

Legal Rulings Regarding the Last Day

Belief in the Last Day is one of the six fundamental and basic elements of faith. One cannot be a true believer until he believes in what the Qur'an and Sunnah of Allah's Messenger conveyed regarding that day. Having knowledge about the Last Day and its frequent remembrance is of paramount importance due to its great impact on the reformation of the human soul, its piety, righteousness and steadfastness in the religion of Allah (Islam). Hence, the heart does not become hardened or have the guts to perpetrate acts of disobedience except when it is given to heedlessness with respect to the remembrance of that Day, its horrors and afflictions about which Allah said,

﴿ فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمًا يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا ﴾ [الزمل: ١٧]

“Then how can you avoid the punishment, if you disbelieve, on a Day that will make the children grey-headed (i.e. the Day of Resurrection)?” [Al-Muzzammil: 17]

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ إِنَّ زَلْزَلَةَ السَّاعَةِ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ * يَوْمَ تَرَوُنَّهَا تُدْهِلُ كُلُّ مَرْصِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ وَتَضَعُ كُلُّ ذَاتِ حَمْلٍ حَمْلَهَا وَتَرَى النَّاسَ سُكَارَى وَمَا هُمْ بِسُكَارَى وَلَكِنَّ عَذَابَ اللَّهِ شَدِيدٌ ﴾ [الحج: ٢٠١]

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“O mankind! Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him! Verily, the earthquake of the Hour (of Judgment) is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursling and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet they will not be drunken, but severe will be the Torment of Allah.” [Al-Hajj: 1, 2]

Death

It is the end of every living soul in the world. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ﴾ [آل عمران: ١٨٥]

“Every soul will taste of death.” [Al-Imran: 185]

﴿ كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ ﴾ [الرحمن: ٢٦]

“Everyone upon it (the earth) will perish.” [Ar-Rahman: 26]

﴿ إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ ﴾ [الزمر: ٣٠]

“Verily, you will die and verily, they (too) will die.” [Az-Zumar: 30]

No human being will live forever in this world, as Allah said,

﴿ وَمَا جَعَلْنَا لِبَشَرٍ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ الْخُلْدَ ﴾ [الأنبياء: ٣٤]

“And We did not grant to any man before you eternity [on earth].” [Al-Anbiya: 34]

It is worthy to mention the following points:

1. Most people are heedless of death; despite that it is a certain and undoubtable reality. A Muslim should remember death frequently and prepare for it by making provision in this world for his hereafter through righteous deeds before it is too late. The Messenger of Allah said, “**Seize five things before five things; your life before your death, your health before your illness, your leisure time before your busy time, your youth before your old age and your wealth before your poverty.**” [Transmitted by Ahmad]

Remember that the dead do not carry anything of this world with them to the grave. Rather, it is only their deeds that abide with them. So be keen to take the provision of righteous deeds by which you will have eternal bliss and be delivered from the chastisement by the grace of Allah.