



Shall I die when the crusaders carry out the death sentence?

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The Truth about **Death**

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah

Forward

To all who strive to defend me and try their best to drop the death penalty

To all who will die one day

Introduction

Praise be to Allah, we seek His help and ask for His pardon. We take refuge in Allah from our wrongs and misdeeds. Whoever has been guided by Allah will not be misled and whoever has been misled, he will never be guided. I bear witness that there is no god except Allah alone, with no partner or equal, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

The U.S government is trying with all its might to prove all the charges against us in the 9/11 case in order to give us the death penalty. But we are convinced that our life and death are in the hands of Allah alone.

As His Majesty the Almighty says what means:

“To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: It is He Who gives Life and causes Death; and He has Power over all things.” 57:2

“Say: ‘Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us: He is our protector’: and on Allah let the Believers put their trust.” 9:51

We are convinced of the advice that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave to his cousin Abdullah bin ‘Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him) when he told him, ***“Know that if all the people get together in order to benefit you with something, they will not be able to benefit you in anything except what Allah has decreed for you. And if they all get together in order to harm you with something, they will not be able to harm you in anything except what Allah has decreed for you.”***

Whether we receive a life sentence or the death penalty; whether we are executed in the electric chair or by gas chamber, lethal injection, hanging or firing squad, or we are thrown into the sea; whether we are found innocent of all charges and released from prison and are able to return to our families, death is still our ultimate fate and the fate of all mankind and all living things in this life.

The ultimate truth is that all must die one day.

As the Almighty Creator of life and death said in the Holy Qur’an what means:

“Every soul shall have a taste of death.” 3:185

Even the planets and stars in the sky will perish. Only the One and Only Allah Who created life and death will never die. He is the Everlasting One.

As the Creator of life and death said in the Holy Qur'an what means:

“And call not, besides Allah, on another god. There is no god but He. Everything (that exists) will perish except His own Face. To Him belongs the Command, and to Him will you (all) be brought back.” 28:88

There are some perplexing questions on the minds of many people regarding the meaning of death:

- What is death?
- How do people die?
- Is it possible to avoid death?
- Is death the end of life?
- Is there life after death?
- Does a dead person sense the living people around him?
- When one dies, does one feel the pain of death?
- Is there misery and happiness after death?
- Does the body of one who is buried under the earth fare better than one who is burned and whose ashes are scattered into the sea or one whose remains are preserved in a tomb or one who is embalmed or mummified in a museum?
- Does one receive news about his family after death?
- Are the answers to these questions myths and fables or are they true? How do we know that?

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People and Death

As the death penalty approaches, I meet with a group of lawyers and those who work for them. Whenever I talk to them about being executed or dying, etc., I find that these words weigh heavily upon them and their faces change, while I speak about death happily!

It is so surprising when talking to people about their fate at the moment of death or life after death to find that not one of them has any real and true culture, creed, upbringing, or schooling they may have received in this matter. How surprising it is when I ask a devoted Christian about the invisible world: “What does your priest or your church or your Bible tell you about jinns, spirits, demons, devils, the angels, or from what they were created?” or “What is the difference between devils, demons, and spirits?” and in the end I find that they know very little fact and a lot of fiction!!

There are many people who do not want to listen or know about anything that deals with the unseen world, specifically the reality of death, because they hate death. Indeed, who among us loves death? This is because death separates loved ones, taking a man from his beloved wife and a good mother from her precious children. It also causes people to lose their good friends and neighbors and social circle. It separates people from their businesses, money, and houses. It deprives them of the comforts and joys of life, thwarting all their ambitions and desires and destroying all that they have gathered and earned in this worldly life.

Even the righteous man does not love death because it prevents him from increasing his rewards through helping the poor and being able to do good. It keeps him from prayer and fasting and being of benefit to those in need. Even poor people who own nothing do not love death, not because they fear losing their money and belongings, since they have nothing but their debts. They hate death because they are still dreaming about gaining what they lost from a life of luxury, and they fear the unknown that will befall them when they die!!!

On the other hand, there are many who think that death is the key to their relief from suffering and the best solution to their personal problems, worries, and the depression that they live through. Therefore, they try to commit suicide thinking that death will give them rest from their tribulations and remove them from the worldly hell of this life they live. But they do not know the truth about death and what their fate will be afterwards. If I were being tortured with sleep deprivation, forced nudity, and water-boarding day and night, I would never think of wishing for death in order to gain respite from this physical and psychological torture because the prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said:

“Let not one of you wish for death because of a misfortune which befalls him. If he cannot help doing so, he should say, ‘O Allah, keep me alive as long as You know that it is better for me, and make me die when death is better for me’.”

But a rational, wise person who thinks soundly always plans for his distant future and concerns himself with building a successful strategy for his life in both the long and short term. He must use all his

abilities to come to an understanding of the truth about death; or, in other words, understanding the nature of the house he will inhabit when this life ends.

A rational, wise person, even though he does not love death or fear it, realizes full well that he will die and lose his life one day no matter how long his life may be. Like it or not, everyone will die -- rich and poor; black and white; men and women; children, youth, and the aged; the sickly and the healthy. No one can escape this hated end. Thus, the rational, wise person must track down the truth about the fate that will catch up to him one of these days. He must study, what is the truth about death and where he will go afterwards? Allah the Most High says what means:

“Wherever you are, death will find you out, even if you are in towers built up strong and high.” 4:78

And the Most High says what means:

“Say, Indeed, the death from which you flee - indeed, it will meet you. Then you will be returned to Allah, the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you about what you used to do.” 62:8

Death Between Fact and Fiction

- Some people believe that if they kill themselves, they will find rest from all their problems. It is fiction and not true.
- Others believe that if they commit all sorts of sins including stealing, robbery, rape, cheating and killing they will have a nice life and paradise as long as they ask Jesus for forgiveness before they die. It is wrong and not true. As Almighty Allah said what means:

“Not your desires, nor those of the People of the Book (can prevail): whoever works evil, will be requited accordingly. Nor will he find, besides Allah, any protector or helper.

“If any do deeds of righteousness - be they male or female - and have faith, they will enter Heaven, and not the least injustice will be done to them.”

4:123-124

It is even written in the Book of James 2:14 ***“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?”*** The fact is that a sinner will have a good life, but only as long as he asks Jesus’ Lord, Allah, for forgiveness before he dies, not Jesus or Muhammad or Moses, or any other of Allah’s creatures. However, this repentance will not be acceptable at the moment of death, only if it takes place during his lifetime of free will.

“Allah accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and repent soon afterwards; to them will Allah turn in mercy: For Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.

“Of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil, until death faces one of them, and he says, ‘Now have I repented indeed’; nor of those who die rejecting Faith: for them have We prepared a punishment most grievous.” 4:17-18

- Others believe that after death their souls will depart their body and be transformed to a new human or an animal body. It is fiction and not true.
- The other old but new fiction being spread around these days – as it was spread around in ancient days – is the materialist philosophy that matter and time are eternal, backwards

and forwards; and that even though individuals perish, the human race lasts until time destroys it. This is not true but fiction. As Allah, the All-knowing, the All-aware said what means:

“And they say: ‘What is there but our life in this world? We shall die and we live, and nothing but time can destroy us.’ But of that they have no knowledge, they merely conjecture.” 45:24

The truth is that we cannot feel the dead man’s feelings or see what he sees, even though his eyes are not functioning; but we know for a fact that people can see dreams without their eyes and that blind people can see when they are dreaming.

The Empiricists: Those who Believe only in the Evidence of the Senses

As we all know that it is very difficult for empiricists and unbelievers who do not believe in Allah or the unseen world or spirits to understand and accept the truth about death and the bliss or torment that awaits them beyond the grave or after death.

Imagine that you are an empiricist sitting in front of two people in a deep sleep under their covers. One of them is having a nightmare in which he is being chased by a ghoul and trying to escape with all his might. As much as he wants to escape, he keeps falling down and his fear intensifies. As much as he tries to flee, he cannot run. The ghoul opens its mouth to devour him and he barely escapes, but he finds that blocking his path is a busy highway full of speeding cars. If he stops, the ghoul will devour him, but if he tries to run across the highway he will be struck by a car. His heart is racing and his breath comes rapidly; then he is falling into a pit. Pain shoots through his hands and legs, and the ghoul is upon him.

The other sleeper is dreaming right next to him, but this one is dreaming that he is with his wife whom he has not seen since returning from a long journey. She is making him his favorite food, which he is savoring and enjoying. Then when the meal is finished, he invites his wife to their bed where he reaches the pinnacle of happiness in enjoying relations with his wife.

Imagine that you are watching these two sleepers. They are making similar small movements under their covers but each one is in a different world – one in fear and torment being chased by a ghoul, and the other at the pinnacle of happiness and ecstasy. The first wakes from his dream with his heart racing, panting in fear and panic with pain in his hands and legs. The second awakes from his pleasurable dream, still tasting the delicious food, with a feeling of ecstasy after spending a blissful night with his wife.

At this point, let us ask the empiricist, is this intense happiness and this torment happening to the sleepers’ bodies or to their spirits? Are they really moving from their place? Did the hideous ghoul really visit the first man and did the beautiful wife really visit the second? Or did all this actually take place in the unseen world, the happiness and torment befalling the men’s spirits and hence affecting their bodies?

My question then, is can an atheist or unbeliever believe that Allah, Who created the soul and the body, is capable of inflicting torment or bliss on a deceased person in the unseen world?

There are some who will argue that these are biological activities that take place in the brain. So, if a person has a scary dream, he becomes scared, while the person who has a pleasurable dream feels happy. We ask of them, who or what power creates these biological activities? Is it possible for a human while awake to merely close his eyes, attempt to imagine the Ghoul, and become fearful so that his heart begins to race? At the same time, some who watches a horror movie with powerful sound effects may not become scared or someone who watches a pornographic move may not become excited. Therefore, the question arises what prompts a sleeping person to experience a reaction that an awoken person does not, if these are purely biological reactions?

No one can convince a stubborn unbeliever because the One Who created mankind said of these people what means:

“Even if We did send unto them angels, and the dead did speak unto them, and We gathered together all things before their very eyes, they are not the ones to believe, unless it is in Allah’s plan. But most of them ignore (the truth).” 6:111

There is only one truth about the unseen or invisible world, but the conceptions, imaginings, and beliefs found in human minds are myriad. No one, no matter who he is, can be given this truth unless he has received knowledge from the True Creator of this universe Who placed weak humans on the face of the earth. Moreover, any information regarding the unseen world that has not been received from the One and Only True Allah is doubtful and might be either fact or fiction.

Allah the Most High says what means:

“Nor will He (Allah) disclose to you the secrets of the Unseen.” 3:179

“He (alone) knows the Unseen, nor does He make any one acquainted with His Mysteries, except a messenger whom He has chosen.” 72:26-27

In as much as people differ in their beliefs about the reality of God, they differ in what they imagine the truth about life and death to be. Most people’s ideas about death come from legends, superstitions, and stories passed down by their grandmothers, societies, false religions, cultures, books they have read, and media they have listened to which are far removed from reality. Thus, death for them remains in the realm of mystery, enshrouded with secrets and myths.

A Muslim believes in Allah, the One and Only deserving of worship Who created the universe and sent prophets and messengers to mankind throughout the centuries and ages. Because of His justice and wisdom, Allah, the Perfect and Most High, did not leave mankind without guidance or forget to show him what his purpose is in this life. He has never neglected or abandoned human beings; in fact, He sent messenger after messenger and sealed the prophethood by sending the last messenger, Muhammad (PBUH). He sent Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (PBUT) along with thousands of other prophets to teach people the right path and show them the clear light after the piles of myths, superstitions, and legends bequeathed to them by their ancestors had been removed from their minds. He sent them to keep people from going astray into darkness and the path of Satan and from following their earthly passions so that they could worship Him alone and follow His majestic guidance.

The Truth, All Praise and Glory be to Him, says what means:

“Say: None in the heavens or on earth, except Allah, knows what is hidden: nor can they perceive when they shall be raised up (for Judgment).” 27:65

Islam is the religion of Allah and it will not change or be changed. It came down from Heaven for the people in order to guide them and show them everything pertaining to what concerns them, great and small. Islam teaches us how to eat and what foods to avoid, how to marry and how to treat our wives, how to deal with the birds of the air and the fish in the sea, how to follow the movement of the sun and moon to determine the times for prayer and fasting, how to clean ourselves, how to treat our fathers and mothers while they are alive and when they are in their old age and when they are dead, who to love and who to avoid, what to wear, how and when to trim our fingernails and unwanted hair, how to clean our teeth and whether to sleep on our right side or our left, what to say when we ride in a car, how to console a friend whose father has died or congratulate a friend who has gotten married, how to give gifts and how to bring up children, the best time to sleep and awaken, how many times to wash our hands and faces and between our fingers and toes, and even the proper way to use the bathroom.

Islam leaves nothing in this life unexplained, either in general or in detail. Many facts about the invisible world are explained to us as well but only by the will of Allah Almighty. However, there are other aspects that are known only to Him and nobody knows about those except Him.

As the Most High says what means:

“With Him are the keys of the unseen, the treasures that none knows but He. He knows whatever there is on the earth and in the sea. Not a leaf doth fall but with His knowledge: there is not a grain in the darkness (or depths) of the earth, nor anything fresh or dry (green or withered), but is (inscribed) in a record clear (to those who can read).” 6:59

The source of Islam is the True Creator of the universe. Nobody knows the facts of death and what will happen after death except the Creator of life and death. Any argument, theory or ideas about death without the guidance of the True Creator of the universe is nothing but myths or superstitions and beliefs that people have inherited from generation to generation until they have solidified in their minds as if they were facts. The believer of these myths and superstitions will find this out, for at the moment of his death he will discover that the truth is not what he believed in and expected it to be all his life; all his previous beliefs will be of no use to him and of no benefit. As the Allah Almighty says what means:

“Say: ‘of your ‘partners’ – the false gods – Is there any that can give any guidance towards Truth?” “Say: ‘it is Allah who gives guidance towards Truth. Is then He who give guidance to Truth more worthy to be followed. Or he who finds not guidance (Himself) unless he is guided? What then is the matter with you? How judge you?’

“But most of them follow nothing but fancy, truly fancy can be of no avail against Truth. Verily Allah is well aware of all that they do.” 10:35-36

Why do we need to know the truth about death and what follows it?

When one travels to a distant country for an extended period of time, if he is smart he will take a good look into what that country is like before his trip and what the weather will be like during his stay there so as to prepare himself and decide what he will need to take with him. For instance, if it is a cold country, he will take warm clothes and appropriate shoes with him; and if it is a warm country, he will take whatever is suited to the climate there.

He will also look into the habits, customs, and religions of the people of the country along with their method of greeting one another. Do they extend their hands for a greeting? Do they bow, nod their heads, or do something else entirely?

The more intelligent a person is and the more experience he has with travels, the more information he will gather about his travel destination before his trip. He will ask about the national currency, their gestures, their workday, their modes of transportation, the price of rental cars, and internal flight schedules, as well as information on hotels and restaurants. He will conduct careful research and investigation of all this information until it seems he has lived in this country for a long time even though he has never been there. He does all this because it allows him to perform his mission as quickly as possible with minimum expense and a maximum benefit.

If something like travel prompts us to conduct this extensive research and make all these preparations, why, therefore, do we not conduct the same research into the reality of death and what follows it, especially since we all realize that each one of us will leave this life for good? Why do we neglect to study death when we know that we are all mortal except for the Only Everlasting One Who created life and death? As He says what means:

“All that is on earth will perish: But will abide (for ever) the Face of your Lord,- full of Majesty, Bounty and Honor.” 55:26-27

“Blessed be He in Whose hands is Dominion; and He over all things hath Power;- He Who created Death and Life, that He may try which of you is best in deed: and He is the Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.” 67:1-2

Ali bin Abi Talib (may Allah be please with him), the fourth Caliph for the Muslims advised his son Hasan (may Allah be please with him), saying, “O Hasan, my son, study death and know it well so that when it comes for you, it does not surprise or overwhelm you.”

One who is preoccupied with life and has forgotten that he will die should visit the nearest cemetery in order to remember it. As the Exalted Allah says what means:

“The mutual rivalry for piling up (the good things of this world) diverts you (from the more serious things),

“Until ye visit the graves.

“But nay, ye soon shall know (the reality).

“Again, ye soon shall know!

“Nay, were ye to know with certainty of mind, (ye would beware!)

“Ye shall certainly see Hell-Fire!

“Again, ye shall see it with certainty of sight!

“Then, shall ye be questioned that Day about the joy (ye indulged in!).”

102:1-8

Or he can go to an emergency ward at any major hospital and stay there from morning to night. Then he will see strong men, weak women, little children, and elderly people who have already departed this life or who die in front of him. This one fell off the roof of his house, this one was run over by a car, this one was bitten by a poisonous snake, this child was left in the bathtub and drowned, etc.

However, the intelligent person uses his mind to control his desires. He tries to secure his future by conducting study and research for his future needs, depriving himself of some of his daily needs in order to make his future bright and easy. A good example of one who does not want to search for or know the truth about death because he hates death would be a person who hates being sick and hates headaches who has a long journey ahead of him to a hot desert area. He would be very foolish if he did not want to read and research the effects of sunstroke merely because he hated sickness and headaches. The intelligent person would educate himself and read about sunstroke to avoid what he hates. He would take the necessary medication and preventive items for sunstroke and the like before he became sick. Therefore, if he became afflicted with this sickness, he would be able to treat himself and survive; but the unwise person who refused to read and research how to prevent sunstroke merely because he hates headaches would die if he were struck with sunstroke because of his ignorance and inability to use his mind.

Allah, the Almighty and Exalted says what means:

“By the Soul, and the proportion and order given to it; and its enlightenment as to its wrong and its right; Truly he succeeds that purifies it, and he fails that corrupts it!” 91:7-10

Are We Born Only to Die?

There are those who do not believe in Allah and who believe that life extends only from birth to death and that there is no life after death or a resurrection. This is a sick and ignorant way of thinking; it is not the truth. It is only an illusion built up from their own limited minds or false beliefs inherited from their people. The Lord Almighty says of those who think this way what means:

“They know but the outer (things) in the life of this world: but of the End of things they are heedless.

“Do they not reflect in their own minds? Not but for just ends and for a term appointed, did Allah create the heavens and the earth, and all between them: yet are there truly many among men who deny their meeting with their Lord (at the Resurrection)!

“Do they not travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those before them? They were superior to them in strength: they tilled the soil and populated it in greater numbers than these have done: there came to them their messengers with Clear (Signs). (Which they rejected, to their own destruction): It was not Allah Who wronged them, but they wronged their own souls.” 30:7-9

Is it really conceivable to think that the meaning of life including all the planets and stars that have existed for millions of years and the great universe swimming with billions of galaxies only exists for people to be born and enjoy life for a while and then die and that's it? Of course not. A thousand times no, because it is Allah Almighty Who created life and death and said what means:

“It is He Who has created for you (the faculties of) hearing, sight, feeling and understanding: little thanks it is you give!

“And He has multiplied you through the earth, and to Him shall you be gathered back.

“It is He Who gives life and death, and to Him (is due) the alternation of Night and Day: will you not then understand?

“On the contrary they say things similar to what the ancients said.

“They say: ‘What! when we die and become dust and bones, could we really be raised up again?’

“Such things have been promised to us and to our fathers before! they are nothing but tales of the ancients!’

“Say: ‘To whom belong the earth and all beings therein? (say) if you know!’

“They will say, ‘To Allah! say: ‘Yet will you not receive admonition?’

“Say: ‘Who is the Lord of the seven heavens, and the Lord of the Throne (of Glory) Supreme?’

“They will say, ‘(They belong) to Allah.’ Say: ‘Will you not then be filled with awe?’

“Say: ‘Who is it in whose hands is the governance of all things,- who protects (all), but is not protected (of any)? (say) if you know.’

“They will say, ‘(It belongs) to Allah.’ Say: ‘Then how are you deluded?’

“We have sent them the Truth: but they indeed practise falsehood!

“No son did Allah beget, nor is there any god along with Him: (if there were many gods), behold, each god would have taken away what he had created, and some would have lorded it over others! Glory to Allah! (He is free) from the (sort of) things they attribute to Him!

“He knows what is hidden and what is open: too high is He for the partners they attribute to Him!

“Say: ‘O my Lord! if Thou wilt show me (in my lifetime) that which they are warned against,

“Then, O my Lord! put me not amongst the people who do wrong!’

“And We are certainly able to show you (in fulfilment) that against which they are warned.

“Repel evil with that which is best: We are well acquainted with the things they say.

“And say ‘O my Lord! I seek refuge with You from the suggestions of the Evil Ones.’

“And I seek refuge with You O my Lord! lest they should come near me.’

“(In Falsehood will they be) Until, when death comes to one of them, he says: ‘O my Lord! send me back (to life),’

“‘In order that I may work righteousness in the things I neglected.’ – ‘By no means! It is but a word he says.’- Before them is a Barzakh (Partition) till the Day they are raised up.

“Then when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no more relationships between them that Day, nor will one ask after another!

“Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, they will attain salvation:

“But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls, in Hell will they abide.” 23:78-103

If the meaning of life for humans is only this short time that they share and then they die and there is nothing else after, then humans don't deserve to be created or placed on this earth. How can people die, perishing forever with no return without having obtained all their rights from the people who oppressed them and tortured them and took their money, houses, and land unjustly? If this is the meaning of life and the One Who created people put them on this earth to be born in this selfish oppressive life and then die without vindication, in this life or the hereafter, from their oppressors who oppressed them and deprived them of their rights, then He Who placed the planets and galaxies did so with no precise, just, or wise system for mankind on earth.

If a wise person contemplates life, he will understand that he was not born only to die, but rather for a much greater purpose:

“O man! What has seduced you from your Lord Most Beneficent?

“Him Who created you. Fashioned you in due proportion, and gave you a just bias;

“In whatever Form He wills, does He put you together.

“Nay! But you do reject Right and Judgment!

“But verily over you (are appointed angels) to protect you,

“Kind and honourable, Writing down (your deeds):

“They know (and understand) all that you do.

“As for the Righteous, they will be in bliss;

“And the Wicked - they will be in the Fire,

“Which they will enter on the Day of Judgment,

“And they will not be able to keep away therefrom.

“And what will explain to you what the Day of Judgment is?

“Again, what will explain to you what the Day of Judgment is?

“(It will be) the Day when no soul shall have power (to do) aught for another: For the command, that Day, will be (wholly) with Allah.” 82:6-19

The Real Meaning of Life

The Creator, Creatures, and Laws

A Muslim believes that Allah Almighty is the One Creator Who created everything. He is the One and Only, the Everlasting, the Eternal and Absolute Allah. He neither begot nor was He begotten, and no one is equal to Him.

Allah Almighty has created the human being and has chosen him to be the best of His creations, to be the noblest of all the things He has created in the universe.

Allah Almighty, All Praise and Glory be to Him, says what means:

“We have honored the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them for sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favors, above a great part of Our creation.” 17:70

Allah Almighty, the Perfect and Most High, created the universe and everything in the skies and on the earth and all that is between them for a great purpose. He has not created all these in vain.

Allah, Blessed and Exalted says what means:

“Not without purpose did We create heaven and earth and all between! that were the thought of Unbelievers! but woe to the Unbelievers because of the Fire (of Hell)!” 38:27

“Behold! in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed Signs for men of understanding,

“Men who celebrate the praises of Allah, standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heavens and the earth, (With the thought): ‘Our Lord! not for naught have You created (all) this! Glory to You! Give us salvation from the penalty of the Fire.’”
3:190-191

Allah Almighty says what means:

“I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me.” 51:56

“Not for (idle) sport did We create the heavens and the earth and all that is between!” 21:16

Everything in the universe glorifies and exalts Allah through praise. As the Exalted, Ever-Majestic Allah says what means:

“The seven heavens and the earth, and all beings therein, declare His glory: there is not a thing but celebrates His praise; And yet ye understand not how they declare His glory! Verily He is Oft-Forbear, Most Forgiving!” 17:44

Everything in the universe is subjected to the cosmic laws of Allah Almighty. These laws or rules apply to everything, whether it belongs to the seen or unseen world of animate being or inanimate being. There are laws and rules that cover everything created by Almighty Allah (quarks, protons, electrons, spirits, demons, Jinn, angels, devils, galaxies, planets, plants, animals, mountains, sea, and human beings etc.)

As the Truth, All Praise and Glory be to Him says what means:

“... He has subjected the sun and the moon to His law! Each one runs (its course) for a term appointed. He does regulate all affairs, explaining the signs in detail that you may believe with certainty in the meeting with your Lord” 13:2

“...Glory be to Him. Nay, to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth: everything renders worship to Him. To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth: When He decrees a matter, He says to it: ‘Be,’ and it is.” 2:116-117

The universe is beautifully constructed, wonderfully built, and accurately controlled. There is no emptiness in the universe as every item has its own role and assigned task. There is coordination between darkness and light, birth and death, creation and destruction. Everything that has been created by Allah Almighty has fixed standards for billions of years, but the ignorant humans call it the laws of nature in order to give the impression that there is no Creator and that nature formed itself on its own?!! But the

Truth is, the Only One True Creator created nature and controls it with His cosmic and natural laws. As Allah Almighty says what means:

“(Moses) said: ‘Our Lord is He Who gave to each (created) thing its form and nature, and further, gave (it) guidance.’” 20:50

“It is not permitted to the Sun to catch up the Moon, nor can the Night outstrip the Day: Each (just) swims along in (its own) orbit (according to Law).” 36:40

There is only one Allah and one law. All are subjected to it and each event is the effect of a previous cause. Allah Almighty created His universe governed by causal laws. If a creature seeks the root of an effect, he will find a cause in accordance with Allah’s laws. I am not arguing here the philosophy of Epicurus or the stoics, but as the Almighty says what means:

“Verily We established his power on earth, and We gave him the ways and the means to all ends.” 18:84

Human Beings and Cosmic Law

In the world of what we observe and see the only odd thing in this entire universe is the master of creation: ‘the human being’. This is because he is the only one that has free will to choose, think, and makes decisions on what to do or not to do; to follow and obey Allah’s facultative laws – that is, laws that are humans may choose to follow or not – or to disobey and deny them.

But man has no choice but to follow Allah’s definite laws – for example, if the Most High commanded a man’s cells to be afflicted with cancer (God forbid), or if He ordained him to die. All of Allah’s definite laws correspond with His cosmic laws and thus will apply to all humans by His decree.

All creations, animate and inanimate, sing Allah’s praises and celebrate His glory; animate things with consciousness and inanimate things with their mute attestation to the unity and glory of Allah by following Allah’s law (nature’s law). All Nature bears witness to His Power, wisdom and goodness. It is only human beings who reject the natural tendency of their nature and deny faith simply because they have been a modicum of choice and free will. It is only such as human beings that do not understand what every other creature understands and proclaims with joy and pride. As Allah, Oft-Forbearing, Most Forgiving told us what means:

“He is Allah, the Creator, the Evolver, the Bestower of Forms (or Colors). To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names: whatever is in the heavens and on earth, declares His Praises and Glory: and He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.” 59:24

The conceited human with all his knowledge and mental facility is nothing more than a creation. In each generation he is able to discover some of Allah’s laws of nature, and his understanding of these laws changes from generation to generation even though all are subjected to these same fixed laws. Human beings must submit to these norms and laws set by Allah Almighty who established them for all His creations whether they want to or not and whether they are able to recognize them as such or not. The brain was created to think and control all the human organs and systems; it is not possible for a human to use his eyes to think or his feet to restore his memories. The eyes and feet do what they were created to do. Similarly, the ear is for hearing; it is not possible for a human to use it to see. This principle applies to everything whether stars, planets, plants, animals, or inanimate beings. Even the unseen world of angels, demons, devils, Jinn, and spirits has fixed laws.

If each part of a human has its own purpose, such as feet for walking, the brain for thinking, eyes for seeing, ears for hearing, then for what purpose was the whole human body formed and created and placed on the face of the earth?

The True Creator, the Almighty Allah says what means:

“I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me.” 51:56

“That which is on earth we have made but as a glittering show for the earth, in order that We may test them - as to which of them are best in conduct.”
18:7

This is the real reason why Allah created us. If you can, imagine with me that you have been created for a test. Therefore, when we suffer in this life or when we watch millions of people suffering, we will understand that we have to choose the best choice, which is to be patient and not resentful or angry. We all must face our fate in this life patiently, even as we observe the world around us with horrible earthquakes, shattering hurricanes, catastrophic tsunamis, devastating wars, and deadly tornados wiping out huge swaths of land and taking thousands of lives every year.

Allah the Almighty says what means:

“Verily We have created man into toil and struggle.” 90:4

“O you who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear Allah; that you may prosper.”
3:200

“Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere.” 2:155

Therefore, when a Muslim loses his father, mother, spouse, any of his children, his best friend, his home, his job, or his business or when he faces whatever difficulties one must face, he must endure it with patience and determination. Troubles of this world such as grief, calamity, disease, poverty, or the loss of a loved one, a job, property, or even life, etc. fall on all human beings; but if you understand the purpose for which you were created, you will see this life from a different perspective.

The same problems befall atheists, believers, and agnostics alike. But Allah the Almighty told all believers what means:

“Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, ‘We believe’, and that they will not be tested? We did test those before them, and Allah will certainly know those who are true from those who are false.” 29:2-3

This faith or believe or this understanding of life will serve a man as a shock absorber, buffering him from all the tragedies or unfortunate suffering he will face. Moreover, it will protect him from most – if not all – of the despair and depression of life.

From the smallest atom or quark to the largest galaxy in the universe, everything has been created for a specific purpose and objective. Everything that is subject to His definite laws and orders is born, grows, and perishes within a certain time. As the Majesty of Allah said what means:

“...It is He who created all things, and ordered them in due proportions.”
25:2

The human tries to understand what is taking place around him. He tries his best to understand the unrevealed mysteries and secrets of Allah’s cosmic and natural laws. In every era, he discovers some of these new laws. As a result of these discoveries, gradually he has a better picture of the things around him from one generation to the next, and each generation has a better understanding than the previous generation.

Many times, the human being adopts thoughts and beliefs, and then comes a period and a generation when it becomes clear that the theories which were previously thought to be true are in fact false and wrong. As a result, the human being becomes more aware of the universe. Every new generation benefits from the research of the previous generation. They correct and refine the previous theories. The generation that arrives after them completes what it received from the previous generation. Therefore, there is no call to be narrow-minded and presume that all the theories we now believe in to be fact, because perhaps the next generation will prove many of our theories false and nullify them.

It is not possible for a mere human being with a limited lifespan to understand all the universal facts around him. It is also not possible for any generation of humans to have a complete view of the whole universe and the future of the universe because the thought process of their minds is limited. No one is able to understand the scope of the universe from the beginning to the end except He Who created it.

Allah Almighty has shown us in the Holy Qur'an that He has created human being to worship Him alone and follow His orders. He placed him on earth for a certain period of time to test him and determine whether he will pass the test or not.

Allah created instincts, desires and lust in human beings, He gave him a mind to think and differentiate between good and bad, virtue and sin. He revealed in His scripture His facultative laws that serve as a guide for humans to control these desires and lusts and to train them in the proper habits. All this is done so that humans can inhibit and cultivate and develop the earth. If mankind does not follow these facultative laws to control his desires and instincts, then those passions will destroy and not build, corrupt and not reform. Allah Almighty says what means:

“Fair in the eyes of men is the love of things they covet: Women and sons; Heaped-up hoards of gold and silver; horses branded (for blood and excellence); and (wealth of) cattle and well-tilled land. Such are the possessions of this world's life; but in nearness to Allah is the best of the goals (to return to).” 3:14

Islam doesn't fight instincts and it doesn't demean it, on the contrary, it organizes it and purifies it. It elevates it from the animalistic level and promotes it to be the center around which many of the social and psychological manners revolve. (Sayyid Qutub)

This verse confirms that humans have sexual instincts – men are attracted to women and women are attracted to men – so that humans will get married and have children and build families. Families are bound together and for that reason Allah created the law of marriage and forbidden any sexual contact outside the institution of marriage because it causes an imbalance in society.

The above verse also affirms that Allah has also created in humans the desire to possess wealth so that they will strive, toil and invest to benefit themselves and society. As Almighty says what means:

“And ye love wealth with inordinate love!” 89:20

“It is He Who produces gardens, with trellises and without, and dates, and tills with produce of all kinds, and olives and pomegranates, similar (in kind) and different (in variety): eat of their fruit in their season, but render the dues that are proper on the day that the harvest is gathered. But waste not by excess: for Allah loves not the wasters.

“Of the cattle are some for burden and some for meat: eat what Allah has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Satan: for he is to you an avowed enemy.” 6:141-142

Therefore, He has established laws that govern this desire. As Allah the Most Exalted says what means:

“And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that you may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people’s property.” 2:188

Allah has forbidden theft of money, taking of interest on loans (usury), monopolization of goods, and gambling in order that the rich do not oppress the poor and that the rich do not get richer at the expense of the poor because all of that causes imbalance in human society.

Islam did not tell us having wealth or earning a living through business is evil, rather it is a form for worshipping if done within the sphere of laws sent by Allah Almighty. A human being comes closer to Allah Almighty through business because there are benefits to others if it is conducted according to the laws of economics sent by Allah Almighty.

Allah has created the desire to own wealth through amassing livestock or farm lands as stated in the previous verse (3:14). This happens so society can be self-sufficient. Those who like to amass sheep and cattle and works hard will provide meat for the society. Those who prefer to have farms and plantations will provide food. The society as a whole benefits from the efforts of each.

Following the laws and commands sent by Allah, the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, prevents any disturbance and inappropriate distribution of wealth in societies; likewise it prevents monopolization and oppression and guarantees the rights of the poor are on par with those of the rich.

Allah, the Exalted and Ever-Majestic says what means:

“Is it they who would portion out the Mercy of your Lord? It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in the life of this world: and We raise some of them above others in ranks, so that some may command work from others. But the Mercy of your Lord is better than the (wealth) which they amass.” 43:32

“Allah has bestowed His gifts of sustenance more freely on some of you than on others” 16:41

If human beings oppose Allah’s fixed laws that were revealed in the Holy Qur’an and reject Allah’s guidance to moderate and control their instincts, it will result in the destruction of society as is happening currently in Western societies; the rich get richer and the poor poorer. The number of senior citizens increases compared to those of young people who turn away from marriage and engage in common law marriage. The divorce rate increases and the marriage rate decreases. The government encourages people to engage in homosexuality by allowing same sex marriage and abortion. As a result, the business of child trafficking increases with higher demand for adoption as per the theory of supply and demand. All of these are side effects of a society’s disregard for Allah’s law.

Allah Almighty did not define the rules of Islamic life as interpreted by some Christian priests who claim that having sex within marriage is a dirty thing. Rather for us, as long as it is done strictly as per the laws of Allah Almighty, it is a form of worshipping; it would be a sin and disobedience if it were committed outside of marriage. This is in stark contrast to the teachings of Saint Paul who changed the religion of Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, and forbade marriage of priests and forbade divorce. It is not possible that Allah Almighty created sexual desire in human beings and then forbade it to be exercised. It is natural part of human desire; therefore when human beings violated this law, sex scandals increased and spread among the priests and nuns, and homosexuality spread even in the Vatican, their holy city.

The human being was created by Allah Almighty in order to worship Him alone and in the manner that He has ordered and not in any way that the human being desires.

There is a phenomenon that has become widespread in the West and East alike after peoples there strayed from the true religion; namely, that of practicing rituals, movements, actions, or reflections such as yoga, some forms of dance, or sitting and meditating. People do this thinking they will achieve happiness through these acts, that the daily sufferings of life will ease for them, and that they will draw closer to Allah.

The explanation for this is that these physical practices (like running, dancing, sitting quietly, etc.) enact biological and physiological changes in the human body resulting in some mental rest. But this is not true happiness because it only takes away the biological effects resulting from the activity, whether it be general exercise, physical workouts, mental workouts, leisure activities, journeys, travel, parties, or anything of the sort.

That is not to devalue physical and mental exercise or leisure activities; but even though such activities are supplemental to psychological rest, that does not bear on true happiness or drawing near to Allah. One does not achieve that except through worshipping Allah: submitting to Him and worshipping Him is simply doing what He wants, how He wants, when He wants. This does not mean, as some believe, that it

comes through experience or human effort; rather it is an inspiration from Allah through His messengers and prophets and Holy Scriptures.

Any happiness resulting from activities other than worshipping Allah is a fleeting, ephemeral, temporary happiness. Some people spend their whole lives chasing after one phantom happiness after another and he dies thinking he has been happy in this life.

Allah created human beings to develop the earth by following laws and means that do not contravene divine laws. This cannot happen unless the natural human desires and lusts are controlled and restrained by Allah's definite laws.

Allah Almighty has shown us that life – despite its beauty – from birth to death is just the first stage of our journey. Allah Almighty created us to test us and determine whether we can control these desires and lusts through the use of our minds and applying divine laws or deny all these laws and commands and do as we wish, following our desires and lusts.

If a man follows these laws and commands, society will be a source of happiness for him, giving him internal satisfaction and contentment. Whether he is poor or rich, whether he is a famous businessman or an unknown person, whether he lives in a remote village, city, island, forest, a palace or spends all his life in solitary confinement, happiness will be in his heart. When the first stage of the life journey is completed upon his death, he will move to the second stage of the journey – a new life with new characteristics.

This stage of life called 'Barzakh' lasts only for a relatively short time compared to eternity after Judgment Day, and then he will move to the next stage.

“But those who reject Faith and belie Our Signs, they shall be companions of the Fire; they shall abide therein (forever).” 2:39

“But those who have faith and work righteousness, they are companions of the Garden: Therein shall they abide (forever).” 2:82

At this stage on Resurrection Day, the dead body will be recovered and the soul will rejoin the body. It is a stage of accountability and judgment where everybody is judged for what they did during the first stage of life. After this, he moves to the eternal stage where there is no death. This eternal life is either eternal pleasure in Paradise or eternal damnation in Hell.

My Death – Moment by Moment – And then My New Life

My Happiest Moment

If you were a millionaire or even a billionaire, you would not necessarily be happy because when you die you will lose it all. Even if you did not die, you would be preoccupied with preserving your wealth and protecting and investing it and would be saddened by any little part of it that you lose. If you were that wealthy, many would try to befriend you but these friends would not love you for your morals or intelligence in amassing such a sum of money. It would not be a sincere regard, rather a hypocritical and ingratiating infatuation with you for your money's sake.

In this world, with all that is in it, human beings do not have cause to be sad if they lose something from it; likewise they do not have cause to be happy if they obtain or earn anything from it because happiness does not last and sadness bequeaths depression.

The Mujahid has true happiness. It is with him in his spirit and his heart, in his belief and submission to Allah whether he lives or dies as a poor man or a wealthy one, whether he is a prisoner or free, whether he is a slave or a prince. His happiness does not leave him whether he is being water-boarded, beaten, or deprived of sleep or food or clothes. His happiness comes from worshiping his Lord, following His commands, remembering Him, thanking and praising Him in every time and situation. If he loves money, it is only to the extent that it helps him achieve that goal.

The greatest happiness and most intense joy will come when I die and my soul leaves my body to meet my Lord while I remain steadfast in my covenant with the religion of Islam, professing the unity of Allah and never placing anything else on par with Him in my worship. I worship Him as He has ordered me to and as He desires to be worshiped. Therefore, if I die in my prison while I am in this state or am executed or killed, it will be the happiest moment for me.

Death and the Minor Death

I will attempt to describe some of my beliefs about what will befall me at the moment of my death and the everlasting life that will follow according to the beliefs of all Muslims based on the teachings and sayings of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the Hadeeth and the sayings of Muslim scholars and their views on death and what happens after death.

First of all, you must know that there is physical or biological definition of death and a metaphysical one. The biological definition of death involves the death of brain cells or the cessation of the heartbeat while the metaphysical definition is the soul's departure from the body. In Islam, sleep is seen as the brother of death and called "the little death" because the spirit separates from the body during sleep but the body stays alive biologically speaking. The heart continues to beat, the brain cells stay alive, and all members of the body continue working because the soul's separation from the body is only temporary; it is still

connected to the body even while separated from it. The soul leaves the body temporarily at death as well, but this leads to biological and physical death. As the Creator of mankind, the Lord Most High says about the soul leaving the body during sleep what means:

“It is He Who takes your souls by night.” 6:60

“It is Allah that takes away the souls at the time of their death and those that die not (He takes) during their sleep those on whom He has passed the decree of death. He keeps back (From returning to life) but the rest He sends (to their bodies) for a term appointed. Verily in this are signs for a people who think deeply.” 39:42

That is why a sleeper sometimes sees things happening in distant places in his sleep; then he awakes and says, “I saw such and such” and it turns out that what he saw actually happened.

The strange thing is that when I was imprisoned in one of the black sites and did not know which country I was in or even which continent and during that time, I never saw the sun or the moon, I dreamt of things that were happening around the world. While I was deprived of all audio and visual media, I dreamed of how Allah punished the southern U.S. and how Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama were wiped off the map of America. When I left that black site after one year and read some old news, I found out that it was Hurricane Katrina that destroyed the Gulf Coast in August of 2005. It was exactly the same period that I dreamt before one year.

What is remarkable about the dream is that it contains symbols and secrets that affect the soul and body. For example, in this dream it was as if Allah wanted to calm my spirit and heart while my body was being subjected to torture – psychological and physical duress, cold water and water boarding – on a daily basis. It was as if Allah was saying to me in my sleep, “My slave, don’t be sad for I will truly drown them. If they simulate drowning you, I will inundate them with water from the skies. If they pour water on you from a bottle or a hose, I will send waves from the sea upon them and drown them all, just as they are killing your brothers and sisters in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places. I will kill them on the Gulf Coast of America, just as they are killing you on the coast of Iraq on the Arabian Gulf.”

Allah reveals facts about events that are happening thousands of miles away to your soul during sleep. It would be impossible for a person in my situation who could not see the sun, moon, or stars, and was kept away underground and all the guards were covered from head to toe and were not allowed to talk to you or even to say hello, yes or no, to know what was happening in the world; but Allah is the Creator of humankind, his flesh and blood, spirit, sleep, wakefulness, death and life, the Omnipotent One. My enemies may try with all their might and means to isolate me from the outside world; but, as the Muslim

believes, there can be no obstacle to what Allah gives, and nothing is given which He does not will. For the captor owns and controls my body, but he does not own or control my spirit.

I also dreamt that the Emirati students were throwing a head of a goat or sheep into a hot spring and the head would rise up and they would throw it in again and again. Five years later, I learned through the ICRC that the head of UAE Sheikh Zayed had died around the same time that I dreamt about him and the ICRC told me that school students had lined all the way to the cemetery for his funeral.

Sometimes souls take wing during sleep and get acquainted with events and incidents that will happen in the future or that are happening now in faraway lands. Sometimes souls meet with the spirits of the dead when the sleeper dreams he is talking with people who have passed away. However, Sharia scholars differ¹ about whether the soul departs the body completely during sleep and then returns to it or whether the soul stretches for millions of miles or even light years and then returns to its original state, because human beings might see things very far away during sleep – like heaven and hell – and in general, when the soul departs the body it is during sleep or death. All this is based upon what I have read, but I think the soul also departs the body during an unconscious state because that falls under the status of sleeping. Allah knows best.

In any case, Allah has not fully revealed the reality of spirits to mankind so much of what is known about it is based on what the scholars have understood and discerned and their sayings contain a mix of facts and mistakes. However, all that pertains to spirits and the life of spirits also pertains to metaphysical science and the metaphysical or unseen world and the reality of this world is known only to Allah; everything that pertains to the body belongs to the physical world which is easy for mankind through experience, observation and testing to reach the reality of its specific rule.

From Phase to Phase

Upon death, the soul separates from the body for the metaphysical world that we cannot see. This leads to the death of brain cells and the cessation of the heartbeat because of the natural, cosmic, and causal laws created by Allah to govern this life. When this happens, the human being is divided into two parts: the living being and the dead being. The living being is the spirit that separates from the body. In the section that follows, we will explain the nature of the spirit's life after its separation from the body. The dead being is the human body, which – upon the soul's separation from it – is transformed to a lifeless, motionless corpse at the moment of death. This corpse will continue its journey according to cosmic law and decompose and dissolve, returning to the basic and essential material from which Allah created it – dust – and there are two exceptions for this cosmic law which the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us the first one is that bodies of the messengers of Allah will never decompose or dissolve, and the second exception is that one small part in each human body will never dissolve or decompose: the “*ajabu athanab*”, or coccyx. The whole body will be rebuilt and recovered from this one part in the next phase.

¹ Ar-Roh by Ibn Al-Qayyam Al-Jozeyya

In a number of prophetic Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) mentioned that the “ajabu athanab” is a small bone as small as a mustard seed at the base of the spinal column. It is a remnant of the primary strand from which the human body was created in the embryonic stage, and it remains after his death and even after the decomposition of his body. It is this coccyx from which man will be brought back to life on the Day of Resurrection. A group of Chinese scientists proved in some of their laboratory experiments that it is impossible for this part, the “ajabu athanab” or the end part of the coccyx, to totally perish. They tried dissolving it chemically in the strongest acids, burning it, pounding it, and subjecting it to various types of radiation. This definitely proves that the Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) is true although it precedes scientific experiments by 1400 years.

As we explained, the soul’s separation from the body signals that the last page in life has been turned and that the first phase of human life has ended. This phase is the stage of testing which extends from birth to death and is governed by the natural and cosmic laws Allah created for all His created beings. Then a new life begins: barzakh. Barzakh means ‘partition’ or ‘barrier’. Thus the barzakh is an intermediate realm separating this world and the world hereafter from the time to death until the Resurrection. It is a period of waiting between the testing and trial phase and the judgment and reckoning phase. Afterwards comes the phase of reward and punishment, or heaven and hell. It is the last stage of human life – eternal life with no death.

There are Sharia laws that deal with how a corpse is to be handled after death, such as cleansing and washing it, perfuming it, dressing it in a white shroud, and then burying it in the earth. Sharia law does not allow for a body to be burned or desecrated. Neither does Sharia law allow for wasting money on the dead body such as erecting high, marble gravestones or purchasing expensive shrouds or doing as Western culture does, spending money on a new suit or a shroud for the dead or purchasing land for the grave. In Muslim countries, the cemetery is public land for all – black and white, men and women – and the government shall keep it open to the public. This is because spending money for something that will decompose and dissolve is a waste of money and poor people are much more deserving of that money than corpses. Sharia law also calls for people to be respected after death, so dead bodies are just as sacred as live people and it is not permitted to trample their graves or walk over them. As for the soul, Sharia law prescribes prayer and supplication for it after death.

Barzakh is the phase dealing with the spirit. Atheists do not believe in it because it is part of the metaphysical, unseen world, which has its own laws that cannot be comprehended by the human brain. These laws are mentioned in the revelation Allah sent to his prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (PBUT). Only the believers believe it by their faith which never contradicts their mind and logic. No one understands the spirit world except Allah. As the Most High says what means:

“They ask you concerning the spirit. Say: ‘The spirit (cometh) by command of my Lord, and of knowledge you are given but a little.’” 17:85

For that reason the atheists do not believe in what happens in this world after death, but Allah Most High speaks to them, saying what means:

“Say: ‘The truth is from your Lord: let him who will believe, and let him who will reject (it).’” 18:29

After the barzakh phase is the phase of reckoning and judgment. This phase will come after the hour of reckoning, meaning the barzakh phase extends from the moment of death until Judgment Day. On the day of reckoning, Allah will cause cosmic changes to the sun, moon, and earth. Allah the Most High speaks to the unbelievers about Judgment Day, saying what means:

“I do call to witness the Resurrection Day;

“And I do call to witness the self-reproaching spirit: (Eschew Evil).

“Does man think that We cannot assemble his bones?

“Nay, We are able to put together in perfect order the very tips of his fingers.

“But man wishes to do wrong (even) in the time in front of him.

“He questions: ‘When is the Day of Resurrection?’

“At length, when the sight is dazed,

“And the moon is buried in darkness,

“And the sun and moon are joined together,

“That Day will Man say: ‘Where is the refuge?’

“By no means! No place of safety!

“Before your Lord (alone), that Day will be the place of rest.

“That Day will Man be told (all) that he put forward, and all that he put back.

“Nay, man will be evidence against himself, even though he were to put up his excuses.” 75:1-15

Easy Death and Hard Death

Maybe these two words “hard” and “easy” applied to death will be misunderstood because hard death is not related to the cause of death such as a man who was eaten by lions, smashed by a truck or totally burned. Even the worst cause of death can be considered as easy death, and even the man who dies in his bed while he is asleep and never wakes up can be considered a hard death. There is a difference between the death of a disbeliever and the death of a believer, whatever the cause of death may have been. When an infidel who does not believe in Allah or His prophets dies, Allah will snatch his soul from his body tortuously, as Almighty Allah said which means:

“By the (angels) who tear out (the souls of the wicked) with violence.” 79:1

A believer’s soul, on the other hand, will be removed gently and easily upon his death.

“(Namely) those whose lives the angels take in a state of purity, saying (to them), ‘Peace be on you; enter ye the Garden, because of (the good) which ye did (in the world).’” 16:32

But the fact is that death will be hard in some level for all human beings, even for His prophets and messengers.

At the Time of Death and Afterwards

I will pray as the prophet Joseph (PBUH) prayed:

“O the (Only) Creator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Protector in this world and in the Hereafter. Cause me to die as one submitting to Your will (as a Muslim), and join me with the righteous.” 12:101

So if Allah bestows on me the honor of dying on the straight path as a Muslim submitting to His will, worshipping Him alone without peer or putting any other god on par with Him, believing that Muhammad

is His slave and Messenger, and believing in all His previous Messengers such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and all the others (PBUT); then I will die as a believer and my death will be easy and not hard. How easy death will be?

When they place me in the Death or Gas Chamber or in the electric chair or tie the noose around my neck or put me in front of a firing squad and I am about to go forward into the Next World, then Allah will send the Angel of Death to me to grasp my soul and take it from my body. There will be angels of Paradise to prepare my soul to leave my body and other angels with them to welcome my spirit. The faces of the angels will be beautiful with faces bright as the sun; they will sit around me in throngs stretching as far as the eye can see. The Angel of Death will come and sit at my head, and at the moment when Allah decrees my death – whether it be a natural death by heart attack or death by firing squad, gas chamber, electric chair, or lethal injection – he will say to my soul: “Good soul! Come out to the forgiveness and pleasure of Allah!”

Then my soul will emerge from my body as smoothly as a drop of water flows from a water skin, gently and easily. At this moment if the doctors examine my body to determine that I am dead, they will find that my heart has stopped completely and that I have departed this life; they will see a motionless dead body in front of them. People around me will not see or hear what I see and hear around me – the angels and the metaphysical world that the living cannot see or hear, as the man who was sitting in front of two sleepers can't see what they are dreaming (*as we refer under Empiricists on pages 9-10). And as Allah Almighty said which means:

“Nor are alike those that are living and those that are dead. Allah can make any that He wills to hear; but you cannot make hear those who are in graves (dead).” 35:22

At this moment I will turn into another being. I will be able to see everything and my sight will be sharpened. As the Almighty, the Most High says what means:

“And the stupor of death will bring Truth (before his eyes): ‘This was the thing which you were trying to escape!’” 50:19

“(It will be said:) ‘You were heedless of this; now have We removed your veil, and sharp is your sight this Day!’” 50:22

At the moment of death when just my soul will depart my body, I will see what I believed in days past – the facts at which the disbelievers and atheists laughed. At this moment, my sight will be sharpened to

the spiritual world, for death is the gateway between this world and the unseen world. Once he has passed through that gateway, a man will realize how the things he once neglected or looked upon as farfetched are actually realities and the things that seemed unbelievable have really come to pass. At the moment of death, both the good and the evil will realize the Truth in all its intensity. Those who believed that Jesus (PBUH) is God will realize that Jesus never claimed to be God or the Son of God or part of God. Those who worship idols or Buddha or who believe in Karma or the Veda or the Five K's will realize their beliefs are not real; there is no truth or reality to them; no room or place for them in this new life. They were given enough time before death to think and find the real, true God, but they failed and wasted their time by following their forefathers' thoughts or jumping from one belief to another, away from Allah's true guidance.

At the moment of death, when the Angel of Death says to my soul, "Come out," and my soul has departed my body, he will take hold of my soul; and when he has grasped it, the other angels do not leave it in his hand for even the twinkling of an eye. They take it and place it in a perfumed shroud and fragrance issues from it like the sweetest scent of musk found on the face of the earth. The angels will treat all believers in the same way.

Then they will bear my soul upwards, and whenever they take it past a company of angels on the ascent from one heaven to the upper ones, the angels will ask of the sweet scent, "Who is this good soul?" And the angels who are bearing my soul will reply, "Khalid, son of Shaikh Mohammad, the Mujahid Mukhtar Al-Balushi, Abu Hamza Al-Balushi," using the best names by which good people used to call me in this life.

They will not stop ascending until they reach the lowest heaven, above which are many other heavens, and they will ask for the gate to be opened for my soul. It will be opened and the angels who are near Allah from each of the heavens will accompany my soul to the subsequent heaven until my soul reaches Paradise where Allah the Great is. Allah, the Mighty and Majestic will say, "Register the book of My slave in Illiyun² and take him back to the earth. I created mankind from it and I return them to it and I will bring them forth from it again." This will happen only if I die as previously described.

After Allah the Almighty orders the angels to return my soul to the earth, my soul will return to my body in the grave.

As I mentioned before, when we talk about "Barzakh" we are talking about the metaphysical unseen world so physical laws cannot be used to interpret any events that happen in it. Only believers having faith in the Almighty Allah and His words and promises will believe that nothing is impossible for Him. The disbelievers do not believe in Him or in the existence of a soul or in a life hereafter. As Allah the Almighty says which means:

"The Unbelievers think that they will not be raised up (for Judgment). Say: 'Yea, by my Lord, Ye shall surely be raised up: then shall ye be told (the truth) of all that ye did. And that is easy for Allah.'" 64:7

² 'Illiyun' means "High places where is kept the Register of the righteous."

“Woe to man! What has made him reject Allah;
“From what stuff has He created him?
“From a sperm-drop: He has created him, and then moulds him in due proportions;
“Then He makes His path smooth for him;
“Then He causes him to die, and puts him in his grave;
“Then, when it is His will, He will raise him up (again).” 80:17-22

After my soul returns to my body, two angels named Munkar and Nakir will come to me. They will make me sit up and will begin the task of interrogating me. The first question will be, “Who is your Lord?” I will reply, “My Lord is Allah.” They will ask, “What is your religion?” I will reply, “My religion is Islam.” They will ask, “Who is this man who was sent among you?” I will reply, “The Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (PBUH).” They will ask, “How did you come to know these things?” I will reply, “I read the book of Allah (the Qur’an), believed it, and declared it to be true.”

Then a voice from on high, the voice of Allah, will declare, “My slave has spoken the truth, so spread out carpets from the Garden for him! Open a gate in the Garden for him!” Then some of its fragrance and perfume will come to me. My grave will be expanded for me as far as the eye can see and a man with a beautiful garment and a fragrant scent will come to me and say, “Rejoice in what delights you for this is the day which you were promised.” I will ask, “Who are you? Yours is a face which indicates good.” He will reply, “I am your good deeds.” Then I will say, “O Lord, let the Last Hour come soon so that I may rejoin my family and my property!” At this moment, the believer has passed his test and will wish to move quickly to the next phase, but it will not happen yet.

Thereafter, a window will be opened towards Hell and I will look at Hell and find that burning flames are eating each other. After that, I will be told how Allah saved me from the torment of the fire. Then a window will be opened which will bring Paradise to sight and I will look at Paradise. Thereupon, I will be told that this Paradise is my abode because I remained alive in faith and died in the same faith, and, Allah willing, I will be raised from the grave on the Day of Resurrection in the same faith.

Each believer, whether man or woman, will face the same process from the moment of death when the Angel of Death will come to take his or her soul. When Allah decrees to His slave to die, no one can save him or help him, as the Almighty Allah says which means:

“Then why do ye not (intervene) when (the soul of the dying man) reaches the throat,

“And ye the while (sit) looking on,
“But We are nearer to him than ye, and yet see not.
“Then why do ye not – if you are exempt from (future) account –
“Call back the soul, if ye are true (in the claim of independence)?
“Thus, then, if he be of those Nearest to Allah,
“(There is for him) Rest and Satisfaction, and a Garden of Delights.
“And if he be of the Companions of the Right Hand,
“(For him is the salutation), ‘Peace be unto you,’ from the Companions of
the Right Hand.
“And if he be of those who treat (Truth) as Falsehood, who go wrong,
“For him is Entertainment with Boiling Water
“And burning in Hell-Fire.
“Verily, this is the Very Truth and Certainty.
“So celebrate with praises the name of your Lord, the Supreme.” 56:83-96

The Horrific Death of the Unbeliever

Is the punishment of the grave or its blessing enacted upon the body or the soul after death? What if the body is cremated and the ashes dispersed into the sea? The soul receives the punishment or the reward even if the body evaporates or disintegrates. Just as in the previous example of the two men’s dreams, one happily asleep with his wife, the other chased by a ghoul. The fact is that He who has created the soul and the body is capable of collecting the ashes that have been spread and, just as well, he is capable of destroying this earth and recreating it once more.

The hard death will be the fate of the unbeliever. When an unbeliever is about to depart from this world and go forward into the Next World, angels with black faces descend from the heavens, carrying rough haircloth and sit around him in throngs stretching as far as the eye can see. Then the Angel of Death comes and sits at his head and says, “Evil Soul! Come out to the wrath and anger of Allah!” Then, his soul divides up in his body and it is dragged out like a skewer is pulled out of wet wool. Then, the angel takes hold of it. When he has grasped it, the other angels do not leave it in his hand even for the twinkling

of an eye. They take it and wrap it in the rough haircloth and a stench comes out of it like the worst stench of a corpse on the face of the earth³

Then, the angels take the soul of the disbeliever up and whenever they take it past a company of angels, they ask, “Who is this foul soul?” and the angels with the soul reply, “So-and-so, the son of so-and-so”, using the worst names by which people used to call him in this world. They bring him to the lowest heaven and ask for the gate to be opened for him. It does not get opened. As the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) recited what means:

“The gates of heaven will not be opened to them nor will they enter the Garden until the camel passes through the eye of the needle.” 7:40

Then, Allah The Mighty and Majestic, will say, “Register his book in Sijjin⁴ in the lowest earth.” Then his soul is flung down. As the Prophet (PBUH) recited what means:

“Whoever associates anything with Allah, it is as though he has fallen from heaven and the birds snatch him away or the wind sweeps him headlong into a place far away.” 22:31

Then the disbeliever’s soul is returned to his body and two angels come and say to him, “Who is your Lord? He replies, “Alas! I do not know!” Then a voice calls from on high, “My slave has lied! So spread out carpets from the Fire for him and open a gate to the Fire for him!” Then, a hot blast from it comes to him, his grave is made so narrow for him that his ribs are pressed together, and a man with a hideous face and clothing and a foul odor comes to him and says, “Grieve on account of what has brought you disgrace, for this is the day you were promised.” He asks, “Who are you? Yours is a face which indicates evil.” He replies, “I am your evil actions.” Then he says, “O Lord! Do not let the Last Hour come.”

In case the dead person is a hypocrite (or an unbeliever), he tells the angels Munkar and Nakir, “I said what I heard others saying; I know nothing more than that.” The angels then say, “We were sure that he would make such a reply.” Thereafter, the earth is asked to squeeze him. The earth carries out the order and he suffers torment inside the grave till he is raised from the grave on the Day of Resurrection.”

³ Mishkaat Al-Masabih

⁴ Derived from the word Sijn, meaning prison - here it means straitened circumstances in which the disbeliever will be in the lowest earth.

The unbelieving person, when made to sit, looks embarrassed in his grave. He is then asked, “Which religion did you follow?” He replies, “I don’t know.” Thereafter he is asked about Muhammad the Messenger of Allah (PBUH): “Who is he?” He replies, “I have to say what others have said.”

Following this, he is shown Paradise and he looks at the Blessings and Favors of Almighty Allah. After that, he is told, “You are deprived of all of these because of your disobedience to Allah.” Thereafter, a window towards Hell is opened and when he sees terrifying flames eating each other, he is told, “This is your abode, because you lived in doubt, died in doubt and Allah Willing, you will be raised from your grave in the same belief.”

Bara bin ‘Azib (may Allah be pleased with him) reports that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: “When the unbeliever replies, “Alas! I don’t know,” a proclaimer calls from heaven, “He has told a lie; spread fire under him and make him wear garments of fire, and open a door of Hell.” His grave is narrowed and he is squeezed. Thereafter, a blind and deaf tormentor is appointed with an iron mace. It is so heavy that if a mountain is struck with it, it will turn into dust. The person becomes dust at one stroke and is again restored to the former state.

The torment of the disbeliever starts immediately after death. Even if the body is cremated and his ashes dispersed into the wind or sea, his soul will never escape from the accounting. The ripping out of the soul, the desperate crying unheard by men, the humiliation of the angels’ insults, the spread of fire under him, the regret of seeing his place in Paradise if he had testified that no one has any right to be worshipped but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; that he believes in His angels and all His Messengers such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus (PBUT); that he believes in His revealed books (the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur’an); that he believes in the Day of Resurrection; and that he believes in Divine Preordainments – that whatever Allah has ordained must come to pass.

The Human Cycle

The Pre-Birth Phase (First Death)

Before our birth we were dead in the loins of our fathers or we were part of the DNA, chromosomes, and genes of our mothers and fathers. Our original material or substance existed, but without life it was equivalent to death; therefore, some scholars call it the “first death”.

The First Life Phase (Testing and Trials)

After 120 days of the pregnancy Allah sends an Angel who will breathe the spirit into the fetus, turning from blood and flesh to a living human being. By birth we will enter our long journey. This journey will be the first life phase, the phase of testing and trials, and it will end in death when our spirits depart our bodies.

The Barzakh Phase

Barzakh is an Arabic word meaning, ‘partition, bar, or barrier; the place or state in which people [their souls] will be after death and before the final judgment.’ After death our bodies will decompose and vanish but our spirit will be blessed or punished based upon the result of the first life phase. Our bodies will waste away and perish or decay except the coccyx (or a piece of it), a small bone as small as a mustard seed at the base of the spinal column; and it is from that bone that Allah will reconstruct the whole body in the Resurrection Phase.

This limbo phase of Barzakh will end at the Resurrection Phase.

The Pre-Cosmic Destruction Phase

In this phase, Allah Almighty will cause many cosmic changes before the final destruction of the Earth and heavens, such as the sun rising from the West instead of East and also great earthquakes. These changes are mentioned in the Holy Quran and in the Hadeeth (the sayings of the Prophet), but as we mentioned, the spirits of the dead in the Barzakh phase will never perish. Whatever happens in this phase will apply to the last generation to live on earth before everything is destroyed. There are some verses from the Quran explaining some of these events. As Allah Almighty said what means:

“O mankind! Fear your Lord! For the convulsion of the Hour (of Judgment) will be a thing terrible!” 22:1

“Then when the stars become dim;

“When the heaven is cleft asunder;

“When the mountains are scattered (to the winds) as dust

“And when the messengers are (all) appointed a time (to collect);

“For what Day are these (portents) deferred?

“For the Day of Sorting out.” 77:8-13

“At length, when the sight is dazed,

“And the moon is buried in darkness.

“And the sun and moon are joined together,

“That Day will Man say: ‘Where is the refuge?’” 75:7-10

“When the sun (with its spacious light) is folded up;

“When the stars fall, losing their lustre;

“When the mountains vanish (like a mirage);

“When the she-camels, ten months with young, are left untended;

“When the wild beasts are herded together (in the human habitations);

“When the oceans boil over with a swell;

“When the souls are sorted out, (being joined, like with like);

“When the female (infant), buried alive, is questioned -

“For what crime she was killed;

“When the scrolls are laid open;

“When the world on High is unveiled;

“When the Blazing Fire is kindled to fierce heat;

“And when the Garden is brought near;-

“(Then) shall each soul know what it has put forward.” 81:1-14

The signs of the Day of Judgment:

Appearance of the Anti-Christ and the Second Coming of Jesus

In the narrative of the appearance of the Anti-Christ (Al-Dajjal) and the second coming of Jesus, we find details about signs of the Day of Resurrection, the appearance of Dajjal, the coming of the Prophet Jesus the son of Mary, and the appearance of the Gog and Magog peoples. We also find a description of all the important events that will happen during these times as explained in the following Hadith:

“Dajjal will be a young man with very curly hair with one blind eye protruding. I compare his appearance to that of Al-‘Uzza bin Qatan. He who amongst you survives to see him, should recite over him the opening verses of Surat Al-Kahaf (1-8). He will appear on the road between Syria and Iraq and will spread mischief right and left. O slaves of Allah! Remain adhered to the truth.” We asked: “O Messenger of Allah! How long will he stay on earth?” He said, “For forty days. One day will be like a year, one day like a month, one day like a week and the rest of the days will be like your days.” We said: “O Messenger of Allah! Will one day’s prayer suffice for the prayer of that day which will be equal to one year?” Thereupon he said, “No, but you must make an estimate of time and then offer prayer.” We said: “O Messenger of Allah! How quickly will he walk upon earth?” Thereupon he said, “Like a cloud driven by the wind. He will come to the people and call them to his obedience and they will affirm their faith in him and respond to him. He will then give a command to the sky and it will send its rain upon the

earth and it will cause vegetation to grow. Then in the evening their pasturing animals will come to them with their humps very high and their udders full of milk and their flanks stretched. He will then come to another people and invite them, but they will reject him and he will leave them, in barren lands and without any goods or belongings! He will then walk through the wasteland and say to it: 'Bring forth your treasures,' and the treasures will come out and follow him like swarms of bees. He will then call a person brimming with youth and strike him with the sword and cut him into two pieces and place these pieces at a distance, as far as that between an archer and his target. He will then call that young man and he will come forward, laughing, his face gleaming with joy; and it will be at this very time that Allah will send Jesus, son of Mary, who will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus, wearing two garments lightly dyed and placing his hands on the wings of two angels. When he lowers his head, there will fall drops of water from it, and when he raises it up, drops like pearls will scatter from it. Every disbeliever who smells the odor from him will die and his odor will reach as far as he is able to see. He will then search for Dajjal until he catches hold of him at the gate of Ludd, a village near Jerusalem, and kills him. Then the people whom Allah has protected will come to Jesus, son of Mary, and he will wipe their faces and will inform them of their ranks in Paradise and it will be under such conditions that Allah will reveal to Jesus these words: 'I have brought forth from amongst my slaves such people against whom none will be able to fight, so take these people safely to the mountain.' And then Allah will send Ya'juj and Ma'juj (the Gog and Magog peoples) and they will swarm down from every slope. The first of them will pass the Lake Tabariyah, near the Dead Sea in Palestine, and drink all its water. And when the last of them passes, he will say: 'There was once water there.' The prophet Jesus and his companions will then be so hard-pressed that the head of an ox will be dearer to them than one hundred dinars; and Jesus, along with his companions, will make supplication to Allah, Who will send insects which will attack their the necks of the Ya'juj and Ma'juj until they all perish as one. The prophet Jesus and his companions will then come down and they will not find on earth as much

as a single span not filled with their corpses and their stench. The prophet Jesus and his companions will then again beseech Allah, Who will send birds with necks like those of Bactrian camels, and they will carry them and throw them where Allah desires. Then Allah will send down rain which will spare no house in the city or in the countryside. It will wash away the earth until it appears like a mirror. Then the earth will be told to bring forth its fruit and restore its blessings; and as a result of this, there will grow such a large pomegranate that a group of people will eat from it and seek shelter under its skin. Milk will be so blessed that the milk of one she-camel will suffice for a large company and the cow will give so much milk that it will suffice for a whole tribe. The sheep will give so much milk that the whole family will be able to drink of it, and at that time Allah will send a pleasant wind which will soothe people even under their arms, and will take the life of every Muslim and true believer; and only the wicked will survive. They will commit adultery in public likes asses and the Last Day will come to them.”

(Narrated by Muslim)

The Cosmic Destruction Phase

The whole picture is painted to indicate that which cannot be adequately described in words and which indeed our human faculties with their present limited powers are not ready to comprehend. But any wise astronomer looking through his telescope at a black hole and studying all the Quranic verses related to astronomy will realize that these words and verses without any doubt came from the Lord of the Universe to explain how this universe was created and how it will end.

“See they not how Allah originates creation, then repeats it: truly that is easy for Allah.

Say: ‘Travel through the earth and see how Allah did originate creation; so will Allah produce a later creation: for Allah has power over all things.

‘He punishes whom He pleases, and He grants Mercy to whom He pleases, and towards Him are you turned.

‘Not on earth nor in heaven will you be able (fleeing) to frustrate (his Plan), nor have you, besides Allah, any protector or helper.’” 29:19-22

When Allah Almighty pleases to end this worldly life He will command the Angel of the Trumpet, Israfeel, to blow, and everything in the heaven and earth will perish except whom Allah wills. As Almighty Allah said what means:

“Then, when one blast is sounded on the Trumpet,

“And the earth is moved, and its mountains, and they are crushed to powder at one stroke,

“On that Day shall the (Great) Event come to pass.

“And the sky will be rent asunder, for it will that Day be flimsy.” 69:13-16

With the first blowing of the trumpet, the whole world will cease to be in its current form in the aspect we see now; there will be a new heaven and a new earth. As Almighty Allah said what means:

“The Day that We roll up the heavens like a scroll rolled up for books (completed), even as We produced the first creation, so shall We produce a new one: a promise We have undertaken: truly shall We fulfill it.” 21:104

The universe as we know it will be folded up like a scroll of parchment for it will have done its work. If Allah Almighty created the whole universe from nothing, he can create an entirely new heaven and earth on a plane of which we can form no conception in our present life. And Allah will do so, for that is His promise. He created the universe and human beings for a certain purpose and for a limited span.

The Resurrection Phase

There will be a new shape of a new heaven and a new earth.

“One day the earth will be changed to a different earth, and so will be the heavens, and (men) will be marshaled forth, before Allah, the One, the Irresistible.” 14:48

Allah will send rain and from this rain all Allah’s creatures since the creation of the universe will be resurrected.

“And among His Signs in this: you see the earth barren and desolate; but when We send down rain to it, it is stirred to life and yields increase. Truly, He Who gives life to the (dead) earth can surely give life to (men) who are dead. For He has power over all things.” 41:39

Then the second blowing of the trumpet will occur. As Allah Almighty describes the two blasts of the trumpet:

“The Trumpet will (just) be sounded, when all that are in the heavens and on earth will swoon, except such as it will please Allah (to exempt). Then will a second one be sounded, when, behold, they will be standing and looking on!” 39:68

With the second blowing of the trumpet all dead beings – human, Jinn, or animal – will stand in a new world on a new earth without mountains or valleys, no dips or swells, no places of concealment. All will be straight and level without corners, mysteries, or lurking doubts. Not one will be able to hide, and they will see with clearer vision than ever before.

The Gathering Phase

This phase will be very difficult, hard, and long; but Allah will make it easy for the believers. In this phase, all human beings will come together and meet their Lord, no matter how far scattered they have been in life or death. As Allah Almighty says what means:

“One day He will gather them together: (It will be) as if they had tarried but an hour of a day: they will recognize each other: assuredly those will be lost who denied the meeting with Allah and refused to receive true guidance.”
10:45

Before the final judgment begins on the Day of Judgment, Allah will gather all His creatures (among them human beings) on the new land with new bodies but with the same spirit, naked as the day they were delivered from their mothers’ wombs.

“Each one of them, that Day, will have enough concern (of his own) to make him indifferent to the others.” 80:37

“One Day We shall remove the mountains, and you will see the earth as a level stretch, and We shall gather them, all together, nor shall We leave out any one of them.” 18:47

The Reckoning or Accounting Phase

In this phase, each man and woman will face his or her good deeds or evil deeds and held accountable for each word spoken. Each human being will receive his record and he will say:

“Ah! woe to us! What a Book is this! It leaves out nothing small or great, but takes account thereof!’ They will find all that they did, placed before them: And not one will your Lord treat with injustice.” 18:49

Allah Almighty will tell them:

"This Our Record speaks about you with truth: For We were wont to put on Record all that ye did." 45:29

At this time people will wish they had embraced Islam and believed in Allah and his scriptures – the Torah, the Gospel, and the Quran – and believed in His messengers – Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad (PBUT). As Allah Almighty said what means:

“Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to Allah, does good, and follows the way of Abraham the true in Faith? For Allah did take Abraham for a friend.” 4:125

The unbelievers who rejected Islam and the atheists who disbelieved in Allah and His messengers, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad (PBUT), will find that a calamity has befallen them. The unbeliever will be ready to offer up his children, his family, his kinsmen who had sheltered and protected him – in fact everything on earth that he can offer – as a ransom for himself. Such would be his selfishness and agony. What would he not give for his own deliverance! But nothing will save him. The Fires of Hell will be roaring for him! All humans will be naked and stripped, their shame exposed, both man and woman. The Sun will draw very close in this new life and all will be sunk in their sweat.

“That Day shall a man flee from his own brother,

“And from his mother and his father,

“And from his wife and his children.” 80:34-36

“Though they will be put in sight of each other, the sinner's desire will be:
Would that he could redeem himself from the Penalty of that Day by
(sacrificing) his children,

“His wife and his brother,

“His kindred who sheltered him,

“And all, all that is on earth, so it could deliver him.” 70:11-14

The Reward or Punishment Phase (Eternal Life)

This is the last phase, and there will be no death after it. In this eternal life, there will be only two groups: The Companions of Heaven and the Companions of Hell. Messengers were sent to people from among themselves to warn them and proclaim to them mercy through repentance, but they mocked believers and ridiculed them; they rebelled and were haughty; they rejected truth, faith, and mercy.

“The Unbelievers will be led to Hell in crowd: until, when they arrive, there, its gates will be opened. And its keepers will say, ‘Did not messengers come to you from among yourselves, rehearsing to you the Signs of your Lord, and warning you of the Meeting of This Day of yours?’ The answer will be: ‘True: but the Decree of Punishment has been proved true against the Unbelievers!’

“(To them) will be said: ‘Enter the gates of Hell, to dwell therein: and evil is (this) Abode of the Arrogant!’

“And those who feared their Lord will be led to the Garden in crowds: until behold, they arrive there; its gates will be opened; and its keepers will say: ‘Peace be upon you! Well have you done! Enter here, to dwell therein.’

“They will say: ‘Praise be to Allah, Who has truly fulfilled His Promise to us, and has given us (this) land in heritage: We can dwell in the Garden as we will: how excellent a reward for those who work (righteousness)!’

“And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne (Divine) on all sides, singing Glory and Praise to their Lord. The Decision between them (at Judgment) will be in (perfect) justice, and the cry (on all sides) will be, ‘Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!’” 39:71-75

Conclusion

Shall I die when the crusaders carry out the death sentence? The answer is yes and no at the same time. Yes, for my body will die and waste away; and No, for my spirit will rise and never die. It will be blessed or punished. It will be transported from one phase to the next, and at the end, it will reach its eternal home where death is no more.

Read the Holy Quran from cover to cover when you are alone with all your heart and soul, then ask yourself, where is the truth? Be honest and search your heart and soul when you answer the question, and in the end you will find your and my eternal home.

"Soon will you remember what I say to you (now), My (own) affair I commit to Allah: for Allah (ever) watches over His Servants." 40:44

"Verily, in the alternation of night and day, and in all that Allah has created in the heavens and the earth there are Signs for a God-fearing people.

"Those who look not for the meeting with Us and are content with the life of this world and feel at rest therewith, and those who are heedless of Our Signs.

"It is these whose abode in Fire, because of what they earned.

"But *as for* those who believe, and do good works — their Lord will guide them because of their faith. Rivers shall flow beneath them in the Gardens of Bliss." 10:7-10

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4 April 2014
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Cuba

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⁵ Most of the quotes in this letter were taken from this source.