

LIFE OF THIS WORLD

الدُّنْيَا

AD-DUNYAA

AS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AAN

PLAY, AMUSEMENT, POMP

أَعْلَمُوا أَنَّهَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا

"Know that the life of this world

لَعِبٌ

is only play

وَلَهْوٌ

and amusement,

وَزِينَةٌ

pomp

وَتَفَاخُرٌ بَيْنَكُمْ

and mutual boasting among you,

وَتَكَاتُرٌ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ

and rivalry in respect of wealth



وَالْأَوْلَادِ

and children....}

(Sooratul-Hadeed, [057]: 020)

RIVALRY

زِينٌ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ

{Beautified for men is the love of things they covet;

مِنَ النِّسَاءِ

women,

وَالْبَنِينَ

children,

وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ

heaped-up sums of gold and silver,

وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ

branded beautiful horses,

وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ

cattle and well-tilled land.

ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا

This is the pleasure of the present world's life,

وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَاَبِ

but Allaah has the excellent return with Him."

(Soorah Aal-'Imraan, [003]: 014)



TRANSIENT - EVERY DAY A PART OF US IS DYING

Allaah the Exalted said,

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ ضَعْفٍ

"Allaah is He Who created you in (a state of) weakness,

ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ ضَعْفٍ قُوَّةً

then gave you strength after weakness,

ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ ضَعْفًا وَشَيْبَةً

then after strength gave (you) weakness and grey hair.

يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ

He creates what He wills.

وَهُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْقَدِيرُ

And He is the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful."

(Soorah Ar-Room, [030]: 054)

كَمَثَلِ غَيْثٍ أَعْجَبَ الْكُفَّارَ نَبَاتُهُ

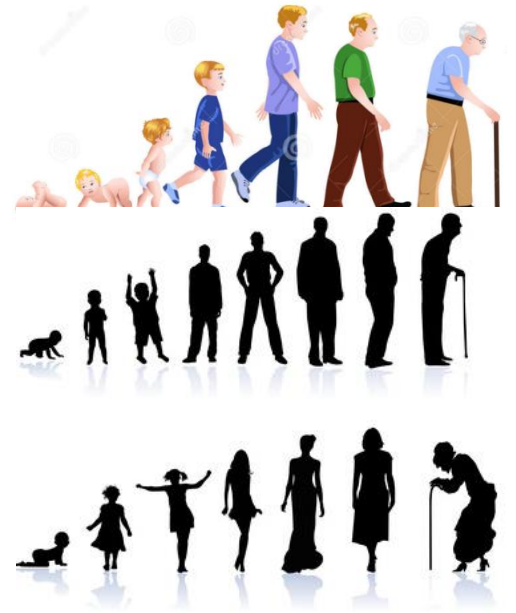
(It is) like a rain (Ghayth), thereof the growth is pleasing to the tiller;

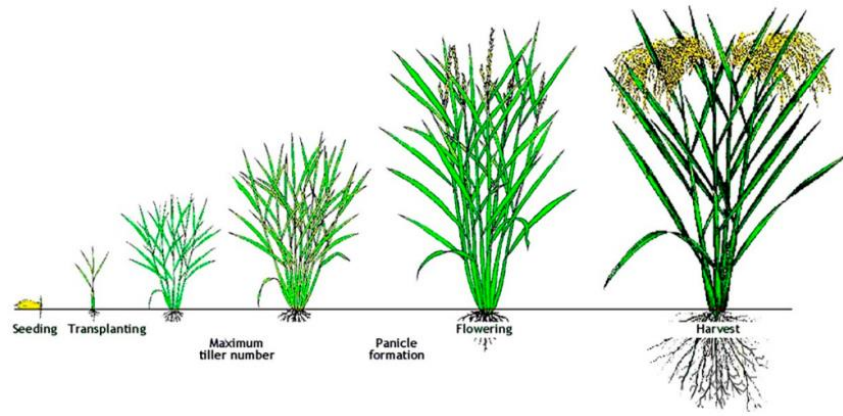
ثُمَّ يَهِيْجُ فَتَرَاهُ مُصْفَرًّا

afterwards it dries up and you see it turning yellow;

ثُمَّ يَكُوْنُ حُطَامًا

then it becomes straw.





وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ

But in the Hereafter (there is) a severe torment,

وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ

and (there is) forgiveness from Allaah



وَرِضْوَانٌ

and (His) pleasure.

وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ

And the life of this world is only a deceiving enjoyment."

(Sooratul-Hadeed, [057]: 020)

يَقُومُ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَاعٌ

"O my people! Truly, this life of the world is nothing but a (quick passing) enjoyment,

وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ

and verily, the hereafter that is the home that will remain forever."

(Soorah Ghaafir, [040]: 039)



IN THE HADIYTH

NOT WORTH A MOSQUITO'S WING

عَنْ سَهْلِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، قَالَ:

Sahl bin Sa'd [r] narrated that:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

The Messenger of Allaah [p] said:

"لَوْ كَانَتِ الدُّنْيَا تَعْدِلُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بُعُوضَةٍ

"If the world to Allaah was equal to a mosquito's wing,

مَا سَقَى كَافِرًا مِنْهَا شَرْبَةَ مَاءٍ ."

then He would not allow the disbeliever to have a sip of water from it." (Jaami' At-Tirmidhi, 2320)



BE IN THIS LIFE AS IF YOU WERE A STRANGER OR A TRAVELLER

عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ:

On the authority of 'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar [r] who said:

أَخَذَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِمَنْكِبِي، وَقَالَ:

The Messenger of Allah [p] took me by the shoulder and said:

"كُنْ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَأَنَّكَ غَرِيبٌ

"Be in this world as though you were a stranger

أَوْ عَابِرُ سَبِيلٍ ."

or a wayfarer."

(Al-Bukhaaree)



In Sahiyh Al-Bukharriyy, it is reported that Ibn 'Abbaas [r] narrated that the Prophet [p] said:

" نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُورٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ "

"There are two blessing which many people are deprived of:

الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ . "

Health and free time."

(Sunan Ibn Maajah, Saheeh)

And in the Mustadrak of al-Hâkim, it is reported that Ibn 'Abbaas [r] narrated that the Messenger of Allaah [p] said to a man while advising him:

اغْتَنِمِ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ:

"Take advantage of five before five:

شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ ،

Your youth before your old age,

وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ ،

your health before your sickness,

وَعِنَاكَ قَبْلَ فَقْرِكَ ،

your richness before your poverty,

وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغْلِكَ ،

your free time before you become occupied,

وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ

and from your life before your death."



عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، قَالَ:

‘Abdullaah ibn Mas’uud [r] reported:

اضْطَجَعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى حَصِيرٍ

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, laid down upon a reed mat

فَأَثَرَ فِي جَنْبِهِ

and it left marks on his side.

فَلَمَّا اسْتَيْقَظَ جَعَلْتُ أَمْسَحُ جَنْبَهُ

When he woke up, I started wiping his side

فَقُلْتُ:

and I said,

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

“O Messenger of Allaah!

أَلَا آذَنْتَنَا حَتَّى نَبْسُطَ لَكَ عَلَى الْحَصِيرِ شَيْئًا

Why do you not let us spread something on top of this mat for you?”

فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

The Prophet said,

مَا لِي وَلِلدُّنْيَا

“What is the world to me?

مَا أَنَا وَالِدُنْيَا

What am I to the world?



إِنَّمَا مَثَلِي وَمَثَلُ الدُّنْيَا كَرَابٍ

Verily, the example of this world and myself is that of a rider

ظَلَّ تَحْتَ شَجَرَةٍ

who seeks shade under a tree,

ثُمَّ رَاحَ وَتَرَكَهَا

then he moves on and leaves it behind.”

(Source: Musnad Aḥmed, 3701; Grade: Ṣaheeh (authentic) according to Ahmad Shaakir .)

STATEMENTS OF THE PIOUS

وَكَانَ ابْنُ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا يَقُولُ:

And Ibn ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) used to say,

إِذَا أَمْسَيْتَ

“If you are alive in the evening,

فَلَا تَنْتَظِرُ الصَّبَّاحَ،

do not expect to be alive till the morning,

وَإِذَا أَصْبَحْتَ

and if you are alive in the morning

فَلَا تَنْتَظِرُ الْمَسَاءَ،

do not expect to be alive till the evening.

وَخُذْ مِنْ صِحَّتِكَ

Take [advantage of] your health



لِمَرَضِكَ،

before your sickness,

وَمِنْ حَيَاتِكَ

and from your life

لِمَوْتِكَ.

for your death.”

(Al-Bukhaaree)

'Ali ibn Abiy Taalib (r) said:

" ارتحلت الدنيا مدبرةً،

"This world is moving away from us,

وارتحلت الآخرة مقبلةً،

and the Hereafter is moving towards us.

ولكل واحدٍ منهما بنونٌ،

Each of them has its own people,

فكونوا من أبناء الآخرة،

so be among the people of the Hereafter,

ولاً تكونوا من أبناء الدنيا،

Do not be among the people of this world.

فإنَّ اليومَ عملٌ ولا حسابٌ،

Today is striving, not reckoning,



وَعَدًا حِسَابٌ وَلَا عَمَلٌ "

but tomorrow will be reckoning and no striving."

[This is narrated by Bukhaaree in the chapter "Hoping to live long."

Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh, 2/659, Hadeeth no. 5215.]

Aboo-Dardaa' [r] or Aboo Dharr [r] said:

" تَلِدُونَ لِلْمَوْتِ ،

"You give **birth** to those who are going to **die**,

وَتَعْمُرُونَ لِلْخِرَابِ ،

you **build** that which will be **destroyed**,

وَتَحْرَصُونَ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْنَىٰ ،

you **focus** on that which will **pass away**,

وَتَذَرُونَ مَا يَبْقَىٰ

and you **neglect** that which will **remain**."

[Kitaab az-Zuhd war-Raqaa'iq by Ibn al-Mubaarak, p. 88.]



Death is the greatest lesson (الموت أعظم واعظ)

It was said to one of the ascetics (Zaahid),

ما أبلغ العظات ؟

"What is the most eloquent lesson?"

He said,

النظر إلى الأموات

"Looking at the dead."

[Tadhkirat al-Qurtubi, 99.]

Imaam Al-Qurtubi [r] described death very well when he said:

اعلم أن الموت هو الخطب الأفظع ،

"Know that death is the greatest calamity,

والأمر الأشنع ،

the most terrifying thing,

والكأس الذي طعمهما أكره وأبشع ،

the cup whose taste is most hateful and bitter.

وأنه الأهدم للذات ،

It is the destroyer of delights,

والأقطع للراحات ،

which puts an end to all comforts



والأجلب للكريهات ،

and brings all that you dislike.

فإن أمراً يقطع أوصالك ،

The thing that cuts off your limbs,

ويفرق أعضائك ،

separates your body parts,

ويهدم أركانك ،

and destroys your strength.

هو الأمر الفظيع ،

It is indeed a terrifying thing,

والخطب الجسيم ،

an immense calamity,

وإن يومه هو اليوم العظيم "

and its' day is certainly a terrible, humongous day. "

[Tadhkirat al-Qurtubi, 24.]



LESSONS FROM ARABIC POETRY (نماذج من عظات الشعراء)

Poets often mentioned death and used it as a lesson (والوعظ به).

For example, the poet said:

لا شيء مما ترى تبقى بشاشته

"Nothing of what you see will keep its beauty.

يبقى الإله ويفنى المال والولد

Allaah will remain, whilst wealth and children will pass away.

لم تغن عن هرمز يوماً خزائنه

The treasure of Hormuz was of no help to him,

والخلد قد حاولت عاد فما خلدوا

And 'Aad tried to live forever, but they failed.

ولا سليمان إذ تجري الرياح له

Sulaymaan did not live forever, although the wind was subjugated to him,

والإنس والجن فيما بينها ترد

As were men and jinn, who paraded before him.



أين الملوك التي كانت لعزتها
Where are the kings in whose honour

من كل أوب إليها وافد يفد
delegations came from all directions?
حوض هنالك مورود بلا كذب

Like a trough from which all and sundry come and drink,

لا بد من ورده يوماً كما وردوا
one day we too shall drink from it, just as they did."

Another poet said:

هب الدنيا تساق إليك عفوفاً
"Suppose that worldly joys come to you easily,

أليس مصير ذاك إلى انتقال
will you not eventually depart from them?

وما دنياك إلا مثل فيء
Your life in this world is like shade

أظلك ثم آذن بالزوال
that covers you briefly, then disappears."

