

In the name of Allah most gracious most merciful.

The Imam wishes to talk about a number of points with regard to the summer holiday. The first of these points is the importance of time. Allah says: { **وهو الذي جعل الليل والنهار خلفة لمن أراد أن يذكر أو أراد شكوراً** }, {And He it is who has put the night and the day in succession, for such who desires to remember or desires to show his gratitude.}

Allah has made pledges using time, he says: {By *Al-'Asr* (Mid-evening time). Verily! Man is in loss, except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth and to patience}

This time, man is either a loser or a winner. This is determined how man utilizes his life time. Allah used the start of the day and the end of the day when he pledges. Like: {By the time of forenoon (after sun-rise); And by the night when it is still (or darkens)}. He also says: {By the night as it envelops; And by the day as it appears in brightness}. He also says: {By the dawn; By the ten nights}. Why does Allah pledge?

Allah does make pledges so that we know how important they are. So we keep them and take care of them. This life time you live in this garden whose fruits you pick in the next life. If you plant with goodness and good deeds, you will harvest happiness and success. And you shall be of those in the next life called upon: {Eat and drink with comfort for that which you have done in the days gone by}. And if you have wasted the life time with forgetfulness and sowed with defiance and violation, then you will be sorry when it will do no good. Such a person will wish to be returned to this life and he will be told: {Didn't we give you long age, so those who remember will remember, and a portent or preacher came to you. Taste, for those who transgress have no supporter}.

The messenger (PPBU) said: {In the day of resurrection, the feet of any slave shall not budge until he/she is asked about four: about his life time what it was wasted in. and about his youth, in what it was worn out. His money or treasure, from where he earned it and in what he spent it, and about his knowledge, what he did with it.}

This is your life time, the most precious thing you have, do not waste it. For Allah made different functions for his slave in each day. Some are compulsory like the five prayers, and some that are recommended like the *nafileh* prayers, and praising of Allah.

Allah made functions for the different months like fasting, *zakah*, and *Haj*. Allah made some times better than other times where reward is multiplied many fold, and in answering prayers like in the *haram* months and the month of Ramadan. Also the month Muharram, the night of *Qadr*, and the day of *Arafah*.

Each of seasons or times blows a breeze on to us and Allah includes whom he wishes with his mercy. Allah has asked us to spend the time remembering and praising him and obeying him at the end of the day and early mornings. Even if you get board saying out load, remember him within your self in hope and fear.

Allah did not specify any thing to remember him with or a special way or position. It is left open, Allah says: {Those who remember Allah standing, sitting or laying on their sides, and think of the creation of the heavens and earth. Lord you did not create all this in vain}. In bed you can think of Allah, while you are on your way to work, or while you are waiting on the bus, or waiting on someone you can think of Allah. Allah says: {Hail Allah when you come to the night and the morning. Thanks be to him in heavens and in earth, in the evenings and at noon.}

Your life is between praising and thanking Allah. What are we going to do with our times now that the summer holiday is here? People are either of three types: (those who sell them selves, those who disentangle and free them selves, those who destroy them selves.)

The second point is: the types of people in the summer holidays.

In the way they utilize the summer holidays, people are of many types. There are those who utilize the times in getting more of the good and knowledge. They get useful books; attend valuable lectures, Quran and *Hadeeth* of the Messenger PPBU. Some even travel to where the scholars are to meet them and sit at their classes to gain enormously.

Some other type of people travel to make contact or connect with their blood relatives.

Some travel with their families for what Allah has permitted to enjoy what Allah has created. Reminding them of the powerful and the capable, praising him.

Some others spend their times in giving advice to the Muslims. This whom Allah has giving him or her knowledge, goes out to teach people, about the oneness

of Allah, about *Salah*, about *halal* and *haram*. For who is better in words and in action than such people.

There is another type of people whom I ask Allah that we shall not be one of. This type occupies their time with *haram*. At night they watch videos, or TV channels that transmits the unacceptable, and what destroys good traits and moral excellence. The messenger PPBU said: {Allah hates every x x x x x x , loud in the markets, a corpse at night and a donkey at day}. Those who never checks what is *Halal* and what is *Haram*. To them all they get is *hala*, and all they can not get is *haram*.

The final point is: how do we utilize the holidays.

- 1) Remember the Islamic science of priorities. Arrange all matters according to their importance. Also remember the balancing things is a sign of success.
- 2) Read about the subject of utilizing time. There are many books by Muslim authors.
- 3) Keep your emotional and caring credit towards your family and children. Do not ruin it by rough and ill treatment.
- 4) Conditional entertainment. Meaning make a good goal for all your trips or entertainment. Make positive comments on events, or situations, social or otherwise.
- 5) Do not gamble with the most valuables, your children. Do not with the intention of entertaining them; do not expose them to temptations and seductions. Do not be ignorant of what images may stick into their memories and minds that may cause some behavioral deviation.
- 6) Before you leave, stop a little and think, did you leave your parents or one of them to go to keep your children safe? Did you leave someone to take care of your affairs here? Don't forget about your neighbours. Don't go with your friends and leave your family and children between temptations and those who may prey on them.
- 7) Be warned of the power of addiction to habits, and yearnings. So many no longer have power to take a decision because of some habit they put them selves into.
- 8) Take enough to spend so you will not be burden on to others.
- 9) Where you travel may be good religious or scientific activities and programs in which you may participate. And avoid clusters of bad acts and bad deeds.