

Yaqin in the Last Day – Part III

Prophetic Clarifications Concerning the Last Day

The Qur'an establishes the certainty of the Last Day and describes its realities with remarkable clarity. Wherever further explanation is required concerning matters of the unseen, Allah entrusted that explanation to His Messenger ﷺ.

Among the most comprehensive narrations is the famous ḥadīth of Jibrīl (عليه السلام). Jibrīl came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in the presence of his Companions in the form of a man whose clothes were exceedingly white and whose hair was intensely black. No signs of travel were visible upon him, yet none of the Companions recognised him. He sat before the Prophet ﷺ, placing his knees against his knees and his hands upon his thighs, and began asking questions concerning Islām, Īmān and Iḥsān.

When he asked concerning the Hour, the Prophet ﷺ replied:

"The one being asked knows no more about it than the one asking."

Jibrīl then asked about its signs, and the Prophet ﷺ mentioned some of the signs that would precede it.

This authentic narration, recorded in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, beautifully complements the Qur'anic principle already established:

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ السَّاعَةِ أَيَّانَ مُرْسَلُهَا ۖ قُلْ إِنَّمَا عِلْمُهَا عِنْدَ رَبِّي

"They ask you concerning the Hour. Say: Its knowledge is only with my Lord."

(Qur'an 7:187)

The Messenger ﷺ did not disclose the time of the Hour because Allah had not disclosed it to him. Instead, he directed mankind toward preparation rather than speculation.

The authentic Sunnah likewise explains certain realities briefly mentioned in the Qur'an, such as some of the major and minor signs preceding the Hour. Beyond what Allah and His Messenger ﷺ have informed, the believer remains silent regarding the unseen.

Preparing for the Last Day

After describing the realities of the Last Day, the Qur'an consistently turns the believer back to the present life.

Preparation begins not with knowing when the Hour will come, but with knowing before Whom one will stand.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

"O you who believe, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has sent forward for tomorrow. And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is All-Aware of what you do."

(Qur'an 59:18)

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا

"He who created death and life that He may test you as to which of you is best in deeds."

(Qur'an 67:2)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً تَصُوحًا

"O you who believe, turn to Allah in sincere repentance."

(Qur'an 66:8)

قُلْ يٰٓعِبَادِىَ الَّذِينَ ءَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰٓ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

"Say, 'O My servants who have transgressed against themselves, do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.'"

(Qur'an 39:53)

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

"Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a traveller."

(Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī)

He also said:

"The intelligent person is the one who calls himself to account and works for what comes after death."

(Reported by al-Tirmidhī; authenticated by many scholars as ḥasan)

The Qur'an and the Sunnah therefore direct the believer away from heedlessness and toward remembrance, repentance, righteous deeds and sincere worship of Allah.

Preparation for the Last Day is not confined to one's final moments; rather, it is the lifelong response of the believer who possesses yaqīn in Allah's promise.

A Journey Completed, Another Begins

The Qur'an repeatedly reminds the believer that the Last Day is certain, that every soul shall be resurrected, that every deed shall be brought forth, and that Allah's judgment is perfect and just.

The believer therefore leaves these verses not with certainty in himself, but with certainty in Allah's promise.

The realities of the Last Day, however, lead naturally to another article of faith.

If every moment of our lives shall one day be accounted for, then every moment already unfolds by Allah's knowledge, wisdom and decree.

The Qur'an therefore guides the believing heart from certainty in the Last Day to certainty in Allah's Divine Decree.

The next article in this series will therefore explore:

Yaqīn in al-Qadr

For the believer who has entrusted the Last Day to Allah also learns to entrust every decree of this life to Him.

إِنَّا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَاهُ بِقَدَرٍ

"Indeed, We created all things according to a decree."

(Qur'an 54:49)