

Due to an invitation from the International Peace youth Group, Ayatollah Hosseini Nassab gave a lecture and answered their questions through video conference.
The following is a brief summary of his lecture

Life and Death

In the name of God

Why do people die?

In other word, what is the philosophy of death?

According to the viewpoint of our holy scripture the Glorious Quran, the human was not created to live on the earth forever.

God Almighty created the human being to live in this world for a period of time and achieve the result of his activities and to be tested by God and finally, to be transferred to the spiritual and eternal world.

The earth itself also is not eternal and will be collapsed and destroyed in future.

The Glorious Quran says:

Blessed is God who owns the dominion, and who is Able to do all things. Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed? And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving. (Chapter 67, verse 1 and 2).

According to these verses, God Almighty has created the life in this physical and material world, and he also, created the death which is a journey from this limited life to the eternal life in hereafter.

Based on this fact, death is not lack of life, but it is the beginning of a higher lever of life, which is spiritual and eternal.

Types of life

In our religion, there are 2 types of human's life:

1. The physical and bestial life. The source of this life is the material and natural world. This life starts from birth and ends by death. In this phase of life, the human is partner of other animals.
2. The spiritual and humane life. The source of this life is God Almighty. This life starts from birth and continues for ever. It is eternal. In this phase of life, the human is partner of Divine Angles.

We recite in the Holy Quran about the first type of life:

Know that the worldly life is only a game, a temporary attraction, a means of boastfulness among your selves and a place for multiplying your wealth and children. (Chapter 57, verse 20).

But our scripture says about the second type of life:

Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and we will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do. (Chapter 16, verse 97).

Is there a cause regarding 4 phases of life (life, sick, age, death) in the scripture?

According to our scripture, these issues are only different situations of the worldly and physical life of human. The real spiritual and eternal life of human is away from oldness and death.

Can human be freed from death?

As I mentioned above, the human has physical and spiritual lives. The physical and worldly life will be ended by death and there is no solution for this issue.

But the spiritual life of human will continue after death and would never be ended. The human after physical death / will achieve the consequence of his/her activities / which were done / in this world.

The Holy Quran says:

Indeed, you are to die, and indeed, they are to die. Then indeed you, on the Day of Resurrection, before your Lord, will dispute. (Chapter 39, Verses 30-31)

Based on these verses, there is no solution for physical death, but the soul of human will be alive for ever.

The important issue is that the level and quality of this second life depend on the type of activity of every person in this world.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

By the soul and who created it,

By God Almighty who inspired it / the wickedness and the righteousness,

He has succeeded / who purifies his soul,

And he has failed / who corrupted his soul. (Chapter 91, verses 7-10).

According to these verses, we will not be destroyed after death, but we may be successful and reach the high status of perfection, or to be failed.

The human being has opportunity in this world / to make his identity for his eternal life.

If we maintain peace, justice, solidarity, humanity, piety, generosity and other good characteristics / we will be successful and will have a perfect spiritual life in hereafter / and vice versa.

How did human exist?

The material dimension of human being was created on the earth and the spiritual soul of human was granted to him by God Almighty. This spiritual soul is the cause of many privileges of human being among other soulful beings, such as: wisdom, peroration and speech, fast progress, discovery and invention.

The Glorious Quran says:

We certainly created human from an extract of clay. (Chapter 23, verse 12).

The Quran also says:

When I created Adam (the human) and put into him of my soul. (Chapter 15, verse 29).

What is the reason of its existence?

The human being was not created without a logical purpose and philosophy.

The Quran says:

Did you think that we had created you without any purpose and that you would never be brought back to us?

According to other verses, the purpose of creation of human being on the earth is to have the best type of creatures which can learn knowledge and get developed and become perfect due to piety, virtue, purification, and worshiping God Almighty.

God says:

I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship me. (Chapter 51, verse 56).

The human is the being in the world who can select his destiny by choice.

And worship is the best type of connection between the human being and God Almighty who is the highest point of perfection.

At the end I should mention this important issue that: belief in the resurrection and hereafter helps the human being to maintain more justice, peace, and piety in this world. When we know that we will reach the result of our worldly actions after death, we will be kinder and more careful in our life.

Verses:

Chapter 67, verse 1 – 2

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ. الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ
الْعَفُورُ

Chapter 57, verse 20

اعلموا أنما الحياة الدنيا لعب ولهو وزينة وتفاخر بينكم وتكاثر في الأموال والأولاد

Chapter 16, verse 97

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Chapter 39, verse 30-31

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ. ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ

Chapter 91, verses 7-10

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا . فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا . قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن زَكَّاهَا . وَقَدْ خَابَ مَن دَسَّاهَا

Chapter 23, verse 12

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِن سُلَالَةٍ مِّن طِينٍ

Chapter 15, verse 29

فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ

Chapter 51, verse 56

و ما خلقت الجن و الانس الا ليعبدون