

**ISLAMIC STUDIES**

**Assignment # 02**

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**DESCRIBE WITH REFERENCE TO SURAH AL-ASR, THE MINIMUM AND UNIFIED CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR THE DIVINE SUCCESS IN THE LIFE OF A MUSLIM, IN DETAIL.**

**Introduction**

**Surah Al-Asr** is the *103rd* Surah of The Holy Quran which was revealed in Makkah. It contains three **Ayahs**. **Surah Al-Asr** is the **Second** shortest Surah after **Surah Al- Kausar.**

In its brief three verses Allah lays forth the basic principles for success, thus this surah has great importance and can be considered as a summary to what the Holy Quran teaches us.

The translation of Surah Al-Asr is as follows:

***“By Time, indeed a man is in loss, except those who have faith and so righteous deeds, and enjoin one another to [follow] the truth, and enjoin one another to patience”***

**Meaning of the word “Asr”**

The Word **Asr** is an Arabic word which means **‘Afternoon’** or **‘The Declining Day’**. **Asr** comes from **‘Aseer’** which means **‘Juice That Is Being Sqeezed Out’**  like the way time is squeezed out of your hands.

This Surah teaches that all **Human Beings** are in **loss**, except those who have **Strong Faith** in Allah Almighty.

Those who do **righteous deeds**, treat others with equality, are just in their dealings and remind others of Patience (Sabr) are people who are close to Allah Almighty.

Surah Al-Asr is considered to be the summary of the whole **Holy Quran**. This Surah is a matchless specimen of briefness. A whole world of meaning has been compressed into its few brief words, which is massive in content to be fully expressed even in a book.

**Significance of time with Surah Al-Asr**

We as **Muslims** do not realize that as every day passes by we get closer to the Day of Judgment, just as a new day starts and we waste our time to fulfill our materialistic desires, we run after things we know won’t be of use when the Day of Judgment comes.

Allah (SWT) swears that we as Muslims are in loss not only in this world but in the Hereafter too. But here we are doing the opposite of what Allah and his Prophets advised us to do.

**Criteria for Divine Success in life of a Muslim**

This **Surah** advises those who believe to act together to fortify their position in the Hereafter.  It implies asking and inviting people to do righteous deeds and stopping them from committing sin.

The four main qualities mentioned in the surah are; **Faith**, **Good Actions**, **Reminding Each Other About The Truth** and **Reminding Each Other Of Patience**. According to many Muslims scholars all the four qualities mentioned in the surah must be acquired by men if they want to become successful in this world and the hereafter.

Following are the four qualities described in detail:

**1- Faith or Imaan:**

Faith is the first step to redemption, faith is the belief that we are sent here for a reason. Our lives are not by accidents and that we were sent here according to a well devised plan of our designer: **ALLAH ALMIGHTY**.

In short, faith in Islam means to believe in Allah, to support His truth, and to submit to His commands.

The six pillars of faith to believe are the following:

* Allah
* His angels
* His messengers
* His books
* The Day of Judgment
* Providence.

**2- Those who do Righteous deeds**

**Righteous deeds** are one of the main concepts of the Quran. In Arabic, the word **"Righteousness"** comprises the meanings of *beneficial* and *right*.

In terms of the **Quran**; however, each act and all behavior designed to seek the favors of God is a "righteous deed". The way a Muslim does good deeds proves his/her submission to God. Righteous deeds indicate the depth of someone’s faith. In the Quran God tells us about the various kinds of righteous deeds.

**3- Those who are patient:**

**Patience** in Islam is one of the best and most valuable virtues of life, it is a part of being a good Muslim. Being patient alone is not the only thing, You must be thankful in different ways such as while suffering with any tragedy in your life you should not loose hope, as ***Hopelessness is a sin in Islam.***

Allah gives us many examples of having patience. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the best example, he never complained and was always grateful for what had. Yet he still prayed all night with a smile and always helped others. This shows his Patience and that everything in life is just a test, which also points towards his strong **Faith.**

**4- Those who speak the truth:**

**Truthfulness** is the basic character trait of a true Muslim. Truthfulness is the backbone of any sincere and just society.

Allah says in Quran:

***“I may reward the truthful for their truthfulness, and punish the Hypocrites if he wills, or turn mercifully towards them.” (Qur’an 33:24)***

. If all Muslims try to adopt this basic character, there is no doubt and no hurdle in the way of their success.

**Conclusion**

Allah in this Surah hints and warns his people of what’s to come and also tells them where they were led astray and what deeds they need to make part of their daily lives to get back on track, in such a way that resonates with them.

The values stated by **Allah** in this **Surah** if followed by **Muslims** gives birth to such societies and communities which support eachother in all circles of life thereby increasing not only their own ranks but the ranks of eachother and the society as a whole becomes an ideal for others and they not only progress induvialy but collectively as well, in this earthly life and the Life **Eternal**.

In short, true sign of success is to obey Allah’s directives and to fight the desire to sin, which are the core principle stated in ***SURAH-AL-ASR***.

***THE END***