

Lectures for  
International Peace Youth Group

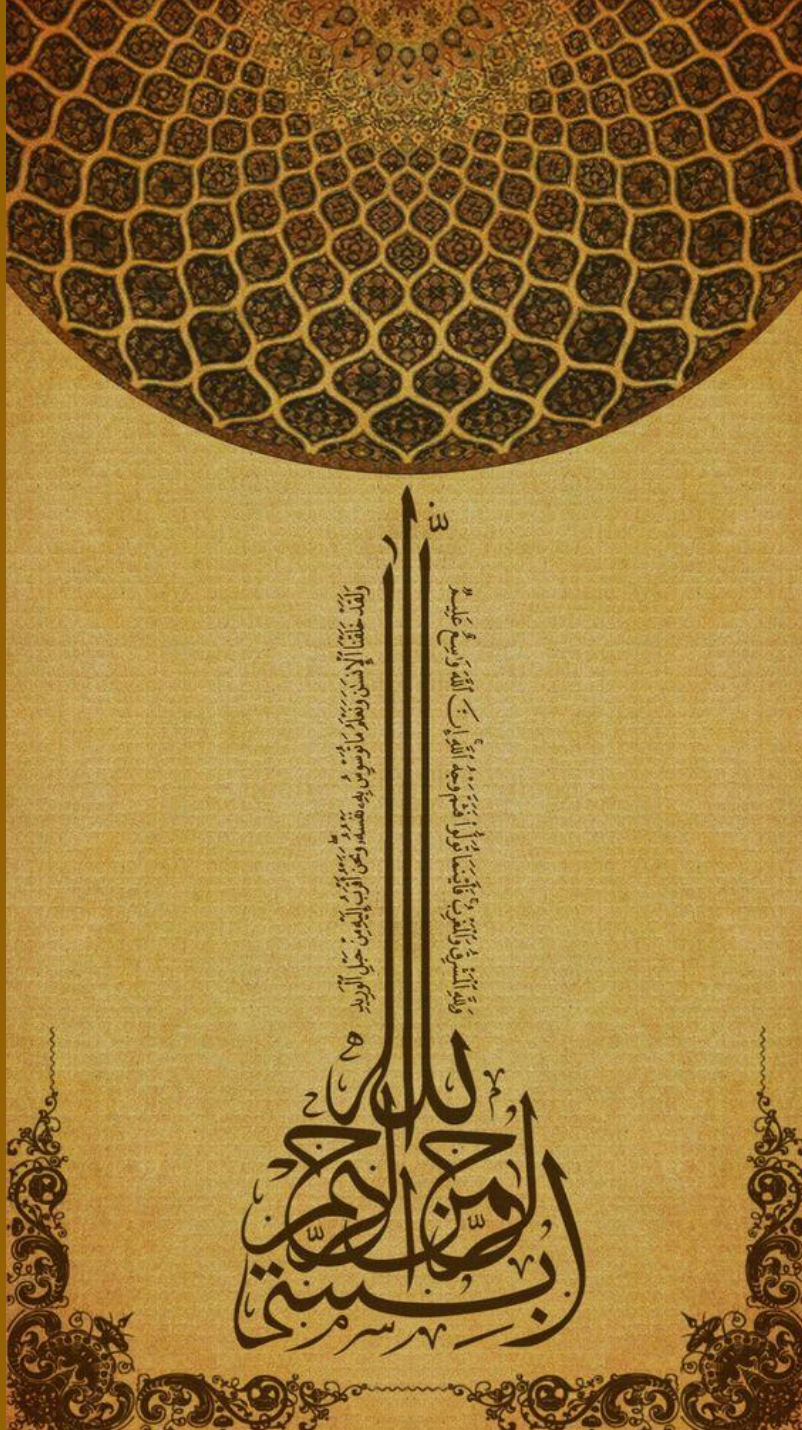
*(Warp Discussion-Part 2)*



*Grand Ayatollah*

**Seyed Reza Hosseini Nassab**

# In the name of God



## **Introduction**

This is the second part of lectures and discussions of Grand Ayatollah Seyed Reza Hosseini Nassab for the International Peace Youth Group (IPYG).

IPYG is an organization of international youth leaders passionately dedicated towards achieving peace in our world through working together.

IPYG started out as a group of peace-seeking, determined youth who were also active volunteers in the Korean community.

In May 2013, this group of young people found that there was a clear interest in the peace projects they were doing, not only from communities within Korea, but on an international scale.

They set out contacting and inviting all youth organizations around the globe to join them in their mission, and with the vision of creating a lasting change in the world IPYG rapidly grew.

IPYG aims to unite the youth of every nation, and pave the way to a peaceful future for our world.

The purpose of IPYG is to create positive and lasting change internationally through uniting major youth associations around the world.

IPYG supports the development of different communities and encourage them to set the example in educating and motivating their nation's active pursuit of peace.

International Peace Youth Group invited Grand Ayatollah Seyed Reza Hosseini Nassab to give lectures monthly in its discussion meetings with other religious leaders.

Here is the brief summary of second part of his lectures for IPYG.

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## “End Times” in Scriptures

There are some questions in this case and we are going to answer them:

### **The first question:**

Does your scripture have prophecies or signs that predict the “Time of the End”?

### **The answer:**

There are two concepts for discussion according to Islamic Scripture:

The first one is: the end of age of this physical world, which means: the Resurrection.

According to the Holy Quran, this physical world is not eternal, and the Solar System will be collapsed at the end of time on the resurrection day, and the souls of people will attend the spiritual world.

The Quran says:

And the Hereafter is better for you than the first life.

(Chapter 93, verse 4).

The Hereafter is better, because the spiritual world is higher,

premier, superior and eternal.

The Quran also says:

When the sky breaks apart

And when the stars fall, scattering,

And when the seas are erupted

And when the graves are over turned,

A soul will [then] know what it has put forth and kept back.

(Chapter 82, verses 1 – 5)

The Second concept the End Times is different: It is the last part of the time that means the last period of age of human being on the earth.

There are 2 questions in this case in this case:

Based on the Glorious Quran, the last part of age of human being on the earth will be a significant time, with peace, justice, progress and prosperity for all people in the world.

A savior will come at the end times and the justice will be fulfilled in the entire world.

The Quran says:

We wanted to confer favor upon those who were oppressed in the land and make them leaders and make them inheritors.

(Chapter 28, verse 5)

The Shia Muslims believe that this savior of the world is Imam Mahdi who will reappear with Prophet Jesus Christ, when the world completely is suffering from injustice and discrimination.

Imam Mahdi is the descendent and successor of Prophet Muhammad and the Last leader of Shia Muslims.

**The second question:**

How can we believe the prophecy or sign that predicts the end of the world?

**The answer:**

If you mean the end of age of the physical world, then there are scientific evidences which prove that the Sun (for example) is 5 billion years old, and after more 5 billion years, it will be collapsed and the Solar system will be destroyed. It means that the life on the earth is not eternal.

But if you mean the last part of age of human being on the earth, then there are 2 evidences:

**Firstly:** God Almighty will support his worshipers to maintain peace and justice by miracles and his power.

**Secondly:** the leaders and their followers will reach the victory and prosperity by their strong belief and righteousness and the people also are hungry of justice and will support the harbingers and heralds of justice.

The Quran says:

God Almighty has promised those who have believed among you and done righteous deeds that He will grant them succession [to authority] upon the earth just as He granted it to those before them and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will substitute for them, after their fear, the security, [for] they worship God, not associating anything with God.

(Chapter 24, verse 55)

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**Verses:**

(Chapter 82, verses 1 – 5)



إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انْفَطَرَتْ وَإِذَا الْكَوَاكِبُ انْتَثَرَتْ وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ وَإِذَا الْقُبُورُ بُعْثِرَتْ

عَلِمَتْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ وَأَخَّرَتْ

(Chapter 93, verse 4)

و الآخرة خير لك من الاولى

(Chapter 28, verse: 5)

و نريد ان نمن على الذين استضعفوا في الارض و نجعلهم الأئمة و نجعلهم

الوارثين

(Chapter 24, verse 55)

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ

الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا

يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا

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## **Birth, Aging, Sickness and Death**

**Question:** Is it possible to find the reason of birth, old age, sickness and death through worldly study?

According to the Holy Quran, the life on the earth is the first phase of a long process which was planned by God Almighty for human being in general.

The human being was created to work in this world and achieve the results of his/her activities and to be tested and then, to continue his journey to the Hereafter. The human being will be rewarded according to his/her acts in this world for ever and eternally.

Based on this fact, the human being was not created to live on the earth forever.

This is the reason of Birth, Old age, Sickness and Death.

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 - 2)

The Quran also says:

And God created you; then He will take you in death. And among you is he who is reversed to the most decrepit old age. Indeed, God is Knowing and Competent.

(Chapter 16, Verse 70)

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 the hereafter.

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

**Question:** Can human being become eternal being?

The body of human being is not eternal. The death for the body is a must according to our Scripture. But the soul of human being is eternal.

The 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, verse 30-31)

**Question:** Is it reasonable approach trying to understand the fundamental cause of life and death in teaching of religion?

Yes, it is reasonable and necessary to study the eternity of soul of human being in hereafter.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

The wise people are those who remember God Almighty while standing or sitting... and think about the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You; then protect us from the punishment.

Our Lord, indeed we have heard a caller calling to faith, [saying],

'Believe

in your Lord,' and we have believed. Our Lord, so forgive us our sins and remove from us our misdeeds and cause us to die with the righteous.

Our Lord, grant us what you promised us through Your messengers and do not disgrace us on the Day of Resurrection.

Indeed, you do not fail in [Your] promise."

(Chapter 3, Verse 191-193)

**Question:** What is the origin of life? Where is life from?

The soul of human being which is the source of his spiritual life is from God Almighty.

The Quran says:

How can you disbelieve in God, when you were lifeless and He brought you to the life; then He will cause you to die, then He will bring you [back] to the life, and then to him you will be returned.

(Chapter 2, verse 28)

The natural process which had been planned by the creator of the world is the cause of the mentioned stages of physical life of human being.

The Quran emphasizes this fact in the mentioned verse 28 in the chapter No. 2.

**Question:** What is the original reason of old age, sickness and death?

The natural process which had been planned by the creator of the world is the cause of the mentioned stages of physical life of

human being.

The Quran emphasizes this fact in the mentioned verse 28 in the chapter No. 2.

**Question:** Does religious scripture have to deal with the root cause of birth, aging, sickness and death?

Yes, because the human being must know his future, and God Almighty is the best one to teach us this issue.

The Quran says:

We have sent among you a messenger from yourselves reciting to you Our verses and purifying you and teaching you the Book and wisdom and teaching you which you did not know. (Chapter 2, verse 151)

**Question:** What does your religious scripture show us as resolution for birth, old age, sickness and death? (What is the way for ending death in this world?)

The solution is: to believe in God Almighty and to do righteousness.

The Quran says in this case:

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)

**Question:** Is there any case written in your scripture solved the matter of birth, old age, sickness and death?

According to the mentioned verses there is no way to solve the problem of physical death. But the soul of human being is eternal and will remain forever.

**Question:** Is it possible to be trustworthy scripture without having resolution for birth, old age, sickness and death?

The Scriptures must be able to show the best way to reach the best spiritual life for the soul of human being.

The Holy Quran says:

Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most suitable and gives good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward.

(Chapter 17, verse 9)



## 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 الْغَفُورُ

(Chapter 16, Verse 70)

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ يَتَوَفَّاكُمْ ۚ وَمِنْكُمْ مَن يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْذَلِ الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْ لَا يَعْلَمَ بَعْدَ عِلْمٍ شَيْنًا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ

(Chapter 39, verse 30-31)

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

(Chapter 3, Verse 191-193)

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا ۗ رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ رَبَّنَا وَآتِنَا مَا وَعَدْتَنَا عَلَىٰ رُسُلِكَ وَلَا تُخْزِنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۗ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ

(Chapter 2, verse 28)

كيف تكفرون بالله وكنتم أمواتا فأحياكم ثم يميتكم ثم يحييكم ثم إليه ترجعون هو الذي خلق لكم ما في الأرض جميعا

(Chapter 2, verse 151)

كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِيكُمْ رَسُولًا مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِنَا وَيُزَكِّيكُمْ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ

Chapter 16, verse 97

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

(Chapter 17, verse 9)

إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَيِّنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ  
أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

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## Sin in Scriptures

**Question 1:** What is the sin and how does it affect mankind?

Sin is anything which causes separation and more distance between the human being and God Almighty.

The word of Sin in the Holy Scripture includes the following actions:

1. Committing the crime

The Holy Quran says:

Those who committed crimes will face debasement before God and hard punishment for what they used to conspire.

(Chapter 6, Verse 124)

2. Disobeying the commands of God Almighty:

The Holy Quran says:

Say, "Indeed I fear, if I should disobey my Lord, the punishment of a tremendous Day." (Chapter 39, Verse 13)

3. Corruption:

The Quran says in this case:

The home of the Hereafter we assign to those who are not arrogant and avoid corruption. (Chapter 28, verse 83)

#### 4. Debauchery:

The Glorious Quran says:

Those who commit debauchery, their refuge will be the Hell.

(Chapter 32, verse 20)

#### 5. Lewdness and Lechery: Our Holy Scripture says:

Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to the lechery, while Allah promises you forgiveness from Him and bounty. (Chapter 2, verse 268)

6. Immorality: Indeed, God Almighty orders justice and good conduct and good relation with relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. (Chapter 16, verse 90)

**Question 2:** is there any way in your scripture, to solve the problem of sin?

Repentance is the solution for the problem of Sin.

According to the Scripture, God Almighty likes the people who repent and make decision to return to the right path.

God says in the Quran:

Indeed, God Almighty loves those who are constantly repentant and he loves those who purify themselves." (Chapter 2, verse 222)

He also says:

God Almighty accepts repentance from his servants and forgives misdeeds, and He knows what you do. (Chapter 42, verse 25)

There is another beautiful verse which says:

For those who repent and believe and do righteous work, God will replace their evil deeds with good. He is Forgiving and Merciful.

(Chapter 25, Verse 70)

We recite in another Chapter as follow:

Whoever does a wrong or oppresses against himself but he seeks forgiveness of God, will find him Forgiving and Merciful.

(Chapter 4, verse 110)

The Quran also says:

Say, "O my servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of God. Indeed, God

Almighty forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving,  
the Merciful."

(Chapter 39, verse 53)

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### Verses:

(Chapter 6, Verse 124)

سَيُصِيبُ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا صَغَارٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَمْكُرُونَ

(Chapter 39, Verse 13)

قُلْ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ

(Chapter 28, verse 83)

تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فَسَادًا

(Chapter 32, verse 20)

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فَسَقُوا فَمَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ

(Chapter 2, verse 268)

الشَّيْطَانُ يَعِدُكُمُ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُم بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَاللَّهُ يَعِدُكُم مَّغْفِرَةً مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلًا

(Chapter 16, verse 90)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ

(Chapter 2, verse 222)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

(Chapter 42, verse 25)

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

(Chapter 25, Verse 70)

من تاب و عمل صالحا فاولئك يبذل الله سيئاتهم حسنات

(Chapter 4, verse 110)

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

(Chapter 39, verse 53)

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ

جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

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## **"WAR in Scripture"**

The religion of Islam always asks the Muslims to maintain peace and justice and avoid the war.

The Holy Quran says:

God Almighty invites you to the Home of Peace and guides the people to the straight path. (Chapter 10, Verse 25)

The Muslims were in the city of Mecca for 13 years after Muhammad became prophet. They were under pressure and attack by idolaters. Many of them died. But they were not allowed to retaliate and fight against their enemy.

After 13 years, the following verse of Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad and allowed the Muslims to defend themselves.

The Holy Quran says:

Permission has been given to those who are being fought, because they were oppressed. And indeed, God is able to give them

victory.

[Oppressed people should struggle to support] those who have been evicted from their homes without right - only because they say, "Our Lord is God Almighty.

If they do not struggle against oppressors, there would have been demolished temples, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of God is mentioned. And God will support those who support Him. Indeed, God Almighty is Powerful and Exalted in Might.

(Chapter 22, verse 39 and 40)

If we pay attention to the mentioned verses, we will realize that the allowed fighting in this verse was against oppressors, not against the Non-Muslims in general, such as Jewish people, Christians, and so on.

Because the Quran is asking Muslims to protect all temples, churches, synagogues, and mosques.

**Question No. 1:** Does your scripture mention about the War? If it does, please explain.

There are several verses in Quran about the war, and different types of war, and its conditions and limitations.

The Quran says:

Fight in the way of God against those who fight against you but do not transgress. Indeed, God Almighty does not like transgressors.

(Chapter 2, verse 190)

According to this verse, the Muslims are not allowed to start war against others, but they should fight against those who attack them and fight against them.

Also, the Muslims are not allowed to commit any transgression during the war.

The war in Quran is conditional.

Firstly, it should be defensive, against the aggressors, transgressors, and attacking enemies.

Secondly, it should be supporting the freedom of religion and protecting the places of worship, such as temples, churches, synagogues, and mosques.

Thirdly, there should be no transgression during the war.

Fourthly, it should be ended when the enemy stops.

The Glorious Quran says:

And if they cease, then indeed, God is Forgiving and Merciful.

(Chapter 2, Verse 192)

Fifthly, the war should not be against Non-Muslims as Non-Muslims, but it should be against aggressors and oppressors who attack.

That's why the Holy Quran says:

(O Muhammad) if any one of the Non-Muslims and unbelievers seeks your protection, then grant him protection so that he may hear the words of God. Then deliver him to his place of safety.

(Chapter 9, verse 6)

**Question No. 2:** What is the difference between the War recorded in scripture and the War happening in the world?

There are many differences including the following:

**Number 1:** The war in the scripture is defensive. But the war which is happening in the world is mostly offensive.

**Number 2:** The war in the scripture is for the sake of justice. But the war happening in the world is for the sake of domination, power, and oil.

The Holy Quran says:

And fight your enemy until persecution is no more, and religion is for God.

(Chapter 2, verse 193):

**Number 3:** during the war in the scripture, if the enemy stops, the war should be ended. But during the war which is happening in the world if the enemy stops, the fighters mostly continue fighting to destroy the enemy completely.

The Holy Quran says:

But if they stop, then let there be no hostility except against oppressors.

(Chapter 2, verse 193):

**Number 4:** during the war in the scripture it is not allowed to kill women, children, old people and those who do not participate in the war. But during the war which is happening in the world, the women, children, old people and innocent people also get killed.

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**Verses:**

(Chapter 22, verse 39 and 40):

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلِمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ، الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ  
بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَهَدِمَتْ صَوَامِعُ  
وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ  
عَزِيزٌ

(Chapter 2, verse 190)

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ

(Chapter 2, Verse 192)

فَانْتَهَوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

(Chapter 9, verse 6)

وَأِنْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ أَبْلِغْهُ مَأْمَنَهُ

(Chapter 2, verse 193):

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ

(Chapter 2, verse 193):

فَإِنْ انْتَهَوْا فَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ

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## **Salvation and Paradise (Heaven) in Scripture**

According to the Islamic ideology, we will live in 2 different worlds, but they are actually like 2 sides of the same coin.

The first world is named Dunya, which is the physical world.

The word of Dunya has been repeated 115 times in the Quran.

The second world is named Al-Akhirah, which means Hereafter.

Dunya is the place of work, and Hereafter is the place of achievement.

The Holy Quran says:

O my people, this worldly life is only [temporary] enjoyment, and indeed, the Hereafter is the home of [permanent] settlement.

Whoever is a believer and does righteousness, whether male or female, will enter Paradise. (Chapter 40, Verse 39 – 40)

We also recite in the Quran as follow:

Wealth and children are adornment of the worldly life. But the enduring good deeds are better to your Lord for reward. (Chapter 18, Verse: 46)

According to the mentioned verses, the true and permanent salvation and paradise will be in hereafter.

But we have 2 important responsibilities in this physical world.

**The first responsibility** is to become eligible to achieve the permanent paradise by working gently and performing virtue and piety and worshiping God Almighty.

In fact, the people create their permanent paradise in hereafter, by doing good deeds and performing nice activities in this world.

**The second responsibility** is to make this temporary life in the physical world also, as a temporary paradise, by performing tolerance, peace, justice and helping each other.

The Glorious Quran says:

Seek the home of the Hereafter which God Almighty has given you, and [yet], do not forget your share of the physical world. And do good / as God has done good to you. And do not desire corruption on the earth. Indeed, God Almighty does not like corrupters. (Chapter 28, verse 77)

**Question 1:** What is the appearance of Paradise (Heaven) in your scripture?

The paradise in hereafter is manifestation and embodiment of good actions of people during their life in this world.

The soul of human being after passing away will meet with his

good intentions and nice deeds which have been done in the world.

So, the beautiful deeds will be embodied as a beautiful place with nice facilities and amazing views such as a wonderful garden and nice palace and paradise in the spiritual world.

In the contrary, the bad deeds will be embodied as the hell in hereafter.

The Glorious Quran says:

Whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it. (Chapter 99, Verse 8)

The paradise has been described in the Holy Quran as a beautiful environment which is the symbol of peace, prosperity, happiness and salvation.

The paradise is named in the Quran “Darussalam” which means: the house of peace.

We recite in Glorious Quran as follow:

God Almighty invites to the Home of Peace and guides the people to the straight path. (Chapter 10, Verse 25)

The Quran also says:

Race toward grace of your Lord and the paradise whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, which is prepared for those who believed in God and all His messengers. That is the bounty of God Almighty. (Chapter 57, verse 21)

Another important point in this case is that: the soul of human being will be able to create everything which is interested in, by his/her will in the paradise.

The Holy Quran says:

Those who have believed and done righteous deeds will be in Paradise having whatever they will in the presence of their Lord. That is the great bounty. (Chapter 42, Verse 22)

The Quran also says:

And there is whatever the souls desire and [what] delights the eyes, and you will be there eternally. (Chapter 43, verse 71)

There is no pain, no enmity and no death in the paradise.

The Holy Quran says:

We will remove the resentment from their hearts [so they will be] brothers. (Chapter 15, Verse 47)

We also recite it the Quran as follow:

Indeed, the righteous will be in a secure place; Within gardens and springs, ... and there is no death for them. (Chapter 44, Verse 56)

**Question 2:** Does your scripture suggest how to reach paradise (heaven)?

The main mission of all religions is to help people to reach paradise and salvation by fulfilling the following conditions:

No. 1: to believe in God Almighty and follow the truth.

No. 2: to do the good deeds in this world.

The Holy Quran says:

Those who believed and did righteous deeds, will be in the Paradise as accommodation for what they used to do. (Chapter 32, Verse 19)

No 3. To be pious and virtuous. The Quran says:

That is Paradise, which we give as inheritance to those of our worshipers who were pious and virtuous. (Chapter 19, Verse 63)

No. 4. To be Good-Doer and helping other people.

The Holy Quran says:

For them who have done good is the best reward and extra. No darkness will cover their faces, nor contempt. Those are

companions of Paradise; they will be there eternally. (Chapter 10, Verse 26)

No. 5: to be patient. The Quran says:

The angels say to the residents of paradise: Peace be upon you, because you were patient. (Chapter 13, Verse 24)

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### Verses:

(Chapter 40, Verse 39 – 40)

يَا قَوْمِ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَاعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ

(Chapter 18, Verse 7)

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ زِينَةً لَهَا لِنَبْلُوهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا

(Chapter 18, Verse: 46)

الْمَالُ وَالْبَنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا

(Chapter 28, verse 77)

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ

وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

(Chapter 99, Verse 8)

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ، وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ

(Chapter 10, Verse 25)

و الله يدعوا الي دار السلام و يهدي من يشاء الي صراط مستقيم

(Chapter 57, verse 21)

سَابِقُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَ جَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَ الْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ

آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَ رُسُلِهِ ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَ اللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

(Chapter 42, Verse 22)

لهم ما يشاءون عند ربهم

(Chapter 43, verse 71)

و فيها ما تشتهيهِ الأنفس و تلبذ الأعين و أنتم فيها خالدون

(Chapter 15, Verse 47)

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِمَّنْ غَلَبَتْ إِخْوَانًا عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ

(Chapter 44, Verse 56)

إن المتقين فى مقام أمين فى جنات و عيون..... لا يذوقون فيها الموت

(Chapter 32, Verse 19)

أما الذين ءامنوا و عملوا الصالحات فلهم جنات المأوى نزلاً بما كانوا يعملون

(Chapter 19, Verse 63)

تلك الجنة التي نورث من عبادنا من كان تقياً

(Chapter 10, Verse 26)

لِّلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْحُسْنَىٰ وَزِيَادَةٌ وَلَا يَرْهَقُ وُجُوهَهُمْ قَتَرٌ وَلَا ذِلَّةٌ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ

فيها

(Chapter 13, Verse 24)

جنت عدن يدخلونها و من صلح من ءابائهم و أزواجهم و ذرياتهم و الملائكة يدخلون  
عليهم من كل باب، سلام عليكم بما صبرتم فنعم عقبى الدار

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## **Trustworthy Scripture**

### **Difference between Religious Texts (Holy Scripture) and Secular Books**

We believe that the Holy Scripture is a religious text which has been revealed by God Almighty to the Prophet, but the secular book is a text which is written by human being.

The Glorious Quran says:

By the wise Qur'an

Indeed you, [O Muhammad], are from among the messengers,

On a straight path

[This is] a revelation of God, the Exalted in Might, the Merciful

That you may warn the people.

(Chapter 36, Verse 2 – 6)

**Question:** How should religious texts be different from secular

books?

There are several characteristics for the Religious Scripture:

1. The source of Holy Scripture is God
2. The receiver of this book should be a messenger of God
3. There should be enough evidences to prove that that book is from God Almighty, such as prophecy or miracle by the Prophet.

Examples: **Torah, Bible and Quran.**

But the Secular books can be compiled by Social Reformers, Philosophers, Legislators or Law makers.

Examples:

1. **Utopia**, written by Plato, or Thomas More.
2. **Emile**, written by Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
3. **Constitutions of countries.**

We recite in the Holy Quran as follow:

God Almighty - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence.

He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book of Quran in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel.

(Chapter 3, Verses 2 – 3)

**Question 1:** Where must religious texts originate from for it to be a Holy Scripture?

The answer: It should originate from God and spiritual world, to be considered as Holy Scripture.

God Almighty says:

Indeed, we sent down the Holy Scripture and indeed, we will be its guardian.

(Chapter 15, Verse 9)

**Question 2:** Can a collection of man's teaching be regarded as a Holy Scripture?

According to the Islamic terminology, this type of books is not considered as the heavenly Book and Holy Scripture.

The Quran says:

Woe to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say this is Heavenly and from God.

(Chapter 2, Verse 79)

## **[DISCUSSION 2] Purpose of Scripture**

**Question:** What is the purpose to give religious texts to the

people?

**The answer:** the main purpose is the guidance.

The Holy Quran says:

This is the perfect Book which is with no doubt, the guidance for those who are virtuous and pious.

(Chapter 2, Verse 2)

God Almighty wanted to guide the human being in 3 fields:

**Firstly**, according to many psychologists, such as Dr. William James, there are 2 types of tendencies inside the human being:

No. 1: the physical dimension of human being which makes relation between him and the material world.

No. 2: the moral and immaterial tendency which makes relation between the human being and the spiritual world.

The Holy Scripture teaches us the correct way of this relation, in case of worship, supplication, receiving the divine inspiration and so on.

**Secondly**, the religion is the path of life. And the Holy Scripture is the constitution for ethical and moral life of human being in this world.

**Thirdly**, there are many questions that the scientists and

philosophers cannot answer, such as the situation of human being after death.

The Holy Scripture is the word of God, who created the human being and who knows the past and future of him. So, the Holy Scripture is the only source which can answer this type of questions.

**[DISCUSSION 3]** Do all religious texts that exist today assert the same doctrine (truth)?

According to Islam, the Heavenly Scriptures such as Torah and Bible were different versions of the same truth, and the Holy Quran is the last version.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

The Messenger (Prophet Mohammad) and the believers have believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord. All of them have believed in God and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], "We make no distinction between any of His messengers."

(Chapter 2, Verse 285)

**Question 1:** Is every religious text in the world trustworthy? Is one's own Scripture the only religious text that is trustworthy?

Which Scripture is trustworthy?

The Muslims believe in the Holy Quran as the last version of revelation, which was never distorted.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

Why do they not think about the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than God, they would have found much contradiction in this Scripture.

(Chapter 4, Verse 82)

**Question 2:** What is the reason why we should search for the trustworthy scripture?

Because we should be sure that the Scripture is the word of God Almighty and it is not a fake Scripture.

The Holy Quran says:

Recite, [O Muhammad], what has been revealed to you of the Book of your Lord. There is no changer of His words, and you will never find a refuge in other than Him. (Chapter 18, Verse 27)

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**Verses:**

(Chapter 36, Verse 2 – 6)

والقرآن الحكيم . إنك لمن المرسلين . على صراط مستقيم . تنزيل العزيز

الرحيم . لتنذر قوما ما أنذر آباؤهم فهم غافلون

(Chapter 3, Verses 2 – 3)

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ (2) نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنْزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنْجِيلَ

(Chapter 15, Verse 9)

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

(Chapter 2, Verse 79)

للذين يكتبون الكتاب بأيديهم ثم يقولون هذا من عند الله ليشتروا به ثمنا قليلا

(Chapter 2, Verse 2)

ذلك الكتاب لا ريب فيه هدى للمتقين

(Chapter 2, Verse 285)

أَمَّنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ

(Chapter 4, Verse 82)

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

(Chapter 18, Verse 27)

وَآتَلُّ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ كِتَابِ رَبِّكَ لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مُلْتَحَدًا

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