

Death

Part one

Many men has walked on the surface of this earth, they all belong to different natures and cultures. A few of them made history for which they were remembered, where as others were never to be mentioned again. Although they were different from one another and had different habits, ideas and mannerism all these men had two things in common: -

1. All were delivered from the mother's womb.
2. They all tasted death. As mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: -

"Every soul shall taste death"

- Who claims that he has lived a 1000 years, we all admit the honourable rank of the prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and his position in the eyes of Allah.
- It is also undisputed that he is the last messenger of Allah, whose message will survive to the Day of Judgement. We also think highly of his companions.

Now there are several questions we have to answer.

1. What is Death?

Shiekh Jalalludin Suyooti has recorded the verdict of the Ullama that death is like a type of metamorphosis, when the soul is separated from one dwelling to another, (commentary). A believer's death has explained by some Ullama as transference from a world of hardship to that of peace and luxury, may Allah grant us such death.

2. How death came about?

In kitabuh Zuhud included narration of Hazrat Hasan Basri (RA) that when Allah created Hazrat Adam and his progeny, his offspring, this family. The angels expressed Allah concern about the world not being large enough to accommodate all of them. But Allah assured the angels by declaring "I shall create death," on hearing this, the angels became disturbed, and when they remarked that death would create fear and in turn would remove the pleasure of life. On hearing this Allah replied "I shall create hope and ambitions."

So therefore it is very important my dear respected readers that we remember death. We are so engrossed in our worldly pursuits that remembrance of death does not occur to us. The Holy Prophet (SAW) has said the most intelligent person is one who remembers death. Constant remembrance of death prevents one from evil and sin and motivates him towards good deeds, as mentioned in one Hadith by the Prophet (SAW) in Tirmidihi, Huraira, "remember frequently the destroyer of pleasures" meaning

death, so this narration clearly indicates that we are here in this world for a purpose and not just for pleasure and entertainment.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) states in one Hadith that live in this world as if you are a traveller.

Abdullah Bin Umar narrates that the Prophet took hold of his shoulder and said be in this world as if you are a stranger or a traveller.

Concerning this Hazrat Esa (Allaysallam) has said the world is like a bridge, cross it but do not build on it.

Life in this world is very short and which everyone has to surpass, until he meets his death. Allah says in the Qur'an: -

"For every nation there is a promise, a term appointed. When the term is reached, not an hour can they cause it to delay, they will neither move back a single hour nor move it forward"

Meaning that is the time they will have to depart from this world.

Nowadays unfortunately the family and close relatives grieve after the deceased, after some time all is forgotten, we forget that one day we will have to leave this world.

If we remembered death frequently we would most certainly make the necessary preparation. Intelligent students always prepare for exams; it is also a matter of intelligence to prepare for the account to be given after death.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) has mentioned in a Hadith "clever is the one who prepares for life after death."

Now when one makes preparation for the world hereafter, he has performed Aamale salihah, carried out the daily prayers, Zikr and the worship of Allah, keeping this in mind that we have made our own preparation for the hereafter. We should also make preparations for the future generation, meaning that before we leave this mortal world we leave behind provisions for our children, our children's children and the entire Muslim ummah. So what are these provisions we make for those who we leave behind? The answer lies in building a good Islamic environment and helping to create a strong community.

How?

By contributing to the building of Masjids and Islamic schools, to safeguard the Imman of the future of the Islamic ummah.

Once the Prophet (SAW) came to the Masjid for Salaah when he noticed some people laughing and giggling, he remarked if you remembered death I would not see you like this, think of your death often. Not a single day passes when the grave calls out, I am a wilderness, I am a place of dust, I am a place of worms, when a true believer is placed in the grave. It says welcome it is good of you to have come to me, of all the people walking on the earth I liked you the best, now you have come to me you will see how I entertain you. It then expands as far as the occupant can see. A door from paradise is

opened for him in the grave and through this door he gets fresh and fragrant air from Paradise.

However when an evil man is laid in the grave, you are not welcome here, your coming into me is very bad for me, of all the people walking on the earth I dislike you the most. Now that you have been put into me you will see how I treat you. It then closes into him so much that his ribs of one side penetrate into the other; as many as 70 serpents are then set upon him to keep biting him until the day of resurrection. These serpents are so venomous that if one of them was to spurt his venom upon the earth then not a single blade of grass would grow.

Lets study the day when the prophet (S) passed away, it was hard for the companions that such a thing could happen to such a highly ranked prophet, who remained active until his last breath. Hazrat Umar (RD) stood up on the pulpit and said whoever says the prophet (S) has passed away I will split his throat. It was not a strange thing to address because the prophet (S) held such a high rank before him. Hazrat AbuBakr (RD) ordered Hazrat Umar (RD) to sit down and then to recite the verse "Muhammad is no more than a messenger indeed many prophets have passed away before him, if he dies or is killed are you going to turn back. On hearing this Hazrat Umar (RD) and other companions were astonished, that they had recited this verse many times but on this occasion it did not come in their minds. They felt as if this verse was being revealed to Hazrat AbuBakr and they all agreed that Muhammad (S) had passed away.

Such a great person experienced death then how can it be that we can not experience it.