

Yaqin in the Last Day: Part II

Accountability Before Allah

Having described the certainty of the Hour, the transformation of creation, and the resurrection of mankind, the Qur'an now turns to the purpose for which every soul has been gathered: accountability before Allah.

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصْدُرُ النَّاسُ أَشْتَاتًا لِّيُرَوْا أَعْمَالُهُمْ

"That Day, the people will depart separated [into categories] to be shown [the result of] their deeds.

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ

So, whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it.

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ

And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."

(Qur'an 99:6–8)

وَكُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ لَّزِمْنَاهُ طَائِرَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ ۖ وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنشُورًا

"And every human being—We have attached his record to his neck, and We shall bring forth for him on the Day of Resurrection a book which he will find spread open.

أَقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا

'Read your record. Sufficient is your own soul this Day against you as accountant.'

(Qur'an 17:13–14)

وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ فَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا فِيهِ وَيَقُولُونَ يَوْلَيْنَا مَا لِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ لَا يَغَادِرُ صَغِيرَةً وَلَا كَبِيرَةً إِلَّا أَحْصَاهَا ۖ وَوَجَدُوا مَا عَمِلُوا حَاضِرًا ۖ وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا

"And the Book will be placed, and you will see the sinners fearful of what is within it, and they will say, 'Woe to us! What is this Book that leaves nothing small or great except that it has enumerated it?' And they will find what they did present [before them]. And your Lord does injustice to no one."

(Qur'an 18:49)

الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَىٰ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ

"This Day We shall seal their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will bear witness to what they used to earn."

(Qur'an 36:65)

يَوْمَ تَشْهَدُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَلْسِنُهُمْ وَأَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

"On the Day when their tongues, their hands and their feet will testify against them concerning what they used to do."

(Qur'an 24:24)

Ibn Kathīr explains that the Book of Deeds records every action by Allah's command, while the testimony of one's own limbs establishes a witness that cannot be denied. Nothing remains hidden before Allah on that Day.

The Qur'an leaves no doubt that every deed, whether concealed or public, small or great, will be brought forth before its Lord.

Divine Justice

The Qur'an repeatedly affirms that Allah's judgment is founded upon perfect justice.

وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا ۚ وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالُ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا ۚ وَكَفَى بِنَا حَاسِبِينَ

"And We shall set up the scales of justice for the Day of Resurrection, so no soul will be wronged in the least. Even if it be the weight of a mustard seed, We shall bring it forth. And sufficient are We as Reckoners."

(Qur'an 21:47)

وَالْوَزْنُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ ۚ فَمَنْ ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ
وَمَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَظْلِمُونَ

"The weighing on that Day is the truth. So those whose scales are heavy—it is they who will be successful. And those whose scales are light—they are the ones who have lost themselves because they were unjust concerning Our signs."

(Qur'an 7:8–9)

فَأَمَّا مَنْ ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ
فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ
وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ
فَأُمُّهُ هَاوِيَةٌ

"Then as for one whose scales are heavy, he will be in a pleasant life. But as for one whose scales are light, his refuge will be an abyss."

(Qur'an 101:6–9)

وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجَاءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

"And the earth will shine with the Light of its Lord, and the Book will be placed, and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought, and judgment will be passed between them in truth, and they will not be wronged."

(Qur'an 39:69)

Al-Qurṭubī explains that the establishment of the scales affirms Allah's perfect justice and absolute fairness in recompensing His servants. No soul will receive less than it deserves, nor will any soul bear the burden of another.

The Qur'an repeatedly returns to this reality:

وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

"...and they will not be wronged."

(Qur'an 39:69)

وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا ۖ كَانَ عَلَىٰ رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَقْضِيًّا

نُمُّ نُنَجِّي الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَنَذَرُ الظَّالِمِينَ فِيهَا جِثِيًّا

"And there is none among you except that he will come to it. This is upon your Lord an inevitability decreed. Then We shall save those who feared Allah and leave the wrongdoers therein, on their knees."

(Qur'an 19:71–72)

The classical mufasssīrūn discuss these verses in detail, explaining the approaches regarding "coming to it" (*wurūd*), while affirming Allah's promise to deliver those who possessed taqwā.

The authentic Sunnah further explains this stage.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ described a bridge set over Hell, upon which mankind will pass according to Allah's decree. Some will cross like the blinking of an eye, some like lightning, some like the wind, some at the speed of swift horses or riders, while others will cross walking, crawling, or fall according to their deeds.

This narration is reported in Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī and Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim.

Beyond what Allah and His Messenger ﷺ have informed, the believer refrains from speculation concerning the unseen.

The Two Eternal Abodes

The Qur'an concludes its description of accountability and judgment by directing mankind to the two final destinations prepared by Allah.

Concerning Hellfire, Allah says,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ

"O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones..."

(Qur'an 66:6)

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فَتَحَتْ

"And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups until, when they reach it, its gates are opened..."

(Qur'an 39:71)

إِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ كَانَتْ مِرْصَادًا

"Indeed, Hell has been lying in wait."

(Qur'an 78:21)

Yet alongside His warning, Allah repeatedly gives glad tidings to those who believe and do righteous deeds.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ

أَرْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً

فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي

وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي

"O tranquil soul, return to your Lord, pleased and pleasing [to Him]. Enter among My servants. Enter My Paradise."

(Qur'an 89:27–30)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ

"Indeed, those who have said, 'Our Lord is Allah,' and then remained steadfast—the angels will descend upon them [saying], 'Do not fear and do not grieve, but receive glad tidings of Paradise which you were promised.'"

(Qur'an 41:30)

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ ۖ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ ۖ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ

"Gardens of perpetual residence which they shall enter, and whoever was righteous among their fathers, spouses and descendants. And the angels will enter upon them from every gate, saying: 'Peace be upon you for what you patiently endured. Excellent indeed is the final home.'"

(Qur'an 13:23–24)

The Qur'an concludes this journey not by diminishing the reality of punishment, nor by lessening the hope of Paradise. Both remain true because Allah has promised both in justice and wisdom.

The believer therefore reads these verses with humility, fear and hope, recognising that Allah's promise is true and His judgment is perfect.

Having described accountability, judgment, and the eternal abodes, the Qur'an and the authentic Sunnah now turn the believer from description to preparation. The certainty of the Last Day is not merely a reality to be affirmed, but a truth that transforms the believer's life before that Day arrives.