

Q) Explain the doctrine of life hereafter (Akhrat) in Islam. Narrate its impacts on individual life and society.

Ans: 1) Introduction:

Believing in the life of hereafter is an article of faith and holds great importance. According to this belief, muslim believe that after they die, they will once again be resurrected on a day where they will have to account for their actions in this world.

2) Doctrine of life Hereafter (Akhrat):

2.1) Day of Judgement:

As briefly mentioned above; the belief of ~~the~~ being vassurrected again to account for their own deeds, whether good or bad, is the core concept of this belief. By believing in this, one also acknowledges that the current world, which fascinates us as we strive persistently to acquire luxuries, is only temporary and one day it ~~to~~ will end.

2.2) What will transpire on the day of judgement?

On this day, in accord with the Islamic teachings and principles, every one will be accountable for their actions. They will be shown all their deeds, no matter how ~~too~~ small, and their fate will be decided on how they spent their lives in this world. Regarding this the Quran says:

"(Then) shall each soul know what it hath sent forward and (what it hath) kept back".

The mentioned verse not only mentions the complete and extensive record of one's deeds, that they will be shown, but also underscores another vital belief that the Almighty Allah has knowledge of all our deeds, and He is privy to even what we do in seclusion.

2.2.1) Gateway to Heaven or Hell:

The way people spent their lives is what will decide their fate. If a person spends his life completely heedless to Allah and the principles and foundation laid down by Him, through Islam, he strays with no remorse transcends the boundaries of Islam,

such a person will be punished for his deeds and will be sent to hell.

On the contrary, a person, devoted to Allah and His religion, who spends his life in piety, abstaining from what's forbidden, rejoicing the glory of Allah Almighty, exercising extreme caution in his actions, he will surely be rewarded for his good deed and sent to Jannah.

It is also very important to keep in mind that Allah is all Merciful and He can forgive anyone He desires.

Example: A person who committed most of his life committing evil deeds, but suddenly undergoes a change of heart and not only repents seriously but also make serious amends in his life. The Almighty will surely forgive him.

2.3) How does Quran deal with scepticism to the Day of judgement:

Many a times people could be led astray by satan and feelings of scepticism could be instilled in them, making them doubt about the life of hereafter. The Quran

addresses this issue in many verses, with a notable verse being:

"Or created matter which, in your minds, is hardest (to be raised up) - (yet shall ye be raised up)! "then will they say: "Who will raise us to return?" Say: "He who created you first!"....."

3) Impacts of the doctrine of (Akhrat) on Individual life and Society:

3.1) Impacts on Individual life:

3.1.1) Sense of Accountability:

The believe in the day of judgement prompts one to contemplate life in different perspective. A person becomes more cautious about his actions, knowing all too well that he would be questioned for his ill deeds. He knows that Allah is privy to every thing he does, even the actions done in seclusion cannot be hidden from the All knowing. In this way, a person is bound to change as he refrains from committing evil and closely follows what is prescribed.

3.1.2) Ray of Hope for the Poor or Oppressed:

A poor or oppressed person can draw much hope for the belief in day of judgement. A person might be so depressed with life and on the verge of giving up but the concept of day of judgement empowers one to keep going forward as they know that they will be rewarded for all their ~~self~~ patience on the day of judgement.

3.1.3) Eye opener for the oppressor:

This belief can also inspire and provide the much needed impetus for an oppressor to seek the forgiveness of Allah and make amends. When an oppressor comes to realise that they might get away with all the evil they commit in this life, using their wealth and influence, but they would be punished ~~to~~ on the day of justice, they are sure to turn to Allah and rectify their mistakes.

3.1.4) Pleasing Allah:

People ~~is~~ not only refrain from committing evil, when enlightened with the concept of 'Akhrat', but also indulge in pleasing

Allah by performing worship and such deeds, This is because they not only want to escape the punishment of hereafter but also want to be rewarded for their endeavours.

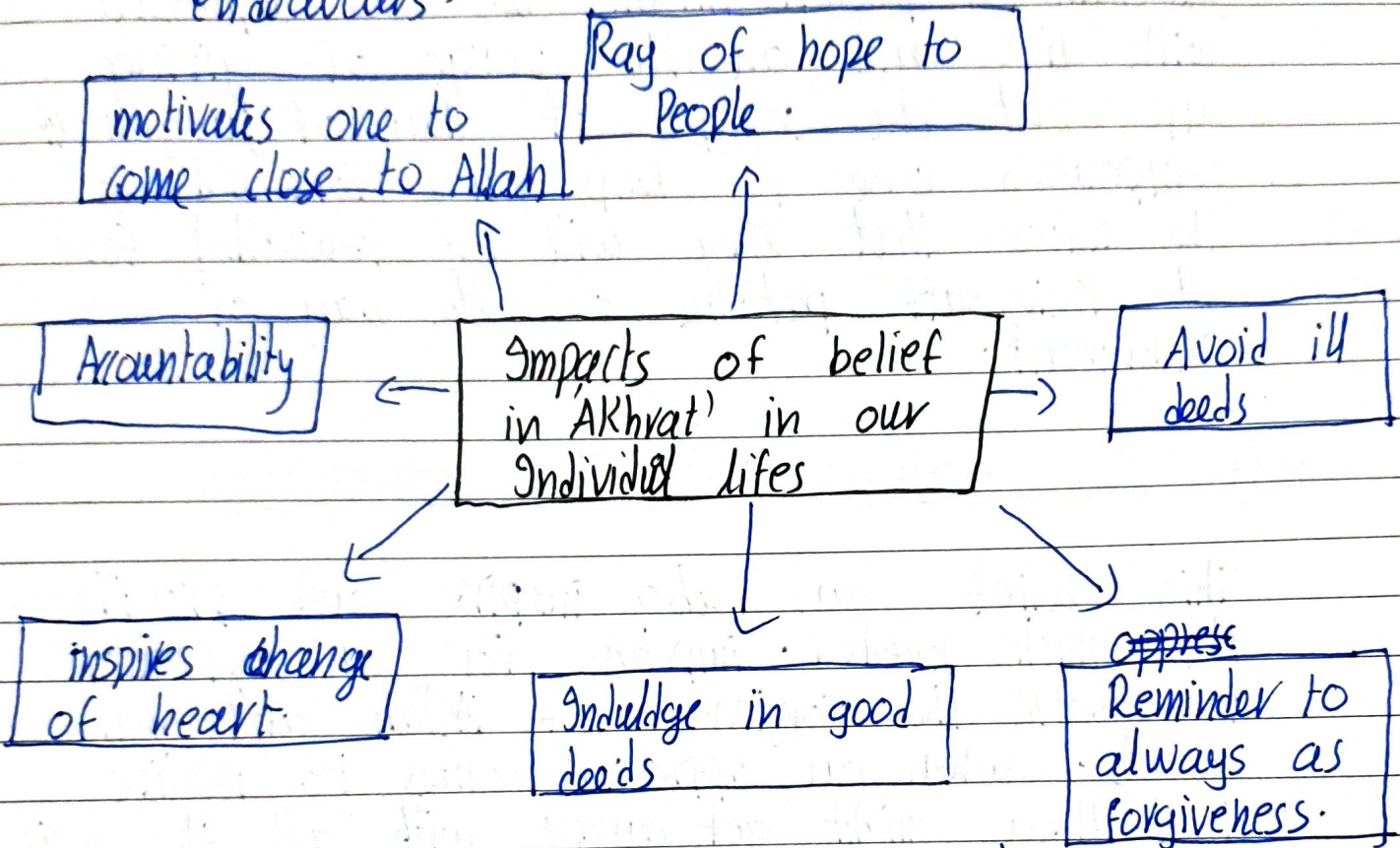


fig 1 Overview of impacts on individual life.

3.2) Impacts of society:

3.2.1) Diminished criminal Activities:

When a society adheres to the Islamic concept of day of judgement, it is sure to make a huge impact on the society.

People altogether, refrain from committing to unlawful practices such as stealing, killing, disputing over trivialities. As a result the ambience changes from hostile in nature to a more friendly environment, the crime dwindles and peace triumphs.

4) Conclusion:

As briefed, the belief about 'Alkhat' is of paramount importance to muslims as it, not only inspires them to change for the better but also, changes the society from within.