

Death as Stipulated in the Holy Qur'an

Introduction:

Each human soul is an independent and unique spiritual entity, which has been input by Almighty God into female humans. By virtue of its spiritual nature, the human soul has neither birth nor death. Almighty God alone is the Creator of all souls. Human souls do not die when their carrier material human body dies, the spiritual soul is indestructible and shall remain in resting mode called "*Barzak*¹" until the Great Day of Judgement. This is when all souls of all peoples shall be held accountable for their deeds and misdeeds, during their past compliance performance, whilst the souls were carried inside human bodies on Earth. Once the soul permanently leaves the material human body upon death of that material body, the material body begins to decompose; the soul does not return to the original human body again. That is decreed² as final and they have been stated below, with several validating quotations from the Holy Qur'an.

Discussions on Death of Persons:

- 1) Death of persons³ has been decreed that every soul must taste of death. Hence: death is a decreed eventuality. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ21:35** "*Every soul must taste of death. And We test you by evil and good by way of trial. And to Us you are returned.*"
- 2) It is imperative to understand Almighty God and some of His limitless attributes as a compact, in just a few comprehensive verses as follows, in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ 11:7** "*And He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six periods; and His Throne of Power is ever on water that He might manifest (the good qualities in) you, whoever of you is best in deeds. And if you say, You shall surely be raised up after death, those who disbelieve say: This is nothing but clear deceit.*" **HQ 57:2** "*His is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He gives life and causes death, and He is Powerful over all things.*" **HQ 67:15**

¹ Barzak is a one-way only barrier between this material worldly life and the spiritual life after death and in the main serves as transition point in preparation for the Great Day of Judgement. Doors will open to the Great Day of Judgement. There is no return to Barzak. Please refer to Footnote 3.

² Almighty God has two laws in this matter: The higher and the first is the law of death and the secondary or lower is the law of life. The law of death finally overcomes the law of life. The law of life cannot overcome the law of death. There is no return of life to the original material human body back on Earth.

³ Death is 3rd of the 5 phases of cycle of life. They are: 1st is birth. 2nd is life of compliance. 3rd is death of humans and separation of soul (into *Barzak*) from material body. 4th is Judgement after resurrection of the body to original state. 5th is Outcome of the Great Day of Judgement. That completes the cycle of life.

“He it is Who made the earth subservient to you, so go about in its spacious sides, and eat from His sustenance. And to Him is the rising (after death).”

- 3) Life in this world is a performance trial, in which all peoples, regardless of their personal status in this world, are required to be put through the compliance test. The rules of the compliance test are the expected behaviours as stressed throughout the Holy Qur’an. There are rewards for deeds and reprimands for misdeeds. This is stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ 3:185** *“Every soul must taste of death. And you will be paid your reward fully only on the day of Resurrection. Then whoever is removed far from the Fire and is made to enter the Garden, he indeed attains the object. And the life of this world is nothing but a provision of vanities.”*
- 4) Who has the power to decree death? Only Almighty God has the power to decree death. The soul, which is from Almighty God the Creator, is put through a full circle, from birth of person, compliance in this world and then upon death of the material body, the soul is returned to Almighty God the Creator and the Sender, for the Great Day of Judgement⁴. Judgement shall be swift, fair and final. There is no appeal mechanism higher than the Power of Almighty God to overturn the Decision of Almighty God. It is Just and Final.
- 5) It does not matter where persons may be, death will finally overtake them, as decreed in the Holy Qur’an: **HQ 4:78** *“Wherever you are, death will overtake you, though you are in towers, raised high. And if good befalls them, they say: This is from Allah; and if a misfortune befalls them, they say: This is from you. Say: All is from Allah. But what is the matter with these people that they make no effort to understand anything?”*
- 6) It is a matter of courteous practise that whenever a Muslim hears notification of death of another Muslim, the following utterance is made in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ2:156** *“Who, when a misfortune befalls them, say: Surely we are Allah’s, and to Him we shall return.” (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji’un).*⁵
- 7) Almighty God the Creator is also the Ruler⁶ of His Kingdom, which everybody gleefully aspires to enter. Almighty God creates and recreates – all according to His blueprint of His Master Plan. Only He gives life and only He causes death with His command of “Be” and it is. This is evidenced in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ 9:116** *“Surely Allah’s is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He gives life and causes death. And besides Allah you have no friend nor helper.”* **HQ 30:19** *“He brings forth the living from the dead and brings forth the dead from the living, and gives life to the earth after its death. And thus will you be brought forth.”* **HQ 40:68** *“He it is Who gives life and causes death, so when He decrees an affair, He only says to it, Be, and it is.”*

⁴ Please refer to Footnote 1.

⁵ There are other quotations but HQ2:156 is perhaps the most common.

⁶ All proper nouns, pronouns and adjectives used to describe Almighty God must always start with capitals.

- 8) Almighty God warns that death has been decreed as a definite event; people must make a Will for benefit of their survivors. The Holy Qur'an is not only handbook of life but also a handbook of correct guidance, making certain that after death, the dependents of the deceased have been correctly protected in terms of divisions of wealth. This is prescriptively stated in the Holy Qur'an as an imposition at **HQ 2:180** *"It is prescribed for you, when death approaches one of you, if he leaves behind wealth for parents and near relatives, to make a bequest in a kindly manner; it is incumbent upon the dutiful."* **HQ 5:106** *"O you who believe, call to witness between you, when death draws near to one of you, at the time of making the will, two just persons from among you, or two others from among others than you, if you are travelling in the land and the calamity of death befalls you. You should detain them after the prayer. Then if you doubt (them), they shall both swear by Allah (saying): We will not take for it a price even for a relative, nor will we hide the testimony of Allah, for then certainly we shall be sinners."*
- 9) Death is definitely not reversible as coming back to life again. As people die, all souls will be sent to a common "timeless soul-storage" and all will be tried on the Great Day of Judgement. Their compliance on earth will determine whether some will be rewarded as decreed or sent for corrections as also decreed. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ 23:99-100** *"Until when death catches up with one of them, he says: My Lord, send me back, that I may do good in that which I have left. By no means! It is only a word that he speaks. And before them is a barrier, until the day they are raised."* **HQ 32:10-13** *"And they say: When we are lost in the earth, shall we then be in a new creation? Indeed, they are disbelievers in the meeting with their Lord. Say: The angel of death, who is given charge of you, will cause you to die, then to your Lord you will be returned. And if only you could see when the guilty hang their heads before their Lord: Our Lord, we have seen and heard, so send us back, we will do good; we are (now) certain. And if We had pleased, We could have given every soul its guidance, but the word from Me was just: I will certainly fill hell with jinn and people, all together."*
- 10) Those who defy Almighty God the Creator and follow the ill-desires of the devil will pay the price of punishment, as also decreed in the Holy Qur'an. The devils create not - but are themselves created. Almighty God the Creator is the Possessor of Power over everything and the devils and their conspiring followers will be overtaken with death. The Holy Qur'an states this most powerfully at several places, such as **HQ 25:3** *"And they take besides Him gods who create nothing, while they are themselves created, and they control for*

themselves no harm nor benefit, and they do not control death, nor life, nor raising to life.”⁷

- 11)** Almighty God should always be feared. Death will overtake all peoples no matter where those peoples hide. Almighty God sends His guardian angels to guide people correctly, until His angels of death overtake the people. Almighty God has full control of souls and He temporarily takes some away in sleep and He permanently takes some away, which means definite material death. These are stated in the Holy Qur’an respectively at **HQ39:42** *“Allah takes souls (of human beings) at the time of their death, and of those that do not die (He takes) during their sleep. Then He withholds those on whom He has passed the decree of death and sends the others back till an appointed time. Surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect.”* **HQ 15:23** *“And surely it is We, Who give life and cause death, and We are the Inheritors.”*
- 12)** Muslims must accept without slightest doubt the foundational principles: that all people will experience their individuals’ sessions on the Great Day of Judgement, in life after death. There is no escape. The Holy Qur’an reminds humanity and people must remember this at every moment of their life on Earth, of life after death, a decreed eventuality. This point is stipulated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ 62:8** *“Say: The death from which you flee, that will surely overtake you; then you will be sent back to the Knower of the unseen and the seen, so He will inform you of what you did.”* **HQ 56:60-61** *“We have ordained death among you and We are not to be overcome, that We may change your state and make you grow into what you do not know.”*
- 13)** All Muslims must endeavour to lead their lives on Earth with those prescriptive correctness as stipulated in many places in the Holy Qur’an. The verses stated in the contexts above are only few salient samples of many more, which require regular reading of the Holy Qur’an.

Conclusions on Death of Persons:

- a)** Spiritual leaders must safely lead the congregation onto the correct gainful path, and steer them away from the incorrect path leading to destruction.
- b)** In overall conclusion, the law of death over-rules the law of life. Death always overtakes life: but life can never overtake death, once the certainty of death has been set in. People must be prepared to encounter death at any time.
- c)** There is no return of life to the original material human body back on Earth.

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⁷ This refers to objects used in practices of idolatry and polytheism.