

## People in Barzakh

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** Respected Shaykh, I would like Your Eminence to explain to me an issue that confuses me: It is authentically reported that when a human dies, their soul is taken to the heavens and shown its place, whether in Paradise or Hellfire, then it returns to the body and remains there till the Day of Judgment.

Also, it is authentically reported that during Isra' (Night Journey) and Mi'raj (Ascension to Heaven), the Messenger (peace be upon him) saw many people in Paradise and Hellfire. He (peace be upon him) even described what he had seen with his own eyes. How can we reconcile between all these Hadeeths? May Allaah reward you.

**Answer:** Basically, dead bodies are in the earth, whereas the souls in an abode, experiencing either bliss or punishment, yet they remain connected to the bodies.

What the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) saw is a Karamah (an extraordinary event caused by Allaah for or through a pious person) with which Allaah blessed him. Allaah turned the souls into bodies for the Prophet to see Adam, Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses), and `Eessa (Jesus), peace be upon them all. Also, during Salat-ul-Kusuf (Prayer on a solar eclipse) he (peace be upon him) saw `Amr ibn Luhay dragging his intestines in Hellfire and mentioned the story of the woman who imprisoned a cat till it died of hunger for which she was punished in Hellfire.

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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