

Date

## 2. Haste makes waste

### Outline:

#### 1. Introduction

**Thesis:** "This proverb is half true. Haste makes waste; but so does hesitation. The real question is not whether to rush things or wait but to match pace to the stakes. And in the era of accelerating crises, the cost of delay increasingly exceeds the cost of speed."

2. Rushed action paradoxically defeats its purpose

3. Delay produces its own costly waste

4. Speed and patience are not virtues, but tools.

5. Reversibility determines the appropriate pace.

6. Governance fails through both haste and delay

- Rushed legislation (Pakistan PECA 2016 passed in 10 minutes)
- Delayed reform (tax reform still not implemented)

7. Technology reveals speed's benefits and costs

- Case in point: Facebook built fast, yet enabled Cambridge Analytica, Myanmar Genocide.

8. Climate punishes our patience, not haste

- Decades of delayed action while research already creates urgency lead to irreversible damages.

9. Impulsiveness and overthinking both waste life.
10. Psychology explains why we misjudge pace.
11. Judgement of matching pace to stakes can be deliberately cultivated.
12. Our era demands faster action, not slower.
13. Conclusion

### Essay:

Every culture teaches its children to slow down. Haste makes waste. Look before you leap. Measure twice, cut once. These proverbs survive because they depict a real pattern: rushed action often destroys what it meant to save. Yet, proverbs are shortcuts, not laws. And this one omits a crucial truth. Hesitation also makes waste. Opportunities expire, problems compound, and windows close while we deliberate. The proverb is half true. Haste makes waste; but so does hesitation. The real question is not whether to rush or wait but ~~to~~ how to ~~manage~~ match the pace to stakes. And in the era of accelerated crises, the cost of delay increasingly exceeds the cost of speed. Understanding this requires

Date

examining when haste wastes, when slowness wastes, and how to cultivate the judgement that knows the difference.

The proverb - haste makes waste - endures because it names a genuine process: speed without thought reliably produces outcomes that negate its purpose. Haste aims to save time but creates rework. The report rushed to deadline contains errors requiring revision. The construction finished early collapses and must be rebuilt. Psychologists have explained why this happens. Fast thinking omits the natural process of brain that catches errors. In a way, haste is a loan against future time, and the interest rate is punishing. What a driver could save in minutes by rushing ~~could~~ might cost hours, or even life in accidents. Yet this truth, valid as it may seem, hides an equally important counter-truth.

What the proverb hides is that delay has its own price as opportunities expire, problems compound, and windows close. Nokia once captured the cellphone market but deliberated when competitors innovated to smartphones; it became irrelevant. In medicine, the same cancer when caught early has 90% survival rate, but when

Date

caught late, the rate drops below 20%. Delay feels like pragmatism and due diligence but often function as avoidance. Inaction is often mistook for safety. A missed opportunity is as real as an erroneous attempt. The proverb warns against one but ignores the other. This shows that if both speed haste and hesitation ~~is~~ leads to waste, then neither speed nor patience is the answer.

The debate between haste and patience is wrongly framed. Neither of them is a virtue, both are just tools. A tool is judged by its fit to a task, not by any inherent merit. A hammer is neither good or bad; it depends on whether you are building a house or breaking a window. Speed and patience work the same way. The same urgency that led to Theranos' doom - a U.S. based firm that rushed an unvalidated blood-testing device to market - enabled Stripe - the global payments gateway - to dominate payments by evolving faster than competitors. The error is never speed or slowness but the mismatch between pace and situation. This raises the practical question: how do we know which pace fits which situation?

Date

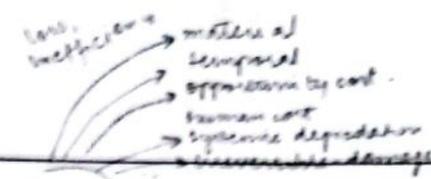
## Conclusion:

The proverb "haste makes waste" is not wrong; it is incomplete. Haste wastes when we rush irreversible decisions, skip necessary validation, or act before thinking. But hesitation wastes when opportunities expire, problems compound, or windows to act close permanently. The consistent source of waste is not pace itself but mismatch of speed where deliberation was needed and caution where urgency was needed. This matters more now than ever. Challenges like climate tipping points, technological disruption, and democratic erosion punish delays as severely as they punish recklessness. The luxury of excessive deliberation is itself a waste. The task is not to abandon the proverb but to complete it. This ~~means~~ includes developing judgement that knows when to hasten and when to pause. Haste makes waste. So does hesitation. Wisdom is knowing which risks each moment carries. In the era of closing windows, the greater danger may be standing still.

wisdom into deliberation  
action into speed or  
into one direction

Date <sup>speed / business</sup>

causal chain



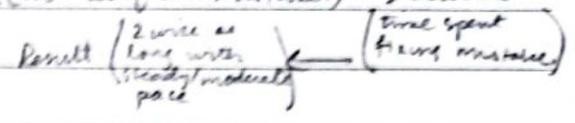
Haste makes waste = classic proverb

HASTE: not just speed, impatient & careless rush. The act of moving forward without a solid plan or not paying attention to details.

waste: loss of anything valuable - time, money, materials, or reputation - look a horse mess it up, waste the time already spent & waste more time fixing it.

feedback loop: Rush/pressure to finish fast quickly → Error (not careful = mistakes) → Rework

Interpretation



• surface / Metaphorical / Philosophical

Culturally neutral → Marine equivalent? Against existing things? Slavery / Progressive manage (abolition) (23 years)

Any demands for policy? Tech, Economy, Governance?

↳ AI, Social Media "slow down to speed up"

(Problems / priority) → developmental / reduction → institutions, education, economy mature over cycles, not days. → COE, educational reforms?

→ Individual → cooking, exam preps, any tasks

→ Social → transformations?

→ State Policies, International?

Is it always waste? are there exceptions?

what kind of haste? reckless vs. strategic differ.

what kind of waste? material, temporal, human  
Cost of slowness? Delayed action can also produce waste.

- Haste makes waste — delay also makes waste
- speed causes errors — slowness caused missed opportunities
- deliberation prevents mistakes — over-deliberation causes paralysis.
- Patience is virtue — urgency is sometimes necessary.

↓ dialectic synthesis

Neither haste nor slowness is inherently bad or good. Wisdom lies in calibration - matching speed to stakes, context, & reversibility.

Provable evidence? Age engine, Pre-industrial pace slow, power dynamics → patience & control  
what has changed? consequences fast & wrong (climate, nuclear, AI), competitive environment reward speed.

Both - not possible. Haste makes waste, but so does hesitation. The real question is not whether to rush or wait, but how to match pace to stakes in the era of accelerating change, the cost of delay increasingly exceeds the cost of speed.