

# Islamic Studies

Q. Describe the basic beliefs of Islam in general and the doctrine of Akharat in particular. How Islam reforms the life of an individual and society through them.

Answer:-

## Concept of Islam

- Islam comes from the Arabic root word سلم.
- In literal sense, it means to surrender, yield, submit etc.
- Another literal translation is peace.
- Terminologically, it means to submit one's will to the will of the Almighty.
- One who submits their will to the Almighty, Allah will grant them with peace and Contentment.

"I believe in Allah, His Angels, His books, His Messengers, the Day of Judgement, and in the Taqdir (Divine Decree), that all good and bad is from Allah the most High and I believe in the resurrection after death."

(Surah Al-Baqarah)

Among these, belief in Akhirat (Hereafter) is central, as it links worldly actions to eternal accountability. This doctrine reforms individuals and societies by instilling justice, morality and responsibility.

## Basic Beliefs of Islam

### 1. Belief in Allah (Tawheed)

Faith in the Oneness of Allah is the cornerstone of Islam. It eliminates polytheism and establishes absolute submission to Allah.

"Say: He is Allah, the One."

(Surah Ikhlas)

- Impact: This belief reforms individuals by removing arrogance and reforms society by promoting equality under one Creator.

### 2. Belief in Prophets

Prophets were sent to guide humanity. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) is the final messenger.

"And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger."

(Al-Quran)

- Impact: This belief reforms individuals

by following prophetic character and reforms society by adopting prophetic governance models.

### 3. Belief in Divine Books

Allah Almighty revealed scriptures for guidance, culminating in the Quran.

"Indeed, We sent down the Torah and the Gospel and We sent down the Criterion (Quran)." (Al-Quran)

- Impact: This belief reforms individuals by providing moral guidance and reforms society by establishing laws of justice and welfare.

### 4. Belief in Angels

Angels are divine beings who execute Allah's commands. They symbolize purity and obedience.

"They do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded." (Al-Quran)

- Impact: This belief inspires Muslims to live in Obedience and discipline, knowing unseen forces record their deeds.

## 5. Belief in Akhirat (Hereafter)

Central to Islamic faith, Akhirat includes resurrection, judgement, Paradise and Hell.

"Every soul shall taste death, and you will only be given your full compensation on the Day of Resurrection."

(Al-Quran)

### Doctrine of Akhirat

Muslims believe that this life is temporary and is merely a test for all mankind. The life hereafter (Akhirah) is permanent and everlasting. It will never end as death itself will be abolished.

"While the Hereafter is much better and much more durable."

(Al-Quran)

There will be only two destinations: Jannah; Allah's guesthouse for His obedient servants, and Jahaanam; where Allah will punish the non-believers and those who go against his commands.

The fate of every human being will be decided on the basis of their deeds.

"Then as for him whose scales (of good deeds) are heavy, he will be in a happy life. But he whose scales are light, his abode will be Abyss. And what may you know, what Abyss is.

A blazing Fire!" (Al-Qasi'ah)

Allah Almighty has mentioned the hereafter in the Holy Quran at 113 places.

This system of world is not eternal.

There will come a time when Allah Almighty will order Hazrat Israfil (AS) to blow the trumpet. This entire structure of earth and the sky will be turned upside down and all creation will be destroyed.

This is called "Qiyamat". The belief in the hereafter is described in the opening verses of Surah Al-Baqrah. "And in the Hereafter, they are certain."

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"Wordly life is just a game and a spectacle."

(Surah Al-Anam)

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) said:

"The intelligent person is the one who controls himself and works for what is after death."

(Tirmidhi)

This belief reforms individual by instilling accountability and motivation for righteous deeds. It reforms society by deterring injustice and corruption.

## → How Islam Reforms Individual Life

### 1. Moral Discipline develops a sense of Self-Accountability.

Belief in Akhirat and awareness of divine accountability curbs corruption, dishonesty and immorality.

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."

(Al-Quran)

Individual become cautious of their deeds, leading to ethical living.

### 2. Spiritual Growth - leading to Meaningful Life

Faith in accountability motivates prayer, charity and remembrance of Allah.

As Holy Prophet (S.A.W.W) said:

"The most beloved deed to Allah is that which is regular, even if small."  
(Bukhari)

This nurtures consistency in worship and personal development.

### 3. Self-Restraint instills Patience.

Belief in reward and punishment strengthens patience and perseverance.

"Indeed, Allah is with the patient."  
(Al-Quran)

Individuals endure hardships with hope in divine justice.

### 4. Hope and Consolation

Akhirat provides comfort in trials, knowing eternal justice awaits.

"Do not lose hope of Allah's mercy."  
(Al-Quran)

This prevents despair and promotes resilience.

## → How Islam Reforms Society

### 1. Helps in Promoting Justice

Belief in Akhirat ensures fairness, as rulers and judges know they will be accountable.

Case Study: Caliph Umar (R.A) said, "If a dog dies hungry on the banks of the Euphrates, Umar will be responsible."  
This shows how accountability shaped governance.

## 2. Social Welfare promotes equity.

Zakat and Sadakah are motivated by belief in reward in Akhirat. Islamic civilization's welfare system (Bayt-al-Mal) was rooted in Accountability before Allah.

"And establish prayer and give zakat."  
(Al-Quran)

This reduces poverty and strengthens social bonds.

## 3. Collective Morality creates tolerant society.

Faith in Akhirat builds honesty, trust and compassion in society.

"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."  
(Bukhari)

This creates a society of mutual respect and empathy.

The Prophet (S.A.W.W) established Madina as a Model state where purposeful living created unity and collective progress.

#### 4. Helps in Creating a Forgiving Society

~ Forgiveness heals divisions. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"Let them pardon and overlook. Would you not like that Allah should forgive you?"

The Prophet (S.A.W.W) forgave the people of Makkah after conquest, setting a precedent for tolerance and reconciliation.

#### 5. Helps in the Alleviation of Social Evils

Islam eradicated evils like slavery, usury, and tribal discrimination. The Prophet (S.A.W.W) declared in his Farewell Sermon: "No Arab has superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab over an Arab, except by piety."

This principle dismantled racism and exploitation, paving the way for social equity.

#### → Conclusion:

Islam's basic beliefs, especially the doctrine of Akhirat, reform human life by linking worldly actions to eternal consequences. This belief nurtures moral individuals and just societies, ensuring

justice, compassion and accountability.  
As the Holy Quran reminds:

"And whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is seeing."

[Surah Al-Baqarah: Ayat-110]

Thus *al-Akhirat* is not merely a doctrine but a transformative force for both personal and collective life.

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