SEASONS & TIMES

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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,

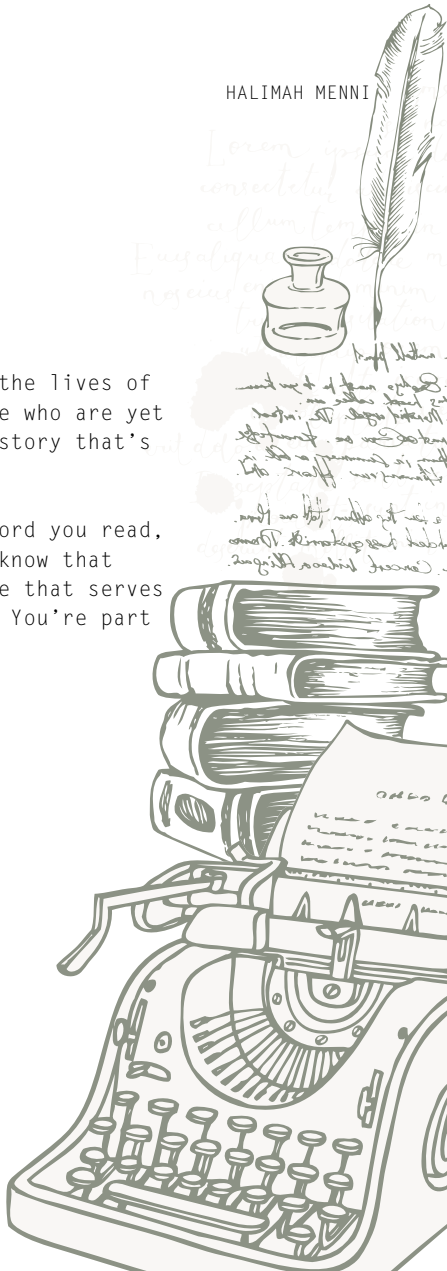
In this book, I'm sharing a simple and personal perspective on seasons and times. I've always been fascinated by the behaviour of the seed, and how it goes through seasons: from sowing to harvest, and back again into the darkness of the ground. It goes through the rigours of growth; withstanding all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

So how we live impacts the lives of those around us and those who are yet to come. It adds to a history that's been carved out already.

I hope that with every word you read, you'll be encouraged to know that you're here for a purpose that serves an even greater purpose. You're part of a grander plan.

Sincerely,
Halimah Menni



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.

V

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:

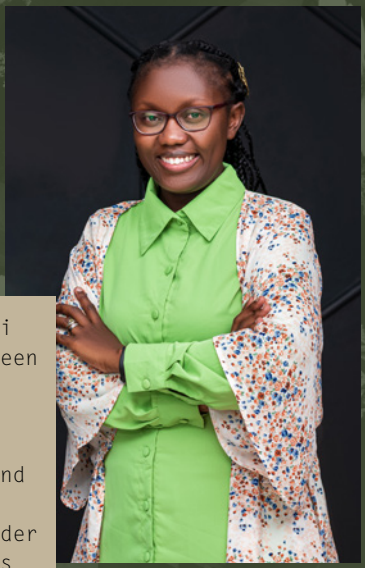
CONCLUSION

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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