

A conceptual image featuring a tombstone in the center. The tombstone is a simple, rectangular, light-colored stone with a dark vertical stripe down the middle. It sits on a matching rectangular base. To the left of the tombstone, a large, dramatic explosion of golden-brown dust and debris erupts against a dark background, with some particles falling. To the right, a cluster of tall, golden-brown grasses with feathery heads stands next to a patch of vibrant green grass. The entire scene is set against a dark, gradient background that transitions from black on the left to a soft, warm yellow on the right. The word "EPITAPH" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, centered over the tombstone.

EPITAPH

If you drop dead tomorrow, what will your family, community, world, Masjid loose?
Will it take 1 second or 3 hours to identify you when they say your name?

How will you be remembered? **Good – Bad – Evil – Kind – Harsh, or Eh?**

How long will you be remembered? **Week – Month – Year – Century – Eternity?**

What's your **EPITAPH** - Mark? Egyptian Pyramids, Romans Coliseum, Greeks Philosophy, China Wall... What will people remember about you? Car, House, Money, Business, Children? **DEEN?**

HAVE WE BEEN CREATED WITHOUT PURPOSE? FUNCTION? DEEN? RESPONSIBILITY?

8 Billion people on earth – 160,000 daily deaths, 60 million annual deaths. What's their epitaph?
1.3 Billion people live in extreme poverty - unknown! Are you in spiritual poverty & unknown?

GLOBAL SCALE - ONLY 0.01% - 0.1% recognized for contributions, inventors, leaders, scientists...

LOCAL SCALE - ONLY 5 - 10% considered impactful, educators, healthcare workers, or activists...

Are you just another number who will come & go? Or will you leave your mark & be remembered?

Majority of Companions were poor, but they contributed the most to humanity, to Islam.

“The first among the Muhajireen & Ansaar & those who followed them with good conduct. Allah is pleased with them & they are pleased with Him. He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.” (9:100)

Uwais al-Qarni رضي الله عنه: Tabi'e – Successor – Poor, Unknown man from Yemen, yet due to his Piety, Sincerity, Devotion, Simplicity, Sacrifice & Humbleness – he left a Great Marker, he was remembered & achieved the greatest recognition with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ, Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ & Ummah.

"There will come to you a man from Yemen named Uwais. He has been good to his mother, and he was afflicted with leprosy, which Allah cured except for the size of a dirham. If he swears to Allah, Allah will fulfil it. If you meet him, ask him to make dua for you." (Muslim)

Salman al-Farsi رضي الله عنه: The Seeker of Truth, a Zoroastrian, Christian, became a Muslim - Sahabi, and then a member of the Family of the Prophet Muhammad – Ahlul Bayt. Due to his relentless pursuit of truth and dedication to faith, he left a mark with the Prophet Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

"Salman is one of us, the People of the House (Ahlul Bayt)." (Ibn Majah)

Sa'd ibn Muaaz رضي الله عنه **WAS ONLY A MUSLIM FOR 6 YEARS** - he became a Shaheed at Khandaq. The Arsh of Allah عِزَّتِهِ Shook for him **(Bukhari) - 70,000 ANGELS PARTICIPATED IN HIS JANAZAH!**

Your ethnicity, colour, culture, wealth don't matter to Allah سُبْحَانَهُ, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ values sincerity, humility, and devotion over worldly fame. We must achieve recognition with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ and in the heavens.

Are you known in the world but unknown in the heavens?

It's not about the length of your life – but quality and sincerity of your life **(67:2)**

Don't waste your life wanting recognition from people, seek it from and with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ

The marker of Muslims **Islaam – Tawheed – Risaalah – Dhikr – Akhlaaq (3:110)**

What do you remember your parents for? **Clothes, Car, Food, Holidays, Money?** Or **Tahajjud, Qur'an, Shukr, Sabr, Akhlaaq...** We didn't come to construct building, cars or leave monuments – This is not what we were created for - **We came to build Humanity, Akhlaaq, Deen & Akhirah.**

100 years before you, who knew you? 100 years, how many know you? 100 years after?

Our legacy must not just be cars, homes & money, don't just be a number from the Billions...

“Whatever you possess is transient and whatever is with God is everlasting. We will recompense those who exercise patience with their due reward and even more.” (16:96)

Your remembrance is measured by how much you remembered Allah ﷻ, followed His commands.

The Prophet ﷺ remembrance, recognition, marker & epitaph of just 23 is still felt today.

“Among the believers are men true to what they promised Allah. Among them is he who has fulfilled his vow [to the death], and among them is he who awaits [his chance]. And they did not alter [the terms of their commitment] by any alteration” (33:23)

Say, "Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. (6:162)

The Prophet ﷺ raised humanity from its darkness & ignorance to the light & humanity.

When he left this world, the world, creation & companions all felt his loss...

Sayyidna Ali رضي الله عنه became paralysed, Sayyidna Uthman رضي الله عنه catatonic, Sayyidna Umar رضي الله عنه in Denial, Sayyidna Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه broken but firm in his heart. Sayyidna Bilal رضي الله عنه left, Sayyidna Ayoob al-Ansari رضي الله عنه left. They all struggled differently – they yearned his touch, smile, hug, words. The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was irreplaceable and the entire earth felt his loss and separation.

What will happen when you pass away? Will anyone **React? Stop? Cry? Suffer, Deny, Leave?...**

Average person mourns 3 days, few weeks & moves on. Rarely do we keep stop functioning. The World keep spinning at 1000 mph, day, night, food, rain, weather, life death - nothing stops.

Your family may cry tears of sorrow or perhaps joy, but will the earth & heavens cry for you?

“And the heavens and earth did not weep for them, nor were they respited.” (44:29)

Will this Masjid, Community, Earth miss you/weep for you? The earth weeps for those who spent their entire lives remembering Allah سبحانه وتعالى and weeping for His Sake – His Pleasure.

“I rushed to You, my Lord, that You be pleased.”(20:84) - “So flee to Allah.” (51:50)

We rushed the Dunya, to or own pleasures, we forgot Allah عز وجل, so we were forgotten **(59:19)**

Be from those who see people in need & rush to the: **Widows, Orphans, Ill, Poor ... Eager To Help With Foodbanks, Sadaqaat, Zakaat, Bills, Applications, Advice... (3:114)**

If you lived for Allah عز وجل, then Allah عز وجل will make the world, it's people & angels remember you. Leave your mark, your legacy, inscribe your epitaph for eternity by living for Allah عز وجل.