

What is belief in the day of Judgement? Explore its effects on individual and collective life of human beings

1) Introduction:-

The belief in the Day of Judgement (AKhirah) is a core belief among the beliefs of Islam. It stands for the belief in ~~for the belief in~~ the life after death and reward or punishment based on human conduct in this world. The belief itself is a source of motivation and hope. It encourages individuals to work for their betterment without indulging in the pomp and show of this world. On a collective level, this belief instills unity, perseverance, promotes goodwill and roots out corruption.

وبالآخرة هم يوقنون (2:4)

2) Belief in the Day of Judgment : Meaning

The word use for this day in Arabic is 'Akhirah' which literally means 'the end' or 'the last'.

In the context of Islam, it means the end of existence for everything and everyone that has existed or exists in this universe.

3) Akhirah : A core belief in Islam

Akhirah is the core belief in Islam and is often mentioned in Quran along with other core concepts.

Righteousness is not that you turn your ~~head~~ face towards the east or the west but true righteousness is in one who

believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book and the prophets

— Quran (2:177)

4) Components of Belief in Akhirah

A clear understanding of the concept demands fulling understanding the sub-concepts of Akhirah.

In Towards Understanding Islam, Abul Aala Maududi delineates the concept of Akhirah into following aspects:-

a) Destruction of the World : Qiyamah

This refers to the destruction of everything and everyone. The word used for this is Qiyamah.

b) Resurrection of Humans: Hashr

This refers to the second phase where all beings will be

brought back to life by the will of Allah (SWT)

بل قدرین علی ان نسوی بنانه
بل یرید الا ان ینفخ امامه (Al-Qiyamah)

Yes [Indeed] we are most capable of restoring even their fingertips. Still people want to deny what is yet to come.

c) Day of Judgement

After resurrection, the Day of Judgement will be established where everyone will be evaluated.

d) Punishment and Reward

This concept pertains to the punishment of ill deeds and rewarding of good deeds.

یوم یمیز یصدر الناس اشتاتا لیر و اعمالهم

من یمیل مثقال ذرة خیر ابره

ومن یمیل مثقال ذرة شر ابره (Al-Zilzaal: 6-8)

That Day people will depart [separated]

into categories to be shown [the result] of their deeds. So whoever ~~comes~~ does an atom's weight of good will see it. And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.

5) Effects of Belief in Akhirah on Individual Life :-

A firm belief in Akhirah has the following impacts on individuals-

a) Instills Hope that the Worldly Hardships are temporary

An atheist or non-muslim has high chances of getting depressed and hopeless in the face of hardships of life but a Muslim gets strength knowing that these hardships are just temporary.

(Al-Balad) لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي سَبَبٍ

Certainly! We have created man into hardships

b) Clarifies aim of life

Quran explicitly highlights the aim of life on earth in the following words

الذين آمنوا وعملوا الصالحات طوبى لهم وحسن مآب
(13:29)

Those who believe ~~joy~~ and act righteously, joy is for them and a blissful home to return to.

c) Encourages individual effort

Unlike the beliefs before Islam, where in Arab people believed that the consequences of individual act apply to the whole family or tribe of individual, Islam negated this concept. It highlighted that deeds have individual responsibility. Hence

we see injunctions like

For ~~us~~ ^{us} is ~~my~~ ^{our} ~~deeds~~ ^{deeds}, for you is yours (Al-Quran)

d) Strengthening of Tauheed

The belief in Akhiraat strengthens the belief in Tauheed even more and helps us affirm the fact that it is only Allah who has the power to destroy us and then recreate us.

And who brings out the pasture
and [then] makes it black stubble
(Al-Aala, Quran)

6) Effects on Collective Life :-

On collective life, we find following impacts of the concept of Akhiraat

a) Instills Unity

In a society where everyone has firm belief in Allah and the Day of Judgement has people who are working tirelessly for one goal i.e. Better life hereafter. This goal alone is enough to promote unity amongst society.

b) Disperses Fear of Death

The belief that everyone has to die by the will of Allah disperses the fear of death. Iqbal says

موت تجرید مزاق زندگی کا نا ہے

خواب کے پردے میں بیداری کا پیغام ہے

c) Promotes Love for Fellow Beings

This yet another strong impact on collective life because we know that one sure way to win the blessings of Allah is to be good to His creation. In one Hadith, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said.

"On the Day of Judgement, Allah will ask: 'Where are the ones who loved each other for the sake of my glory?' He will then shade them under His shade."

d) Eliminates Injustice

A society that is striving for betterment with the aim of better after-life also strives to root out corruption, injustice and chaos thus leading to a peaceful collective life.

7) Conclusion:-

The belief in the Day of Judgement is a core belief in Islam and it plays a crucial role in creating a peaceful, harmonious and steadfast society where individuals strive ^{only} not for the world but also for the life Hereafter.