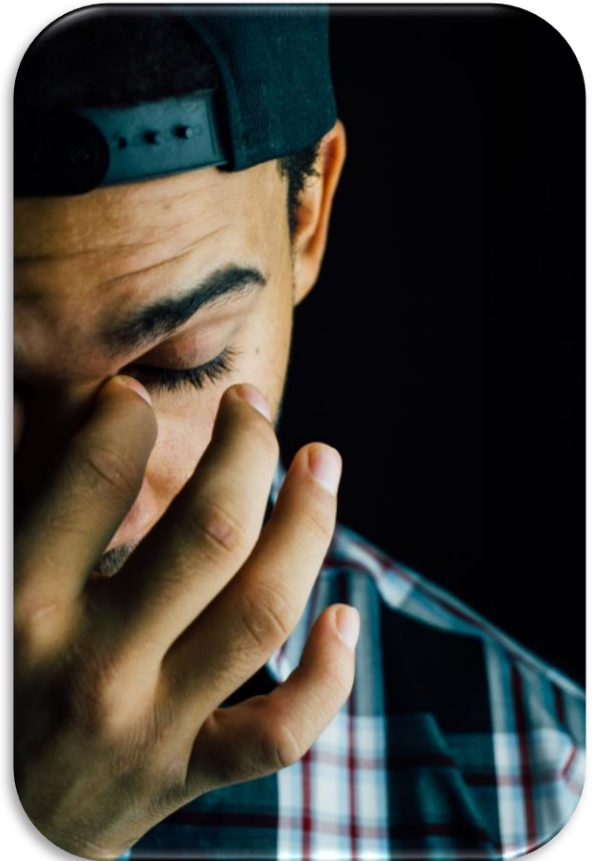
Sahih al-Bukhari 6369

Being unproductive can be a result of many reasons. This Duaa can teach us how to ask Allah SWT to protect us from them in a very beautiful and powerful way.

Let's dive in and see how this Duaa says a lot in a few words, and why we need to repeat this Duaa all the time:

1-Worry and grief: Worry and grief can impede your productivity. They burden your spirit, cloud your mind, and drain your energy. When sadness takes hold, motivation falters, making it challenging to take action. Worry scatters your thoughts, hindering your ability to be fully present. A few ways to combat worry and grief are to make dhikr for Allah (SWT) and being in nature, admiring our creation.

2-Incapacity and laziness: Incapacity and laziness can undermine your productivity. Feeling incapable can lead to self-doubt and inaction, while laziness tempts you to procrastinate and avoid the work ahead.



Laziness can be seen as a thief of achievement, or a chain that inhibits the dreams of our youth. We can combat laziness by scheduling our tasks around prayer times. For example, you can go to the gym after Fajr, and eat lunch before Dhuhr, and finish homework before Maghrib. This allows you to make a schedule for activities throughout the day, while still prioritizing prayer.

3-Cowardice and miserliness: Cowardice and miserliness can cripple your productivity. Cowardice holds you back from embracing challenges and taking calculated risks, limiting your growth and potential. Miserliness, in turn, restricts your ability to invest in yourself and others, hampering collaboration and stifling abundance. Instead of being to yourself, try starting a conversation in groups with friends, or form a Halaqah group. In turn, this will expose you to situations where expressing yourself and sharing opinions is necessary, reducing cowardice and miserliness.



4-Being heavily in debt: Heavy debt can slow your productivity. It shifts your focus from pursuing goals to managing financial obligations. The stress and anxiety it brings drain your energy and make it hard to concentrate. Debt limits your choices and freedom, trapping you in undesirable circumstances. Some ways to be diligent with debt are to allocate a monthly payment for various expenses, such as groceries, personal items, and necessities, and create a budgeting sheet. This prevents any further debt to creep back. Another way to prevent debt is to attain a summer job, to receive money that can be used to pay it back.

5-Being overpowered by other men: Being overpowered by others, especially men, can make you unproductive. It suppresses your voice, diminishes your confidence, and stifles your potential. It creates self-doubt and restricts your ability

to express your talents and chase your aspirations. Make sure to assert yourself and affirm the importance of your voice.

It is truly remarkable how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) addressed these challenges in a single supplication. You possess the ability to liberate yourself from these emotions and obstacles and overcome these barriers by consistently reciting this Duaa. Place your trust in Allah (SWT), Who holds the power to bring about change and alleviate any hardships. However, it is important to remember that Duaa alone is not sufficient. As narrated, the companion Omar Ibn Al-Khattab (RAA) advised, "Accompany your supplication with hard work." Therefore, take the initiative to acknowledge your emotions and confront the challenges you face. Seek support and professional guidance. Step out of your comfort zone. Cultivate discipline. Shift your mindset. Prioritize self-care. Practice generosity. Foster collaboration. Embrace gratitude, resilience, and optimism. Always take small steps towards realistic goals to make a difference in your life.

Unlock your productivity, transform your dreams into reality, and keep saying:

"O Allah! I seek refuge in You from worry and grief, from incapacity and laziness, from cowardice and miserliness, from being heavily in debt, and from being overpowered by (other) men." Ameen



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- Fact-checkers. Fact-checkers ensure that all the information and statistics in the articles are accurate. This role may be part of an editor's duties, or it may be its own position.
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