Time-Honoured Values

A Self-Scoring Guide to the Values and Virtues That Last

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2026 Revised Edition

Chapter 1

Where Success Really Comes From

The shift. Before you measure success by what you have achieved, ask what kind of person you are becoming. Achievements follow character, and they last only as long as the person behind them does.

Ask a room of people what success means and you will hear many answers: money, a title, a big house. Yet the people we most admire are rarely remembered for those things alone. Every person wishes to succeed in life, and not in an ordinary way: the wish is for success that is outstanding, distinguished, marked by real excellence. Reaching that kind of success means meeting a few real criteria: self-fulfilment; meeting your family's expectations and your own; making a genuine difference; living a life others would want to follow; and building something that outlasts you.

One of the clearest ways to measure that kind of success is by how closely a person lives out certain values: the things in life that truly matter. These include spiritual values, family values, national values, societal values, and personal values, which Chapter 2 covers further.

Living out those values takes virtues: the good behaviour and high standards that make values real in daily life. These include godliness, holiness, integrity, accountability, humility, contentment, righteousness, cleanliness, self-restraint, hard work, and discipline, along with decency,

neatness, punctuality, patience, perseverance, vision, focus, determination, reliability, trustworthiness, self-control, and a positive attitude. The chapters that follow look closely at the main ones; together, they're what carry a person toward a truly meaningful, lasting success.

What Our Countries Urgently Need

Many concerned citizens around the world have raised the alarm on the state of their countries, and listed a number of issues that urgently need addressing. Among those that come up most often are leadership, corruption, insecurity, national development, and unemployment among young people.

As real as these issues are, tackling them can only ever meet the country's immediate needs; they don't offer a lasting solution. What society actually needs is to prepare its citizens for the future, so these same challenges don't simply resurface again and again. That means urgent attention to a few deeper issues:

- Helping citizens genuinely appreciate and embrace good values
- Helping citizens cultivate the time-honoured virtues
- Helping citizens embrace and cultivate the right attitude
- Helping citizens gain a clear understanding of what meaningful success in life actually means

Many rightly believe that until these four issues are addressed, no lasting solution to society's challenges will be

found. If a country's leaders truly took them to heart, they would be far better placed to meet society's challenges.

This book is meant to give you a clear, practical understanding of what values and virtues actually are, not as abstract ideas, but as things you can recognise, embrace, and grow into. When leaders live by these values, they tend to be more God-fearing and better placed to meet the real challenges facing their countries. Closely tied to this is the question of attitude: how we show up. Do we have vision? Do we stay focused? Are we determined, prayerful, and willing to work well with others? A leader with a clear vision who pursues it with determination, prayer, and the fear of God will achieve real things with the willing cooperation of the people around them. Such a leader has little room left for corruption or half-hearted effort. Chapter 9 returns to this theme of focus, determination, and attitude in greater depth.

There's also the question of what "meaningful success" actually means: the whole reason this book exists. A truly successful person excels in the areas covered in the chapters ahead. Meaningful success isn't measured by how much money someone has, what they own, or what position they hold. If leaders understood this, they wouldn't chase corruption for money, or turn to harmful or exploitative practices in pursuit of wealth and fame. Instead, they would carry themselves with far more refinement, decency, and honour.

END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

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