



CARPE DIEM

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I once received an email from a former colleague about the value of time and have searched for the most likely source of the poem she had sent me. This is how it goes:

To realize the value of TIME

To realize the value of ONE YEAR – Ask a student who has failed his final exam.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH – Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK – Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY – Ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR – Ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE – Ask a person who has missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND – Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND – Ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you share it with someone special . . . special enough to have your time. . . (Unknown) Taken from: <http://wizdompath.wordpress.com/2008/05/29/to-realize-the-value-of-time/>

How I wish I knew who the author was, for he capably captured the essence of the value of time in a manner I can never do. My online jaunts have also brought me to several other sites that have used the poem as a background for their own versions, but the original one I still consider the best. It encapsulates how we take time for granted so easily, but only realize its significance once it's all too late. A pity it is, truly, but that's just what makes us humans. We don't see the value of anything, even of time itself, until we lose it.

Time is a gift which we must learn to appreciate and use fully as God designed it to be. We may dilly-dally with our time as much as we can, but the losses are ours alone and nobody else's. When we give in to the temptation of procrastinating as often and as much as we can, we only end up regretting the waste we eventually get as a result. We may give all sorts of excuses for our failures, but the bottom line is: we were still the ones who ultimately made the decisions and called the shots. This also applies to how we choose to make use of our time, either wisely or foolishly.

It is never easy; in fact, time management takes a lot of skill and practice. Maybe, that is just one thing we have to take the time to learn how to do.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How valuable do you consider time is?
2. Why is it never wise to waste time?
3. Are you able to easily manage your own time? What makes time management difficult?
4. If you had all the time in the world, how would you spend it?
5. If you had only a week to live, how would you spend it?