

Glimpses of Heaven and Hell Stated in the Holy Qur'an

Introduction:

Millions of people throughout this world are strongly materialistic and do not readily believe philosophies of certain future events, unless they could materially see and feel by touching. Heaven and Hell have been mentioned in several scriptures as the ultimate places for reward and reprimand, although those mentions have little practical impact on some people. Whilst no living human being has ever been to and witnessed the events of Heaven and Hell, the immaculately all comprehensive descriptions given in the Holy Qur'an suffice in principle, as glimpses of Heaven and Hell. Those glimpses also encourage people to become compliant to the Holy Qur'an and Islam. Only a few selected quotations are stated to keep this article short.

Discussions on Glimpses of Heaven and Hell:

- 1)** There are many different peoples in all communities throughout the world, who do not fully comprehend the expressions of Heaven and Hell, as stated in their scriptures. Some other people consider these expressions as veiled threats to bring about certain behaviours in people. Almighty God is the Supreme Spirit and the Supreme Power, beyond the ability of humans' descriptions and their imaginations. All peoples in our universe, must obey not only the laws of nature¹ but all aspects of conformance to religious principles and in full compliances to all requirements in their scriptures. The Supremacy of Almighty God has been acknowledged, as being most majestically in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ1:1-3** *"Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Master of the day of Recompense."*
- 2)** Almighty God in His absolute Supremacy is the Creator, the Destroyer and the Reproducer of the entire universe systems². All persons and all creations are answerable to Almighty God, but Almighty God is not answerable to any. That proves that Almighty God is in absolute command and the Controller of the entire universe systems. No other person or power or the devil has any right to contradict or countermand any of the Orders, Commandments, Scripture Laws and Prescriptions, which Almighty God has pre-set, since Almighty God created the entire universe systems, just by His Command.

¹ Laws of nature are widespread to all communities the world over and not limited to a religion.

² Our universe is placed within the Milky Way Galaxy. There are several other universes within the Milky Way Galaxy. In addition, there are so many other galaxies of various descriptions and each galaxy has several universes. There are three main classifications of galaxies: Spiral (as in our Milky Way), Elliptical and Irregular. The vastness of the spread of all galaxies cannot be seen by humans even with the most modern of telescopes. That indicates the absolute Power, Greatness and Vastness of Almighty God.

This is materially evidenced in the Holy Qur'an, expressing His Powers of creation at **HQ2:117** *“Wonderful Originator of the heavens and the earth! And when He decrees an affair, He says to it only, Be, and it is.”*

- 3) As the Master Planner, Almighty God in His absolute Supremacy and Fairness sent His messengers³ and prophets to every mainstream nation and community on Earth. They came with His messages delivered to them as His revealed scriptures⁴. There will not be any more messenger or prophet coming and decreed as sealed off. Mankind must adhere to the revealed scriptures and practise full compliance. Almighty God has very clearly prescribed in His scriptures, His expectations of what He has ordered full compliance and what He has prohibited. He has given fair opportunity!
- 4) Almighty God has also given all peoples in all communities His firm warning: that there is the Great Day of Judgment and all souls shall be judged according to their individual performances, whether or not they were in full compliance to prescribed requirements. Those people who do not want to believe in the Oneness of Almighty God, the Great Day of Judgement and the outcomes of the Judgement are going to be in shock; it will be too late to regret after death! This is most succinctly stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ22:55-57** *“And those who disbelieve will not cease to be in doubt concerning it, until the Hour overtakes them suddenly, or the punishment of a destructive day comes to them. The kingdom on that day is Allah's. He will judge between them. So those who believe and do good will be in Gardens of bliss. And those who disbelieve and reject Our messages, for them is a humiliating punishment.”*
- 5) Almighty God has also established the system of genuine forgiveness from people, who pleaded with Him before their deaths, for their mistakes to be forgiven, so that they get pardoned from punishment. He has also provided the opportunity and it is really a matter of the people taking up the offer and

³ From names of Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), a total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were ordained by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by Archangel Gabriel, as spiritually contracted. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur'an. Note: that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. All of these 124,000 prophets were regular human beings who must eat food, drink water, breath air and need atmospheric pressure to stay alive. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted in Hadith No 21257 of *Musnad ibn Hanbal*. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being ordained by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on Earth. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ33:40** *“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.”* Seal means total shutting off arrival of any prophet of whatsoever description: No new prophet and no re-entry of any of the past 124,000 prophets will eventuate.

⁴ Examples of His past revealed scriptures are the Torah, the Zabur and the Injeel.

making genuinely remorseful pleas directly ⁵ to Almighty God. This opportunity is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ2:201-202** *"And there are some among them who say: Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire. For those there is a portion on account of what they have earned. And Allah is Swift in reckoning."*

- 6) In the same vein, Almighty God has prescribed His place of rewarding those who are fully compliant and His other place of reprimand for contraventions. In the English parlance, His place of reward for compliance is Heaven; other communities have other descriptive names for Heaven. Similarly, His place of reprimand for contraventions is Hell; and similarly, other communities have other names for their descriptive names for Hell.
- 7) On the contrary, there are other communities in many parts of this world, which do not believe in the Great Day of Judgment, and judgments of persons' fates according to their compliances or non-compliances. Sometimes, some persons get rather materialistic: unless they physically witness some event, they will not believe! However, Heaven and Hell are not material events in this world on Earth and their probability of witnessing such matters in those peoples' material life will never happen. Immediately upon death, the soul is extracted from the human body and the body begins to decompose. The soul is given to rest timelessly in Barzak⁶ until called up for Judgement. The Holy Qur'an gives ample warning on the eventuality of the Great Day of Judgement at **HQ82:17-19** *"And what will make you realize what the Day of Judgment is? Again, what will make you realize what the day of Judgment is? The day when no soul controls anything for (the benefit of) another soul. And the command on that day is Allah's."*
- 8) Almighty God is the ultimate and the only Judge on the Great Day of Judgment as the Lord of the Worlds. This alert about the unavoidable Great Day of Judgment Day has been given in so many places in the Holy Qur'an⁷, giving mankind ample opportunity to understand, adjust their lifestyles, then reform and finally plead for forgiveness from Almighty God before

⁵ Islam does not practise compulsory involving third-party agent of a priest to seek forgiveness from Almighty God on behalf of a person seeking His forgiveness: Each Muslim person pleads for oneself directly in earnest prayer with Almighty God. This can be done at anytime, anywhere and in privacy.

⁶ Once the soul is separated from the human body, then that body is dead. The dead body immediately begins to decompose and the separated spiritual soul is then relocated to Barzak. The Barzak is transitional location of souls into a state of timelessness in sleep. The soul is not material and does not age. All souls which have been in Barzak since Creation, will be awakened altogether, with doors opening directly into the place of Judgement, on the Great Day of Judgement, for trial before Almighty God, and Whose Decision shall be swift, fair and final in reckoning.

⁷ It is really a matter of reading the Holy Qur'an on regular basis and comprehensively understanding its magnificent verses. The words "judge" and "judgment" have been stated 52 times and 45 times respectively throughout the 114 Chapters of the Holy Qur'an, reflecting the certainty of that event.

one's death: to be saved from the ultimate reprimand for defiance of compliance requirements from Almighty God.

- 9) According to Islam and the Holy Qur'an, there is only One God the Almighty, the incomparable and formless Almighty. There is no creator of Almighty God: He has no parents, no partner or spouse, no son or any description of offspring, no relatives or any associate as substitute "god" for him. He is not subject to time and material aging; and so He has no beginning and He has no ending. Almighty God is alone and hence He is overall in total command. People who are going to add any description of associates to Almighty God will never be forgiven, as boldly stipulated in the Holy Qur'an: as most unforgiveable sin at **HQ4:48** *"Surely Allah does not forgive that a partner should be set up with Him, and forgives all besides that to whom He pleases. And whoever sets up a partner with Allah, he devises indeed a great sin."*
- 10) Those people who fall to be classified as idolaters, polytheists, followers of astrology and witchcraft are without doubt never included in those as associates with Almighty God, who say Almighty God is One. The Holy Qur'an draws comparatives between Almighty God and manmade false gods at **HQ25:1-3** *"Blessed is He Who sent down the Criterion⁸ upon His servant that he might be a warner to the nations — He, Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and Who did not take to Himself a son, and Who has no partner in the kingdom, and Who created everything, then ordained for it a measure. 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."*
- 11) It is never too late to regret for one's sins. People must most sincerely and personally plead to Almighty God for forgiveness, before one's own material death in this world. There is no opportunity for second chance!
- 12) Almighty God forgives: provided, people must plead directly to Him for forgiveness in current life before their death⁹, and provided, they do not associate with Him any other partner of whatsoever description, as elaborated above. Forgiveness requires absolute sincerity in prayer and assurance not to commit the same sins all over again. On the Great Day of Judgment, each soul is independent and shall be judged directly only for him

⁸ Criterion is the Truthfulness of the Holy Qur'an.

⁹ When people reach their death, all their deeds, misdeeds and whatsoever events they encountered will freeze "in their Books" as the final record for assessment on the Great Day of Judgement. Forgiveness cannot be granted after material death of peoples' bodies. **HQ17:13-14** *"And We have made every man's actions to cling to his neck, and We shall bring forth to him on the day of Resurrection a book which he will find wide open. Read your book. Your own soul is sufficient as a reckoner against you this day."*

or for her. Judgment by Almighty God shall be fair, swift, positive and final. There is no jury as in case law system. Each person is self-jury. (Footnote 12).

- 13)** There is no opportunity of appeal after the Judgment has been decided and pronounced by Almighty God. His Judgment is final.
- 14)** Those who were fully in conformance and compliant to Faith and scripture, and those who were to the contrary, will have their paths laid out accordingly. Almighty God has His own tariff of fairness when reaching decisions on reward or reprimand.
- 15)** Those souls, which fabricated lies and denied the Oneness and Supremacy of Almighty God, shall have their place incarcerating in Hell for a period of time entirely determined by Almighty God. Whereas those who were fully compliant and accepted the Supremacy of One God shall have their allocated place in Heaven¹⁰.
- 16)** Those who enter Heaven will abide in it forever. In the Holy Qur'an, Heaven has also been described as the *Garden*¹¹ and *Paradise* in several places in the texts. There are clear guidelines on this and stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ39:32-37** *"Who is, then, more unjust than he who utters a lie against Allah and denies the truth when it comes to him? Is there not in hell an abode for the disbelievers? And he who brings the truth and accepts the truth — such are the dutiful. They shall have with their Lord what they please. Such is the reward of the doers of good — that Allah may ward off from them the worst of what they did, and give them their reward for the best of what they did. Is not Allah sufficient for His servant? And they seek to frighten you with those (whom they worship) besides Him. And whomsoever Allah leaves in error, there is no guide for him. And whom Allah guides, there is none that can lead him astray. Is not Allah Mighty, the Lord of retribution?"*
- 17)** Those who are given the reprimand and sent to Hell, their terms there will depend on the seriousness of their sins, before they too will be given respite. Punishment in Hell is not forever and Almighty God as the Perfect Judge will sentence defiant souls to Hell according to His tariff on reprimand, measuring the exact gravity of their sins. Even when reprimanding, Almighty God will execute absolute fairness.
- 18)** Heaven and Hell are not physical structures in existence on Earth, but in spiritual context and not something material, which may be seen or touched using the regular five senses by humans on Earth. The boundaries of Heaven are without limits and the extensiveness of which, is as the

¹⁰ There are seven levels of Heaven, depending on one's purity and performance. **HQ2:29** *"He it is Who created for you all that is in the earth. And He directed Himself to the heaven, so He made them complete seven heavens; and He is Knower of all things."*

¹¹ Garden, denoting everlasting Paradise as Heaven, has been stated in the Holy Qur'an 142 times throughout the 114 chapters of the Holy Qur'an.

extensiveness of the Heaven and the Earth— it is prepared for those who believe in One God and all His messengers. That is the grace of Almighty God; He gives it to whomsoever He pleases.

- 19) Almighty God is the Lord of mighty grace. This is described in the Holy Qur'an at the following two quotations: **HQ4:122** *"And those who believe and do good, We shall make them enter Gardens in which rivers flow, to abide in them forever. It is Allah's promise, in truth. And who is more truthful in word than Allah?"* **HQ57:21** *"Vie with one another for forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden as vast as the vastness of the heaven and the earth — it is prepared for those who believe in Allah and His messengers. That is the grace of Allah; He gives it to whom He pleases. And Allah is the Lord of mighty grace."*
- 20) The root of all sins and misdeeds is the devil, who most cunningly inspires people against the prescriptive instructions of Almighty God. The devil will not be spared and he will be reprimanded to the Fire of Hell, and the devil will be incarcerated in Hell for as long as Almighty God pleases.
- 21) That is Almighty God's call and not the devil's. This outcome is materially evidenced in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ6:128** *"And on the day when He will gather them all together: O assembly of jinn, you took away a great part of the people. And their friends from among the people will say: Our Lord, some of us profited by others and we have reached our appointed term which You appointed for us. He will say: The Fire is your abode — you shall abide in it, except as Allah please. Surely your Lord is Wise, Knowing."*
- 22) The intensity of the Fire of Hell is described in the next verse at **HQ4:56** *"Those who disbelieve in Our Messages, We shall make them enter Fire. As often as their skins are burned, We shall change them for other skins, that they may taste the punishment. Surely Allah is ever Mighty, Wise."*
- 23) The suffering of the devil (in the Fire of Hell), as the main sly agent and perpetrator of all sins, keenly bent to work against Almighty God at all times is most vividly and descriptively stated in the following verses, drawing comparatives between rewards and reprimands at **HQ25:10-19** *"Blessed is He Who, if He please, will give you what is better than this: Gardens in which rivers flow. And He will give you palaces. But they deny the Hour, and We have prepared a burning Fire for him who denies the Hour. When it sees them from a far-off place, they will hear its raging and roaring. And when they are cast into a narrow place in it, in chains, they will there pray for destruction. Do not pray this day for destruction once but pray for destruction again and again. Say: Is this better or the Garden of Perpetuity, which the dutiful are promised? That is a reward and a destination for them. They shall have in it what they desire, to abide. It is a promise to be prayed for from your Lord. And on the day when He will gather them, and what they serve besides Allah,*

He will say: Was it you who led astray these My servants, or did they themselves stray from the path? They will say: Glory be to You! It was not befitting for us to take for protectors others besides You, but You made them and their fathers to enjoy until they forgot the Reminder, and they became a lost people. So they will call you liars in what you say, then you can neither avert (punishment), nor (obtain) help. And whoever among you does wrong, We shall make him taste a great punishment. And We did not send before you any messengers but they surely ate food and went about in the markets. And We make some of you a trial for others. Will you bear patiently? And your Lord is ever Seeing.”

24) Whereas, on a contrast, all those who were on the correct path of compliance and did good deeds will be rejoicing in Heaven and this has been stated in the following verse at **HQ4:57** *“And those who believe and do good deeds, We shall make them enter Gardens in which rivers flow, to abide in them forever. They will have therein pure companions and We shall make them enter a pleasant shade.”*

25) So which of the Commandments of Almighty God will you deny? Which of the prohibitions set by Almighty God will you contravene? Are you determined to live a life of full compliance as decreed by Almighty God in the Holy Qur’an? It is indeed solely your decision with decreed outcomes.

Conclusions:

- a) Having read the synopsis of both Heaven and Hell with validating quotations from the Holy Qur’an, the final decision to reform and then resort to the correct and prescriptive path, is a personal matter, which resides with each individual. They give the glimpses of Heaven and Hell.
- b) Forgiveness must be sought at prayer, in direct audience with Almighty God as often as possible, before a person succumbs to death. Death grips a person at any time without prior warning.
- c) The Decision to be rewarded to blissful place in Heaven or tormenting and incarcerating in Hell shall be swift, fair and final, solely by Almighty God at Great Day of Judgment, based on His spontaneously compiled records of deeds, misdeeds and compliances of every person who lived in this world. Upon Judgement, each person will be ordered to witness against oneself by reading his or her own book. **(HQ17:13-14)**¹²

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¹² **HQ17:13-14** *“And We have made every human being’s actions to cling to his neck, and We shall bring forth to him on the day of Resurrection a book which he will find wide open. Read your book. Your own soul is sufficient as a reckoner (witness) against you this day.”*