

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Let's have Success

By Qazi Fazlullah

Struggle for existence and survival is in the very nature or instinct of every living entity. The instinct for survival does not need to be learned or acquired but comes naturally to all forms of life based on their specific needs and their environment. Human beings as a living entity are in the same mode of existence. Because of human beings intellect and higher level of consciousness, he not only is in struggle for his existence but he also strives for something more. He strives for honor, dignity and success. However the notion of success is not the same for people. Their culture, their means, their system of faith plays a significant role in determining how different people define success. Most people in the world give priority to their material needs and their urge to accumulate material possessions because they think and believe that the only measure of success in this life is through an accumulation of material wealth and possession. However the question is are these people really successful? The answer to this question is in the final message of the Creator and the Lord of the Universe Allah (SWT) who said, *“Say O’ Muhammad (SAS) shall We tell you the greatest losers in respect to their deeds? Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life while they thought that they were acquiring good by their deeds”* Quran 18:103, 104. From these two verses we can easily deduce two things: 1. The deed concerned must be permissible and allowed in the light of the Quran and Sunnah. 2. The basic intention in every deed must be to please Allah (SWT) and not for any other ulterior motive such as for individual gain or for the purposes of showing off, pretentious vanity or pride. Those whom amongst the people who have been focused on materialism are the big losers, as Allah (SWT) has said in the Quran, *“Have they not traveled in the land and seen what was the end of those before them? They were*

superior to them in strength and in the traces (which they left) in the land. But Allah seized them with punishment for their sins. And none had they to protect them from Allah” Quran 40:21

In the same Surah Allah (SWT) said *“Have they not traveled through the earth and seen the end of those before them? They were more numerous than them and mightier in strength, and in the traces (they left behind) in the land, yet all that they used to earn availed them not”*. Quran 40:82. In Chapter 30 of the Quran Allah (SWT) said, *“Do they not travel in the land and see what the end of those before them was? They were superior to them in strength, and they tilled the earth and populated it in greater numbers than these (pagans) have done, and there came to them their messengers with clear proofs. Surely Allah wronged them not. But they use to wrong themselves. Then evil was the end of those who did evil, because they belied the Ayat (lessons, Messengers, proofs, etc.) of Allah and made mockery of them.”* 30:9,10. In these Ayat Allah (SWT) has made several things clear about these people : 1. They were numerous in number 2. They populated the earth. 3. They were mighty in strength and accomplishments as can be witness by their traces that they have left behind. 4. They tilled the land.

Allah (SWT) has described a people who had the strength in numbers, had evolved superior skills in agriculture, techniques of design and engineering which allowed them to erect immense civil structures and monuments that stand today as testimony to their ancient might and glory. These people had evolved a military might

that gave them the strength to become formidable. We can draw parallels to the kind of people described above even in the world we live in today. People become arrogant because of their material wealth, their strength, their resources, their military might and their technology. However the word of Allah (SWT) is forever true and unchanging, and the consequences of such people are to be the same, for the rules and laws of Allah (SWT) are clearly mentioned in Chapters 10:64, 17:76, 33:62, 35:43, and 48:23 of the Holy Quran. So all those who give priority to this world and not the hereafter and the commandments of Allah (SWT) will face the ultimate consequences, for that is the natural law laid out by Allah (SWT) in which there is no change or alteration. To address the questions, how and who will succeed? Allah (SWT) said, *“By time, verily man is in loss, except those who believe in Islam and do good deeds, enjoin each other in truth(through mutual recommendation of good deeds and abstaining from evil) and enjoin each other patience and stability”*. Surah Al Asr chapter 103.

Here in this Surah Allah (SWT) has taken an oath by time, which is essentially human history and made it as a proof of mankind's loss and destruction. For look into their history and you will see only those who are successful have followed this four point agenda given by Allah (SWT).

1. Belief in the true message of Islam

Belief, one way or the other is also a natural process through which a person acquires stability, and especially belief in a revealed and divine religion that has not been perverted, corrupted or misconstrued through human

innovation. That is what Rasoolullah (SAS) meant when he said to the companions, Say, “ I believe in Allah and then be stable”. Iman or true faith is actually a state that brings genuine inner satisfaction. For without satisfaction there will always be stress, depression, confusion, distraction, restlessness, lack of fulfillment, turmoil, anguish, hopelessness, helplessness, haplessness, personal chaos, unmitigated misery, and perpetual wanton need. And these feelings not only cause harm to the individual but also to the entire society at large. And it is this very nature of extreme inner turmoil that can lead to suicide, murder, bloodshed, family desertion, infidelity, drugs, alcoholism, addiction, depravity, and crime.

2. Good Deeds

These are the requirements of Iman (Faith in the Message of Allah (SWT) as how to get in touch with Allah (SWT) and how to deal and treat fellow human beings and all of Allah (SWT)’s creations as a whole. There must be justice and goodness, which will bring peace, tolerance, tranquility, and harmony to all of mankind. It will create a society and an environment where there is no deprivation, no exploitation, no hunger, or starvation and total peace and harmony.

3. Enjoin each other to the truth

Lies, falsification, fabrications, false charges, slander, backbiting, and jealousy are the diseases, which are responsible for completely destroying

society. Why do we wrong one another, vilify each other, brutalize each other by way of words or deeds with such blatant impunity, is this perhaps that no one has the courage of conviction to stand up and say that this is utterly wrong. We need to remind each other of the truth and the truth is that each and every one of us is accountable for our every action, word, and deed. Once we accept that notion of accountability we would be much cognizant of our actions, we would be careful with our words and be pure in our intentions. For the only way to cure the ills of society at large are by individuals restraining themselves out of the fear of Allah (SWT), by subjecting themselves to introspection and self-reflection. Allah (SWT) has said in the Quran, *“O those who believe! Fear Allah (SWT) and say the truth to the point. (Allah) will put your deeds in the right direction and forgive your faults and sins. And one who obeys Allah and His Messenger; he has achieved a great achievement and a mighty success.”* Surah Ahzab:71. By not telling the truth we condone the spread of deprivation, barbarism, moral depravity, and become a party to it. Ultimately the entire society suffers and pays the price. Enjoining others to the truth however embodies not just the virtue of calling people to virtue but also it is incumbent upon us to prevent others from committing vices. This is not a matter of reward but an essential duty of the entire Ummah. By not engaging in this we incur the wrath of Allah (SWT).

4. Enjoin patience and stability

The practice of enjoining the truth will often be countered, ridiculed, opposed and even rejected by others. Some of the people who are fulfilling this obligation may become disheartened by this treatment, for this reason it is essential to console each other in the face of hardships and difficulties. For such people Allah (SWT) has said, *“The good end/future success belongs to those who fear Allah (SWT) (guard themselves and others as well)”* Al Qasas: 83. The four point agenda given by Allah (SWT) in Surah Asr is the key to success for mankind, may Allah (SWT) empower us to follow it in word and spirit. Ameen.