

### **Death (continuation)**

2. Man's life span is ambiguous. No one knows it but Allah. Nobody knows when or where he will die because this is part of the knowledge of the unseen, which Allah, the Most Glorified and Exalted, has exclusively kept to Himself.
3. When death comes, it is not feasible to avert, postpone, or flee from. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٣٤]

“And for every nation is a [specified] term. So when their time has come, they will not remain behind an hour, nor will they precede [it].” [Al-A’raf: 34]

4. When death comes to a believer, the Angel of Death comes to him in a beautiful image, with good fragrance, accompanied by the Angels of Mercy to give him the glad tidings of Paradise. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ. ﴾ [فصلت: ٣٠]

“Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah " and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.” [Fussilat: 30]

- As regards the unbeliever, the Angel of Death comes to him in a terrifying image, dark in face, accompanied by the Angels of Punishment, to give him glad tidings of punishment as Allah said,

﴿ وَلَوْ تَرَى إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُو أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرَجُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ الْيَوْمَ تُحْزَنُونَ عَذَابِ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ ﴾ [الأنعام: ٩٣]

And if you could but see when the wrongdoers are in the overwhelming pangs of death while the angels extend their hands, [saying], "Discharge your souls! Today you will be awarded the punishment of [extreme] humiliation for what you used to say against Allah other than the truth and [that] you were, toward His verses [and signs], being arrogant.” [Al-An'am: 93]

- When death arrives, the truth is uncovered and reality becomes evident to every human. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا تَرَكْتُ كَلَّا إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ هُوَ قَائِلُهَا وَمِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ بَرْزَخٌ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴾ [المؤمنون: ٩٩، ١٠٠]

“Until, when death comes to one of them (those who join partners with Allah), he says: ‘My Lord! Send me back, so that I may do well in that which I have left behind!’ No! It is but a word that he speaks, and behind them is barzakh (a barrier) until the Day when they will be resurrected.” [Al-Mu'minoon: 99, 100]

When death arrives, the unbeliever and the insubordinate would feel a keen desire for returning to this life to perform righteous deeds. But nay, it is too late to regret after the opportunity has passed. Allah the Most High said,

﴿ وَتَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ لَمَّا رَأَوْا الْعَذَابَ يَقُولُونَ هَلْ إِلَىٰ مَرَدٍّ مِنْ سَبِيلٍ ﴾ [الشورى: ٤٤]

“And you will see the wrong-doers, when they behold the punishment, they will say: "Is there any way of return (to the world)?"” [As-Shuraa: 44].

5. It is part of Allah's mercy to His slaves that anyone who dies upon proclaiming La ilaaha illa Allaah (there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah) will be admitted to the Paradise. The Messenger of Allah (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said, “If anyone's last words are "There is no deity worthy of worship but Allah" he will enter Paradise.” [Transmitted by Abu Dawud]
6. This is because one cannot say these words at that difficult period except if he is sincerely devoted. The insincere would find it impossible to proclaim these words owing to the severity of the agony of death he is subjected to. That is why it becomes an act of sunnah for anyone that is present with a person about to die to prompt him to say these words "La ilaaha illa Allaah", according to the saying of the Prophet (may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), “Exhort your dying men to recite: 'La ilaaha illa Allah' (There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah).” [Transmitted by Muslim: 916]. This should be done without urgency for him not to get angry and say what is not becoming of him.