

Last Day 18 – Fire and Brimstone?

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION : The next part of the hadeeth: what happens when the disbeliever's soul after it has been taken up to the Heavens in this way?

ANSWER:

Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) told us about the person who dies having rejected Tawheed and the Truth which has come to him or her:

So his soul will be returned to his body and he will hear the footsteps of his companions when they are departing from him, and two angels will come to him who are severe. And they will be severe with him, and they will make him sit up and they will say to him:

Who is your Lord?

So he will say:

Haah, haah... I don't know.

So they will say to him:

What is your religion?

So he will say:

Haah, haah... I don't know.

So they will say:

So what do you say about this man who was sent amongst you?

So he will not be able to mention his name.

So it is said:

Muhammad.

So he will say:

Haah, haah...I do not know. I heard the people saying this.

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It will be said:

You do not know and you did not recite.

So then a caller from the Heavens will call:

He has lied. So give him bedding from the Fire, and open for him a door to the Fire.

So its heat and its scorching wind will come upon him, and his grave will be constricted upon him until his ribs cross over. Then there will appear to him a man with an evil looking face with foul clothing, smelling of an evil stench and he will say:

Receive news which will upset you. This is your day which you were promised.

So he will say:

And may Allah give you news of evil! Who are you? For your face is the one who comes with evil.

So he will say:

I am your foul deeds. I have not known you except being slow upon obedience to Allaah, quick to disobey Allaah, so may Allaah reward you with evil.

And then there will be set loose upon him one (angel) who is blind, dumb and deaf and he will have a heavy hammer in his hand. If a mountain were struck with it, it would become dust. So he will strike him with it, until he is smashed to dust. And then Allah will return him to how he was before, and (then) he will strike him with it again, and he will scream with a scream that will be heard by everything, except for mankind and jinn.

And then a gate will be opened for him from the Fire and bedding will be given to him from the Fire. So he will say:

O my Lord, do not establish the Hour!

Hopefully the person reading this hadeeth, whether they be Muslim or non Muslim, will not be tempted to dismiss the information it contains as just Fire and Brimstone religious bigotry.

Rather the hadeeth contains a warning – but also an encouragement – against blindly wandering through life with the happy go lucky approach that is seen amongst many non Muslims and Muslims that “everything will be all right”. Islam, as we have mentioned, encourages people to think about the world around them and to ask themselves some important questions:

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“Did you really think that We created you for no purpose at all and that you would not be returned to Us?”

[Soorah al Mu’minoos (the 23rd chapter) verse 115]

“The inevitable event – what is the Inevitable event? And what will make you know what the Inevitable Event is? The people of Thamood and Aad denied the Hour of Judgement... So do you see any remnants of them?”

[Soorah al Haaqah (the 69th chapter) verses 1 to 4 and verse 8]

“Do you now see how Allaah created the seven heavens, one on top of the other? And He made the Moon a light in them and He made the Sun as a lamp? And Allaah brought you forth from the Earth? And afterwards He will return you into it (the Earth) and will bring you forth again (on the Day of Judgement)?”

[Soorah Nooh (the 71st chapter) verses 15 to 18]

“And spend in charity from that which We have provided you with before death comes to one of you and he says:

‘My Lord! If only You would allow me a little more time (before taking my soul) then I would give charity and would be someone who would do good deeds!’

But Allaah does not give extra time to anyone when their time for death comes.”

[Soorah al Munaafiqoon (the 63rd chapter) verses 10 to 11]