

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS ON ISLAM



MUSLIM IN DEATH



It has been authentically related by Sayyidina Baraa bin Aazib (may Allah be pleased with him) that, the Prophet Mohammed (peace be and blessings be upon him) said; "When a believer is about to leave this world and is approaching the hereafter, angels from heaven come to him, their faces of pure white and shining like the sun. They have with them kafn (shroud for the deceased) and fragrance from Jannah (Paradise), they seat themselves at a distance where the eye can see.

Then Malak al Mout (Angel of Death) comes and sits at his head and says: 'O soul who was content with the commands of Allah come out toward the forgiveness and mercies of Allah.'

The soul leaves the body with ease like that of a water droplet dripping from a water bag, although outwardly you may witness a state other than this (that life comes out with difficulty). The difficulty is only on the physical body, and the Ruh (Soul) experiences ease.

The Angel of Death takes the soul and puts it directly in the shroud with the fragrance from Heaven, without delay. A fragrance emits from the soul in the shroud comparable only to the strongest most aromatic musk fragrance in the world. The soul then ascends, shrouded and scented, on they way it will pass groups of Angels who will ask; 'Who is this good and pleasing soul'. The reply will be, 'So and so, son of so and so', and they mention the best names with which the person was well known in the world.

The soul will continue to ascend in this manner and then Allah (all Praise be to Him) commands; 'Record his name in the Illiyiin(comprehensive book of records), and return him to the earth (for questioning in the grave).'

The soul is then returned to the body in the grave (the barzakh*).

**Barzakh: according to Islamic teachings is an intermediary stage between this life and another life in the Hereafter; it's an interval between death and the Day of Resurrection. Allah says: "Before them is a Partition till the Day they are raised up."*



Two angels will then come to him and make him sit up.

They both ask him: 'who is your Rabb (Lord and Master) and what is your religion?'

He will say: 'My Lord is Allah (all Praise is to Him) and Islam is my religion.'

They both then say to him: 'Who is this person who was sent to you and among you.' He will say: 'he is the Rasul (messenger) of Allah (all Praise be to Him), i.e. Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).'

The both then say to him: 'How did you know?'

He will say: 'I read the Book of Allah (all Praise is to Him), the Qur'an, it brought imaan (faith) and I accepted it as the truth.'

A caller from Allah (all Praise is to Him) will then call out from the heavens: 'My bondsman has given the correct answer. Spread out for him a floor covering from Paradise; clothe him with the clothing of Paradise; and open for him a door towards Paradise.'

Hence a breeze of sweet fragrance blows towards him. His grave is widened as far as (the width) the eye can see. A well dressed person with a sweet smelling fragrance will come and say to him: 'News and glad tidings of happiness to you. This is the day that you had been promised.'

He will ask: 'Who are you?' Your appearance conveys blessings and excellence.'

The person will say to him: 'I am your pious deeds.'

He (the deceased person) will then repeat: 'O Lord! Hasten



Qiyaamah (the day of reckoning), O Lord! Hasten Qiyaamah, so that I may return to my family and possessions (which will be attained in the hereafter).” *

**(This is an authenticated by the chain of narrators, related by Ahmed, Abu Daawud, Haakim, Bayhaqii and others).*

It is reported by Ja’far from Muhammad, who reported from his father Ibnul Khazraj, who also reported from his father, who said, I once heard the prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him): “I saw Malakul Mout (Angel of Death) at the time of a person’s death from among the followers. I said to him: ‘O Malakul Maut, be gentle and kind to my Companion for he is a believer’: Malakul Maut said: ‘Gladden your heart, cool your eyes and be assured that I am gentle with every believer.”¹

Baraa (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates from Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “When the time for a believers death comes, the Angels come with a sheet of silk to him, wherein there is musk ‘amber and rayhaan². His Ruh (soul) comes out softly in the manner that a hair comes out of dough. It is said to him, O life, who was contented with the commands of Allah (all Praise be to Him) come towards mercy, respect and honour, in the state that you are pleased with Him and He is pleased with you. Then when the Ruh comes out, it is put on the musk and rayhaan, covered with the silk and taken to the ‘illiyyiin.”

Ibn Jurayj (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates, that Aisha³ (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “When a believer sees the Angels they say: ‘We will take you back to the dunya (world). We will not remove your soul.’ He will say: ‘You will return me towards a place of worry, anxiety, distress and affliction. Take me towards Allah (all Praise is to Him).”⁴

1. Found in the book of *Tabaraanii ibn Munabbib*.

2. Pure exquisite perfumes, in this case from Paradise

3. Wife of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and blessings be upon him)

4. Can be found in the *tafsir of Ibn Jarir and Ibnul Mundir*.



Anas bin Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) says, the prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "When Malakul Mout (Angel of Death) comes to wali (accepted bondsman) of Allah (all Praise be to Him) he bids salaam (greeting of peace) to him. His salaam is saying this: Assalamu Alaikum yaa waliyullah(Peace be upon you servant of Allah), rise and leave the home that has been emptied, and go towards your home which has been furnished by you.¹

Ibn Masud (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "When Allah (all Praise be to him) intends taking the Ruh (Soul) of a believer, He commands Malakul Maut to convey His Salaams (greetings) to him. When Malakul Maut comes to take his Ruh, he says to the person: 'Your Rabb (Lord and Master) says Salaam to you.'²

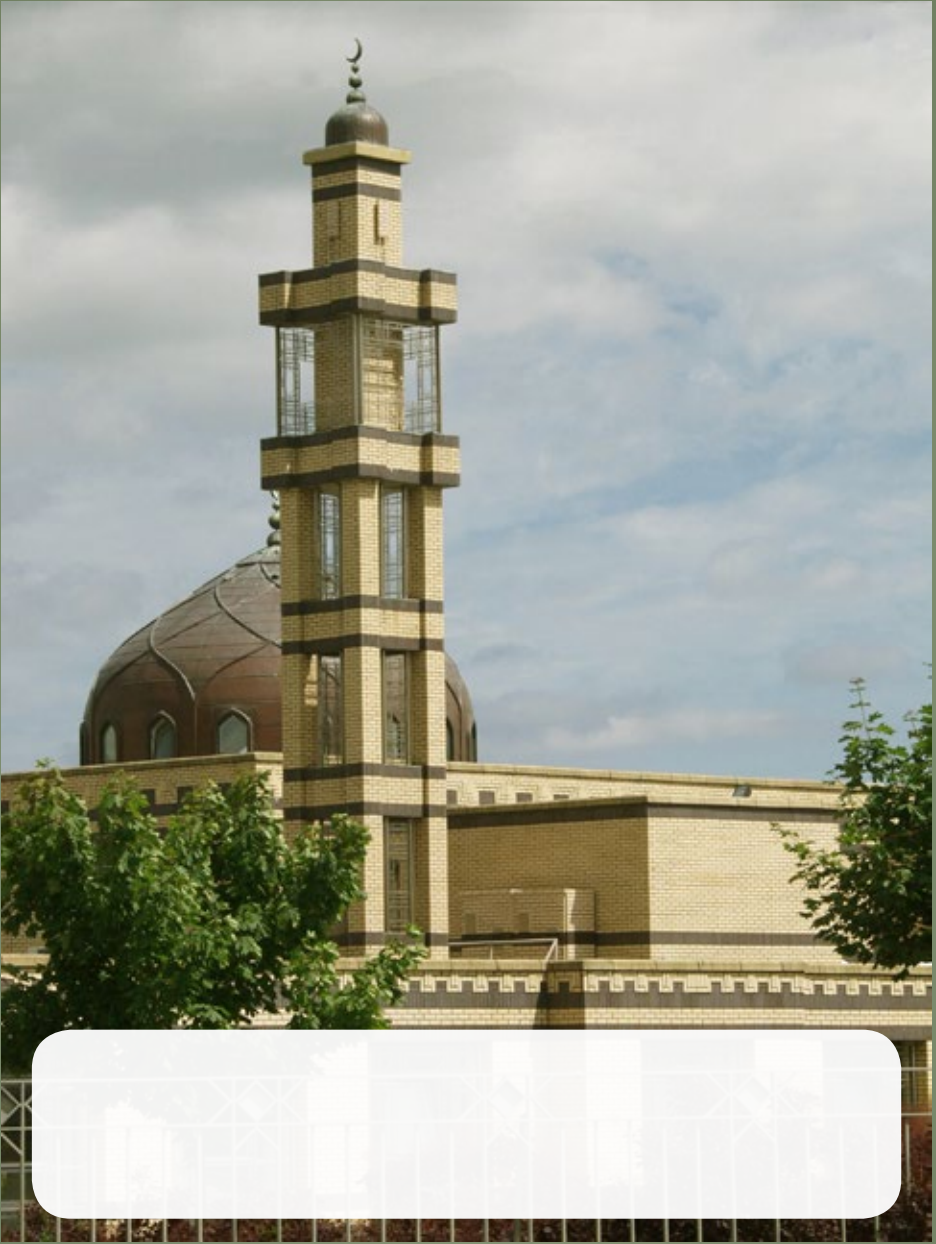
Zayd bin Muslim narrates that it is said; "Angels are sent to a believer at the time of death and (through them) it is said: 'Do not fear of what is coming to you.' Hence his fear vanishes. 'Do not grieve (on the separation) for the world nor its inhabitants. Be happy with the glad tidings of Jannah (Paradise).' He then dies in such a state that Allah (all Praise be to Him) makes his eyes cool (He grants him contentment).

It is also narrated that in the Sharhus Sudur regarding the tafsir (explanation) of the verse; ('Innal-ladina qaalul rabbunalahu ... up to ... tu>adun'), that, he is given glad tidings at time of death, in his grave, and on the day of judgement. When entering Paradise too this happiness will not leave his heart."

Taken from "Desire for the Akhirah" by Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi (RA), and minor adjustments made.

1. Extract from; *The World Towards the Hereafter* by Abul Husayn Alurayf Abu Rabii al-Asudii."
2. From *Kitaabul Abwaal* by Abul Qasim bin Andab 3. From the books of Ibn Haatim.





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