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The Beliefs of a Muslim

The Beliefs of a Muslim are covered in seven points.
These are:

- 1. Allah**
- 2. Angels**
- 3. Divine revelation**
- 4. Prophets**
- 5. Day of Judgment (the Last Day)**
- 6. Predestination (Taqdeer)**
- 7. Hereafter (Eternal life after death)**

These seven points cover the essential Beliefs of a Muslim. A Muslim must believe in these to be regarded as a Muslim.

Belief in Allah

We believe that He is One with no partner. He has no equal. He has no companion, parents nor any offspring, being above all such needs. He was not created by anyone.

He is One in His Essence, Attributes and Actions. Nothing within creation resembles Him.

He has neither a beginning nor an end. He exists on His own without being in need of anyone or anything. He does not eat, sleep or drink. He created the whole creation and is in no need of any of them.

He is the One Who maintains His creation. Nothing within His creation is free of Him even for a moment.

He sees and hears all they do with His perfect knowledge. Nothing is hidden from Him.

He provides for the whole of His creation, from His infinite Mercy.

He is known by His many attributes, some of which He has revealed to His creation. From amongst His most important attributes are His mercy and Grace (Fadl) and His Justice. From His mercy He rewards

those who believe in Him and from His justice He punishes those who reject Him.

He alone has absolute power and is the one who gives life and death; hence He alone deserves to be worshipped.

To know Him and to worship Him is the purpose of creation. The only true knowledge is knowledge of the creator. He through His infinite Mercy allowed creation to know Him and recognize Him through sending Prophets and signs in the creation of the universe.

He created creation as a proof of His existence. Everything in creation testifies to His existence. However His true reality has been hidden from creation.

We believe in all of this with certainty, having no doubts about Him.

Questions

1. Mention some of the qualities of Allah ta'la?
2. Allah ta'la is Only One in three fundamental ways, what are these and explain in some detail.
3. What is the purpose of our existence?

Belief in Angels

We believe in the existence of angels. They are a creation made of light. They are neither male nor female.

They were created to carry out His orders. They have no free will and hence do not disobey His orders.

There are countless angels, each one created for its own function. Of this multitude, we have been informed about a small number. The main ones are as follows:

1. **Jibreel** (upon him be peace) - the Angel who descended with revelation to the Prophets
2. **Mikaeel** (upon him be peace) - the Angel of provision
3. **Israfeel** (upon him be peace) - the Angel who will begin the Day of Judgment by blowing the trumpet and also has some other duties
4. **Izraael** (upon him be peace) - the Angel of death

Others we know about include:

1. **Munkar and Nakeer** - the angels who question a person in the grave when he dies

2. **Kiraaman Kaatibeen** (upon them be peace) - These two angels are responsible for writing the good and bad deeds of the person
3. **Maalik** (upon him be peace) - is the Head-Angel of Hell
4. **Ridwaan** (upon him be peace) - is the Head-Angel of paradise
5. **Hafizah** - Angel of protection

From the Quraan and Hadith we come to know that various other Angels are in charge of various other duties.

Angels generally are not visible to human beings. However, on certain occasions, they have appeared in human form: e.g. to Maryam the mother of Isa (upon them be peace).

This is our belief on the Angels.

Questions

1. From what did Allah ta'la the Most High create Angels & purpose of their existence?
2. Name four famous Angels and their duties?
3. Who are Munkar and Nakeer & Kiraaman Kaatibeen?

Belief in Divine Revelation

We believe that Allah, out of His infinite Mercy, provided guidance for all mankind. This guidance has two forms: Revelation and Messengers.

We believe that previous revelations, in their original form, were from Allah. Some of these we have been informed of:

1. Torah - revealed upon Musa (upon him be peace)
2. Zaboor (Psalms) - revealed upon Dawood (upon him be peace)
3. Injeel (Gospel) - revealed upon Isa (upon him be peace)
4. Scrolls of Ibraheem and Musa (upon them be peace)

We believe that these revelations have not been preserved in their original form. We accept that within them are remnants of the original revelation. However, we are careful when narrating from them. In this respect, there are three types of narration:

1. Narrations the truth of which we know
2. Narrations the falsity of which we know
3. Narrations of which we do not know the truth or falsehood of them

We believe the Quran to be the final revelation from Allah. The Quran was revealed over a period of twenty-three years to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him). The Quran came as a confirmation of the truth of the previous revelations and to correct the mistakes that had entered.

We believe the Quran to be complete, without any additions or deletions. The Quran we have with us is the same Quran revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him), which is miraculous. This we know because Allah promised that He would preserve the Quran.

The Quran is the final guidance for all mankind. For the Muslim, the Quran is the ultimate source of guidance, a personal guide and companion throughout life.

Questions

1. Why Allah ta'la revealed the divine revelations?
2. Please name the previous divinely revealed books & onto whom it was revealed?
3. What is our understanding of the previous scriptures and mention three types of narrations?
4. Mention some of our belief about Holy Quran and purpose for its revelation?

Belief in Prophets (Peace be upon them all)

We believe that Allah, out of His infinite Mercy, chose some of His servants as guides for mankind. Each one was sent to his people to guide them back to Allah, explaining to them the realities of existence and calling them to the worship of the one true deity. The first of them was Prophet Adam (Peace be Upon Him) and the last being Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon Him).

From amongst these chosen ones, there are two categories: Prophets and Messengers. No person can become a Prophet or Messenger by his own effort.

Prophets (Peace be upon them) were sent to inform their people about their creator, but without bringing a new Shariah (divine law or book). However, a Messenger along with informing his people about their creator brought a divine book which corrected the additions and omissions in previous revelation made by people and also with some new instructions.

These chosen ones were the best of their people. They were immune from committing sins, both major and minor. By this they became models for their people. Anything that may indicate a sin coming from a Prophet we must seek an interpretation and true

understanding of it. By this infallibility from sin, they become spiritual models for their people to emulate.

Every Prophet has four necessary qualities: truthfulness, honesty, conveying the message, and sharp intellect. By these qualities, along with miracles given to them from Allah, they were known by their people. Yet, despite their elevated status they were not Allah or part of Allah, the Exalted. Also, No one can be a Prophet or a Messenger by his own effort of doing good deeds.

To every community Allah sent a Prophet. Out of this multitude of Prophets sent to mankind, Allah has mentioned only twenty five in the Quran. Out of these twenty five, the five referred to as “the possessors of determination” were the greatest. They were Prophet Nooh, Ibrahim, Musa, Isa and Muhammad (Peace be upon them all). From amongst these five, Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Blessings be upon Him) was the greatest - in fact, he was the greatest of all creation.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Blessings be upon Him) was sent as the seal of all the Prophets. He is the last & final Prophet & Messenger of Allah azzawajal and no more Prophet will come after him. Prophet Isa (Peace be upon him) will come near the day of

Judgment, but will only follow the Divine Law (Shariyah) of Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Blessings be upon Him). Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Blessings be upon Him) message abrogated the messages of all previous Prophets and hence belief in Him is compulsory.

He was distinguished above all the other Prophets by being the most beloved of Allah. He was given many miracles to demonstrate His greatness, but his everlasting miracle was and still is the Quran. He was the cause of our guidance and salvation and so for that reason alone, we love Him with a deep love.

Questions

1. What was the purpose of sending all the prophets to Mankind? a) Mention their necessary qualities b) what are the correct beliefs about them and c) are they free from Sin?
2. From amongst these chosen Servants of Allah ta'la, name & explain the two categories?
3. How many Prophets and Messengers mentioned in Holy Quran & mentioned some of their names?
4. Who is the last and Final Prophet & Messenger and will any prophets or messenger will come after him?
5. Who is Hazrat Isa (alaihi salaam) and what will he follow when he returns to this world?

The Day of Judgment (the Last Day)

We believe that there will be a day when absolute justice will be meted out by the Master of the Day of Judgment. All of mankind will be brought to account and no one will be wronged in the least.

Preceding the Hereafter, there are events leading up to the Day of Judgment. These are known as the Signs of the Hour and are of two types, major and minor.

The Minor Signs

These are many and take place between the passing of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) and the coming of the Imam Mahdi. Below are listed some of these, the list however is far from being exhaustive.

1. Everyone will consider wealth to be their own possession. Hence few will pay Zakaat
2. Knowledge will disappear amongst Muslims
3. Knowledge will be acquired as a means of livelihood
4. A man will obey his wife and disobey his mother and will consider his father as a stranger and a friend as a relative
5. Alcohol will be consumed openly
6. Singing and dancing women will become rife
7. Modesty and shame will disappear

8. Leadership and power will be with those least deserving.

When the minor signs all have taken place they will then increase in their intensity. Finally, non-muslims will have total dominance on earth. Then the major signs will begin.

Major Signs

The major signs will begin with the coming of Imaam Mahdi. The remaining signs occur in quick succession. The major signs are as follows:

1. The coming of Imaam Mahdi
2. The appearance of the Dajjal
3. The descent of Prophet Isa (peace be upon Him)
4. The tribulation of Gog and Magog
5. The rising of the sun from the west
6. The emergence of the beast from the earth
7. The spreading of the fire

One hundred and twenty years after the sun will have risen from the west the Angel Israfeel (Peace be upon him) will blow upon the trumpet. Nothing will then remain except for the Lord of all creation, for as long as He wills.

When Allah wills, Angel Israfeel (May peace be upon him) will be brought back to life and will blow on the trumpet a second time. All of mankind will come forth from their graves. They will all then move towards the plain where judgment will take place. Sincere believers will ride there, whilst sinful believers will walk there and disbelievers being led there on their faces.

Then, turmoil and confusion will reign. The sun will be directly overhead with people perspiring heavily, except those believers who will be shaded in the Mercy of Allah. Then when the turmoil will have reached its intensity, people will go to the Prophets (may peace be upon them) asking for them to intercede with Allah to begin judgment. None will accept this except for Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon Him).

Judgment will then proceed with believers receiving their books in the right hands, their faces shining. However, disbelievers will receive their books in their left hands behind their backs. The balances will be let up so that deeds can be weighed.

Hellfire will be brought forward by seventy thousand angels causing fear to spread even amongst the Prophets. Again Prophet Muhammad (peace &

blessings be upon Him) Will intercede with Allah. Hellfire will then be moved next to the throne of Allah.

Every human being will then have to cross the bridge across Hellfire, a bridge finer than hair and sharper than a blade. Disbelievers will fall headlong into Hellfire. Many believers will also fall in, but other believers will cross over safely.

On the other side will be the Pond of Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon Him). Believers will drink from it, a drink intensely white and sweet leaving no thirst after it.

Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon Him) will then intercede for Muslims to be removed from Hellfire. Other groups of believers will be allowed to intercede.

Questions

- 1) What is the Purpose of Day of Judgment?
- 2) Mention 4 minor and 4 Major signs before the Day of Judgment will place?
- 3) Briefly explain some of the scenes of Day of Judgment (Including the 'Bridge' (i.e. 'Pool Siraat'))?
- 4) How will believers & disbelievers treated on that day and b) how will they receive their book of deeds?
- 5) Mention at least what three special and loftiest duties carried out by Prophet Muhammad Peace & Blessings be Upon Him on Day of Judgment for the Whole Ummah?

Belief in Predestination

The root of predestination is in the two qualities of Allah

1. 'Ilm (knowledge)
2. Qudrah (Absolute power)

Hence we have been forbidden from delving into its intricacies as mankind cannot comprehend even one attribute (Sifah) of Allah in its entirety. So it is not possible for them to understand this matter completely.

We believe that Allah decreed everything before creation, meaning that He knows everything that will occur. However, human beings, not being aware of the future, act with **Freewill**, which has been entrusted to us at the time of birth until the time we die - therefore we are not forced to do anything. On this basis we will be questioned for our actions.

Those who are sincere in coming to Allah azzawajal, He makes easy for them on the path of guidance. Whoever is persistent in their rebellion if He wills He leaves them in the path of misguidance. And Allah is not held accountable for His actions.

This is our belief in Predestination.

Questions

- 1) What is predestination?
- 2) What are the qualities of Allah ta'la in relation to this?
- 3) What is given to Human being and Jinns to test us?

Belief in the Hereafter (Eternal life after death)

The Hereafter has several stages, all of which we believe to be true and real. We believe that our present life is a temporary phase before the next and eternal stage of our existence; the Hereafter which has several stages mentioned below:

The Grave

The first stage of the Hereafter will be death. The experience after death, in the grave, will depend on the person's state in this world. For a sincere believer the grave will be a field from amongst the fields of paradise. However, for a disbeliever the grave will be a pit from amongst the pits of Hellfire.

When death is decreed for a believer the Angel of Death comes in the best of all forms and removes his soul from his body without any pain - like vapor coming out of a bottle. The soul will be taken and will rest in Illiyyeen.

Two angels will then come, after the person has been buried, and will ask the believer three questions,

1. Who is your Lord?
2. What is your religion?
3. Who was the Prophet sent to you?

The believer will have no difficulty in answering these questions. The grave will then be expanded and a window to paradise will open. This will continue until the Day of Judgment (See Chapter on Page 12).

However when death is decreed for a disbeliever the Angel of Death comes in the worst of all forms and removes his soul from his body forcefully – like wet wool being removed from thorns. The soul will be taken and will rest in Sijjeen.

Two angels will then come, after the person has been buried and will ask the same three questions. However, the disbeliever will be unable to answer. The grave will then be constricted and a window to Hellfire will open. An angel will be placed over the disbeliever punishing him. This will continue until the Day of Judgment (See Chapter on Page 12).

Paradise and Hellfire

We believe that believers will be admitted into paradise due to the Mercy of Allah. The pleasures of paradise will exceed anything that could possibly be imagined in this present existence. This they will have for eternity.

However disbelievers will be admitted into Hellfire as a recompense for their rejection. The torment of Hellfire, again, will exceed anything imaginable in this present existence. This will also be for eternity.

In Hellfire there will also be sinful believers. However they will not remain there for eternity. Every believer will eventually enter Paradise by the Mercy of Allah.

Questions

- 4) In the grave, a) what questions will Angels ask, b) what are the correct responses & c) who will be able to answer these questions?
- 5) What will be the treatment of the believers and b) disbelievers in the grave?
- 6) What does Paradise and Hellfire represent?
- 7) Why would a believer be admitted to Paradise?
- 8) Which two group of people will enter hellfire and why and b) which group will eventually be taken out of hellfire?