

Lesson 15

Summary Notes

Death and the Grave

“And [we believe in] grave punishment for whoever is worthy of it, and in the questioning by **Munkar** and **Nakir** in his grave, about his Lord, religion and Prophet, in accordance with the reports which have come concerning [that] from the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), and from the Companions (may Allah’s pleasure be upon them). And the **grave** is one of the meadows of Heaven or one of the pits of the Fires.” [80-81]

“In the supplications and charity of the living is benefit for the dead.” [89]

The Soul (Rūḥ)

Souls are created.

“And they ask you about the soul. Say, The soul is by the command of my Lord, and you have been given only a little knowledge.” Qur’ān [17:85]

The human soul is different from that of animals, since it is accountable.

Death

Death is a separation of the soul from the body.

The fallacy of reincarnation

“Until, when death comes to one of them, he says, ‘My Lord! send me back, in order that I might work righteousness in that which I have left behind.’ Nay, it is only a word which he must say. And behind them is a barrier until the day they will be raised up.” Qur’ān [23:99-100]

Angels take the souls of dying people. For a believer, they take it gently, like a hair is extracted from dough. For the disbeliever, it is very painful and harsh, like thorns being extracted from wet wool. Angels clothe and perfume the body, according to whether it was good or bad.

Meeting Allah

“Whoever loves to meet Allah, Allah **loves** to meet him, and whoever **hates** to meet Allah, Allah hates to meet him.” - After death.

"Their greeting on the day He meets them is "Peace", and He has prepared for them a generous reward." Qur'ān [33:44]

"Whoever abandons ṣalāh meets Allah in a condition that He is **angry** with him." [Tabarānī, Bazzār]

Also: on the resurrection plain, at the reckoning, at the Balance, in Heaven.

Grave Punishment

"The Fire, they are exposed to it by morning and afternoon, and on the Day the Hour is established, (it will be said), 'Enter the Household of Pharaoh (into) the severest punishment.'" Qur'ān [40:46]

"The Prophet (ﷺ) passed by two graves, and said, "They (the occupants of the two graves) are being punished for something which was not serious (according to them), (but), indeed it was serious. One of them used to spread tales (for mischief), and the other used not to free himself from (traces of) urine." [Bukhārī, Muslim]

Punishment is to the soul and body

The good Muslims experience pleasure rather than punishment.

Everybody other than the Prophets, are subjected to squeezing of the grave on their ribs.

"When a servant is laid in his grave and his friends have turned away from him and he hears the footfalls of their sandals, two angels come to him, sit him upright, and ask him, 'What were you wont to say about this man Muḥammad?' The believer will answer, 'I testify that he is the slave of Allāh and His Messenger', and it will be said, 'Look at your place in hell, Allah has changed it for a place in heaven', and the man will behold both of them." [Bukhārī]

Exceptions from the Punishment

Prophets and martyrs.

One can **protect oneself from the punishment** (other than the squeezing), by:

1. Regular repentance (**tawbah**).
2. Martyrdom.
3. Dying while guarding the front-line (i.e. in ribat).
4. Reciting Sūrah al-Mulk every night.
5. Saying '**lā ilāha illallāhul-malikul-ḥaqqul-mubīn**' 100 times every day.

Deeds for the dead

Instructing the dead (**talqīn**).

“And that there is nothing for man except that which he strives (for).” Qur’ān [53:93]

“When the son of Adam dies, his good deeds come to an end, *except three* things: **1**) perennial charity, or **2**) knowledge by which people benefit, or **3**) a pious child who prays for him, ” [Muslim]

Agreed upon : Supplication, Ḥajj, Charity, Fasting.

“If a Muslim dies and forty people who do not associate anything with Allāh join the funeral prayers, Allāh accepts their intercession for him.” [Muslim]