

وَالْعَصْرِ (١) إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (٢) إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ (٣)

By *al 'asr* (time), indeed mankind is in a state of loss, except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and who enjoin each other upon the Truth and who enjoin each other upon patience.

(Soorah al 'Asr (103))

The Scholar Shaykh 'Abdur Rahman ibn Naasir as Sa'dee *rahimahullaah* said about Soorah al 'Asr:

He, the Most High, swears by *al 'asr* (time)- which is the night and the day, the arena of the actions of the servants and of their deeds - that all of mankind is lost; and the one who is lost is the opposite of the one who is victorious.

And being in a state of loss is of a number of differing levels:

- It may be a state of loss in an absolute, unrestricted sense - such as the situation of the person who has lost the *dunyaa* (worldly life) and the *aakhirah* (the Hereafter); *na'eem*(bliss) has eluded him and he has become deserving of *al jaheem* (the Hellfire).
- And it may be a state of loss in certain aspects but not others.

And therefore Allaah has made being in a state of loss general to all mankind except for the person who is distinguished by four characteristics:

1.Having *emaan* (true faith) in that which Allaah commanded having *emaan* in; and *emaan* does not occur without knowledge, so it is a branch of it and it cannot be complete without it.

2.And righteous deeds; and this includes all actions of goodness, the ones outwardly manifest and those which are internal and hidden; those connected to the Rights of Allaah, and (those connected) to the rights of His servants; those which are obligatory and those which are recommended.

3. And enjoining each other to the Truth, which is eemaan and righteous deeds - meaning they counsel each other with that, and they urge (each other) upon that and they incite a desire (in each other) for that.

4. And enjoining each other upon patience in obeying Allaah and away from disobeying Allaah, and (being patient) upon those matters predecreed by Allaah that are painful.

So with the first two of (these) matters, the servant makes complete his own self; and with the latter two, he makes complete others besides himself.

And with the completion of the four matters, he becomes a servant who is safe and secure from being in a state of loss and who has attained a tremendous victory.

(Taken from *Tayseer ul Kareem ir Rahmaan* of as Sa'dee *rahimahullaah*)