

Lesson 15: THE AKHIRAH: THE HEREAFTER AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US WHEN WE DIE?

Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** tells us in the Qur'an that He created humans to worship him. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** says that He gave men and women life and intelligence to test which of them would obey Him.

Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** has given each human a soul which does not die. When a person dies, his body turns back into earth, but his soul is preserved. On the Day of Judgement, the universe will come to an end, and human beings will be brought back to life. Every one of us will be asked whether he worshipped Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** and behaved righteously on earth.

All the books of Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** teach us that this life is temporary. Eternal life starts after the end of this life. We have been sent here for a very short period of time to be tested for our faith and actions. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** says:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ
الْغَفُورُ

(Allah) Who has created life and death that he may try you to see which one of you is best in his actions: and He is Mighty and Forgiving.

(Al-Mulk 67:2)

The Quran informs us that one day, all life of this world will come to a complete end and it will usher into a new life. Angel Israfil will blow the *Sur* (the trumpet). As its sound increases, the world will be shattered to pieces. It will be the beginning of *Qiyamah*, the Day of Judgement. The Qur'an gives us many graphic descriptions of that day:

يَوْمَ يَكُونُ النَّاسُ كَالْفَرَاشِ الْمَبْثُوثِ
وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنْفُوشِ

A day when human kind will be as scattered moth.

And the mountains will become as carded wool.

(Al-Qari'ah: 101-4:5)

This will be the end of all existence. Only Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** would remain that day:

يَوْمَ هُمْ بَدْرُؤُنَّ لَا يَخْفَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْهُمْ شَيْءٌ لِّمَنِ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ
الْقَهَّارِ

The day they come forth, nothing of them hidden from Allah.

To whom belongs the Sovereignty and Power of this day?

To Allah the One, Almighty.

(Al-Mumin 40:16)

Then, Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** will ask the Angel Israfil to blow up the trumpet once more. The second sounding of the trumpet will bring back the creation. People will come out of their graves. That is the Day of *Qiyamah*, the Judgement. Every soul will be presented before Allah's seat of power and Majesty. The scrolls of both good and bad deeds prepared by the angels, *Kiraman Katibin*, will be presented. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** would give power of speech to all our organs that day. They will testify before Allah **سبحانه وتعالى**, bringing forth all our good and bad deeds.

The righteous will have the scrolls of their deeds in their right hands, and the evil will have the scrolls of their deeds in their left hands. The faces of the believers will radiate with heavenly light. They receive all that Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** had promised them. The faces of the *Kuffar* will be dark and gloomy. They will be lamenting over their fate and ask Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** to give them a second chance. There will be no second chance that day. They will blame their leaders and priests for their ill-guidance. Likewise, the leaders will abandon their people and return blame on them.

The believers will have the assurance of the Mercy of Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** and the

Shafah of Rasulullah **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** favoring them. They will be admitted to *Jannah*. Their friends, relatives and angels will greet them with, "Assalamu Alaikum". Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** Himself would welcome them with *Salam*.

Power, influence, family connections, recommendations of their leaders will do the evil-doer no good that day. Everyone will be judged according to his own deeds. Those who did wrong and did not repent in their lifetime, as well as those who refused to worship and obey Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** will be punished in Hell.

On the Day of Judgement, on Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** will be the judge. No one in this world can say who will be saved, and who will be punished. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** did not give this authority to any human. No prophet, priest, magician and leader has the authority to declare another human being as entitled to *Jannah* or the *Jahannum*. However, the Qur’an and the *Sunnah* have clearly defined the faith and actions that could earn a person access to *Jannah*. It also clearly specifies the evil actions that would lead one to *Jahannum*.

Rasullullah **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** said:

The actions are determined by the intention.

And everyone gets the reward of what he intends for.

(Transmitted by Bukhari)

Any action, no matter how good and beneficent, may be rejected by Allah **سبحانه وتعالى**, if done with the intent to show off, to earn fame or make worldly profit. While, some seemingly insignificant acts sincerity may find acceptance with Him.

May Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** reward us with unwavering faith, righteous actions and intentions and raise us with our beloved Rasullullah **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** and his pious ‘Ummah.