

I am dying

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My dear Brothers and Sisters

I want to tell you that today I received the news that I am dying. I have been diagnosed with an illness that has no cure and from which death can come at any minute. It is called Life.

I am saying that I received this news today only because the reality of this hit me today, thanks to a video that my dear son and brother Farhan Mahmood sent me. It is embedded here.

Gifted With Cancer | OnePath Network -
<http://onepathnetwork.com/gifted-with-cancer/>

The video is about Ali, a wealthy young man who has everything that the world tells us we should run behind, from \$70 flip-flops (Hawaii chappals) to a Ferrari Spider and everything else in between – Gucci hats, Louis Vuitton sun glasses and all kinds of watches and so on. In short a little bit of what the Nizam of Hyderabad or his Prime Minister Salar Jung had. He was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was given 7 months to live. As I speak I don't know if Ali is still alive or not. If he is, I ask you to pray for his health and for Allahﷻ to cure his cancer and keep him among us so that he can continue to do good and if he has passed away to His Rabb, then I ask you to make dua that Allahﷻ should forgive him and take him into His Mercy and reward him for all those who see the reality thanks to his message. And that is the message that hit me like a ton of bricks today.

I recently saw a photo blog of a Singaporean guy who took a Singapore Airlines flight from Singapore to New York via San Francisco on their Suites Class. The ticket costs \$ 24,000 (Rs.1586650.98), mustn't forget the 98 paisa. He is in raptures about the flight which begins with Dom Perignon and Lobster Thermidor, double bed in the sky in which he slept alone, massive TV screen, food on demand and goes on and on. And while I was reading all this and looking at the pictures I am thinking to myself that thanks to the Grace of Allah ﷻ I have all of this already, except the Dom Perignon and the TV (by choice) without any risk of crashing. And then I came to the end of the blog and realized why Allah ﷻ decreed that I should read it. It was the last line of this young man's blog where very plaintively he says, 'In New York I had a problem. I didn't want to leave.' And that is our problem. We don't want to leave. And the reason is because we start to believe that the bed in the sky belongs to us just because we slept in it. We forget that not only does it not belong to us but that as soon as we get off, it is going to be completely sanitized and remade with fresh sheets and the cabin sprayed with air freshener so that the next passenger imagines that he is the first one ever to have slept in that bed. Every sign of our presence will be removed as if we never existed.

And that is life. This terminal illness I mentioned to you. We don't want to leave. But then we have to leave. Just as that young man had no choice, neither do we.

The difference between him and us is that nobody in Singapore Airlines ever warned him and said to him, 'Don't get too used to this luxury. You will have to get off in New York.'

While we have been told this over and over again. Allah ﷻ told us:

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّقُونَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَنْ زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْعُرُورِ

A'al Imraan 3: 185. Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Jannah, he indeed is successful. The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing).

And Allah ﷻ said:

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِظُلْمِهِمْ مَا تَرَكَ عَلَيْهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ

Nahl 16: 61. And if Allah were to seize mankind for their wrong-doing, He would not leave on it (the earth) a single moving (living) creature, but He postpones them for an appointed term and when their term comes, neither can they delay nor can they advance it an hour (or a moment).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ

وَأَنْفِقُوا مِنْ مَّا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَّ أَحَدَكُمْ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ فَأَصَّدَّقَ وَأَكُن مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

وَلَنْ يُؤَخِّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهَا وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

Munafiqoon 63: 9. O you who believe! Let not your properties or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. And whosoever does that, then they are the losers.

10. And spend (in charity) of that with which We have provided you, before death comes to one of you and he says: "My Rabb! If only You would give me respite for a

little while (life), then I should give Sadaqah of my wealth and be among the righteous.

11. And Allah grants none (any respite) when his appointed time (death) comes. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do.

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ
أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلُ فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ

Hadeed 57: 16. Has not the time come for the hearts of those who believe (in Islam) to be affected by Allah's Reminder (Qur'an), and that which has been revealed of the truth, lest they become like those who received the Scripture before (Jews and Christians) and the term was prolonged for them and so their hearts were hardened? And many of them were Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah).

And His Messengerﷺ told us:

Ibn 'Umarؓ said, "The Messenger of Allahﷺ took me by the shoulder and said, 'Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler on the road.'"

Ibn 'Umarؓ used to say, "In the evening, do not anticipate the morning, and in the morning do not anticipate the evening. Take from your health for your illness and from your life for your death." [al-Bukhari]

Ibn Mas'udؓ said, "Rasoolullahﷺ drew lines making a square and then drew a line in the middle which extended beyond it. He drew some small lines up to this middle line from the side within the square and said, 'This is man, and this is end of his lifespan which encircles him – or by which he is encircled – and this which goes beyond it is his hope and these small lines are things that happen. If this one misses him, that one gets him, and if that one misses him, this one gets him.' [al-Bukhari]

Abu Hurayraؓ reported that Rasoolullahﷺ said, "Race to good actions as fast as you can. What are you waiting for except delayed poverty, oppressive wealth, debilitating illness, doddering senility, a swift death or the Dajjal? Or are you waiting for an unseen evil, or the Last Hour? The Last Hour will be most bitter and terrible." [at-Tirmidhi]

Ubayy ibn Ka'bؓ said, "When a third of the night had passed, Rasoolullahﷺ stood up and said, 'O people! Remember Allah! The first blast has come and it will be followed by the second blast. Death has come with all that it involves. Death has come with all that it involves.' I said, 'Ya Rasoolullahﷺ I do a lot of Dhikr. How much should I allot to sending Salat-was-Salam (Durood) for you?' He said, 'However much you like.' I said, 'A quarter?' He said, 'However much you like, but if you do more, it will be better for you.' I said, 'A half?' He said, 'However much you like, but if you do more, it will be better for you.' I said, 'Two-thirds?' He said, 'However much you like, but if you do more, it will be better for you.' I said, 'I will allot all my Dhikr for you.' He said, 'Then you will be spared from worry and forgiven your wrong action.'" [at-Tirmidhi]

I remind myself and you my dear brothers and sisters, we have been warned. We have been told what is important and what is not. We have been given the criteria to choose. It is up to us to make the choice. We are free to choose but every choice has a price tag.

If I told you that I have cancer but am trying to save some money by not treating it even though doctors have told me that it is curable, you will call me insane. I am sure many will quote for me Ahadith to say that my action of not choosing to be treated is Haraam and some will ask me, 'Why are you being so stupid? What is better than living? What is better than this life?'

Then I will tell you what Allahﷻ told us:

وَلَاخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَىٰ

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَىٰ

Duha 93: 4. And indeed the Hereafter is better for you than the present (life of this world). 5. And verily, your Rabb will give you (all i.e. good) so that you shall be well-pleased.

What is better than this life? The Aakhira is better than this life. The next Ayah doesn't refer to you and me. It refers to the one who Allahﷻ promised to please. I ask Allahﷻ to make us among those whose being forgiven will please him – Muhammadﷺ.