

Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad  
Saleem Dhorat ḥafīzahullāh

Making the Most of Your  
*Opportunities*



**3 important points**  
for anyone intending to visit the  
Ḥaramayn or spend time in i'tikāf,  
da'wah or with one's shaykh

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**T**he opportunity to do any good deed is a result of the Grace and Favour of Allāh ﷻ; nobody has the power or ability to do a single good deed without the Faḍl of Allāh ﷻ. Being showered with special occasions and opportunities such as ḥajj, ‘umrah, auspicious days and nights, i’tikāf, da‘wah, spiritual reformation and the pursuit of knowledge are great bounties which must be valued.

During a recent visit to the Ḥaramayn, I was asked frequently by my friends, well-wishers and other Muslim brothers for some advice that would help them to make the most of the blessed journey and to avoid spending their time in a profitless way.

Through the sheer Mercy, Grace and Help of Allāh ﷻ, I was able to share three points with them that, if adopted, would benefit them greatly. Moreover, if they are adopted by those granted the opportunity to be in blessed places, i’tikāf, da‘wah activities or in the quest of religious knowledge or spiritual reformation, they would also greatly benefit from them.

### **1. Do Not Disobey Allāh ﷻ**

Your goal should be to abstain from not only all major sins, but also every minor sin. Remember, the filth of sins, be they major or minor, erodes and destroys all the spirituality the

heart acquires through blessed devotions in blessed places during blessed moments. Be attentive especially towards the use of your eyes, ensuring complete abstinence from casting lustful glances. In order to preserve the spirituality and blessings acquired through devotions to Allāh ﷻ, you must refrain from every disobedience to Allāh ﷻ, no matter how hard it may seem.

## **2. Do Not Waste a Single Second**

These opportunities do not knock at everybody's door. Value this favour of Allāh ﷻ and make sure every second is spent in the correct manner, doing only those things that bring His Pleasure and enlighten the heart. If you have a choice between two good actions, then choose the one that will be most fruitful. Stay distant from all those things that lead to wasting time. Ensure time is not spent in futile and wasteful talk or just wandering around here and there. I advise you to prepare a timetable, according to your personal circumstances, and strictly adhere to it so that you are able to manage your time in the best manner. Remember, make full use of this opportunity as you may not have it again. (The leaflet *A Practical Way of Valuing Time* published by At-Tazkiyah will be helpful in this regard.)

## **3. Reflect and Prepare**

Take out some moments daily to reflect upon the past. Reflect upon your past life and plan for the future. Ask yourself these questions:



- Why did Allāh ﷻ create me?
- What is my objective in life?
- How far have I come in securing this objective?
- How much of my life has already passed and how much more remains?
- What is the percentage of disobedience in my life and the percentage of good?
- How can I change and turn over a new leaf in my life?
- What do I need to do and what do I intend to do from now on to make amends for the past?

Meditate over these questions daily and resolve to live your life according to the Wishes of that Merciful Creator Whose extreme Love for you has given you this blessed opportunity, despite your being undeserving. Prostrate to Him, shed tears and repent sincerely. Ask Him to help you mend your ways and live a life of a *muttaqī* (one who adopts the quality of staying away from disobedience to Allāh ﷻ), fulfilling the rights of the Creator and His creation.

May Allāh ﷻ bless us all with the ability to value the opportunities to do good, and may He safeguard us from being ungrateful for His Favours. Āmīn.

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