

Borrowing and Living

No one can live his entire life on borrowed money or time to support a lavish, largely lazy lifestyle. Everyone that borrows to spend, and not to invest, will find himself sooner rather than later unable to service his debt, unable to borrow more, and unable to continue living as before. As a consequence, he will be forced to declare bankruptcy and start all over again with little hope of being able to restore normalcy to his life and live long enough to enjoy whatever he achieves in the future.

A nation living on its past glory and heritage is like a consumer that borrows to support a lavish lifestyle; it will discover sooner rather than later that its past has nothing of value it can borrow, and its legacy is unable to support the present or guide the future. Since no one is able to remake or reclaim the past, everyone can and should try to make and claim the future. Whoever ignores the future, the future will ignore him; and whoever lives in the past, the past will laugh at him. A nation that continues to talk about the virtues of the past and lives on the legacy of the past is unable to live its present; it is also less able to appreciate the future and meet its challenges.

When the future arrives, a nation living on borrowed time and on the legacy of its glorious but fading past will wake up trembling at the sound of strange currents of change knocking at its door without being able to face the challenges they pose. It will look around for some time to borrow or some money to restructure; but there will be no one to answer its call. This means that a nation living in the past, for the past, will end up missing the present and having to live its entire life in a virtual state of bankruptcy, dependent on charity and under the mercy of others.

Mohamed Rabie

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