

# SUMMER IMMERSION

## BLISSFUL DEPARTURE



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### SESSION 4

#### Barzakh Cont.

- It is agreed upon by all the scholars that our soul is a being which has a beginning but does not have an end.
- When our soul is extracted at the time of death, it is taken to either:
  - Illiyin – an elevated area, a place for pious souls destined for Jannah
  - Sijeen – a place for wretched souls who are destined for Jahannam
- As the pious soul is traveling up to the skies, it is able to meet and interact with other pious souls that have passed before them. The wretched soul, however, does not have this opportunity.
  - It was narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"إِذَا خُصِرَ الْمُؤْمِنُ أَتَتْهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّحْمَةِ بِخَبَرٍ بَيَضَاءَ فَيَقُولُونَ اخْرُجِي رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيًّا لَا عَنْكَ إِلَى رَوْحِ اللَّهِ وَرَيْحَانٍ وَرَبِّ غَيْرِ غَضَبَانَ . فَتَخْرُجُ كَأَطْيَبِ رِيحِ الْمِسْكِ حَتَّى أَنَّهُ لَيُنَاقِلُهُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا حَتَّى يَأْتُونَ بِهِ بَابَ السَّمَاءِ فَيَقُولُونَ مَا أَطْيَبَ هَذِهِ الرِّيحَ الَّتِي جَاءَتْكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ . فَيَأْتُونَ بِهِ أَرْوَاحَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَلَهُمْ أَشَدُّ فَرَحًا بِهِ مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ بِغَائِبِهِ يَقْدَمُ عَلَيْهِ فَيَسْأَلُونَهُ مَاذَا فَعَلَ فُلَانٌ مَاذَا فَعَلَ فُلَانٌ فَيَقُولُونَ دَعَاؤُهُ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ فِي غَمِّ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا قَالَ أَمَّا أَتَاكُمْ قَالُوا ذُهِبَ بِهِ إِلَى أُمِّهِ الْهَآوِيَةِ وَإِنَّ الْكَافِرَ إِذَا اخْتُصِرَ أَتَتْهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الْعَذَابِ بِمَسْحٍ فَيَقُولُونَ اخْرُجِي سَاحِطَةً مَسْخُوطًا إِلَى عَذَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ . فَتَخْرُجُ كَأَنْتَنِي رِيحٌ جِيفَةٌ حَتَّى يَأْتُونَ بِهِ بَابَ الْأَرْضِ فَيَقُولُونَ مَا أَنْتَنَ هَذِهِ الرِّيحَ حَتَّى يَأْتُونَ بِهِ أَرْوَاحَ الْكَفَّارِ .

"When the believer is dying, the angels of mercy come to him with white silk and say: 'Come out content and with the pleasure of Allah upon you to the mercy of Allah, fragrance and a Lord Who is not angry; So it comes out like the best fragrance of musk. They pass him from one to another until they bring him to the gate of heaven, where they say: 'How good is this fragrance that has come to you from the Earth! Then the souls of the believers come to him and they rejoice more over him than any one of you rejoices when his absent loved one comes to him. They ask him: 'What happened to so-and-so, what happened to so-and-so?' They say: 'Let him be, for he was in the hardship of the world. When he says, 'Did he not come here?' They say: 'He was taken to the pit (of Hell).' Come out discontent, subject of Divine wrath, to the punishment of Allah, the Mighty and Sublime; So it comes out like the foulest stench of a corpse. They bring him to the gates of the Earth, where they say: 'How foul is this stench!' Then they bring him to the souls of the disbelievers." (Sunan an-Nasa'i)

- The reality of the soul is that regardless of how a person passed away or where they passed away, they have a representation of what a grave is in either Illiyin or Sijeen. Allah will make a grave for them in this realm.
- This is why there are narrations which depict the expansion or constriction of the grave. In the world of the unseen, there is a representation of a grave; it can either be a garden of Paradise or a pit of hell.
  - Abu Sa'eed narrated:

دَخَلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مُصَلَّاهُ فَرَأَى نَاسًا كَانَتْهُمْ يَكْتَشِرُونَ قَالَ " أَمَا إِنَّكُمْ لَوْ أَكْثَرْتُمْ ذِكْرَ هَازِمِ اللَّذَاتِ لَسَغَلَكُمْ عَمَّا أَرَى فَأَكْثَرُوا مِنْ ذِكْرِ هَازِمِ اللَّذَاتِ الْمَوْتِ فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يَأْتِ عَلَى الْقَبْرِ يَوْمٌ إِلَّا تَكَلَّمَ فِيهِ فَيَقُولُ أَنَا بَيْتُ الْغُرْبَةِ وَأَنَا بَيْتُ الْوَحْدَةِ وَأَنَا بَيْتُ التُّرَابِ وَأَنَا بَيْتُ الدُّودِ . فَإِذَا دُفِنَ الْعَبْدُ الْمُؤْمِنُ قَالَ لَهُ الْقَبْرُ مَرْحَبًا وَأَهْلًا أَمَا إِنْ كُنْتَ لِأَحَبِّ مَنْ يَمْشِي عَلَى ظَهْرِي إِلَى فَإِذَا وَلَيْتُكَ الْيَوْمَ وَصِرْتَ إِلَى فَسْتَرَى صَنِيعِي بِكَ . قَالَ فَيَتَسَّعُ لَهُ مَدَّ بَصَرِهِ وَيُفْتَحُ لَهُ بَابٌ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ . وَإِذَا دُفِنَ الْعَبْدُ الْفَاجِرُ أَوْ الْكَافِرُ قَالَ لَهُ الْقَبْرُ لَا مَرْحَبًا وَلَا أَهْلًا أَمَا إِنْ كُنْتَ لِأَبْغَضِ مَنْ يَمْشِي عَلَى ظَهْرِي إِلَى فَإِذَا وَلَيْتُكَ الْيَوْمَ وَصِرْتَ إِلَى فَسْتَرَى صَنِيعِي بِكَ . قَالَ فَيَلْتَنِمُ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّى تَلْتَقِيَ عَلَيْهِ وَتَخْتَلِفَ أَضْلَاعُهُ . قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِأَصَابِعِهِ فَأَدْخَلَ بَعْضَهَا فِي جَوْفِ بَعْضٍ قَالَ " وَيُقَيِّضُ اللَّهُ لَهُ سَبْعِينَ تَبِيْنًا لَوْ أَنَّ وَاحِدًا مِنْهَا نَفَخَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَا أَتَبَتْ شَيْئًا مَا بَقِيَ الدُّنْيَا فَيَنْهَشُنُهُ وَيَخْدِشُنُهُ حَتَّى يُفْضَى بِهِ إِلَى الْحِسَابِ " . قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " إِنَّمَا الْقَبْرُ رَوْضَةٌ مِنْ رِيَاضِ الْجَنَّةِ أَوْ حُفْرَةٌ مِنْ حُفْرِ النَّارِ " . قَالَ أَبُو عَيْسَى هَذَا حَدِيثٌ غَرِيبٌ لَا نَعْرِفُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ هَذَا الْوَجْهِ .

" The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) entered his Musalla and saw the people who looked as if they were smiling. So he said: 'Indeed, if you were to increase in remembrance of the severer of pleasures, then you would find yourselves too busy for what I see. So increase in remembrance of death, the severer of pleasures. For indeed there is no day that comes upon the grave except that it speaks, saying: "I am the house of the estranged, I am the house of the solitude, I am the house of dust, and I am the house of the worm-eaten." When the believing worshipper is buried, the grave says to him: "Welcome, make yourself comfortable. Indeed, to me, you are the most beloved of those who walked upon me. Since you have been entrusted to me and delivered to me today, you shall see what I have arranged for you." It will then widen for him so that his sight extends, and the door to Paradise is opened for him. And when the wicked worshipper or the disbeliever is buried, the grave says to him: "You are not welcome, do not get comfortable. Indeed, to me, you are the most hated of those who walked upon me. Since you have been entrusted to me and delivered to me today, you shall see what I have arranged for you.'" He said: 'It will begin closing in on him(squeezing him) until his ribs are crushing each other.'" He said: " The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) clasped some of his fingers between others and said: 'Seventy giant serpents will constrict him, if even one of them were to hiss on the earth, nothing upon it would grow as long as it remained. They will chew on him and bite him until he is brought to the Reckoning.'" He said: " The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) said: 'The grave is but a garden from the gardens of Paradise, or a pit from the pits of the Fire.'" (Jami` at-Tirmidhi)

- In the grave, Allah will gift the pious soul a window into Jannah; they will be opened up for them to experience the scent, the breeze etc. and the soul will be at peace that they will fall asleep.
  - Abu Hurairah narrated that: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

" إِذَا قُبِرَ الْمَيِّتُ - أَوْ قَالَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَتَاهُ مَلَكَانِ أَسْوَدَانِ أَرْزَقَانِ يُقَالُ لِأَحَدِهِمَا الْمُنْكَرُ وَالْآخَرُ النَّكِيرُ فَيَقُولَانِ مَا كُنْتَ تَقُولُ فِي هَذَا الرَّجُلِ فَيَقُولُ مَا كَانَ يَقُولُ هُوَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ . فَيَقُولَانِ قَدْ كُنَّا نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُولُ هَذَا . ثُمَّ يُفْسَخُ لَهُ فِي قَبْرِهِ سَبْعُونَ ذِرَاعًا فِي سَبْعِينَ ثَمَّ يُنَوَّرُ لَهُ فِيهِ ثُمَّ يُقَالُ لَهُ نَمْ . فَيَقُولُ أَرْجِعْ إِلَى أَهْلِي فَأَخْبِرْهُمْ فَيَقُولَانِ نَمْ كَنُومَةِ الْعَرُوسِ الَّذِي لَا يُوقِظُهُ إِلَّا أَحَبُّ أَهْلِهِ إِلَيْهِ . حَتَّى يَبْعَثَهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ مَضْجَعِهِ ذَلِكَ . وَإِنْ كَانَ مُنَافِقًا قَالَ سَمِعْتُ النَّاسَ يَقُولُونَ فَقُلْتُ مِثْلَهُ لَا أَدْرِي . فَيَقُولَانِ قَدْ كُنَّا نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُولُ ذَلِكَ . فَيُقَالُ لِلْأَرْضِ التَّيْمِي عَلَيْهِ . فَتَلْتَمِ عَلَيْهِ . فَتَخْتَلِفُ فِيهَا أَضْلَاعُهُ فَلَا يَرَالُ فِيهَا مُعَذِّبًا حَتَّى يَبْعَثَهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ مَضْجَعِهِ ذَلِكَ " .

"When the deceased - or he said when one of you - is buried, two angels, black and blue (eyed) come to him. One of them is called Al-Munkar, and the other An-Nakir. They say: 'What did you used to say about this man?' So he says what he was saying (before death) 'He is Allah's slave and His Messenger. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger.' So they say: 'We knew that you would say this.' Then his grave is expanded to seventy by seventy cubits, then it is illuminated for him. Then it is said to him: 'Sleep.' So he said: 'Can I return to my family to inform them?' They say: 'Sleep as a newlywed, whom none awakens but the dearest of his family.' Until Allah resurrects him from his resting place." "If he was a hypocrite he would say: 'I heard people saying something, so I said the same; I do not know.' So they said: 'We knew you would say that.' So the earth is told: 'Constrict him.' So it constricts around him, squeezing his ribs together. He continues being punished like that until Allah resurrects him from his resting place." (Jami` at-Tirmidhi)

- Regardless of how the soul separates from the body after it leaves the body, it will still retain some type of connection to the body and hence, it is able to feel. This is why the body of the deceased should be handled with care during ghusl etc.
- When the deceased is laid to rest in the grave, the soul is able to return to the body – the soul comes back between the shroud and the skin to answer the three questions.
- The Qur'an will be our companion in the grave – it will give us comfort and support during the questioning. This is the first stage of akhirah.
  - It was narrated that Hani' the freed slave of 'Uthman bin 'Affan, said:

كَانَ عُثْمَانُ بْنُ عَفَّانٍ إِذَا وَقَفَ عَلَى قَبْرِ يَبْكِي حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ لِحْيَتُهُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ : تَذْكُرُ الْجَنَّةَ وَالنَّارَ وَلَا تَبْكِي وَتَبْكِي مِنْ هَذَا قَالَ إِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - قَالَ : " إِنَّ الْقَبْرَ أَوَّلُ مَنَازِلِ الْآخِرَةِ فَإِنْ نَجَا مِنْهُ فَمَا بَعْدَهُ أَيْسَرُ مِنْهُ وَإِنْ لَمْ يَنْجُ مِنْهُ، فَمَا بَعْدَهُ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ " . قَالَ وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - : " مَا رَأَيْتُ مَنْظَرًا قَطُّ إِلَّا وَالْقَبْرُ أَفْظَعُ مِنْهُ "

When 'Uthman bin 'Affan stood beside a grave, he would weep until his beard became wet." It was said to him: 'You remember Paradise and Hell, and you do not weep, but you weep said: "The grave is the first stage of the (الآخرة) for this?' He said: 'The Messenger of Allah Hereafter. Whoever is delivered from it, what comes after it is easier. If he is not delivered said: "I (الآخرة) from it, then what comes after it is harder.'" He said that the Messenger of Allah have never seen any horrible scene but the grave is more horrible." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

- In this stage, the soul will be able to hear the congregation surrounding them, until the last person leaves the gravesite.
  - Anas b. Malik reported Allah's Apostle (ﷺ) having said:

"إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا وُضِعَ فِي قَبْرِهِ وَتَوَلَّى عَنْهُ أَصْحَابُهُ إِنَّهُ لَيَسْمَعُ قَرْعَ نِعَالِهِمْ " . قَالَ " يَأْتِيهِ مَلَكَانِ فَيَقْعَدَانِهِ فَيَقُولَانِ لَهُ مَا كُنْتَ تَقُولُ فِي هَذَا الرَّجُلِ " . قَالَ " فَأَمَّا الْمُؤْمِنُ فَيَقُولُ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ " . قَالَ " فَيَقَالُ لَهُ انْظُرْ إِلَى مَقْعَدِكَ مِنَ النَّارِ قَدْ أَبْدَلَكَ اللَّهُ بِهِ مَقْعَدًا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ " . قَالَ نَبِيُّ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " فَيَرَاهُمَا جَمِيعًا " . قَالَ قَتَادَةُ وَذَكَرَ لَنَا أَنَّهُ يُفْسَحُ لَهُ فِي قَبْرِهِ سَبْعُونَ ذِرَاعًا وَيُمْلَأُ عَلَيْهِ خَضِرًا إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ .

*When the servant is placed in his grave, his companions retrace their steps, and he hears the noise of their footsteps, two angels come to him and make him sit and say to him: What you have to say about this person (the Prophet)? If he is a believer, he would say: I bear testimony to the fact that he is a servant of Allah and His Messenger. Then it would be said to him: Look to your seat in the Hellfire, for Allah has substituted (the seat of yours) with a said: He would be shown both the seats. Qatada (رحمته الله) seat in Paradise. Allah's Messenger said: It was mentioned to us that his grave (the grave of a believer) expands to seventy cubits and is full with verdure until the Day when they would be resurrected. (Sahih Muslim)*

(Sahih Muslim)

- The prophets have a different station; their bodies as well as their souls are preserved in a special manner by Allah. Their bodies will not decompose, while their souls will have a stronger connection to their bodies.
- This is why the Prophet (ﷺ) was able to witness Musa AS praying during Isra and Miraj.
  - Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

مَرَرْتُ عَلَى مُوسَى لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِيَ بِي عِنْدَ الْكَثِيبِ الْأَحْمَرِ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي قَبْرِهِ

"I passed by Moses during my night journey near the red mound; he was praying in his grave." (Sahih Muslim)

- The souls of the prophets have the highest level of connection to their bodies, followed by the martyrs – this is part of their special virtue; the martyrs are not dead and their blood is still fresh.
  - Allah tells us:

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ ﴿١٦٩﴾ فَرِحِينَ بِمَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَيَسْتَبْشِرُونَ بِالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ مَنْ خَلْفَهُمْ أَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿١٧٠﴾ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ بِنِعْمَةِ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَفَضْلٍ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٧١﴾

*Never think of those martyred in the cause of Allah as dead. In fact, they are alive with their Lord, well provided for—rejoicing in Allah's bounties and being delighted for those yet to join them. There will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve. They are joyful for receiving Allah's grace and bounty, and that Allah does not deny the reward of the believers. (3:169-171)*

- Sleep is a form of temporary death. Therefore, when we dream of the deceased and we feel their presence, this means that our soul is actually able to feel their soul and interact with them.
  - Allah said:

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنْفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

‘It is’ Allah ‘Who’ calls back the souls ‘of people’ upon their death as well as ‘the souls’ of the living during their sleep. Then He keeps those for whom He has ordained death, and releases the others until ‘their’ appointed time. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect. (39:42)

- There are two opinions with regards to whether or not the souls are able to hear and feel our presence:
  - Opinion 1:
    - Once the deceased is buried and the last person leaves the gravesite, it will be the last time they can hear us and feel us.
    - After this stage, they will be able to receive the reward of our du’as, recitation etc. but they will not be able to respond to our Salam when we visit them.
  - Opinion 2:
    - Upon visiting the deceased, Allah allows their soul to their body for a brief moment.
  - In this time, they are comforted by our presence and they are able to hear our du’as, recitation etc. and receive our Salam, although we are unable to hear their response. This is the majority opinion of scholars.

- There are narrations that show us the Prophet (ﷺ) himself spoke to the deceased, and so did many of his Companions.
  - Narrated Abu Talha:

أَنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَمَرَ يَوْمَ بَدْرٍ بِأَرْبَعَةِ وَعِشْرِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ صَنَادِيدِ قُرَيْشٍ فَقَذَفُوا فِي طَوِيٍّ مِنْ أَطْوَاءِ بَدْرٍ حَبِيثٍ مُخْبِثٍ، وَكَانَ إِذَا ظَهَرَ عَلَى قَوْمٍ أَقَامَ بِالْعَرَصَةِ ثَلَاثَ لَيَالٍ، فَلَمَّا كَانَ بِبَدْرٍ الْيَوْمَ الثَّالِثَ، أَمَرَ بِرَاجِلَتِهِ فَشَدَّ عَلَيْهَا رَحْلَهَا، ثُمَّ مَشَى وَاتَّبَعَهُ أَصْحَابُهُ وَقَالُوا مَا نَرَى يَنْطَلِقُ إِلَّا لِبَعْضِ حَاجَتِهِ، حَتَّى قَامَ عَلَى شَفَةِ الرَّكِيِّ، فَجَعَلَ يُنَادِيهِمْ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ وَأَسْمَاءِ آبَائِهِمْ " يَا فَلَانُ بْنُ فَلَانٍ، وَيَا فَلَانُ بْنُ فَلَانٍ، أَيَسْرُكُمُ أَنْكُمُ أَطْعَمْتُ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَا قَدْ وَجَدْنَا مَا وَعَدَنَا رَبُّنَا حَقًّا، فَهَلْ وَجَدْتُمْ مَا وَعَدَ رَبُّكُمْ حَقًّا ". قَالَ فَقَالَ عُمَرُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، مَا تُكَلِّمُ مِنْ أَجْسَادٍ لَا أَرْوَاحَ لَهَا فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ، مَا أَنْتُمْ بِأَسْمَعَ لِمَا أَقُولُ مِنْهُمْ ". قَالَ قَتَادَةُ أَحْيَاهُمُ اللَّهُ حَتَّى أَسْمَعَهُمْ قَوْلَهُ تَوْبِيخًا وَتَصْغِيرًا وَنَقِيمَةً وَحَسْرَةً وَنَدَمًا.

On the day of Badr, the Prophet (ﷺ) ordered that the corpses of twenty-four leaders of Quraish should be thrown into one of the dirty dry wells of Badr. (It was a habit of the Prophet (ﷺ) that whenever he conquered some people, he used to stay at the battle-field for three nights. So, on the third day of the battle of Badr, he ordered that his she-camel be saddled, then he set out, and his companions followed him saying among themselves. "Definitely he (i.e. the Prophet) is proceeding for some great purpose." When he halted at the edge of the well, he addressed the corpses of the Quraish infidels by their names and their fathers' names, "O so-and-so, son of so-and-so and O so-and-so, son of so-andso! Would it have pleased you if you had obeyed Allah and His Apostle? We have found true what our Lord promised us. Have you too found true what your Lord promised you?" ` Umar said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! You are speaking to bodies that have no souls!" Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "By Him in Whose Hand Muhammad's soul is, you do not hear, what I say better than they do." (Qatada said, "Allah brought them to life (again) to let them hear him, to reprimand them and slight them and take revenge over them and caused them to feel remorseful and regretful.") (Sahih al-Bukhari)

- The ruling is that prophets are to be buried in a place of their passing. When the Prophet (ﷺ) departed from this world, some Companions said that he would be buried near the minbar, and others said that he would be buried in al-Baqi.
  - Abu Bakr as-Siddiq said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say,

" مَا دُفِنَ نَبِيٌّ قَطُّ إِلَّا فِي مَكَانِهِ الَّذِي تُوفِّيَ فِيهِ "

*"No prophet was ever buried except in the place where he died."*

- If a person is martyred; or dies in battle, their body should not be washed and shrouded. However, for the martyr who died in a different condition (i.e. poison), it is allowed.
  - Narrated Jabir bin `Abdullah: The Prophet (ﷺ) collected every two martyrs of Uhud in one piece of cloth, then he would ask,

"أَيُّهُمْ أَكْثَرُ أَخْذَاً لِلْقُرْآنِ". فَإِذَا أُشِيرَ لَهُ إِلَى أَحَدِهِمَا قَدَّمَهُ فِي اللَّحْدِ وَقَالَ "أَنَا شَهِيدٌ عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ". وَأَمَرَ بِدَفْنِهِمْ فِي دِمَائِهِمْ، وَلَمْ يُغَسَّلُوا وَلَمْ يُصَلَّ عَلَيْهِمْ.

*"Which of them had (knew) more of the Qur'an?" When one of them was pointed out for him, he would put that one first in the grave and say, "I will be a witness on these on the Day of Resurrection." He ordered them to be buried with their blood on their bodies and they were neither washed nor was a funeral prayer offered for them. (Sahih al-Bukhari)*

- The souls of the martyrs are inside the bodies of green birds, and they fly around in Paradise.
- When the Prophet's cousin, Ja'far ibn Abi Talib, was martyred in the battle of Mu'tah after both his arms were cut off, the Prophet (ﷺ) saw him in a dream.
  - Abu Hurairah reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

رَأَيْتُ جَعْفَرًا يَطِيرُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ

*"I saw Ja'far flying in Paradise with the angels." (At-Tirmidhi)*

- Prior to their death, the pious people are often able to experience the angels greeting them and comforting them every step of the way upon their departure from this world.
- There are some manifestations within our understanding that we can sometimes experience in this world.
  - For example, if a beautiful scent emanates from the grave of a pious person; this is due to their body's strong connection to their soul and what their soul is experiencing in Jannah.
- Just like how the reward starts in the grave for a pious person, the punishment for a wretched person similarly starts in the grave. This is why preparing for our life in the grave is important.

- Ways to prepare for the life in the grave:
  - Performing good deeds
  - Refraining from sins
  - Reminding yourself of death and the punishment of the grave
  - Reciting Surah al-Mulk every night
    - Allah said:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ

*'He is the One' Who created death and life in order to test which of you is best in deeds. And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving. (67:2)*

- Allah mentioned death before life – this is a great reminder that our life focus should be about death, while life should be secondary. He is also reminding us to recite this Surah to get protection from the grave before death approaches us.

## Washing the Body

- It is the right of a Muslim to be taken care of as they pass away by washing, shrouding, burying them and praying for them.
- This process is part fard al-kifayah (communal obligation) – meaning that it is a shared responsibility of the Muslim ummah, and it is mandatory upon the community; only one person is enough.
- The body of the deceased should be treated with honor and respect throughout the process.
  - Allah said:

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا

*Indeed, We have dignified the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them far above many of Our creatures. (17:70)*

- The washing should be performed by close relatives and friends; preferably those close to the deceased that have been designated by them. Sometimes, this will include the burial committee that will facilitate the washing; someone who is learned.

- The general rule is that men should wash men, while women wash women. However, occasionally there is an exception if the deceased had requested for their spouses to wash them.
- The outer garment must remain on the deceased's body throughout the washing, and their body should not be exposed, while ensuring the awrah is covered at all times.
- Any najasah should be removed from the body. Begin by first washing the areas of wudu, then wash the right side of the body, followed by the left side.

