

Paradise & Reward in the Quran

ALI 650 Online Course
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What is the first thought that comes to your mind
when you hear:

1- death

2- afterlife

3- hell

4- heaven

WHY SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE

- TALKING ABOUT DEATH AND OUR INEVITABLE REALITY *IS* TALKING ABOUT LIFE.
- REFLECTING ON DEATH ALLOWS US TO PREPARE FOR THIS LIFE PROPERLY.
- PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE; RECOGNITION OF THE WORLD BEYOND THIS ONE.
- A HADITH STATES; انتهبوا الناس نيام اذا ماتو
- THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE ACTIONS OF SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN DEATH AND SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT



WHAT IS THE WORLD BEYOND THIS ONE?

- How can we explain the color "red" to someone who is blind?
- A necessary reality from amongst the سنن الله
- One theory states that it is non-existence; امر عدم; "nothingness"
- Second theory, from an Islamic perspective, states دار الى دار; "one world to another"

WHY THIS TOPIC?

1. THE QURAN SPEAKS TO IT

- لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ
- 50:35

2. INCENTIVE AND MOTIVATION

- فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِّن قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ
- 32:17

3. CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE

- وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ تَمَّ رَأَيْتَ نَعِيمًا وَمُلْكًا كَبِيرًا
- 76:20

WHY DO WE DIE?

- We are not created for life, but rather something far greater.
- Qur'an states (67:2), الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ
- When we were in the womb, we didn't last there forever because we had to reach our next destination.



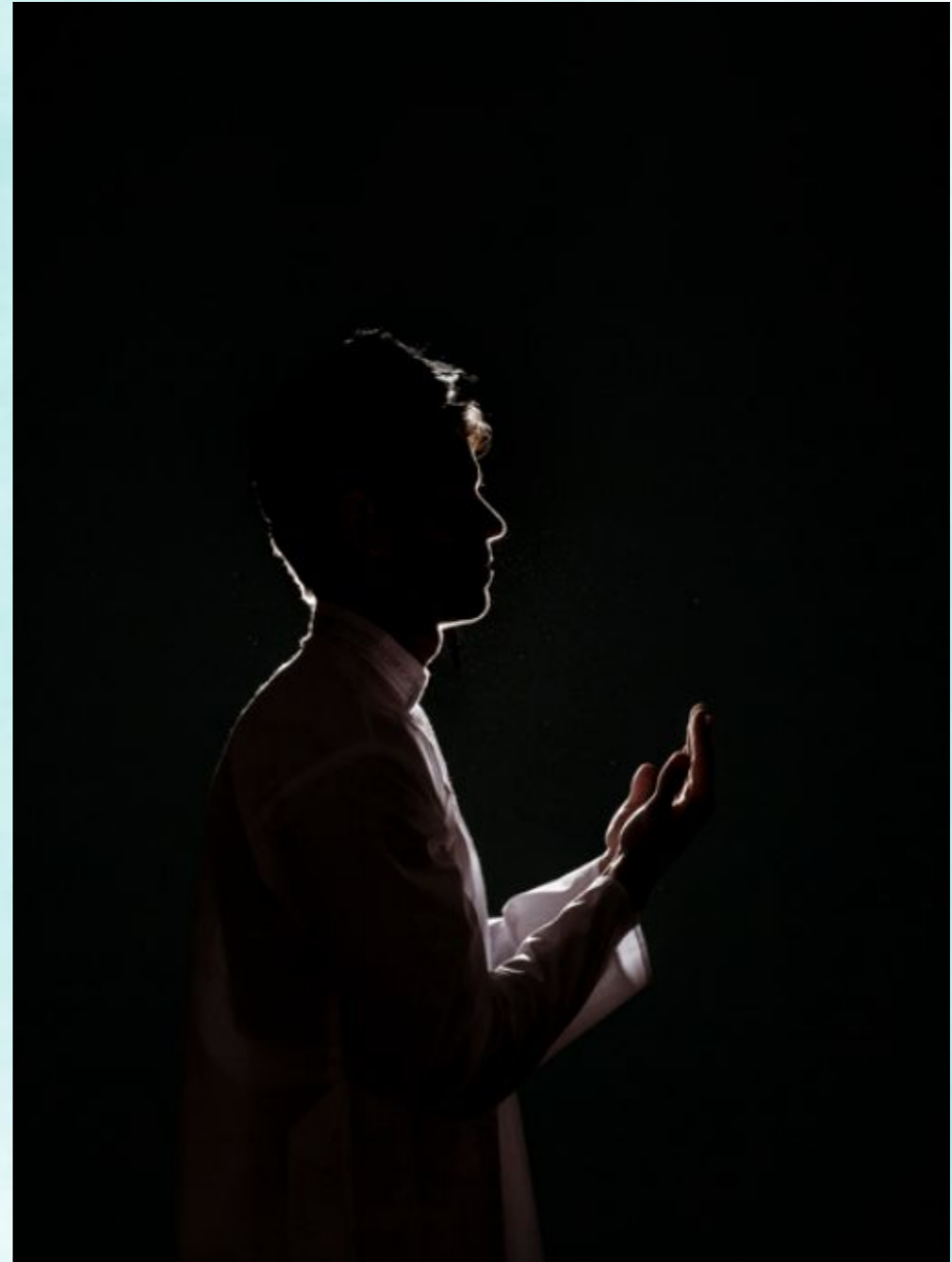
WHY DO PEOPLE FEAR DEATH?

- “Does everyone really fear death?”
- Eastern and Western philosophers say human beings have a natural inclination to live forever—a love for immortality.
 - First Group: Someone who doesn't believe in God, naturally will fear death because they entering into **عدم المطلق** .
 - Second Group: People who are attached to the **دنيا**
 - Third Group: Those in proximity to God. Hadith says, **هل رايته**, **حبيبا يكره لقاء الحبيب؟**

THE JOURNEY OF THE BODY & THE SOUL

THE BODY

- Bodily dimension vs. spiritual dimension
- Primary concern with health, diet, sleep, desires...



الروح

- There is a direct link between the body and the *ruh* [الروح]
- Enjoyments and pleasures of this world are actually of the *ruh* and are of 2 types:
 - Directly reaches the *Ruh* [knowledge, supplication, God's remembrance]
 - Those which reach the *Ruh* by means of the body [food, beautiful scenery, friendship]
- If the first level of enjoyment is not satiated, it will steer toward the bodily pleasure as a means to compensate.

THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE IN THE EYES OF ALI (A)

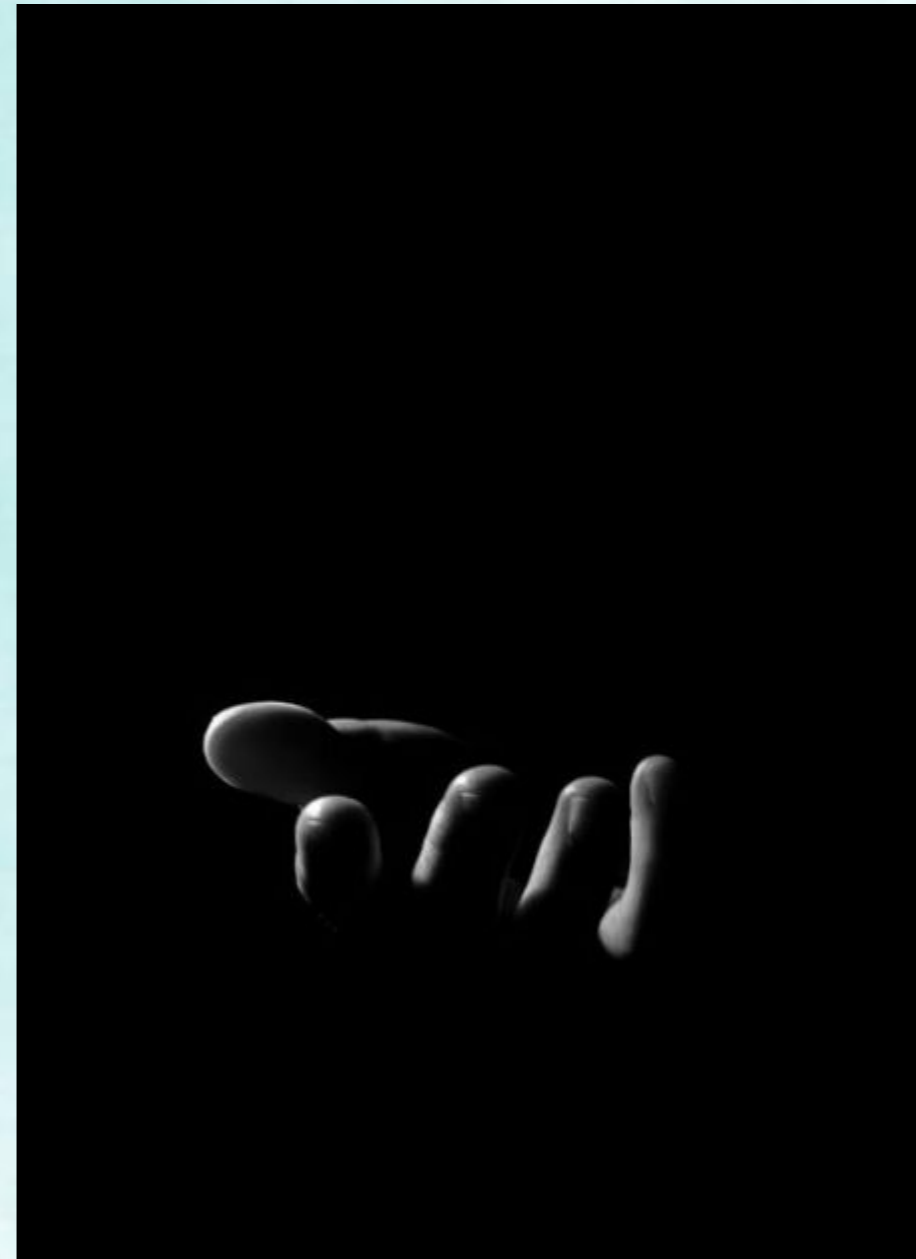
فَالْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا هُمْ أَهْلُ الْفَضَائِلِ: مَنْطِقُهُمُ الصَّوَابُ، وَمَلْبَسُهُمُ الْاِقْتِصَادُ، وَمَشْيُهُمُ التَّوَاضُّعُ. غَضُّوا أَبْصَارَهُمْ
عَمَّا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ، وَوَقَفُوا أَسْمَاعَهُمْ عَلَى الْعِلْمِ النَّافِعِ لَهُمْ. نَزَلَتْ أَنْفُسُهُمْ مِنْهُمْ فِي الْبَلَاءِ كَأَنِّي نَزَلْتُ فِي
الرَّخَاءِ. لَوْ لَا الْأَجَلُ الَّذِي كَتَبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ لَمْ تَسْتَقِرَّ أَرْوَاحُهُمْ فِي أَجْسَادِهِمْ طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ، شَوْقًا إِلَى التَّوَابِ،
وَخَوْفًا مِنَ الْعِقَابِ. عَظَّمَ الْخَالِقُ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَصَعُرَ مَا دُونَهُ فِي أَعْيُنِهِمْ، فَهُمْ وَالْجَنَّةُ كَمَنْ قَدْ رَأَاهَا، فَهُمْ فِيهَا
مُنْعَمُونَ، وَهُمْ وَالنَّارُ كَمَنْ قَدْ رَأَاهَا، فَهُمْ فِيهَا مُعَذَّبُونَ.

Thus, the God-fearing, in it are the people of distinction. Their speech is to the point, their dress is moderate and their gait is humble. They keep their eyes closed to what Allah has made unlawful for them, and they put their ears to that knowledge which is beneficial to them. They remain in the time of trials as though they remain in comfort. If there had not been fixed periods (of life) ordained for each, their spirits would not have remained in their bodies even for the twinkling of an eye because of (their) eagerness for the reward and fear of chastisement. The greatness of the Creator is seated in their heart, and, so, everything else appears small in their eyes. Thus to them Paradise is as though they see it and are enjoying its favours. To them, Hell is also as if they see it and are suffering punishment in it

THE THEOLOGY OF REWARD & PARADISE

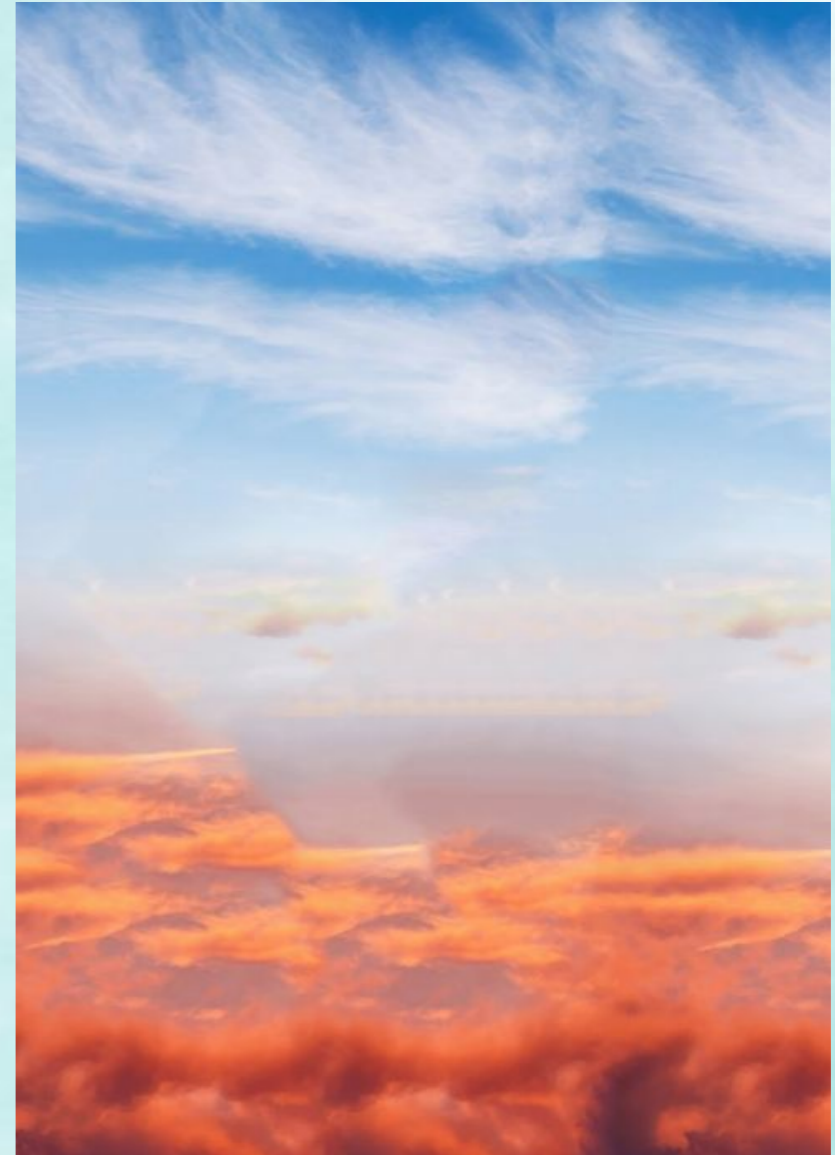
- "...THE FIRE WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE FAITHLESS..."
- "...AND OBEY GOD AND HIS MESSENGER"
- "AND HASTEN TO FORGIVENESS AND PARADISE... PREPARED FOR THE GODWARY"

QURAN 3:131-133



ETERNAL PARADISE

- Sura Yasin (55-58)



Any questions?

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