

Last Day 33 – The Siraat

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What is the bridge which the people will have to cross on that Day?

ANSWER:

This bridge is called the Siraat in Arabic. Islam teaches that crossing this bridge will be one of the stages which all the people will have to pass through on the Day of Resurrection.

The Qur'aan mentions:

And there is not one of you except that he will have to cross it.

[Soorah Maryam (the 19th chapter) verse 71]

And this verse refers to crossing the Siraat (bridge).

Muslims believe that this bridge has certain characteristics which include:

Its being sharper than a sword

Its being thinner than a hair

Its being a bridge which is laid across the upper part of the Hellfire.

The people will vary in how they cross this bridge.

Some people will pass over the Siraat like a flash of lightning.

Some people will pass over it like the wind, with the speed in accordance with the strength of those people's deeds.

Some people will pass over it like a swift horse.

Some people will pass over it like camel riders.

Some people will run over it by foot.

Some people will walk over it.

Some people will crawl over it.

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Some people will be snatched from it and thrown down into the Fire because their deeds will be unable to carry them over the Siraat.

And the way in which the person crosses this bridge is determined by what deeds they did in this life. So whoever was quick to accept that which the messengers came with, then he will be quick to pass over the Siraat. And whoever was slow in that acceptance of what the messengers came with will be slow in passing over the Siraat.

This is similar to what we have discussed with regards to the events that occur when a person is questioned in their grave – the idea that a person’s physical experience after death will depend on the deeds they did in this life in preparation for the life after death - and not on their physical strength or intelligence or their “memorising the correct answers” or the like of this.

Alee, who was one of the most well known Companions of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) as well as his cousin, said:

“This world is passing away, and the Hereafter is approaching, and there are children for each of them. So be from the children of the Hereafter, and do not be from the children of this world; for today there is action and no accounting, and tomorrow there will be an accounting and no action.”