

Q: What is the Quranic argument on life hereafter? What are its impacts on the individual and collective life of human beings?

### Introduction:

The world according to Islam, is a place of trial and man is being judged in it. He will have to give account of all that he does herein. Life on the earth will, one day, come to an end, and after that a new world will be resurrected. It will be in this life-after-death that man will be rewarded or punished for his deeds and misdeeds. Those who live in the present world a life of obedience to the Lord will enjoy eternal bliss in the hereafter and those who disobey His commands will have to garner the bitter fruits of their disobedience. According to the Quran:

'And every man's deeds have fostered  
around his neck and on the day  
of Resurrection will We bring forth  
a book which shall be proffered  
to him wide open: 'Read your  
record: This day there need  
be none but yourself to make out  
an account against you.'

(Al Quran 17:13-14)

Also in another Surah of Quran Allah  
states that:

Whosoever will come with a good  
deed, for him there shall be the  
like of it tenfold, while whosoever  
will come with an ill-deed, he shall  
be requited with only one like it,  
and they shall not be treated  
unjustly.

(Al-Quran 6:160)

## Life hereafter — Meaning in the light of Quran.

The word used for the life hereafter in the Holy Quran is Yaum-al-Qiyamah means "the Day of Judgment".

In the literal sense, the concept of life hereafter means the day of requital which means our life is accountable to the highest authority that is neither biased nor ignorant.

We will be rewarded or punished according to our deeds, and everyone will be treated and judge the same way. In the Holy Book Quran, the reality of life hereafter has been mentioned many times. The following words have been used in Quran for this belief:

'Yaum-al-Baas'

The Day of rising of the dead

and;

'Yaum-al-Qiyamah'

The Day of Resurrection

Allah named an entire surah  
'Surah Qiyamah' on His basic  
belief of Islam, His further makes  
it clear that the belief on  
the Day of Judgment is the  
pillar of faith in Islam.  
Allah says in Surah Qiyamah:

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ  
I do swear by the Day  
of Judgment

Day of Judgment is also referred  
as the Yawm-u-Deen (the day  
of Judgment). As Allah states;

مَلِكُ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

'Master of the Day of Judgment'

(Surah fatiha)

In the Holy Quran Allah promises  
that

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ

Every soul shall taste death

Religion Islam taught us that there is life after death that has no ending position. According to the teachings of Islam, when confronted with a calamity and when someone dies, one should say;

اللَّهُمَّ اِنَّا رَاكِعُونَ

To God we belong and to Him we shall return

(Al-Baqrah : 156)

The events of happening of Qiyamah and the concept of life hereafter has been mentioned in the Quran numerous times and some are stated as follow;

اِذَا السَّمَاءُ انْفَطَرَتْ

'When the heaven is split asunder.'

(82: 1)

وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ انْتَثَرَتْ

When the stars are scattered

(122: 2)

واذ البحار فقربت

When the seas are  
made to burst forth

(82:3)

واذ القبور بعثرت

And when graves are laid  
open

(82:4)

لذلك نفس ما قدمت واخرت

“Everyone shall know all  
his deeds, both the earlier  
and the later.”

(82:5)

The word “Qiyamah” which means  
resurrection occurs 68 times in the  
Holy Quran and it refers to  
the Day of Judgment. This  
world is trial and upon  
its expiry, the eternal life shall  
begin after the day of

Judgment. Allah says in the Holy Quran that;

He (Allah) who created death and life, so that He may test you as to which of you is better in deeds. And He is the All-mighty, the Most-Forgiving.

(67: 2)

In another Surah, Allah states

'Certainly, they see it (resurrection) as distant, but we see it as near.'

(70: 6-7)

No one can escape the result of their action on Yaum-al-Qiyamah as promised by Allah, the Lord of everything.

Indeed, the death from which you flee - indeed it will meet you. Then you will be returned to the knower.

of the unseen and the witnessed  
and He will inform you about  
what you used to do.<sup>2</sup>  
(Al-Quran)  
(62:8)

⇒ Impacts of Belief in the  
Hereafter on the Life of an Individual:

1 - Attaining piety as the  
ultimate reward:

Indeed, the believers have a  
staunch belief in the hereafter  
life. Believing in the hereafter  
increases the piety of an  
individual. He believes that one  
day he will meet his  
creator and that everything he  
does is for the hereafter. And  
truly in the Surah Al-Baqarah

لَا يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ

They love Him as they should  
love Allah.  
(Al-Baqarah)



## 2. Sense of Accountability:

The concept of punishment and reward after death keeps man hopeful and makes him think before doing any evil act. Thus enhances sense of responsibility, accountability and answerability. Allah states in Holy Quran;

'Whether you show what is within yourselves or conceal it, Allah will bring you to account for it. Then He will forgive whom He wills and punish whom He wills and Allah is over all things competent.'

(Al - Baqrah : 284)

## 3. Sense of Responsibility:

The thought of the hereafter develops all sense of responsibility and consciousness in an individual. This awareness that he/she might

shall have to meet Allah and  
be answerable, incalculate careful  
behaviour. He realizes that he  
has to harvest in the hereafter  
what he is sowing in the world. As  
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said;

«The world is the field of  
the hereafter?»  
(Prophet (PBUH))

#### 4 — Character building:

The belief in hereafter also  
builds a character of an individual  
which promotes good acts and  
good deeds. The believer takes  
care of his doings and tries not  
to disobey the commandments of  
Allah.

«They arise from their beds,  
they supplicate their Lord in  
fear and aspiration, and from  
what we have provided them,  
they spend?»  
(Surah Sajdah)

## 5 - Sense of Reformation

The belief in the hereafter makes a man reform himself first. Once he reforms himself, he tries to reform society with the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) and the message of Allah. In Quran, Surah Al-Imran Allah states;

تَأْسِرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

"You encourage good, forbid evil"  
(Al-Imran)

## 6 - Salvation from Evils and Inclinations towards Goodness:

The way Quran describes the punishments for not abiding by the teachings of Islam chills down the spine of every individual, whereas the thought of heaven makes one hopeful and gives drive to do good deeds.

## 7. Spending Wealth for the Cause of Allah

A true believer of the hereafter knows that death is inevitable. Therefore he spends in the way of Allah by paying Zakat and giving alms to the poor and earn reward of hereafter and freedom from rule of materialistic desires.

وَمَا آتَيْنَاهُم مِّن شَيْءٍ لَّا يَذْكُرُونَ

And from what we have provided them, they spend.

(Surah Sajdah)

## 8- An idea about the Nature / Reality of the World:

Allah says in Quran:

"Everyone on it (earth) is to perish."

knowing this, a man does not  
attach his whole heart to this  
world, He keeps himself doing  
good and not being greedy, and  
thus realizes purpose of life.

وما خلقت الجن والانس الا ليعبدون

I did not create jinn and  
humans except to worship  
me (Allah)

(Al-Quran)

⇒ Impacts of Belief in  
Hereafter on Society:

i. The social contract in the  
society:

A society that believes in the  
hereafter and the Day of Judgment  
knows that everything will end  
one day. It establishes social  
control in society. As  
advised in Quran.

واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعاً

And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together. (Al-Quran)

ولا تفرقوا

And do not become divided (Al-Quran)

2 - A sense of fraternity and brotherhood in society.

The concept of hereafter life brings an establishment of fraternity and brotherhood among people of a society. As referred in Quran;

الذابين اذوة

The believers are but brothers

(Surah Al-Hijrat)

### 3 - An atmosphere of tolerance and forgiveness

Whatever happens, a believer of the hereafter holds steadfast and does not be unthankful for whatever he has. This collective forbearance brings inside the society a system of tolerance and makes society tolerant against tyranny or any other kind of oppression. Society is caring and include everyone.

### 4. Role of Law

As Allah states in Quran.

ان الله يامر بالعدل

Indeed, Allah orders Justice.

(Surah .)

A pious person would follow

the law of Allah, Shariah, and  
would keep reminding society of  
the inevitable destination of mankind  
and show everyone should behave  
according to Allah's manifest.

## 5- Social Justice and Accountability in Society

When a belief in the life hereafter prevails in a society in a true sense, then accountability and social justice become the realistic norms of a society. Allah said in the Holy Quran,

واقسطوا

And act justly

ان الله يحب المتقسطين

Indeed Allah loves those who act justly.



## c. Elimination of social evils

All kinds of social evils are born into this world when a person forgets that he has to answer for his every action and consider life hereafter an illusion. But, when the firm belief in the life hereafter prevails in society and everyone knows that they have to be answerable before Allah in the end, then there will be an elimination of all social evils from society. Ultimately a society prospers and becomes a place well - habitual.

### Conclusion :

Careful observation reveals that the belief in the hereafter naturally has a great influence on the life of a believer in

an individualistic and collective sense. When everyone knows that Allah is watching all their actions their behaviour will be responsible. People will always endeavor to lead their life by the will of Allah Almighty and will inevitably avoid any action which will incur Allah's displeasure. Furthermore, the concept of the Hereafter elaborates on the purpose of the life of believer. Thus, summing it all up, the life hereafter belief has capacity to improve individual and collective life of people/human beings in this world  $\&$  and beyond.