

# Gift of time is precious, ought to be savored

## MORAL PERSPECTIVES



RABBI IRWIN GRONER

It has been said that man is the only animal who knows that he will die, and this knowledge colors his whole life. This realization leads us to value the time we have. It also compels us to measure our brief years against the longer life of mankind and the eternity of God.

We are like a child at an amusement park, whose father has given him some money, but who was too young to count it. All he knows is how to ask for what he wants and hold out his hand full of coins so that the ticket seller can take the right amount. And so he follows his fancy, eating cotton candy, riding the merry-go-round, taking a boat ride, until suddenly he looks down at his hand and it is empty. There were other things he meant to take, but the money is gone, and he sits down and cries.

We are like that child. When we are born, God puts into our hands a certain number of golden hours, and with them, we buy the activity of our lives. At each gate, whether of home, career or pleasure, we surrender the hours demanded. And then suddenly, we

reach into our pockets for more. They are all gone.

How do you spend your time? Do you waste it, save it, kill it, lose it, use it?

Some people are spendthrifts. Time means nothing to them. They run through it like a 5-year-old with a quarter in front of a nickel candy counter. The sensation of the moment is all that counts, and who cares about tomorrow?

Some people are misers. They

count out the hours as though out of an old-fashioned purse, so deep you can only bring out one coin at a time. They watch the clock at work and at play.

Some people are constantly losing time. Like a watch that runs slowly, they are never on the hour, but always 15-30 minutes late. The only place they will arrive on time is the cemetery.

Others try to save time. What they do with it when they have saved it, I have never quite found

out. There is no bank in which you can deposit it for later use.

And some people even kill time, the most tragic murder imaginable. Money lost can be recovered, time lost never can be.

I submit a recipe for the wise use of time. Plan as though you will live; live as though you will die. Most of us go to one or the other of these two extremes. Either we worry too much about tomorrow, or spend too much today.

Some people live too much in the

future, talk about the vacation they never take, and about how they will occupy their lives when they are retired. They plan without doing, dream without achieving, hope without enjoying.

Others live for the moment. They eat, drink and are merry for tomorrow we die, living as though they had only today, their tomorrows are frequently nightmares.

What we need is a philosophy which combines the best of these. Let plans be laid for the future,

set limits to the time and effort and resources spent each day, but within these limits, live with joy, live each moment, each hour, each day as though it were your last on earth. Savor the precious gift of time.

Rabbi Irwin Groner is with Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. If you have a question or comment, call him at 953-2047, mailbox number 1862, on a touch-tone telephone.

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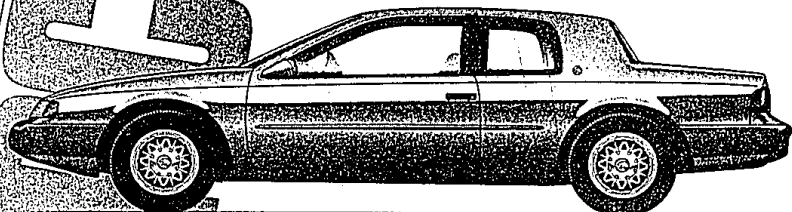
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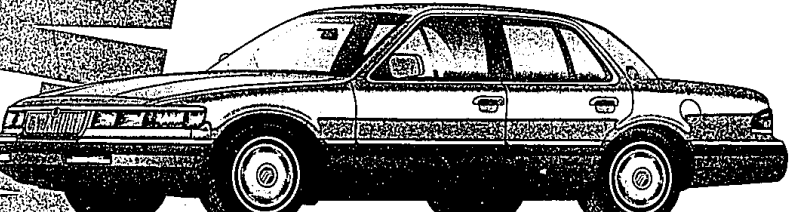


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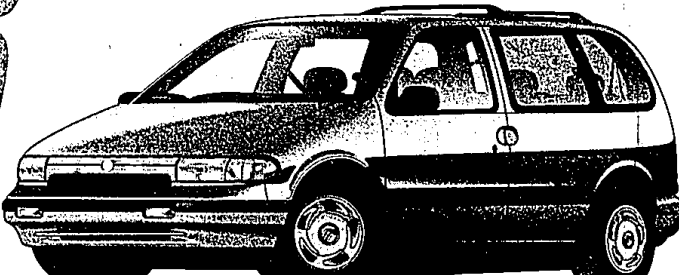
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