

"QUR'AN
&
SUNNAH"
HADITH

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM SERIES

THE HEREAFTER

"IMAAN
ISLAM
IHSAAN"
HADITH
QUDSI

"SEEK KNOWLEDGE FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE"
HADITH

THIS LIFE IS SHORT & TEMPORARY

THE HEREAFTER IS PERMANENT & ENDURING

THIS IS WHAT ALLAH TA'ALA SAYS ABOUT THIS TEMPORARY LIFE IN THE QUR'AN

"Nay (behold), you prefer the life of This world; but the Hereafter is better and more enduring. This [fact] is [mentioned also] In the Books of the earliest (Revelation),- the Books of Abraham and Moses" **Qur'an [87 – 16 / 19]**

For any journey we make preparations and provisions. Allah Ta'ala tells us in the Qur'an to make provisions / preparations for the Journey of Hajj as follows:

"And take a provision (with you) for the journey (of Hajj) ; but verily the best provision is Taqwa (piety and righteousness)" **Qur'an 2 -197**

This life of ours is also a Journey – a Journey TO ALLAH.

" And indeed to Thy Lord is the final Goal / Journey" **Qur'an 53 -42**

WHAT PREPARATIONS ARE WE MAKING FOR THIS JOURNEY?

THIS IS WHAT RSAW SAYS ABOUT THIS TEMPORARY LIFE IN BOOKS OF AHADITH

*Ibn Umar narrates: one day I was with the Messenger of Allah (Sal Allahu Alayhi wa Sallam). He then turned to me, held my shoulders with both of his blessed hands, and said: "Be in this life like a stranger or a traveler." And whenever Ibn Umar narrated this to his disciples he would add: "If you reach the evening, do not await (to be alive) by dawn, And if you reach dawn, do not await (to be alive) by evening. Take advantage of your Health before you fall sick. And take advantage of your life, before you die." – reported in **Bukhari***

*The Prophet - Sal Allahu Alayhi wa Sallam - said, "What have I got to do with the material world. The example of the material world and I is that of a traveler. Traveling in the afternoon heat, he stopped to rest under the shade of a tree for some moments. Then, he rose and left it." Reported in **Ahmad, Tirmidhi***

The journey: life. The destination: Paradise or Hellfire. Ali - Radi Allahu 'Anhu - used to say, "The material world has gotten up to leave you and the Hereafter has gotten up on its way towards you. Both of them have children, so be from amongst the children of the Hereafter and not from the children of the material world. For verily, today is deeds and no accountancy, and tomorrow is accountancy and no deeds."

A Wiseman once said, "Strange is he who has the material world walking away from him and the hereafter walking towards him. How could he busy himself with what is leaving him and turn his back to that which is coming towards him." This is the journey that we are all traveling; now it is up to us to take advantage of the time. Muhammad ibn Waasi' - Rahimahu Allah - was asked once how he was feeling. He replied, "What's your opinion of someone who travels a mile towards the hereafter every single day?"

Dear brother, dear sister. Every soul is on this journey. Some have understood this and are spending their days in preparation for the questions to come, for the repayment. Others are living life 'to the fullest' as they say, heedless and negligent of the hereafter. Allah - Subhanahu wa Ta 'Ala - describes the day that they will finally wake up and smell the fire:

[(It will be said to the sinners): **"Indeed you were heedless of this, now We have removed your covering, and sharp is your sight this Day!"**] - Qaaf 50/ 22 They are living in a satanic intoxication. All that concerns them is a new car, a bigger house, and a handsome mate. Some wake up in this life with time to repent. Others will hear the above verse when regret will be worthless.

THE SPECTACLE OF DEATH

The soul does not leave the entire body in one swoop. It leaves body part by body part until it reaches the collarbone, until it reaches the throat. His legs were dead, his arms were dead. The soul gargled in his throat. He screamed. His wife and children ran to his side. What's wrong? What's wrong? Not now, he is about to begin another journey. [And it will be said: "Who can cure him and save him from death?"] -

Even in the last breaths, the wife runs to the phone to call an ambulance. The children look left and right for someone to save their dad. Nay, no one can save him from death when death arrives. Everyone shall die. [And (the dying person) will conclude that it is the time of departure (death)] -

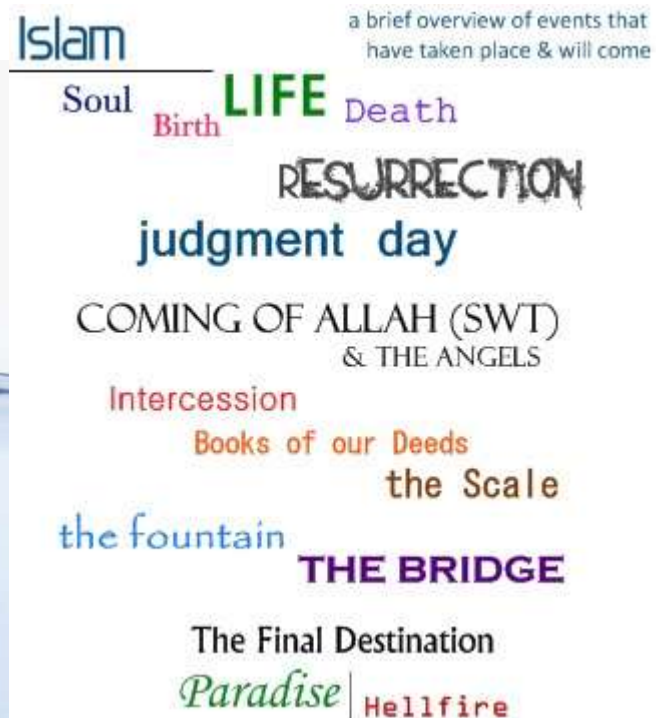
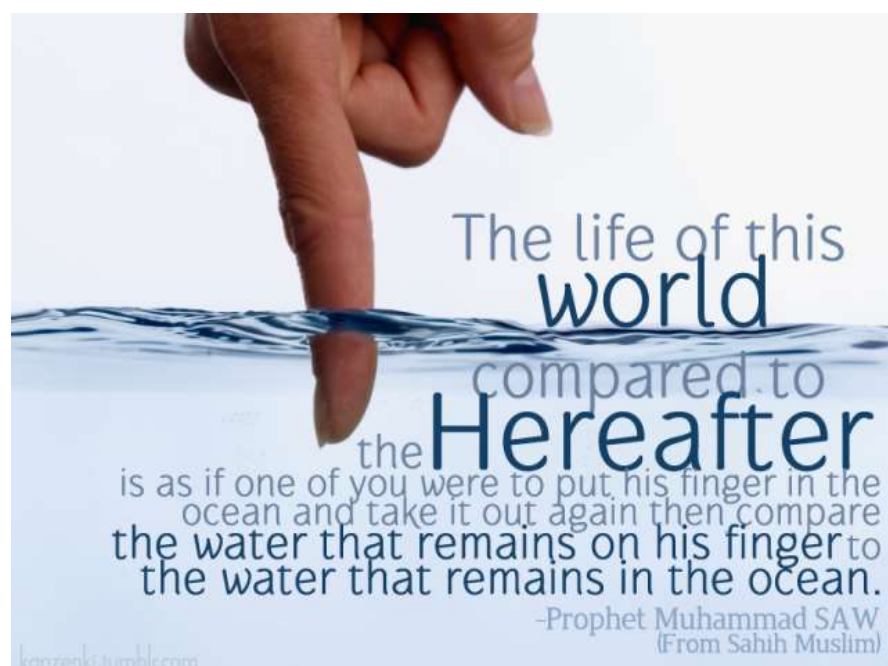
Reality has hit him now. He knows this is the end. The time for departure has arrived, the journey is about to begin. What is he departing from though. From a Quran he used to recite after Asr? From 4 rakas he used to pray during those long winter nights? Was he even departing from the 5 daily prayers? [And leg will be joined with another leg (i.e. shrouded)] - Strangers washed his body, strange hands shrouded his body, strangers prayed on his body. Down, down into that hole that was waiting for him from the day he entered this world. Now, the journey begins... [The drive will be, on that Day, to your Lord (Allah)!]

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE / PREPARE

Dear brother, dear Sister. Do not leave your repentance till Ramadan. Do not wait until you go for Hajj. Do not even wait till tomorrow. Do it now and prepare for this journey. Come back to Allah before it is too late. **Now**.

Ali - Radi Allahu 'anhu - once stood at the head of a grave and said to his companion, "If he had a chance to return to this life, what do you think he would do?" His companion replied, "He would do nothing but good deeds." Ali - Radi Allahu 'anhu - then said, "If it is not going to be him, then let it be you."

- If you are young and handsome now, fear Allah - Subhanahu wa Ta 'Ala - and obey as He commanded you.
- If you are healthy now, worship Allah - Subhanahu wa Ta 'Ala - as much as you can before you are old.
- If you are wealthy now, use your wealth for the sake of Allah - Subhanahu wa Ta 'Ala - before the day comes when you may lose it.
- If you have some free time now, spend it memorizing Quran and reading Hadith before a time comes when you will not find the time.
- If you are alive now, take advantage of your life in preparation for the next leg of your journey, in preparation for your meeting with Allah - Subhanahu wa Ta 'Ala.



Ibn Abbas - Radi Allahu 'anhuma - heard the Prophet - Sal Allahu Alayhi wa Sallam - advising someone saying,

"Take advantage of five before five:

Your youth before your old age,
your health before your sickness,
your wealth before your poverty,
your free time before you become occupied,
and
your life before your death."

May Allah Ta'ala all let us leave this world with Imaan , save us from the penalty of the Hereafter. Ameen.

IN THIS LECTURE SERIES “ THE HEREAFTER” IMAM AWLAKI TAKES US THROUGH EVERY STEP OF THIS JOURNEY FROM THIS LIFE TO THE HERAFTER.

Listen, re-listen and LEARN an PREPARE for the HEREAFTER and make dua for marhoom Imam Awlaki, for us and for the Ummah. Ameen.

 **iifri Islamic Interfaith Research Institute**

Suite 1403 Nedbank House, 30 Albert (Ingcuce) Street Durban 4001

Phone Office: 031 304 7862 Fax: 086 504 7020

Our 24 Hour Call Centre No: 08611 786 11

E-mail: info@iifri.com Website: www.iifri.com

**Shop Online – DVD's, CD's, MP3's, and Study Module's
Free Information**

Handle with care - May contain Qur'anic verses