



16. The Last Day

Delivered by His Eminence
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All praise is due to Allaah, the One who will gather all people on the day about which there is no doubt. Allaah is certainly able to do all things. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner. He has complete knowledge of even the most minute of details. I further bear witness that Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. He conveyed both glad tidings and warnings, and he was a radiant lamp of guidance. May Allaah grant an abundance of commendation and protection to His Messenger, as well as to all of the Messenger's family and Companions.

Dear people of eemaan, I counsel all of you – as well as myself – to observe taqwaa of Allaah by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. “People of eemaan, observe taqwaa of Allaah and speak words that are correct. If you do so, Allaah will guide you to perform righteous deeds, and forgive your sins. When a person obeys Allaah and His Messenger, he will achieve the greatest success.”¹

Dear Ummah of Islaam, having correct beliefs about the Last Day is one of the most important components of the content of the scriptures which descended from the heavens, and the message brought by all of Allaah's Messengers. There was no Prophet who neglected to impart those beliefs to his people. Correct beliefs about the Last Day is one of the six pillars of eemaan.

In the hadeeth of Jibreel, he had posed the question, “Tell me about eemaan” and the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) replied, “Eemaan is for you to have correct beliefs about Allaah, His angels, His scriptures, His Messengers, the Last Day, and for you to have correct beliefs about Allaah's preordainment whether its results are perceived to be good or bad.” This was collected by Muslim.²

Due to the significance of the Last Day, Allaah mentioned it repeatedly in the Qur'aan, explained its events and frightful circumstances, warned people against being heedless concerning it, and instructed His servants to prepare for it. Allaah referred to it with many names: al-Haaqqah³, al-Qaari'ah⁴, al-Qiyaamah⁵, Yawm ad-Deen⁶, Yawm al-Fasl⁷, and Yawm at-Taghaabun⁸. It is the day on which Allaah will gather together every single individual from all former and latter generations. “That is the day when all people will be gathered, and it is the day that will be witnessed by all of creation. [Allaah] only delays it until a specified time that is known to [Him] alone. On the day when it comes, no person will speak except by Allaah's permission. Some among them will be miserable and others will be blessed.”⁹

Dear people who have sound beliefs about Allaah and His Messenger, when the time for the Day of Resurrection comes, Allaah – the Most Exalted – will command the angel Israafeel to blow the

¹ Soorah al-Ahzaab (33):71.

² Saheeh Muslim (8).

³ The hour of resurrection which will undeniably occur.

⁴ The hour so fearsome that it will strike terror into the hearts of all people.

⁵ The Day of Resurrection.

⁶ The Day of Recompense.

⁷ The day when all matters will be settled between people and those who did what was correct will be separated from those who did wrong.

⁸ The day when the disparity between types of people will be clearly apparent.

⁹ Soorah Hood (11):103-105.



Horn. Once that happens, “the sky will shake dreadfully, the mountains will drift away from the places where they are anchored just like the drifting of clouds”¹⁰, everyone throughout the heavens and the Earth will perish, and none will remain except Allaah: the completely unique self-sufficient sovereign upon whom all else depends. Afterwards, Allaah will command for the sky to rain, and people will then sprout in their graves just a plant sprouts. The angel Israafeel will blow the Horn again to signal resurrection and, at that point, people’s souls will be returned to their bodies and they will emerge from their graves. “The Horn shall be blown, and everyone in the heavens and the Earth will die, except for those whom Allaah wills to remain alive. The Horn shall be blown yet again and they will all be resurrected, awaiting Allaah’s decree concerning them.”¹¹ People “will emerge from their graves for reckoning. Due to them moving all about and being so great in number, they would resemble a swarm of locusts spread out across the horizon.”¹² They will be led to an area where they will all be gathered: a vast plain that is flat such that “you would not see anything crooked or curved there.”¹³ The Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) had informed ‘Aa’ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) that people will be gathered there barefoot, unclothed, and uncircumcised. She inquired, “Messenger of Allaah, men and women would be together in that state, such that they can see each other?” He replied, “Circumstances will be far too intense for them to be concerned about that.” This was collected by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim.¹⁴

Dear people of eemaan, on the plain where people are gathered that day, all of them will be present. “The sun will come so near that it would only be away from them by the distance known in Arabic as a meel¹⁵. People will be engulfed by their sweat according to the deeds they had performed. For some, it will be up to their two ankles; for others, up to their two knees; for others, up to their two hips; and for others up to their mouths such that it prevents them from speaking.”¹⁶ That will take place “on a day whose length will be fifty thousand years.”¹⁷ People will be in a state of intense anxiety and they will go to the Prophets and Messengers asking them to intercede with the Lord of the Earth and the heavens, on their behalf. They will eventually come to our Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection), make the same request, and he will say, “I am the one for that task.” A hadeeth in Saheeh al-Bukhaaree mentions that the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, “I will then request permission from my Lord, and He will grant Me permission. He will apprise me of words I can use to praise and glorify Him. They are words I do not currently know. I will praise Him with those words and bow in prostration to Him. He will then say, ‘Muhammad, raise your head, speak and you will be listened to, ask and you will be granted, intercede and your intercession will be accepted.’ I will then say, ‘My Lord, I intercede with You on behalf of my people. My Lord, I intercede with You on behalf of my people’.”¹⁸ Allaah will then allow judgment to begin. He will come in a manner that befits His perfection and majesty. The angels will be in ranks, out of reverence towards their Lord. The hellfire will be brought forth to the plain where all people are gathered. “It will have seventy thousand reins, each one of which will be pulled by seventy thousand angels.”¹⁹ That “will be a

¹⁰ Soorah at-Toor (52):9-10.

¹¹ Soorah az-Zumar (39):68.

¹² Soorah al-Qamar (54):7.

¹³ Soorah Taa Haa (20):107.

¹⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (6527), Saheeh Muslim (2859).

¹⁵ One understanding this can have is a distance of approximately 1848 metres, and Allaah knows best. See al-Bahr al-Muheet ath-Thajjaaj (44/51).

¹⁶ Saheeh Muslim (2864).

¹⁷ Soorah al-Ma’aarij (70):4.

¹⁸ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (7510).

¹⁹ Saheeh Muslim (2842).



day when the Earth quakes powerfully and continuously such that some parts of it will demolish others. Your Lord will come to judge between His creatures and the angels will come in ranks, one after the next. On that day, the hellfire will be brought near. On that day, the person who continued to reject the truth from Allaah, and passed away in that state, will awaken from his heedlessness and remorsefully remember the misdeeds he perpetrated while alive in this world. But what good would remorse do at that time, when he can no longer repent and there would be no further chance to make amends? He will say, 'I now wish so much that I had only sent righteous deeds ahead for my life in the hereafter.'²⁰ Then, when Allaah comes on the Day of Resurrection, "the Earth will be lit up with the light of its Lord. The records of every person's deeds will be opened. The Prophets and witnesses will be brought forth. Judgment will be passed concerning all people and they will not be wronged. Each soul will receive the full recompense it deserves based on its deeds, and Allaah has full knowledge of what everyone does."²¹

Servants of Allaah, it is a day when all rights will be restored. "On this Day, every individual shall be recompensed for his own deeds. No one will be treated unjustly today. Allaah is certainly swift in reckoning."²² "The first matters which will be settled between people are those related to bloodshed."²³ If a person wronged others in some way, they will take a corresponding portion from his righteous deeds. If he has none, some of their sins will be cast upon him and he himself will be thrown into the hellfire. Aboo Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) narrated that Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, "If someone wronged any of his brothers regarding their dignity or property, he must seek their pardon today, before the time comes when no deenaar or dirham will avail anyone. At that time, if a person has any righteous deeds, others will take a share in proportion to the wrong he did them. If he has no righteous deeds, he will take from the sins of others and have to bear those himself." This was collected by al-Bukhaaree.²⁴

Dear people of Islaam, everyone will be presented to their Lord on the plain where all people are gathered. Nothing about anyone will be concealed from Allaah. Each person will be called individually to come forth on his own and speak on behalf of his own weak self in front of Allaah, the Supreme Owner and Sovereign of all things. It will be a "day when every person will come pleading on his own behalf, everyone will be paid in full for what he did, and none of them will be dealt with unjustly." A hadeeth in the Two Saheeh collections mentions that Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, "Every single one of you will certainly be spoken to by Allaah, without any interpreter between Him and you. A person will look to his right and not see anything besides what he sent ahead for himself, look to his left and not see anything besides what he sent ahead for himself, and look ahead and not see anything besides the hellfire in front of him. Therefore, you must protect yourselves from the hellfire even if it be with half-a-date or a kind word."²⁵

As for a person of eemaan, Allaah will have him confess to some of his sins, and Allaah will pardon whatever He wills of His servant's wrongdoing in order for the servant to recognize his Lord's favour: his Lord conceals those things in this world and pardons them in the hereafter. 'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar (may Allaah be pleased with both of them) narrated that he heard Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) say, "Allaah will indeed draw a person of eemaan near, place over the person a covering from Himself, conceal the person from people, and then ask the person 'Do

²⁰ Soorah al-Fajr (89):21-24.

²¹ Soorah az-Zumar (39):69-70.

²² Soorah Ghaafir (40):17.

²³ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (6864), Saheeh Muslim (1678).

²⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (2449).

²⁵ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (7512), Saheeh Muslim (1016).



you admit to having committed this sin? Do you admit to having committed this other sin?' The person will reply, 'Yes, my Lord, I admit.' After Allaah has him acknowledge all of his sins and the person thinks that ruin awaits him, Allaah will tell him, 'I concealed them for you in the world you have now left behind, and I forgive you for them today.' The person will then be given the record of his righteous deeds." This was collected by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim.²⁶

There are some people who will deny what is in the records of their deeds that were written by the angels entrusted with that task. Such people will not be pleased with anything besides testimony from their own selves. Consequently, Allaah will seal their mouths and make their limbs speak. Anas ibn Maalik (may Allaah be pleased with him) narrated that he and some of the Companions were once with Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection). Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) had laughed and then asked, "Do you know what made me laugh?" The Companions replied, "Allaah and His Messenger know best." He said, "I laughed due to what certain people will say to their Lord. An individual will say, 'My Lord, did You not guarantee that I would only be treated fairly?' Allaah will tell the person, 'I did guarantee that.' The person will say, 'I will not accept any testimony about me except that of a witness from my own self.' Allaah will tell him, 'Today, you yourself are sufficient to give testimony regarding your own self, and the noble scribes are sufficient as witnesses.' The person's mouth will be sealed and his limbs will be told, 'Speak' and they will then mention his deeds. Afterwards, the person will be allowed to speak and he will tell his own limbs, 'Get away from me. You are the ones on whose behalf I was trying to argue.'²⁷ When those who were enemies towards Allaah "reach the hellfire, their very own ears, eyes, and skins will testify against them concerning their wrongdoing and rejection of the truth from Allaah. They will say to their own skins, 'Why are you testifying against us?' Their skins will reply, 'Allaah, the One who can give anything the ability to speak, has allowed us to speak. He is the One who initiated your creation the very first time by bringing you into existence, and to Him alone you will return after you pass away.' When you perpetrated your wrongdoing, you had not concealed yourselves in order for your ears, eyes, and skins to not testify against you. In fact, you even thought that Allaah did not know much of what you were doing."²⁸

Servants of Allaah, with that in mind, you must prepare the necessary answers for what you will be asked, and prepare the necessary righteous deeds for that meeting. An authentic hadeeth mentions that Allaah, the Almighty and Most Majestic, said, "My servants, it is nothing besides your own actions that I record, and for which I will then recompense you in full. If a person finds goodness, he must praise Allaah; and if he finds anything else, he must certainly not blame anyone except himself."²⁹ "Therefore, if an individual hopes to meet his Lord, he must perform righteous deeds and he must not worship anything whatsoever besides his Lord alone."³⁰

May Allaah bless all of us by the Qur'aan and Sunnah, and may He enable all of us to glean benefit from the evidences and wisdom they contain. I say these words that you hear from me and I beseech Allaah to forgive myself and all of you for every misdeed. Thus, you should also implore Allaah for forgiveness, as He is always most forgiving, bestower of mercy.



²⁶ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (2441), Saheeh Muslim (2768).

²⁷ Saheeh Muslim (2969).

²⁸ Soorah Fussilat (41):20-22.

²⁹ Saheeh Muslim (2577).

³⁰ Soorah al-Kahf (18):110.



All praise is due to Allaah who sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth in order to make that prevail over all other religions, and Allaah is sufficient as a witness. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. May Allaah grant an abundance of His commendation and protection to His Messenger, as well as to the Messenger's family and Companions.

Dear people of eemaan, the greatest preparation a person can make for the day when he must meet Allaah, the Most Exalted, is Tawheed: having continued to sincerely devote all worship to Allaah alone. The declaration of Tawheed is the highest branch of eemaan and the heaviest thing in the scale of deeds.

A person will be raised upon what he passes away doing. If it is something good, his recompense will be good; if bad, his recompense will be bad. There will be those raised proclaiming the talbiyah due to passing away while in the state of ihraam. Martyrs will be raised with their wounds bleeding; however, although the colour would be that of blood, the fragrance would be that of musk. On the Day of Resurrection, every individual will find shade due to charity he had given, and that would continue until judgment is passed concerning all people. There are seven types of people whom Allaah will grant shade from the blazing heat on that day, when there will be no shade except the shade that He grants. They are: an authority who rules fairly; a young person who grows up worshipping Allaah; a man whose heart is attached to congregational prayers in the masajid; any two people who love each other for Allaah's sake, such that they come together for His sake and also part for His sake; a man who says 'I fear Allaah' when a woman of status and beauty entices him to commit adultery; a man who gives charity so discreetly that even his left hand does not know what his right hand gives; and a man who mentions Allaah while alone and, due to that, his two eyes shed tears out of reverence for Allaah and yearning to meet Him.³¹

In addition, people who have love for each other because of Allaah's magnificence and due to obeying Him will be granted lofty ranks on the Day of Resurrection. Allaah, the Most Merciful, will summon them saying, "Where are those who love each other because of My majesty? I will grant them My shade today: a day on which there is no shade except for the shade that I grant." This was collected by Muslim.³² Shaykh al-Islam ibn Taymiyyah (may Allaah have mercy upon him) commented that the phrase "Where are those who love each other because of My majesty?" draws attention to the fact that their hearts contain reverence and veneration for Allaah, as well as love for others because of Allaah. This entails that they are people who observe the limits set by Allaah, in contrast to those who overstep those limits due to the weakness of eemaan (i.e. sound beliefs) in their hearts.³³

On that day, Allaah will honour our Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) by granting him the immense body of water known as the Hawd. Its water will be whiter than milk, sweeter than honey, and more pleasantly fragrant than musk. It will have jugs of gold and silver, as numerous as the stars in the sky. Anyone who drinks from it will never experience thirst afterwards.³⁴

It will be a day when the Qur'aan comes forth to intercede for those who were constantly in its company. The Qur'aan will be preceded by Soorah al-Baqarah and Soorah Aali 'Imraan. They will shade such people and argue in their favour. A hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim mentions that Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, "Read the Qur'aan because it will come on the Day of Resurrection interceding for those who were constantly in its company. Read Soorah al-

³¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (660), Saheeh Muslim (1031).

³² Saheeh Muslim (2566).

³³ Majmoo' al-Fataawaa (10/83).

³⁴ See Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (6579), Saheeh Muslim (2292).



Baqarah and Soorah Aali ‘Imraan as the two of them will provide you with plenty of light. On the Day of Resurrection, the two of them will come as though they are two clouds, two shades over your heads, or two flocks of birds with their wings outstretched such that there are no gaps between them. The two of them will argue in favour of the people who were constantly in their company.”³⁵ Additionally, “a person who was constantly in the company of the Qur’aan will be told, ‘Read and ascend. Recite just as you used to recite in the world you have now left behind. Your rank will be at the last aayah you read.”³⁶

In contrast, a person who turns away from mentioning Allaah will be raised blind on the Day of Resurrection. “He will say, ‘My Lord, why have You raised me blind although I had previously been able to see?’ Allaah will respond to such people, ‘Just as you had ignored Our clear evidences during your lives, you will be ignored today and abandoned in the punishment of the hellfire’.”³⁷

On the Day of Resurrection, there will be certain types of people whom Allaah will not speak to, look at, or commend; and they will be subjected to a painful torment. Three such types of people are: someone who lets his garment hang below his ankles, someone who transmits words between people to create problems, and someone who swears false oaths in order to increase the price of his products.³⁸

Those who were arrogant in this world will be disgraced by being raised like small ants³⁹ and people will step on them. Every traitor will bear a banner on the Day of Resurrection that says, “This is the treachery of such-and-such person.”⁴⁰ “Those who consume interest and usury will only rise up from their graves on the Day of Resurrection in a state similar to that of a person who stumbles and fumbles about erratically as a result of being led to insanity by shaytaan.”⁴¹ As for those who persisted in rejecting the truth from Allaah, they will be raised upon their faces while blind, mute, and deaf. A hadeeth in the Two Saheeh collections mentions that a man said, “Messenger of Allaah, how will someone who continued rejecting the truth from Allaah be raised on the Day of Resurrection upon his face?” He replied, “Is the One who enabled that person to walk upon his two legs in this world not also able to make him walk upon his face on the Day of Resurrection?”⁴²

Servants of Allaah, you must continue to observe taqwaa of Allaah by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. Furthermore, “you must protect yourselves from punishment on the day when no parent will be able to avail his child, and no child will be able to avail his parent in any way. The promise of Allaah is undoubtedly true. Therefore, do not be deceived by the life of this world, and do not let shaytaan deceive you about Allaah.”⁴³

³⁵ Saheeh Muslim (804).

³⁶ Jaami‘ at-Tirmitheeh (2914), Sunan Abee Daawood (1464). Graded hasan saheeh by al-Albaanee.

³⁷ Soorah Taa Haa (20):125-126.

³⁸ Saheeh Muslim (106).

³⁹ See Jaami‘ at-Tirmitheeh (2492). Graded hasan by al-Albaanee.

⁴⁰ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (6177), Saheeh Muslim (1735).

⁴¹ Soorah al-Baqarah (2):275.

⁴² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (4760), Saheeh Muslim (2806).

⁴³ Soorah Luqmaan (31):33.