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 a 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 We fastened around his neck and on the day of Ressurection 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 requitted 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.

'Youm-al-Baas'
The Day of rising of the dead

And;

'Youm-al-Qiyamah'
The Day of Ressurrection

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

لا ا قسم بيوم القيمة

I do swear by the Day of Judgment

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

صلى يوم الدين

'Master of the Day of Judgment'

(Surah Fatiha)

In the Holy Quran Allah promises that

كل نفس ذالقة الموت

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;

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

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 identified in the Quran numerous times and some are stated as follow;

اذا السماء انفطرت

When the heaven is split asunder.

(82 : 1)

واذا الكواكب انتثرت

When the stars are scattered

(82:2)

وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ

When the seas are
made to burst forth

(82:3)

۰ وَإِذَا الْقُبُورُ بُعْثِرَتْ

And when graves are laid
open

(82:4)

عَلِمَتْ نَفْسٌ مَا قَدَّمَتْ وَأَخَّرَتْ

'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 referrs to
the Day of Judgment. This
world is trial and upon
its expiry the eternal life shall
began 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 Yoúm-al-Qiyomah 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."

(Al-Quran)
(62 : 08)

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

1 — Attaining piousness as the ultimate reward:

Indeed, the believers have a staunch belief in the hereafter life. Believing in the hereafter increases the piousness 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

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

They love them 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 a 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;

تامرون بالمعروف وتنهون عن المنكر

"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 chill'd 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 poor and earn reward of hereafter and freedom from evil of materialistic desires:

ومما رزقناهم ينفقون

And from what we have provided them, they spend.

(Surah Sajdah)

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

Allahs 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 birth.

وماخلقت 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 جميعا

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;

انما المؤمنون اخوة

The believers are but brothers
(Surah Al-Hujrat)

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 easing and include everyone.

4. Rule 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 renewing society of
the inevitable destination of mankind
and show everyone should behave
according to Allah's manifestation.

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,

وَاقْسِطُوا

And act Justly

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

"Indeed Allah loves those
who act justly."

6 - 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 an 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 endeavour 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.