



Life is a very precious and valuable gift of Allāh ﷻ. One who values this gift acquires success in this world and the hereafter. On the other hand, one who does not value it and wastes it will see failure in both worlds. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to value this great gift and utilise it properly.

There are many ways one can manage his time and value it. One very effective method is Murāqabah & Muḥāsabah.

Murāqabah means to supervise or oversee. Muḥāsabah means taking account of one's activities. If a person is punctual with his Murāqabah and Muḥāsabah, he will notice very soon that he is not wasting a single moment of his life.

Murāqabah

The first step is Murāqabah. When doing or saying something, think about it in the following manner (ask yourself the following questions in order):

Question 1. This step that I am taking, this word that I am uttering, this action that is coming into existence - is it going to bring me benefit in the hereafter or not?

If the answer is YES, then ask the question:

Question 2. Is it Fard?

If the answer is YES, then you must do it. If the answer is NO then you should try your best to do it.

If the answer to Question 1 was NO (i.e. the action is not beneficial in the hereafter) then ask the question:

Question 3. Is this action going to bring me destruction in the hereafter?

If the answer is YES, then you must stop immediately. If the answer is NO, then ask the question:

Question 4. Is it beneficial for me in this world?

If the answer is YES, then carry on if you want to. If NO, then stop.

So this is Murāqabah, which needs to go on twenty-four hours a day. It will seem difficult in the initial stages because you will find yourself doing two things at one time: you are having to talk and think, do something and think. But if you are punctual with your Murāqabah, then over time you will notice that it has become natural to you.

I recall the ladies of villages in India who carry pitchers of water on their heads without having to hold them with their hands. They walk, talk to people and wave to passers by because their task has become natural to them, and without any difficulty the mind stays engaged with the task at hand. Laxity and negligence in the initial stages will make it difficult to get a grasp on Murāqabah. Hence, effort will need to be exerted in the initial stages.

Muḥāsabah

The second step is Muḥāsabah. After doing or saying something, think about it in the following manner:

Question 1. Was what I did of benefit to me in the hereafter?

If the answer is YES, be grateful to Allāh ﷻ.

If the answer is NO, ask a second question:

Question 2. Was it destructive for my hereafter?

If the answer is YES, then immediately repent and make a firm resolution not to do the same again. But if the answer is NO, then ask:

Question 3. Was it beneficial in this world?

If the answer is YES, then it's OK. If the answer is NO, then that means it was *lā ya'ni* (futile) so you must repent.

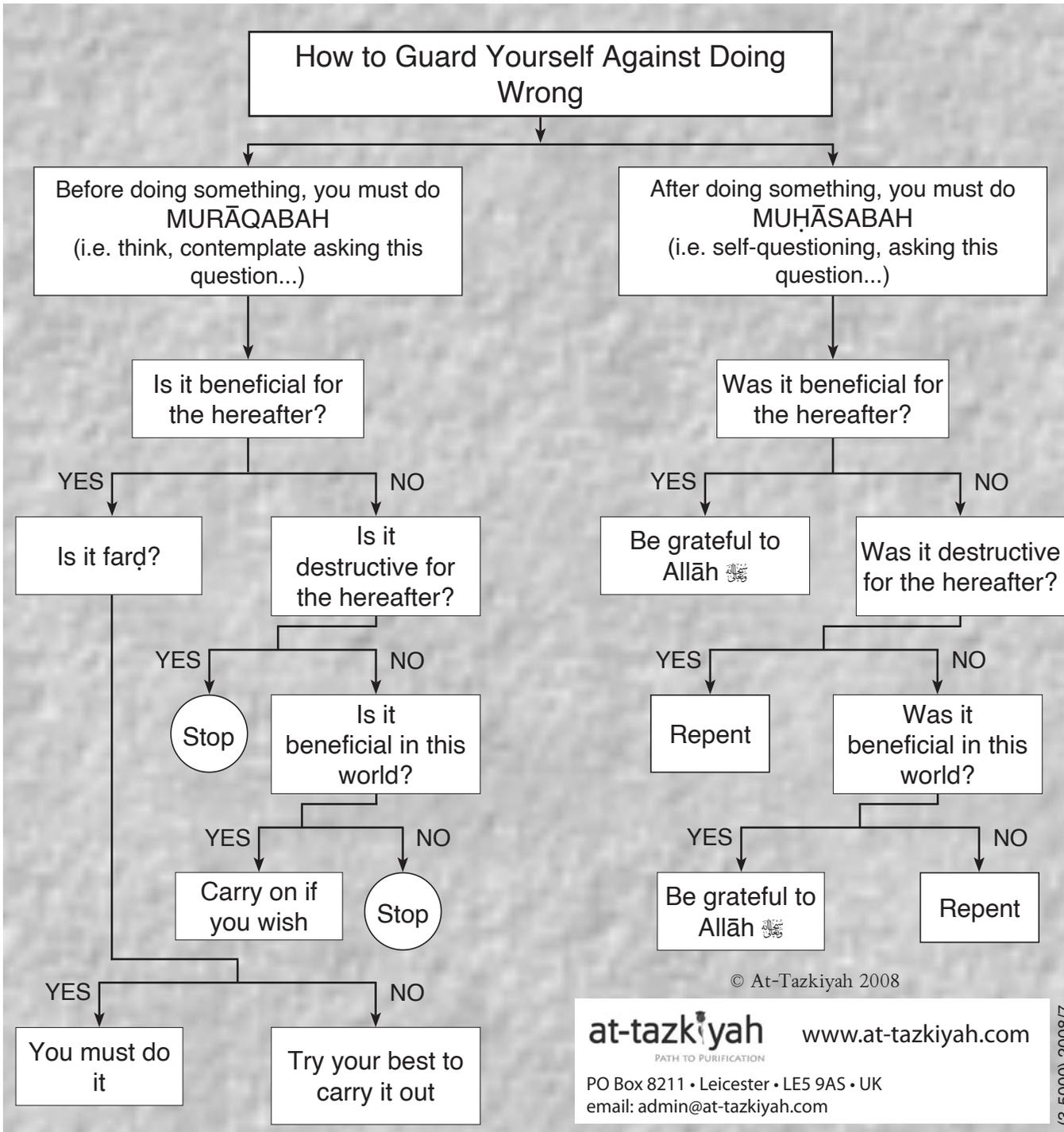
If you are doing a particular thing over and over again, and every time you do Muḥāsabah and ask yourself whether it is beneficial in the hereafter, the answer is "no", you will slowly come to realise that what you are doing is something wrong. If you don't do Muḥāsabah, you will mostly not realise.

If a person continues with this Murāqabah and Muḥāsabah, then inshā'allāh, Allāh ﷻ will grant him the ability to utilise his time in doing good.

As far as Murāqabah is concerned, it has to be carried out before and during an action. As for Muḥāsabah, there are two methods: either Muḥāsabah after every action (best option) or Muḥāsabah once a day, reviewing one's actions over the previous twenty-four hours.

Once a day sit down and think about your activities in the past twenty-four hours. If you did something that was beneficial for the hereafter, then be grateful to Allāh ﷻ, and if it wasn't beneficial, but destructive, then repent. If it was not destructive for the hereafter, then ask whether it was of benefit in this world? If it was, then be grateful to Allāh ﷻ, and if not, then repent.

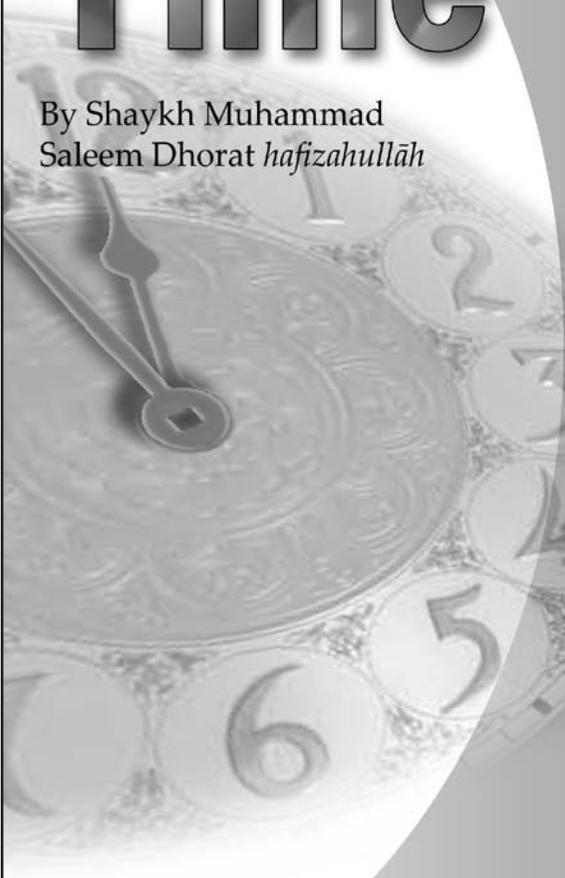
May Allāh ﷻ grant us all the tawfīq to practice Murāqabah and Muḥāsabah in order to value this great blessing of time that He has granted us, and reap its fruits in this world and the hereafter. Āmīn.



A Practical Way of Valuing

Time

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PATH TO PURIFICATION