



SEASONS & TIMES



HALIMAH MENNI





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Ecclesiastes 3:1

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to
every purpose under the Heaven:*



Dear reader,

In this book, I'm sharing a simple and personal perspective on seasons and times. I've always been fascinated by the behaviour of the seed, and how it goes through seasons: from sowing to harvest, and back again into the darkness of the ground. It goes through the rigours of growth; withstanding all manner of weather, to be ripened by the sun once more, then reach harvest time.

I believe human life is the same. By the time we're born, we're just part of a bigger cycle. We are complex beings, shaped by those who came before us and by what they did. The way they lived has influenced our own makeup.

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was the cold air. It was
 like a giant hand reaching out to grab me.
 I had heard that the weather was bad, but
 I didn't realize it would be this cold.
 The snow was falling fast, and I was
 wearing a heavy coat. I felt like I was
 in a giant freezer. The ground was covered
 in a thick layer of snow. It was like a
 white blanket. I had never seen snow
 before. It was so beautiful. I had heard
 that the snow was beautiful, but I didn't
 realize it would be this beautiful. The
 snow was falling fast, and I was wearing
 a heavy coat. I felt like I was in a
 giant freezer. The ground was covered
 in a thick layer of snow. It was like a
 white blanket. I had never seen snow
 before. It was so beautiful. I had heard
 that the snow was beautiful, but I didn't
 realize it would be this beautiful.

A black and white line drawing of a stack of four books. The books are of varying thicknesses and are stacked horizontally. A piece of paper, possibly a page from one of the books, is shown in the foreground, partially overlapping the bottom book. The paper has some faint, illegible text on it.

A detailed line drawing of a vintage typewriter, shown from a front-three-quarter perspective. The machine features a prominent keyboard with numerous keys, a large carriage return lever on the right side, and a complex mechanism for paper transport and typing. The drawing is rendered in a clean, minimalist style with black outlines on a white background.

PROLOGUE

Of beauty and grace,
Of relentless zeal,
The best have faced,
The hardest of battles,
Emerging strong and resilient,
Steadfast in adversity,
They're like the lily;
Braving the mud,
Bending toward the sun,
Despite the struggle,
Rising above the mire,
Standing radiant and bright.

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I



A TIME TO BE BORN, A TIME TO DIE
A TIME TO PLANT, A TIME TO PLUCK
UP THAT WHICH IS PLANTED

Live conscious of time;
A commodity gifted to all,
Though to say in equal measure,
May be a bit of a stretch,
As each is given,
As per their purpose,
And once it's done,
Their time runs out,
And that's just how life is:
Hard to grasp as it may be.

II



A TIME TO KILL, A TIME TO HEAL A TIME TO BREAK DOWN, A TIME TO BUILD UP

Family, friends, and foes,
Each one has a role:
Some bonds last a lifetime,
Some are brief, others sublime,
But they all serve a purpose,
And if you're keen,
You'll gain from each,
You'll navigate them with grace -
Knowing when to let go,
When the lesson is done,
And when to hold on,
If a bond's meant to last.

III



A TIME TO WEEP, A TIME TO LAUGH
A TIME TO MOURN, A TIME TO
DANCE

If you were happy all the time,
Joy would lose its meaning.
Monotony breeds boredom,
And variety is the spice of life.
Sometimes we cry, sometimes we laugh,
We mourn and grieve, other times we dance.
The essence of life comes from this balance.

IV



A TIME TO CAST AWAY STONES, A
TIME TO GATHER STONES TOGETHER
A TIME TO EMBRACE, A TIME TO
REFRAIN FROM EMBRACING

To embrace or not to embrace,
Be it a hug or an idea,
To know when to hold on tight or not,
To pursue a dream, to pivot,
Or to depart from it entirely,
It's a wisdom of experience,
For those willing to learn, unlearn and
relearn,
And sometimes, avoid the trailblazers'
pitfalls.



A TIME TO GET, AND A TIME TO LOSE
A TIME TO KEEP, AND A TIME TO
CAST AWAY

It's okay to be a go-getter,
It's okay to be purpose driven,
That if you don't do it,
You won't be at peace,
To have a fire burning inside,
Propelling you to act and say.
(But remember), sometimes it's best to pause,
Even refrain from vigorous pursuit,
To let go of dreams and ambitions,
As what defines you is far much greater,
You're important; part of a grander design.

VI



A TIME TO REND, A TIME TO SEW A TIME TO KEEP SILENT, A TIME TO SPEAK

Words can wound,
Words can heal,
A filter's needed,
For whatever we feel,
Emotion can be tamed,
And can change with time,
But once spoken,
Words can't be recalled,
They'll cause harm,
Or they'll repair,
They'll soothe if right,
And scathe if wrong,
When you speak,
Be sure why.

VII



A TIME TO LOVE, A TIME TO HATE
A TIME OF WAR, A TIME OF PEACE

Ever wondered how,
The Bible speaks of both:
To hate and to love,
And each has its moments.
Questions would be:
Is it godly?
Is it timely?
Who or what do you hate?
Who or what do you love?
The reason is key;
It speaks volumes of you.

EPILOGUE

Each morning, a lady with a beautiful garden,
plucks the most beautiful, healthiest flowers,
to make a bouquet or place in vases around the
house.

Sometimes she'll pick the weak ones,
so they don't die,
and place them together with the healthy ones,
in the bouquet or vase.

What mercy and grace!

She'll prune the sickly ones,
so they don't infect the whole plant.
They will fall in the ground alright,
but when spring comes around,
they'll bloom again.

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

He hath made every thing beautiful in his Time:



CONCLUSION

For me, the Bible remains by far the best literary work I've ever read. It's beyond mere literature. It is full of life.

One of my very favourite books is Ecclesiastes. In a very simple way, it speaks to humanity and its frailty, and glorifies the Deity and His omnipotence. It's only fitting that, as I raise my two children, I remember the lessons therein.

In this little booklet, I've shared a few of them, in my simple words, based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-11(KJV). I hope it's been a blessing and encouragement.

Thank you for reading,
Halimah Menni

In *Seasons & Times*, Halimah Menni draws a meaningful parallel between the cyclical nature of a seed's life and the various phases of human existence. With simplicity and eloquence, she shares profound insights on embracing life's changes and recognizing the grander purpose behind our journeys. This thoughtful reflection serves as a gentle reminder of the beauty and significance found in each stage of life, encouraging readers to appreciate every moment of their journey.



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