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SUCCESS AS DEFINED BY DIVINITY
SUCCESSFUL TIME MANAGEMENT



AL-'ASR - THE TIME

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The object of the oath is time which with every breath is moving the human being from the world to the hereafter.

Humanity is always in a state of loss except those who:

1. Have faith
2. Manifest their faith in good deeds
3. Counsel each other to stand for the truth and do the right thing
4. Counsel each other to persevere and have patience in standing for the faith

Ayaat 1-3



103. Al-'Asr ~ The Time

3 Ayaat (Makki)

FOCUS

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DID YOU KNOW?

IN ANCIENT TIMES PEOPLE STOPPED WORK AT 'ASR TIME (LATE AFTERNOON) AND HEADED HOME BEFORE DARKNESS SET IN. IN THIS CONTEXT 'ASR MAY MEAN THE 'END OF A PRODUCTIVE DAY'
'EVERY BREATH A HUMAN BEING TAKES IS A STEP TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE.' IMAM ALI (PBUH)

SELECTED AYAAT

وَالْعَصْرِ

I swear by the time,

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ

Most surely man is in loss,

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

Except those who believe and do good, and enjoin on each other truth, and enjoin on each other patience.

NARRATIVE

TIME IS THE GREATEST EVIDENCE OF LOSS AND THE WITNESS OF ONE'S LIFE WORKS. THE SURAH ENCAPSULATES SUCCESS IN THREE VERSES.

WHEN THE COMPANIONS OF THE PROPHET (PBUH) USED TO MEET ONE ANOTHER, THEY ONLY DEPARTED UNTIL ONE OF THEM RECITED SURATUL 'ASR TO THE OTHER AND THEY BID PEACE UPON ONE ANOTHER. THEY DID NOT WANT TO FORGET OR BECOME HEEDLESS OF THE ESSENTIAL MESSAGE OF SUCCESS.

TIME IS THE OBJECT OF THE OATH SUCCESSFUL TIME MANAGEMENT IS DESCRIBED AS:

- HAVING FAITH IN DIVINITY
- MANIFESTING THE FAITH AS GOOD DEEDS (SERVING HUMANITY)
- COUNSELLING ONE ANOTHER TO THE TRUTH (THE RIGHT THING TO DO)
- COUNSELLING ONE ANOTHER TO PERSEVERE AND PATIENCE (IN STANDING FOR THE TRUTH)

THE WORD WA (WHICH MEANS 'AND') BETWEEN EACH OF THE 4 CONDITIONS DENOTES THAT ALL FOUR ARE NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS.