

THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE

How to Understand Islaam Correctly

Shaykh Muhammad Al-Malki

Dars 24- `Aqeedah: Believing in the Hereafter – The Inevitable End – Paradise or Hell 01/05/2011

After praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon His Messenger (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) and those who followed him, our Shaykh and teacher, Muhammad Al-Malki welcomed the students to today's class. Today we will have the last of the sessions dealing with believing in the Last Day. We will deal with: **The Inevitable End – Paradise or Hell**

THE INEVITABLE END

The inevitable end will be either permanent pleasure or constant and severe torment i.e. whether people will end up entering the Jannah (Paradise) or the Naar (Fire) as Allaah Ta`aala said,

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَنْ زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ ﴿١٨٥﴾

Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, he indeed is successful. The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing). (Aal-`Imraan 3:185)

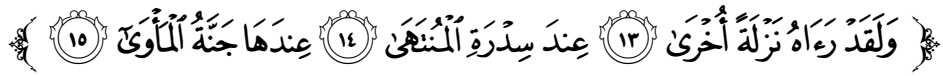
Allaah Ta`aala is warning us against this painful torment of entering the Fire.

THE PARADISE AND THE FIRE

What is the Naar (Fire) and how is it mentioned in the Qur'aan? The Fire is mentioned in the Qur'aan almost double the number of times that the Jannah is mentioned in the Qur'aan. All this is warning against it and against all deeds that lead to it. The Jannah (Paradise) is the place of Allaah's reward for those who obey Allaah and the Fire is the place of Allaah's punishment for those who disobeyed Him and disbelieved in Him. The Paradise and Fire are already created and existing.

The Jannah

The Jannah is in the 7th Heaven as mentioned by Allaah Ta`aala in soorah An-Najm. Allaah Azza wa Jall said,



And indeed he (Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam)) saw him [Jibraa`eel (Gabriel)] at a second descent (i.e. another time). Near Sidrat-ul-Muntaha (a lote tree of the utmost boundary over the seventh heaven beyond which none can pass). Near it is the Paradise of Abode. (An-Najm 53:13-15)

Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`aala) informed us of the location of the Jannah. It is also narrated in Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (radhiyallaahu `anhu) that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, *"Verily Paradise has one-hundred grades which Allaah has prepared for those who struggle for the Sake of Allaah, and the distance between each of two grades is like the distance between the heavens and the earth.*

The highest grade of it is Al-Firdaus Al-A`laa and there is nothing (created) above it except the Throne of Allaah and from it originates all the rivers of Paradise, as comes in the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah in Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, where the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, *So, when you ask Allaah (for something), ask for Al-Firdaus which is the best and highest part of Paradise." (i.e. The sub-narrator added, "I think the Prophet also said, 'Above it (i.e. Al-Firdaus) is the Throne of Beneficent (i.e. Allaah), and from it originate the rivers of Paradise.")¹*

Jannah has eight (8) gates and the distance between the two sides of each gate is like the distance between the east and the west. In the hadeeth in Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree on the authority of Abul-Abbaas Sahl ibn Sa`d as-Sa`dee (radhiyallaahu `anhu) that the Prophet said, *"Paradise has eight gates, and one of them is called Ar-Rayaan through which none will enter but those who observed fasting (for the sake of Allaah)." ²*

The intellect cannot perceive the pleasures contained therein, nor can any eye see (what is there) until the believer enters the Jannah; and no ear can hear of it except in the Hereafter when they enter the Jannah. The reality of it does not dawn upon a heart or brain of any mankind.

¹ Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, The Book of Tawheed:

إن في الجنة مائة درجة، أعدها الله للمجاهدين في سبيله، كل درجة ما بينهما كما بين السماء والأرض، فإذا سألت الله فسلوه الفردوس، فإنه أوسط الجنة، وأعلى الجنة، وفوقه عرش الرحمن، ومنه تَفجر أنهار الجنة

² Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, The Book of the Beginning of Creation:

في الجنة ثمانية أبواب، فيها باب يسمى الريان، لا يدخله إلا الصائمون

The Fire

As for the Fire, it is the place of the punishment of Allaah which He created and prepared for two types of people:

- 1) Those who are the original dwellers of it. They are the disbelievers, atheists and pagans; those who worship anything besides Allaah or who deny Allaah or deny anything that He Ta'aalaa commanded mankind to believe in.
- 2) The others are those who will not abide in it forever. They are (sinful persons) from the believers. They are under the Will of Allaah; if He (Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa) Wills He will punish and torture them for their sins and then He will remove them from it and place them in Jannah, and if He Wills He will forgive them from the onset. That is because the only sin that Allaah does not forgive is shirk as He said Sooratun-Nisaa',

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ ﴾^{٤٤}

Verily, Allaah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him (in worship), but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills... (An-Nisaa' 4:48)

As the Paradise is located in the highest of the heavens, the Fire is located in the lowest of the earths as reported by Ibn `Abbaas (radhiyallaahu `anhumaa) in Tafseer.

As the Jannah has eight (8) gates, the Fire has seven (7) gates as Allaah Azza wa Jall said,

﴿ وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمَوْعِدُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٤٣﴾ لَهَا سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابٍ لِكُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَقْسُومٌ ﴿٤٤﴾ ﴾

And surely, Hell is the promised place for them all. It (Hell) has seven gates, for each of those gates is a (special) class (of sinners) assigned. (Al-Hijr 15:43-44)

As Jannah has *darajaat* i.e. ascending ranks, the Fire has *darakaat* i.e. descending/downgrading ranks as is reported from `Abur-Rahmaan ibn Aslam. The lowest level of the Fire is for the *munaafiqeen* (hypocrites) as Allaah mentioned in soorah Nisaa',

﴿ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا ﴿١٤٥﴾ ﴾

Verily, the hypocrites will be in the lowest depth (grade) of the Fire; no helper will you find for them. (An-Nisaa' 4:145)

The description of the intense heat of the Fire is reported from the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) as is authentically narrated in Saheeh al- Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (radhiyallaahu `anhu) that he (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, **“Your fire of this world (e.g. of the stove, candle, factory etc.) is one seventieth (1/70) of the Fire of the Last Day.”**³

³ Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, The Book of the Beginning of Creation: ناركم جزء من سبعين جزءا من نار جهنم

Even the sun with its great amount of heat will be rolled up as a ball on the Day of Resurrection and be thrown into the Fire. The Fire of Jahannam is not like the fire of today as its fuel is not wood and oil but it is stones and bodies as Allaah *Azza wa Jall* mentioned in sooratul-Baqarah,

﴿ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾ ﴾

But if you do it not, and you can never do it, then fear the Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers. (Al-Baqarah 2:24)

BELIEF IN THE PARADISE AND THE FIRE

Believing in the Paradise and Fire is obtained by 3 things:

- 1) The firm belief that they are both true and that the Paradise is the final abode of the Believers , those with Taqwaa and the successful ones and the Fire is the final abode of the disbelievers and hypocrites as Allaah (*Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa*) said in Soorah An-Nisaa',

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ نُصَلِّيهِمْ نَارًا كَلَّمًا نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ بَدَلَتْهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ ﴿٥٦﴾ ﴾

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾ ﴾

Surely, those who disbelieved in Our Ayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), We shall burn them in Fire. As often as their skins are roasted through, We shall change them for other skins that they may taste the punishment. Truly, Allaah is Ever Most Powerful, All-Wise. (An-Nisaa' 4:56)

And regarding the believers He said,

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَنُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا لَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَوَدَّخُلُهُمْ ظِلًّا ظَلِيلًا ﴿٥٧﴾ ﴾

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَنُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا لَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَوَدَّخُلُهُمْ ظِلًّا ظَلِيلًا ﴿٥٧﴾ ﴾

But those who believe (in the Oneness of Allaah – Islaamic Monotheism) and do deeds of righteousness, We shall admit them to Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise), abiding therein forever. Therein they shall have Azwaajun Mutahharatun (purified mates or wives), and We shall admit them to shades wide and ever deepening (Paradise). (An-Nisaa' 4:57)

Azwaajun Mutahharah means wives pure from menses, stool, urine and anything which may keep them away from their husbands. They will always be virgins even after they have been enjoyed they immediately return to being virgins.

That is the 1st principle for believing in the Paradise and the Fire.

- 2) Believing that they have been created and are existing as Allaah Ta`aala said in soorah Aal-`Imraan about the Paradise, and in sooratul-Baqarah about the Fire,

﴿... أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ۝۱۳۳﴾

... prepared for Al-Muttaqoon (the pious). (Aal-`Imraan 3:133)

﴿... أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ۝۲۴﴾

... prepared for the disbelievers. (Al-Baqarah 2:24)

It is reported in the hadeeth of `Imraan ibn Hussayn in the Saheehayn that the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said, ***"I looked into the Paradise and the majority of its inhabitants being poor people; and I looked into the Hell and saw that the majority of its inhabitants were women."***⁴

- 3) To believe that these two places (the Paradise and Fire) will remain forever. They will never be destroyed or stop, nor will their inhabitants have an end to their lives (i.e. die) as Allaah said,

﴿تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ۝۱۳﴾

These are the limits (set by) Allaah (or ordainments as regards laws of inheritance), and whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam)), will be admitted to Gardens under which rivers flow (in Paradise), to abide therein, and that will be the great success. (An-Nisaa' 4:13)

And regarding the Fire, Allaah said in the following ayah,

﴿وَمَنْ يَعِصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُهِينٌ ۝﴾

And whosoever disobeys Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam)), and transgresses His (set) limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment. (An-Nisaa' 4:14)

It is also reported in Bukhaaree and Muslim on the authority of `Abdillaah ibn `Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (radhiyallaahu`anhuma) that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said: ***"Allaah would admit the people of Jannah into Jannah and the people of the Fire into the Fire. Then an announcer would stand between them and say: 'O people of Jannah, there is no death for you; O people of the Fire, there is no death for you. Every one of you will live forever therein'."***⁵ These are the ways of believing in the Jannah and the Fire.

⁴ Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, The Book of the Beginning of Creation & Saheeh Muslim, The Book of Heart-Rendering Narrations: اطلعت في الجنة فرأيت أكثر أهلها الفقراء، واطلعت في النار فرأيت أكثر أهلها النساء

⁵ Saheeh Muslim, The Book Pertaining to Paradise, Its Description, Its Bounties and Its Intimates: يدخل الله أهل الجنة الجنة. ويدخل أهل النار النار. ثم يقوم مؤذن بينهم فيقول: يا أهل الجنة! لا موت. ويا أهل النار! لا موت. كل خالد فيما هو فيه

THE FRUITS OF BELIEVING IN THE LAST DAY

- 1) The eagerness to obey Allaah hoping to earn the reward of that Day (Jannah) and to be distanced and refraining from disobedience fearing the punishment and torment of that Day.
- 2) The pleasure that the believer will have when he knows that what he missed of this worldly life and its enjoyment will be replaced with better than it in the Hereafter i.e. to gain the great pleasure of the Jannah on the Last Day.
- 3) To fear the complete and perfect Justice of Allaah as He will reckon and judge every person for his deeds, besides His Mercy which He bestows upon his slaves.

This is the completion of the fifth pillar or article of Faith – Belief in the Last Day.

We now end by praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon the Messenger of Allaah.

❧ END OF DARS TWENTY-FOUR ❧