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MOCK EXAM ISLAMIC STUDIES

Q.2 Explain the doctrine of Akhiraat (Life hereafter) in Islam. Describe its impact on the life of an individual and society.

INTRODUCTION:

Belief in Allah and accepting the human accountability before Him in the hereafter is the essential article of faith. According to the Islamic teachings, this world and the Hereafter both are the two stages in the existential journey of humankind. Both these stages are mutually complementary to each other. Neither of them can be defined without appreciating the significance of the other. The mutual dependence of this world and the world hereafter assume a practical significance in the existential enterprise by Islam for humanity. The concept of Akhiraat in Islam brings responsibility and meaning in the life of any individual. It brings a sense of selflessness and humility in the life of the individual. The sense of Accountability and the spirit of gratitude in the individual also help to modify his role in the society too. In the similar manner society moves towards idealism, generosity, cooperation and

brotherhood to attain success in the Hereafter.

Meaning of Here and Hereafter:

In order to understand the duality of Here and Hereafter every individual should know the meaning of life itself. Life is not just seen as an objective reality. It is a purposeful reality given by Allah Almighty to the humans. Humans being the Vicegerents and trustees of Allah are commissioned to translate the divine orders of Allah into practical patterns of piety, khayr and ihsan within the framework of the opportunities provided to him in this world. This concept is based on that every individual is born innocent with a potential for good and promise to realize moral ideals and spiritual objectives in order to qualify for Paradise. Here, Allah Almighty would be the ultimate judge for all the actions. In Allah's estimation only those will achieve success in their moral mission who conform their ways according to the principles laid by Allah. On the other hand, those who violate their purpose of creation will be judged as evil and will be consigned to Hell.

Belief in the Hereafter:

It is a belief of every Muslim that the human existence in this world is just transitional. This worldly phase of the human life is a prelude to the permanent phase of life in the here after. The present phase is not valuable in itself. It is only valuable to the extent that it is meritable mean for attaining the blessings in the Hereafter. The way to attain success in this world and the world Hereafter, all followers need to follow Islam which denotes submission, surrender and acceptance to the will of Allah Almighty. As it is said in Quran.

“He who does an atom's weight of good shall see it and he who does an atom's weight of evil shall see it.”

Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) said.

“You will have to die, like you sleep and you will have to get up as you awake.”

Impact of belief on Akhirah on Individual life.

i) Responsible approach towards life.

Life of an individual aware of the concept of hereafter will maintain a

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distinct outlook on "success" and "failure". He will have his own standards of judgment to determine what constitutes "success" and "failure". As a result his likes and dislikes will be different from all those people who have a different view of life.

ii) Leading a selfless and humble life.

A person who is aware of the concept of hereafter will indulge in the shells of selfish activities. This belief will help the person to work in the vast expanse and interest of humanity rather than himself only.

iii) Concept of hereafter affirming Tawhid:

The concept of Hereafter is a necessary and practical consequence of tawhid. When one affirms the absolute unity and one-ness of Allah and His attributes of being omnipotent and perfect, he recognizes the Hereafter as the real and lasting phase of humanity.

iv) Sense of Accountability:

If this world and life has a purpose then every human has a responsibility and if they realize it then the Hereafter serves as a accountability platform of all those deeds done by the individuals.

Impacts of belief of Akhirah on Society

i) Ideal society:

The belief in the Hereafter creates an ideal society where collective effort of people leads to a virtuous and pious life. As a result the mischief and vices will disappear from the society.

ii) Spirit of Generosity:

The concept of hereafter, among the believers make them realize that this world is a temporary place and so are the material things. So the believer spends his life in the way of God rather than in accumulating wealth.

iii) Spirit of social work:

The believers try to do good to others and they have a sense of accountability in the world hereafter. As it is stated in the Holy Quran.

“Any person who hopes to meet his God should do good deeds and should not make anyone partner in his worship.”

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iv) Feeling of Brotherhood:-

The believer of the Hereafter will provide services for the brothers in faith and for humanity at large.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, in Islam this world is only a temporary testing phase of the life of a human being and the life is a constant trial. Every believer is required to prepare themselves with the voluntary choice and individual deeds for the permanent journey that will start after the completion of this trial. What awaits for the individual in the hereafter depends on the actions that will take place in this temporary world.