

Shooting for the Moon

University Halaqah

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Shoot ^{for}_{the}
moon.

Even ^{if}_{you} miss,
you'll land among the

stars.



-Les Brown

What is the meaning of
همة 'Himmah' ?

همة Himmah

- *Hamm* is the heart deciding to perform an action
- *Himmah* is the aspiration which causes one to perform an action
- Ultimate aspiration is to seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) and avoid His wrath

In the Quran

سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ
أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن
يَشَاءُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿٢١﴾

“Race toward forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, prepared for those who believed in Allah and His messengers. That is the bounty of Allah which He gives to whom He wills, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty.”

In the Sunnah

- Abu Bakr and the Doors of Jannah
- Amr ibn Salim at the Battle of Uhud



What strengthens “Himmah”?

What weakens it?

What strengthens or weakens al-Himmah?

- **Strengthened by:**

- Seeking knowledge
- Desiring the Hereafter
- Remembering Death
- Being around motivated people
- Accepting sincere advice
- Focusing on important matters

- **Weakened by:**

- Laziness
- Listening to shaytan
- Following desires
- Being heedless of time

What traits make youth highly motivated?

Energetic

Believers

Passionate

Idealistic

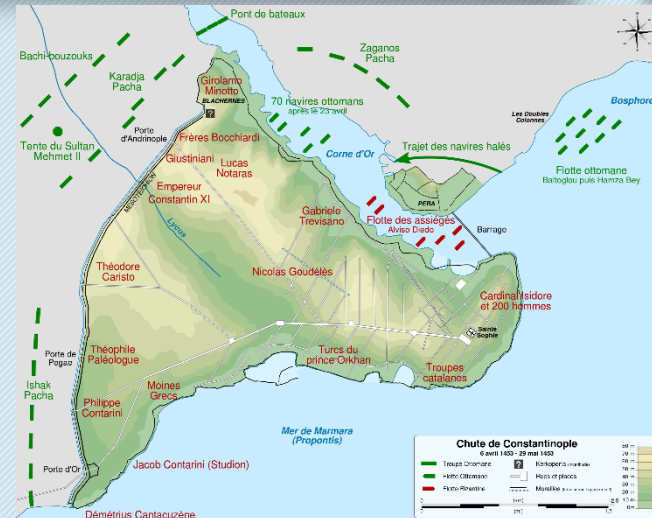
Cause-driven

Sincere

Hard-working



Sultan Metmet II (al-Fatih)



- He conquered Constantinople at age 21
- *“Verily you shall conquer Constantinople. What a wonderful leader will her leader be, and what a wonderful army will that army be!”*

Which of these youth will be more motivated?





What do you aspire to?

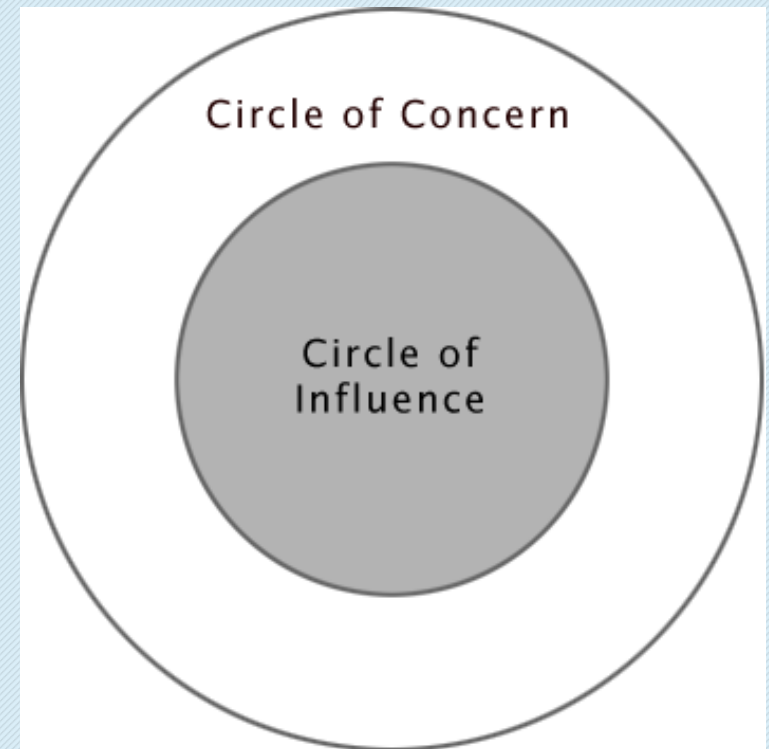
How will you get there?

Steps to be a High Achiever

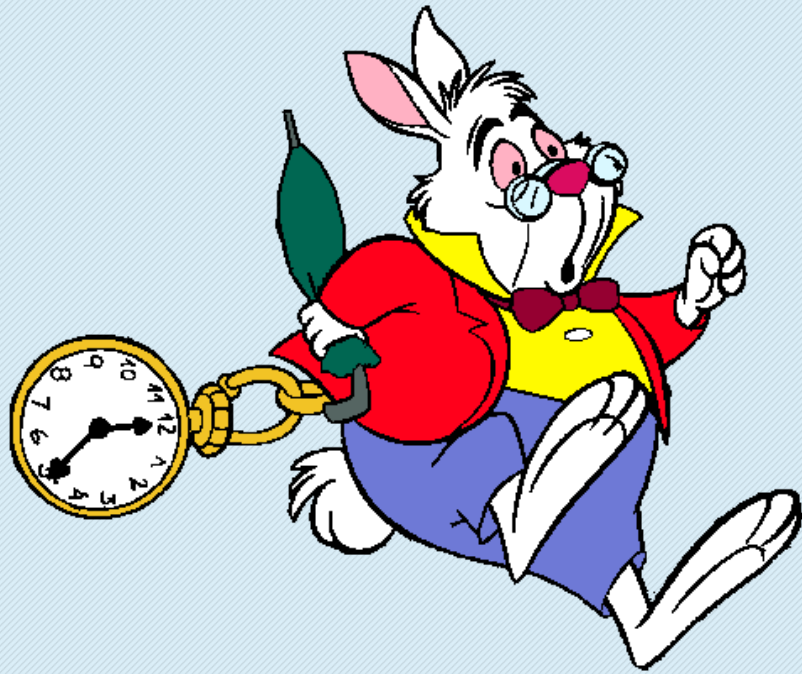


1. Be Proactive

- First of Steven Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*
- Recognize your ability to make things happen
- Widen circle of influence
- Use proactive language: I choose, I prefer, I will



2. Utilize your Time Wisely



The Prophet (SAWS) said:
*“Take benefit of five before five:
Your youth before your old age,
your health before your sickness,
your wealth before your poverty,
your free time before you are
preoccupied,
and your life before your death”*

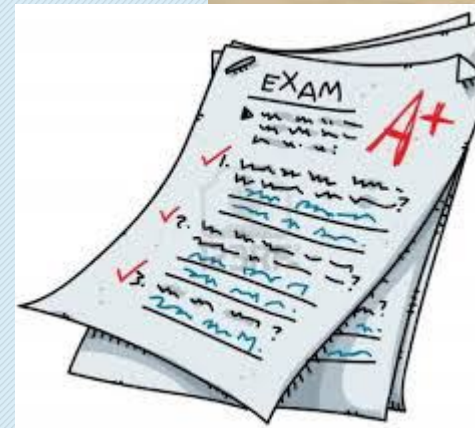
Alice: How long is forever?

Rabbit: Sometimes just one second

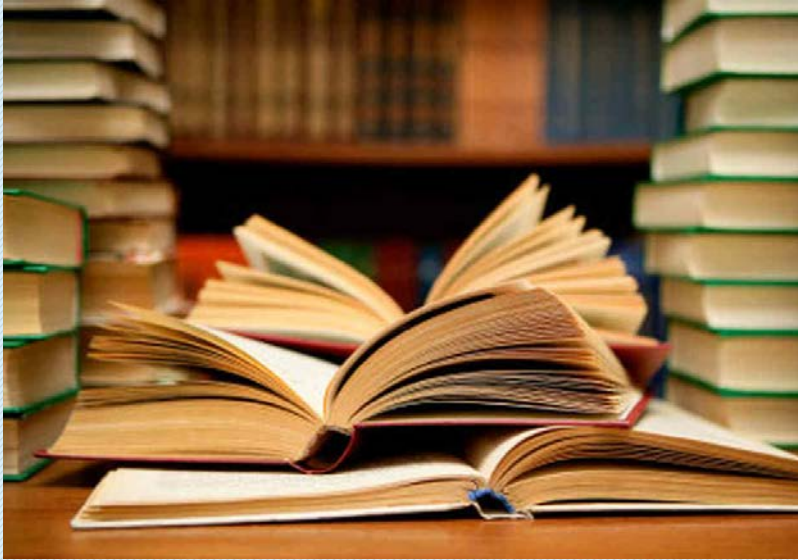
3. Strive for Excellence

“Verily, Allah loves that when anyone of you does a job he should perfect it”

- In remembering Allah
- In prayers and acts of worships
- In obeying our parents
- In dealing with people
- In our personal and professional lives



4. Read



أمة إقرأ لا تقرأ

*"The nation of Iqraa
does not read."*

- Broaden your horizons
- At least one book/month
- Quran, Sunnah, Islamic studies, history, social studies, sciences, etc.

5. Have a Clear Vision

- Make a personal mission statement
- Set concrete goals and steps to achieve them
- Visualize yourself achieving the results



Steps to be a High Achiever

1. Be proactive
2. Utilize your time wisely
3. Strive for excellence
4. Read
5. Have a clear vision



High Achievement at School

- Primary goal is to be highly successful
- Success is a form of dawaa
- Responsibility to Allah, to yourself, to your family, and to your future



Tips to Succeed in Exams

1. *Always remember Allah (SWT)*
2. *Avoid committing sins*
3. *Go to sleep early and wake up early*
4. *Repetition, repetition, repetition*
5. *Schedule your time*
6. *Practice old exams and talk to previous students*
7. *Explain what you learn to consolidate it*