

Q What is meant by Day of Judgement. What are its impacts on human life. CSS 2012

1- Introduction

The belief in the Day of Judgement forms one of the fundamental tenets of faith in Islam. The Holy Quran gives great importance to this belief, placing it next in importance to faith in Allah at many times in the Holy Quran. It says:

... من عاص بالله واليوم
الأخر وعمل صالحا فلهم اجرهم
عند ربهم ...

Surah Al-Baqarah : 62

2- The meaning of the Day of Judgement in Islam

i The core concept - يوم القيامة

The Day of Judgement, يوم القيامة, refers to the final reckoning and ultimate accountability of all human beings before Allah, the Almighty. It signifies the culmination of the worldly life and the beginning of the

eternal after life

ii- Temporality of the world and Divine accountability on the Day of Judgement

Islam teaches that the worldly life is transient and serves as a test for humanity. On the day of Judgement, every individual will be held accountable for their actions and intentions during their earthly existence.

No injustice will be done on the Day of Judgement. People's hands, feet and tongue will bear witness against them. Parents, children, spouses and children will be of no avail.

iii- Events of the Day of Judgement

On the Day of Judgement, the earth will be brought to an end with a deafening noise. The earth will split apart and become a level stretch, the mountains will crumble to dust and fly here and there like wool. The sun will be folded up, the moon will be in darkness, the stars will become dim and fall, the oceans will boil over and burst forth. All landmarks on this earth will be lost, the world will cease to be in the form we see now. As Allah mentions in Holy Quran:

يَوْمَ تَبْدُلُ الْأَرْضَ خَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ

وَالسَّمَوَاتِ ...

"One day, the earth will be changed to a different earth and so will be the heavens ..."

Surah Ibrahim: 48

iv - Resurrection and Gathering

On the day of Judgement, all those alive on earth at that time will die. Then the bodies of the dead will be raised from their graves and rejoined with their souls. All men will then stand before Allah to give an account of their actions in this world. The good will be given their book of deeds in their right hand, while the sinners in their left hand or behind their backs.

v - Eternal Consequences: Heaven and Hell

On the day of Judgement, those who rejected Allah and ignored His guidance; and the warning conveyed through His messengers and Prophets will be thrown into hell, a terrible and fearsome abode. For them, the Holy Quran says:

... اولئك اصحاب النار هم

فيها خالدون

"They are the companions of the

fire, they will abide therein"

Surah Yunus: 27

As for those who believed in Allah, who obeyed and submitted to Him and did righteous deeds, they will enter the paradise. As Allah says in the Holy Quran:

... و لِيكَ اصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ

فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

"... they are the companions of the Garden, they will abide therein"

Surah Yunus: 26

3. Impacts of belief in the Day of Judgement on Individual life

i- Belief in the Day of Judgement brings a sense of accountability in an individual

This belief makes individuals careful of their intentions and actions, as they will be faced with their accountability on the Day of Resurrection. An individual has to harvest in the hereafter what he is sowing in this world. As stated by the

Holy Prophet (PBUH) :

"The world is the field of the hereafter"

ii- Belief in the Day of Judgement brings a sense of reformation to live a purposeful life

An individual with this belief would reform himself and the society with the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) and the message of Allah. This worldview would help him understand the temporary nature of this world's trials and difficulties, and hence to not transcend the religious limitations in the face of adversity. As Allah says:

* ~~... You~~ "... You encourage good, for bid evil ..."

Surah Al-Imran : 110

iii- The belief in the Day of Judgement encourage individuals to spend wealth in the way of Allah

A true believer spends in the way of Allah by paying Zakat and giving alms to the poor. ~~As~~ Paying Zakat purifies the giver's heart of the love of wealth and from greed, ~~and~~ and selfishness. And it purifies

the receiver's heart from hatred and enmity of those who are better off than him. Allah commands in the Holy Quran:

"Take from their wealth 'O Prophet' charity to purify and bless them ..."

Surah Al-Tambah : 103

iv. The belief in the Day of Judgement strengthens the patience and forbearance in an individual

Belief in the hereafter enables a man to bear trials and tribulations with patience and forbearance, so that man emerges from such trials shining like gold emerging from the furnace. The concept of life hereafter makes a man stronger, and he calls Allah in case of any difficulty.

4- Impact of belief in the Day of Judgment on collective human life.

i- The belief firms the social contract in the society

A society that believes in the Day of Judgment knows that everything

will end one day. It strongly establishes social control in society. The society acts in unity and adheres to its policies. Every person is treated with equality and justice. As Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together ..."

Surah Al-Imran: 103

- ii - A sense of fraternity and brotherhood is established in the society

The belief on the Day of Judgement gives the believers an incentive to work for the welfare of Muslim brothers and humanity at large. It is mentioned in the Holy Quran:

انما المؤمنون اخوة ...
 "The believers are but one brotherhood ..."

Surah Al-Hujurat: 10

- iii - An atmosphere of collective tolerance and forgiveness is established

A sense of brotherhood, as advised in the Holy Quran, entails the

traits of tolerance and forgiveness towards one another. Belief in the Day of Judgement makes the society tolerant towards adversities and trials of this world; and thus they become more resilient in the face of worldly challenges.

iv - Accountability and social justice in the collective sphere of human life

When belief in the Day of Judgement prevails in a society in a true sense, then accountability and social justice become real norms of a society. The rule of law brings accountability and equality in society by providing justice to everyone without any discrimination. The commandments of Allah ^{are} truly followed, as He says in the Holy Quran:

ان الله يامر بالعدل

Surah Al-Imran : 90

5 - Conclusion

The belief on the Day of Judgement is one of the articles of faith in Islam. It underscores the temporary nature of this world, and how every action and intention of humans in this life would determine

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their eternal destination. Those who did the righteous actions and followed the path of Allah and His Messenger will enter Paradise. And those who failed to do so will face the accountability of their actions on the Day of Judgement and enter Hell.

Query, if can be answered along so.
The translations of verses at times vary a bit from different sources, is it fine to use any of them?
Or should we stick to some specific source?