

## **Destination to Heaven or to Hell? Guidelines in the Holy Qur'an.**

### **Introduction:**

According to Islam in the Holy Qur'an, there is only One God, the incomparable and formless Almighty God<sup>1</sup>. There is no creator of Almighty God and Who also does not have parents; and Who has no partner or spouse. Almighty God has no son, and He has no other relatives, or any description of substitute for Him. Almighty God is the ultimate and the only Judge on the definitely eventual Day of Judgment as the Lord of the Worlds<sup>2</sup>. This alert about the unavoidable Day of Judgment has been given in several places in the Holy Qur'an. It is giving mankind widely ample opportunity to understand, then reform and adjust and then earnestly plead for total forgiveness from Almighty God. This has to be done to be saved from the ultimate reprimand in Hell for defiance of required compliances to Almighty God. It must also be noted as very importantly, that Almighty God forgives: provided, people must genuinely plead for forgiveness before their bodily death in this world, and most importantly: provided also, they do not associate with Him any other partner of whatsoever description, with examples such as idolatry and polytheism. Almighty God singularly determines each person's destination to Heaven or to Hell. That action is Final.

### **Discussions:**

- 1) As overviews, the initiating decision to attempt pathways to Heaven or to Hell resides with the Muslim person, whilst still alive on Earth, to become fully compliant with all the requirements stipulated in the Holy Qur'an. This decision of compliance cannot be made after material death of the human body. Those who were fully in conformance and compliant to their Faith and scriptures, and those who were to the contrary, will have their paths laid out according to compliance and non-compliance respectively. Those who were fully compliant and accepted the Supremacy of One God, shall be rewarded and have their elevated places blissfully in Heaven. Those souls, who fabricated lies and denied the Oneness and absolute Supremacy of Almighty God, shall be reprimanded and have their places tormenting deeply in Hell, as sentenced for certain periods of time.

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<sup>1</sup> The name for Almighty God is Allah. That is His proper name as aptly stated throughout the texts of the Holy Qur'an.

<sup>2</sup> Lord of the Worlds is not limited to Earth only but includes the entire Milky Way of planetary creations in orbit and millions of stars, those known to mankind and those not yet discovered.

- 2) Those who after serving necessary reprimand<sup>3</sup>, will finally enter Heaven<sup>4</sup>, and then they will abide in Heaven forever.
- 3) Those who are given the reprimand and sent to Hell, their terms of reprimand there, will depend fairly on the seriousness of their sins, before they too will be given respite. Reprimand in Hell is not forever and Almighty God as the Perfect Judge, will sentence defiant souls to Hell according to the gravity of sin. Heaven and Hell are not in this physical existence on Earth, but in spiritual form.
- 4) The boundaries of Heaven are without limits and the extensiveness of which, is as the extensiveness of the Heavens and the Earth— Heaven is prepared for those who honestly believe in Oneness of Almighty God and His Messengers. That is the grace of Almighty God; He gives it to whomsoever He pleases. Almighty God is the Lord of mighty grace.
- 5) The whole idea about this discussions is not to reproduce all of the 114 Chapters and total of their 6,236 verses from the absolutely incomparable glorious Holy Qur'an. On the contrary, the idea is to expose those salient verses, which will both excite and prompt further research and discussions by the readers. Islam as the Final<sup>5</sup> revealed religion, is not only for those who are wholly conversant in the Arabic language, but includes all other peoples of whatsoever community and languages spoken, who believe in the absolute Oneness of Almighty God.
- 6) As signalled by their reference numbers, the following set of three verses out of first seven verses is the opening to the Holy Qur'an (*Al-Fatihah*). **HQ1:1-3** *"Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Master of the day of Recompense."* These three verses indicate without doubt that Almighty God is not only the Lord of this Earth but the Lord of the entire Milky Way (collectively called "the worlds") already known to mankind so far; and those new planets and stars not yet discovered by mankind. Almighty God is also the Provider of everything everywhere, the Forgiver of wrongs (except: He will not forgive practitioners of idolatry and polytheism) and the absolute and final Decider of the fate of each and every person on the Day of Judgement.
- 7) The absolute Supremacy of Almighty God simply means that Almighty God does not have any description of associates, helpers, substitutes or even challengers to His absolute Oneness. All people who have erred or sinned in their material life on Earth, have the opportunity to seek genuine forgiveness from Almighty God, before their bodily death in this material

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<sup>3</sup> Reprimand in Hell is not endlessly forever (HQ6:128). Once the period of reprimand has been fully served, then that soul will be allowed to enjoy the blissfulness of Heaven.

<sup>4</sup> There are seven categories of Heaven (HQ2:29).

<sup>5</sup> Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) is the Final Prophet, ordained by revelation. Holy Qur'an is the final revealed Holy Scripture. Islam is the Final religion established through 23 years of divine revelations.

world, and they will be forgiven. However, those people who have knowingly worshipped other deities (e.g. idolaters and polytheists) will not be forgiven: if they die in that state of idolatry and polytheism. Almighty God singularly determines each person's destination to Heaven or Hell. This fundamental fact is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ4:48** *"Surely Allah does not forgive that a partner should be set up with Him, and forgives all besides that to whom He pleases. And whoever sets up a partner with Allah, he devises indeed a great sin."*

- 8) The Holy Qur'an is the instructional handbook for purification of humanity and for their proactive preparation towards Heaven as the ultimate destination. Daily and comprehensive recital of the Holy Qur'an and full compliance to all instructions within the Holy Qur'an, prepares Muslims for coming over on the pathways to Heaven. The Holy Qur'an reminds Muslims that the Holy Qur'an is the final compendium of correct instructional guidance, some of which were also delivered to the previous generations of people of the Book<sup>6</sup>. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ29:45-49** *"Recite what has been revealed to you of the Book and keep up prayer. Surely prayer keeps (one) away from indecency and evil; and certainly the remembrance of Allah is the greatest (force). And Allah knows what you do. And do not argue with the People of the Book except by what is best, save such of them as act unjustly. But say: We believe in what has been revealed to us and revealed to you, and our God and your God is One, and to Him we submit. And thus have We revealed the Book to you. So those whom We have given the Book believe in it, and some of these (also) believe in it; and none deny Our messages except the disbelievers. And you did not recite before it any book, nor did you transcribe one with your right hand, for then could the liars have doubted. Rather, it is clear messages in the hearts of those who are granted knowledge. And none deny Our messages except the wrongdoers."*
- 9) On the Day of Judgment, each soul is examined independently and shall be judged only as that soul. The Day of Judgement process needs to be explicitly understood: No soul will speak on behalf of another soul. None of the relatives of the soul being examined will come to any assistance of that soul. There is no defence counsel for any soul being examined. There is no provision for bail. There is no adjournment of the examination, dragging time for another date. There is no jury system or assessor system. Judgment by Almighty God is fair, swift and final. There is no system of appeal whatsoever against the final Decision of Almighty God. This is

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<sup>6</sup> People of the Book refers to those pre-Islamic monotheistic religions and their holy scriptures. In the main the people are Jews, Sabeans (aka Sabians), Christians and Muslims. Their books in respective order are the TaNaKh, the Zabur, the Injeel (New Testament less the 4 Gospels and Epistles, but only those revelations directly delivered to Jesus Christ in Aramaic) and of course the Holy Qur'an.

stated in the Holy Quran at **HQ82:17-19** *“And what will make you realize what the day of Judgment is? Again, what will make you realize what the day of Judgment is? The day when no soul controls anything for (the benefit of) another soul. And the command on that day is Allah’s.”*

**10)** Whilst Muslims have been directed to pray five times daily, facing the holy Ka’ba, Muslims must always pray for their safe survival at two independent locations: First is their material life of happiness in this material world on Earth. The second is their blissfully permanent existence in Heaven. This is stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ2:201-202** *“And there are some among them who say: Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire. For those there is a portion on account of what they have earned. And Allah is Swift in reckoning.”*

**11)** There is interfacing link between peoples’ material life of daily enjoyment in this material world, and their most fearful spiritual presence on the great Day of Judgement: That interface is death of the material human body in this world<sup>7</sup>. Neither the date of death of the material human body nor the date of the Day of Judgement has been stated as expected regular seasonal events. Both events will eventuate suddenly only once and without any prior warning. This has been stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ22:55-57** *“And those who disbelieve will not cease to be in doubt concerning it, until the Hour overtakes them suddenly, or the punishment of a destructive day comes to them. The kingdom on that day is Allah’s. He will judge between them. So those who believe and do good will be in Gardens of bliss. And those who disbelieve and reject Our messages, for them is a humiliating punishment.”*

**12)** A concisely detailed account of how the Day of Judgement will come about is described as an extremely loud blast of the trumpet, which will be heard simultaneously in every part of the world. This is most descriptively stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ69:13-37** *“So when the trumpet is blown with a single blast, and the earth and the mountains are borne away and crushed with one crash — on that day will the Event come to pass, and the heaven will be split apart; so that day it will be frail, and the angels will be on its sides. And above them eight will bear that day your Lord’s Throne of Power. On that day you will be exposed to view — no secret of yours will remain hidden. Then as for him who is given his book in his right hand, he will say: Here, read my book. Surely I knew that I*

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<sup>7</sup> Once the soul is separated from the human body, then that body is dead. The dead body immediately begins to decompose and the separated spiritual soul is then relocated to Barzak. The Barzak is transitional location of souls into a state of timelessness in sleep. The soul is not material and does not age. All souls which have been in Barzak since Creation, will be awakened altogether on Day of Judgement for trial before Almighty God, and Whose Decision shall be fair and swift in reckoning.

*should meet my account. So he will be in a life of bliss, in a lofty Garden, its fruits are near. Eat and drink pleasantly for what you sent on ahead in bygone days. And as for him who is given his book in his left hand — he will say: If only my book had not been given to me! And I had not known what my account was! If only (death) had made an end (of me)! My wealth has not availed me. My authority has gone from me. Seize him, then fetter him, then cast him into the burning Fire, then insert him in a chain seventy lengths long. Surely he did not believe in Allah, the Great, nor did he urge the feeding of the poor. Therefore he does not have here this day a true friend, nor any food except filth, which none but the wrongdoers eat.”*

**13)** Many people are generally unaware of the ever-existence of Almighty God, because He is pure Spirit and not materially visible and He cannot be touched in any material form or even physically descriptive. These people are very easily able to utter untruths and other falsehood directly against Almighty God. Because of their wilful and intentional denial of the Oneness of Almighty God, these people are guaranteed reprimand in Hell. In the same vein, all those people who are at all times aware of the Oneness and the Greatness of Almighty God and speak the truth, will be rewarded accordingly. These contrasts are stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ39:32-37** *“Who is, then, more unjust than he who utters a lie against Allah and denies the truth when it comes to him? Is there not in hell an abode for the disbelievers? And he who brings the truth and accepts the truth — such are the dutiful. They shall have with their Lord what they please. Such is the reward of the doers of good — that Allah may ward off from them the worst of what they did, and give them their reward for the best of what they did. Is not Allah sufficient for His servant? And they seek to frighten you with those (whom they worship) besides Him. And whomsoever Allah leaves in error, there is no guide for him. And whom Allah guides, there is none that can lead him astray. Is not Allah Mighty, the Lord of retribution?”*

**14)** There are also people who control and manage themselves with truthfulness, and speak the truth about Almighty God, and are compliant with all the virtues required of them. These people will be rewarded with elevated places in Heaven. They will be rewarded equally, regardless they are men or women. The Holy Qur’an makes this comparative analogy quite clearly at **HQ4:122-126** *“And those who believe and do good, We shall make them enter Gardens in which rivers flow, to abide in them forever. It is Allah’s promise, in truth. And who is more truthful in word than Allah? It will not be in accordance with your vain desires nor the vain desires of the People of the Book. Whoever does evil, will be recompensed for it and will not find for himself besides Allah a friend or a helper. And*

*whoever does good deeds, whether male or female, and is a believer — these will enter the Garden, and they will not be dealt with unjustly in the least. And who is better in religion than he who submits himself entirely to Allah while doing good (to others) and follows the faith of Abraham, the upright one? And Allah took Abraham for a friend. And to Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And Allah ever encompasses all things.”*

**15)** On the day of Judgement, all those who were deceptively heeding to the conspiracies of the devil, will protest to Almighty God that they had enjoyed all sorts of benefits by heeding to the devil. Of course, the devil will deny being directly influential! The devil and all his devilish followers who heeded to the devil, will be condemned to the fire of Hell. They will be reprimanded in Hell for as long as Almighty God desires them to be so. This is stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ6:128** *“And on the day when He will gather them all together: O assembly of jinn, you took away a great part of the people. And their friends from among the people will say: Our Lord, some of us profited by others and we have reached our appointed term which You appointed for us. He will say: The Fire is your abode — you shall abide in it, except as Allah please. Surely your Lord is Wise, Knowing.”*

**16)** Many people do not take their life seriously and every day is just another day. They do not understand and appreciate that life inside their material body, in this material world, is simply on a compliance test. The compliance test shall be measured against stipulations in the Holy Qur’an and the reported examples stated in the six top Hadith<sup>8</sup>. Whether or not they are successful in that compliance test will determine their final destination on the Day of Judgement: Destination to Heaven or to Hell?

**17)** This final opportunity to reform and seek forgiveness from Almighty God is stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ57:20-21** *“Know that this world’s life is only an idle sport and play and an attraction and boasting among yourselves and a race in the multiplication of wealth and children. It is as rain, whose causing the vegetation to grow pleases the tillers, then it withers away so that you see it turning yellow, then it becomes chaff. And in the Hereafter is a severe punishment, and (also) forgiveness from Allah and (His) pleasure. And this world’s life is nothing but a source of vanity. Vie with one another for forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden*

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<sup>8</sup> The six top Hadith (also called as **Al-Sihah Al-Sittah**) are: *Sahih Bukhari*, collected by Imam Bukhari (d. 256 AH, 870 CE); *Sahih Muslim*, collected by Muslim b. al-Hajjaj (d. 261 AH, 875 CE); *Sunan Abu Dawood*, collected by Abu Dawood (d. 275 AH, 888 CE); *Jami al-Tirmidhi*, collected by al-Tirmidhi (d. 279 AH, 892 CE); *Sunan al-Sughra*, collected by al-Nasa’i (d. 303 AH, 915 CE); *Sunan ibn Majah*, collected by Ibn Majah (d. 273 AH, 887 CE).

*as vast as the vastness of the heaven and the earth — it is prepared for those who believe in Allah and His Messengers. That is the grace of Allah; He gives it to whom He pleases. And Allah is the Lord of mighty grace.”*

- 18) As a closing note this discussion, the Holy Qur’an reminds people that whilst opportunities have been stated, nevertheless there is no compulsion in religion. This is stated at **HQ2:256** *“There is no compulsion in religion — the right way is indeed clearly distinct from error. So whoever disbelieves in the devil and believes in Allah, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allah is Hearing, Knowing.”*
- 19) Destination to Heaven or to Hell? The Guidelines are in the Holy Qur’an. That initiating decision resides with each person, at the earliest stages of life, when the person is capable to differentiate right from wrong.

### **Conclusions:**

- a) The uniqueness of singularity and Oneness of Almighty God has been stressed throughout the Holy Qur’an, for all people to read, understand and put into practice.
- b) Almighty God will listen to peoples’ sincere pleadings of genuine forgiveness, only from those people who truthfully accept Oneness of Almighty God; and He will forgive their sins provided the forgiveness is pleaded for, before their material death of body in this material world.
- c) However, Almighty God will not forgive those people who uphold other types of deities (for example idolatry and polytheism), in addition to His unequalled position of supremely One as the Almighty God.
- d) The Holy Qur’an shall always remain as the handbook for correctness of perfect spirituality and perfect compliance, leading as pathways to Heaven.
- e) Each person on Earth shall be own architect of structured record of life on the Day of Judgement.
- f) There will be a trumpet call indicating the end of the world and spontaneous preparation for Day of Judgement.
- g) Almighty God shall be the single Decider on the outcome of Judgements.
- h) Almighty God singularly determines each person’s destination to Heaven or to Hell, guided by the performance record of that person’s compliances or non-compliances.

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