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Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Work for your Duniya as though you will live forever, and work for your hereafter as though you will die tomorrow!

Question: May Allaah reward you with good, the questioner ask concerning the popular expression: Work for your worldly affairs as though you will live forever, while working for the next life as though you will die tomorrow?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: Yes, This is from wisdom. Work for your worldly affairs as though you will live forever, and work for your hereafter as though you will die tomorrow. Work for your Duniya according to what you need in it, so that you will not need the people, and humiliate yourself to the people. Do what will make your independent of the people, and do not be lazy.

And work for your hereafter as though you will die tomorrow; as ibn Umar (رضي الله عنه)² said:

إِذَا أَمْسَيْتَ فَلَا تَتَنَطَّرِ الصَّبَّاحَ، وَإِذَا أَصْبَحْتَ فَلَا تَتَنَطَّرِ الْمَسَاءَ

If you reach the evening do not anticipate the morning, and if you reach the morning do not anticipate the evening.

Do not delay action until a time that you may not reach. And you may reach it but you may not have the enthusiasm for the action; you may be afflicted with something. You may be afflicted with sickness, or laziness.

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him