

## Last Day 38 – Are Paradise and Hell already in existence?

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**QUESTION: Do Muslims believe that Paradise and Hell are already in existence?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, Muslims believe that these two locations have already been created, even though human beings cannot perceive where they actually are.

There are a number of texts, whether they be verses from the Qur'aan or statements of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) which tell Muslims this.

For the sake of brevity, we will mention only three.

1) The statement in the Qur'aan about Paradise:

**.... (It has been) prepared for the people of taqwaa (Those who fear Allaah and are dutiful to Him)**

[Soorah Ale 'Imraan (the 3rd chapter) aayah 133]

And the statement about the Hellfire:

**.... (It has been) prepared for the people of kufr (disbelief)**

[Soorah Al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) aayah 24]

The Arabic word u'iddat (prepared) used in both these verses is in the past tense, i.e. something which has already been done.

2) There is also the narration of when Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) was with the Companions, and they heard a crash. So Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) asked them:

**Do you know what that was?**

He (may perfect peace and security be upon him) then went on to explain:

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**This was a rock thrown down into the Hellfire seventy years ago, and it has only now hit its (the Hellfire's) bottom.**

This hadeeth was reported by one of the great scholars of hadeeth called Imam Muslim and again proves that the Hellfire has already been created.

3) In addition, we have already discussed that the dead person in his grave – and how many there are to whom this has already occurred - has a door to Paradise opened for him, if he/she is a believer, and a door to the Hellfire if he/she is a disbeliever. This also shows that these two abodes, Paradise and the Hellfire, already exist.

Unfortunately, there are people who have gone astray in this matter and who say that the Paradise and the Hellfire will only be created when the Day of Judgement comes. But they have no proof for this idea of theirs other than that they cannot perceive where Paradise and the Hellfire are if they currently exist.

And as we have mentioned several times in this series of **Last Day** articles, what Muslims believe about matters relating to life after death is dependent on texts from the Qur'aan and the Sunnah, and is not an area where people's ideas and intellects are allowed to roam free.