

Death: A New Beginning

Tarbiyah 8D02



كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۖ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ

Every soul shall taste death. Then you shall be brought back to Us.

Surat Al-Ankabut, 29:57



What kind of experience will death be?



Will it be sweet or bitter?

This will depend on what kind of life we have lived in this world. Everyone will die in the same manner that he has lived.

The angel of death is the first mirror in which we will see our real nature. Depending on our personality, the angel of death can be beautiful or ugly, kind or cruel, loveable or hateful.

How do we prepare for death?

Imam Ali (a) has beautifully described how to prepare for death with three simple rules:

1. fulfil the *wajibat*
2. refrain from *haram*
3. acquire noble character

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a) has said:
'Strive more to perform good deeds. However, if you cannot perform a good act [at least] do not disobey [the commands of Allah]. Because, if one lays the foundation of a building and does not spoil it, then, even if the progress is slow, the building will definitely rise. [On the other hand,] the person who lays the foundation and at the same time spoils it, it is sure that the walls of this building will never be raised.'

KEY POINTS

1. Death leads to the transition of the soul from the physical body to another realm. It does not mean the end of our existence.
2. The angel of death is like a mirror to our soul. If our soul is beautiful, the experience of death is pleasant. If our soul is ugly, the experience of death is very painful.
3. No one can die except with the permission of Allah. Old age and diseases are just tools to bring death to someone.
4. Preparing for death is a lifetime's job. To prepare for death we must follow three simple rules: can you remember what they are?

Review



1. Briefly explain what happens to our souls when we die.
2. Explain the nature of the death of a *mu'min*.
3. Explain the nature of the death of someone who has done evil.
4. What three points does Imam Ali (a) give us to prepare for death?

Faith in Action



List three *wajibat* you will fulfil this week, three *haram* acts you will refrain from this week, and three actions you will do this week to build a noble character.