

THE HORRIFYING TORMENT OF THE AFTERLIFE

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اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَغِيْثُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْرِ اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ اَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ
اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ.
اَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اِنْفِقُوا اللّٰهَ وَاَوْصِيْكُمْ وَاِيَّايَ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Belief in the torment of the afterlife is part of the pillars of faith. A true believer will strive to do good and avoid all sinful acts out of fear of the punishment prepared by Allah Azzawajalla for the Day of Judgment. The terrifying torment of the Hereafter begins when all humans are resurrected from their graves in a state of shock, heading toward the Plains of Mahsyar. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 36 (Surah Yasin) verse 52:

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قَالُوْا يٰوَيْلَنَا مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِنْ مَّرْقَدِنَا ۚ هٰذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمٰنُ وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُوْنَ ٥٢

Which means: *“They will cry, “Woe to us! Who has raised us up from our place of rest? This must be what the Most Compassionate warned us of; the messengers told the truth!”*

The fear after being resurrected from the grave is followed by the gathering at the Plains of Mahsyar. All humanity from the time of Prophet Adam (peace be upon him) to the followers of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) will gather together under the scorching sun. The distance between each person and the sun will depend on his/her deeds during his/her lifetime. This event is part of the terrifying torment of the Afterlife, as described in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim (may Allah be pleased with him).

Which means: *“People will be immersed in sweat according to the level of their deeds. Some will have sweat reaching their ankles, some will have it up to their knees, some will have it up to their waists, and some will be completely submerged in their sweat.”*

Imam al-Ghazali said, “Those who sweat a lot in this world for the sake of Allah the Almighty’s religion will sweat less on the Plains of Mahsyar. Therefore, increase your worship and good deeds so that your sweat will be minimal in the Afterlife.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Prepare provisions through righteous deeds that will bear witness and help us in the Afterlife. Indeed, those who are heedless and fall into sin

must remember that on the Day of Judgment, the severity of the torment is beyond our imagination. On that day, mouths that once spoke and offered countless excuses will be sealed, and instead, hands and feet will be given the chance to testify against their own selves. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 36 (Surah Yasin) verse 65:

الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ

Which means: *“On this Day We will seal their mouths, their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will testify to what they used to commit.”*

As for unlawful wealth taken from the rights of others whether through deceit or bribery; the perpetrator will be punished with that very wealth. Illicit wealth will stand as a witness on the Day of Judgment. Reflect deeply on the severity of the torment that will befall such individuals, as described in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari, which means:

“ Whoever takes unlawfully even a hand span of land, a collar measuring seven times (this) land will be placed around his neck on the Day of Resurrection.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Indeed, the torment of the Afterlife strikes fear into the hearts of the believers, urging them to do good and avoid evil. As for those who die in a state of disbelief and sin, a dreadful and terrifying punishment awaits them. Allah the Almighty says in chapter (Surah al-Nisa) verse 56:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِمْ نَارًا كَلَّمًا نَضْجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ بَدَلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا
الْعَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

Which means: “Surely those who reject Our signs, We will cast them into the Fire. Whenever their skin is burnt completely, We will replace it so they will constantly taste the punishment. Indeed, Allah is Almighty, All-Wise.”

Not only that, the dreadful torment is intensified through scorching food and boiling drinks that fill their bellies. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 56 (Surah al-Waqi'ah) verses 52-54:

لَاكُلُونَ مِنْ شَجَرٍ مِّنْ زَقُّومٍ ﴿٥٢﴾ فَمَالِئُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ ﴿٥٣﴾ فَشَرِبُونَ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْحَمِيمِ ﴿٥٤﴾

Which means: “You will certainly eat from the fruit of the trees of Zaqqûm, filling up your bellies with it. Then on top of that you will drink boiling water.”

In conclusion, remember that the terrifying torment of the Afterlife begins with the gathering of mankind at the Plains of Mahsyar.

Our body parts such as hands, feet, skin, and others will bear witness to every sinful act. The mouth will be sealed and unable to speak in our defense.

The terrifying torment of the Hereafter is not only external; even the food and drink will be unbearably painful.

May all our hearts feel anxious, trembling, and fearful of the torment of the Afterlife. Reflect deeply on what Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim:

وَاللَّهِ لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ مَا أَعْلَمُ لَضَحِكْتُمْ قَلِيلًا وَلَبَكَيْتُمْ كَثِيرًا

Which means: “If you knew what I know, you would laugh a little and weep often.”

Increase your supplication.

اللَّهُمَّ أَجِرْنِي مِنَ النَّارِ

Which means: “O Allah, protect me from the fire of Hell,”

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطْمَةُ نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمَوْقَدَةُ ٦ الَّتِي تَطْلُعُ عَلَى الْأُفْدَةِ ٧ إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّوَصَّدَةٌ ٨ فِي عَمَدٍ مُّمَدَّدَةٍ ٩

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

