

## True Perspective upon Feeling a Sense of Loss

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 4 April 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

The common meaning of being a loser or in a loss is receiving short of what we feel entitled to or being deceived in a sale and purchase. This feeling of loss is a terrible and painful feeling. It is an agony in the chest and regret in the heart that the human finds when missing out on something he desires.

People in this life feel like losers when they lose any of their trade or fail to fulfil what they desired to achieve. But the people of the hereafter feel loss when they regret missing the taste of obedience and servitude towards God the almighty or when their hearts become heedless of God and His remembrance.

### 1. Having true sense of Loss in order to avoid a permanent Loss in the Hereafter

God has chosen you to be a Muslim - believing that God the almighty is the only god "Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to God" (an-Nisa 4:125), he has chosen Muhammad peace be upon him (pbuh) as a prophet and a messenger for you: "God did confer a great favour on the believers when He sent among them an apostle from among themselves" (al-Imran 3:164) and has chosen you to be a member of his Muslim nation "You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God" (al-Imran 3:110) so:

- it is a great Loss if you become heedless of why you are living in this world;
- it is also a great Loss if you don't fulfil your message as a Muslim in this life;
- if you lose the trust you were entrusted with - then again you feel a great Loss.

Oh Muslims, where are we from the true Islam? Are we following the orders of God and the example of the messenger (pbuh)? Are we thanking and praising God for his great blessing? Did our hearts thank God by going back to him full of love and satisfaction? Did our tongues thank God by always remembering him and telling the truth? Did our limbs thank God by being straight on his path, doing good and accepting His call and that of his messenger (pbuh)? Did we thank God for making us Muslims from the nation of last prophet (pbuh)?

The heedless lose their life in amassing (temporary things) and only realise the true value of these great blessings at a time when regret (for how they dealt with them) does not benefit them anymore "Nay, were you to know with certainty of mind, You shall certainly see Hell-Fire" (at Takathur 102:5-6) you will see the resurrection and the hellfire that God has prepared for those who disobeyed him, "Again, you shall see it with certainty of sight, Then, on that day, you will be asked concerning the blessings" (at Takathur 102:7-8) you will be asked how did you thank God for his bounties and will answer with truthful words and (success that Day) is assured with good deeds.

### 2. Having a true sense of Loss in our dealings with the Guidance in the Qur'an

It's also a loss when God talks about people in Quran who have not submitted to God and God describes them as "And when they listen to the revelation received by the Messenger, you will see their eyes overflowing with tears, for they recognise the truth: they pray: "Our Lord! We believe; write us down among the witnesses" (al Ma'ida 5:83)

Do you, who calls yourself a submitter to God (Muslim), read the Quran without getting moved by its verses? God says of those who realise what the Qur'an is: "Say: "Whether you believe in it or not, it is true that those who were given knowledge beforehand, when it is recited to them, fall down on their faces in humble prostration, "And they say: 'Glory to our Lord! Truly has the promise of our Lord been fulfilled, They fall down on their faces in tears, and it increases their (earnest) humility" (al israa 17:107-109)

3. Having a true sense of Loss in our dealings with others esp. our parents

And it is a great loss that you don't get to paradise by being good to your parents. "Thy Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honour, And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: "My Lord! bestow on them your Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood." (al israa 17:23-24). The prophet (pbuh) said "be close to them, there is the paradise" and ""a person is indeed disgraced, who does not earn Paradise by caring for his parents during the life time and old age of his/her parents".

4. Having a true sense of Loss in not work in way commensurate to the measure of the reward that awaits us

It is also a Loss when God says "Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous" (al imran 3:133) yet do we do our best to get as valuable a reward as paradise?

5. Having a true sense of Loss in the opportunities to do good we miss

It is a Loss when we do not realise the lesson from what prophet (pbuh) told us about the three men who entered a cave. A boulder rolled down from the mountain and blocked the entrance of the cave and we should learn from how they supplicated to God - they supplicated to God to save them by mentioning their righteous deeds as intercessors for them - being good to parents, avoiding adultery and returning the trusts of others. What a great loss if we do not prepare our good deeds to beg our lord with them when hardships fall on us!

We ask God to let us see the truth for what it is and bless us with following this truth and we see falsehood for what it is and he helps us keep away from it.