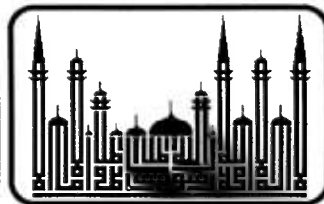


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Perspectives



A bimonthly newsletter published by the Foundation for Islamic Knowledge*Feb./Mar. 2001, Zul-Qi'dah/Muharram- 1422 * Vol. 6, No.6

Editorial

The occasion of *Eid-ul-Adha* (feast of sacrifice) reminds us of two important and interrelated subjects: The *Hajj* or pilgrimage to Mecca - the fifth pillar of Islam, and the sacrifice - an important concept in Islam. The pilgrims, in responding to the call of Allah, have sacrificed their time, money and effort. One of the important aspects of *Hajj* is to learn the concept of "unity through diversity".

Though the pilgrims come from different political and national groups and speak different languages, they are repeatedly reminded of their common ideology, and common faith. They wear the same type of simple clothes (for men, a white, two-piece seamless garment of cloth or toweling; and for women, a simple white dress and a head covering); and they perform the same rituals (including standing on the plain of Arafat to remember the day of judgment, sacrificing an animal and distributing most of the meat to the poor and needy).

Muslims today constitute one fifth of the world population, and like the pilgrims in Mecca they constitute a diversified group. They are brought up in different political and economic environments. They are different in their ways of thinking and in their ways of handling problems and situations.

Despite all these differences, Islam binds the hearts of its followers with the concept of unity and the basic beliefs that they share as a consequence of this concept: Belief in Allah, the One and Only God; belief in the unity of the prophets insofar as their one basic message is concerned (there is no one worthy of worship except Allah); belief in the unity of the human race; and belief in the unity of the present world and the one to come after death.

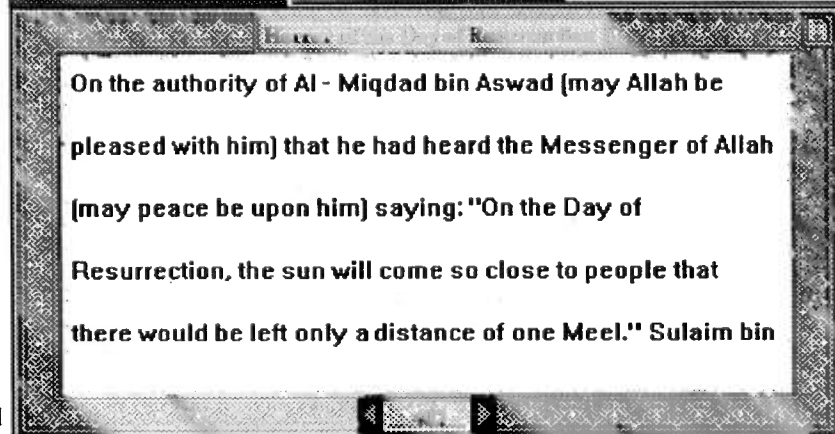
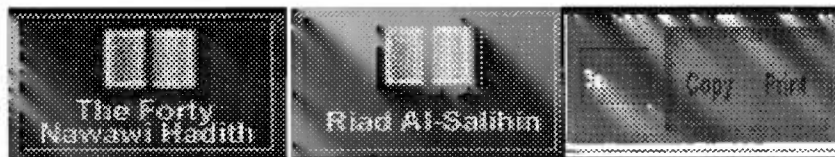
Each of the basic beliefs has far-reaching implications and provide Muslims with very strong uniting elements, which include: one Qur'an - one book, one version and one text which is the standard for every Muslim; one example to follow - the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH); and one *Qibla* - one direction for prayers, the center of which is at Mecca.

The basic beliefs and the uniting elements, if properly appreciated, protect Muslims against failure and loss. They enable them to collaborate and make positive contributions to humanity. I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance and strength to perform our duties as Muslims.

Ameen ☐

New Multimedia Islamic Software

A multimedia software entitled *Selection of Hadiths* has been developed by **Harf Information Technology**. The program is in three languages: Arabic, English and French. It includes the following features: Display of the books *Riyad Al-Salihin* and *Nuzhat Al-Muttaqin*, the *Forty Nawawi Hadiths*, and some of the Divine *Hadiths*, along with Summaries and lessons learned from them. The program has a search facility at different levels (Arabic words, words with affixes or root level) and an Audio recording of the *Forty Nawawi Hadiths*. The program runs under Windows 95, 98 or 2000 and can be obtained from **Digitek International Inc., 7631 Leesburg Pike, Suite B, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. (800) 33-Sakhr.** ☐



Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

The Last Day

اليوم الآخر

The belief in the certainty of the last day is reflected in the teachings of all the major religions of the world. It is one of the pillars of *Iman* (Islamic Faith). Muslims believe that the present world will end in an apocalyptic fashion. Subsequently, Allah will recreate and resurrect all of the creation and judge them according to what they have done in this world. The importance of believing in the last day is manifested by the hundreds of verses of the Qur'an and the authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) dealing with it. Some Muslim scientists attempted to explore the similarities between the Qur'anic descriptions of the last day and some theories of cosmology that predict reversal of time in the future, and the accompanying reversal of gravity, with the beginning of the contraction phase of the universe.

In this article, an attempt is made to summarize the descriptions given in the Qur'an and the authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) of the last day and the major phenomena occurring in it.

The names of the last day

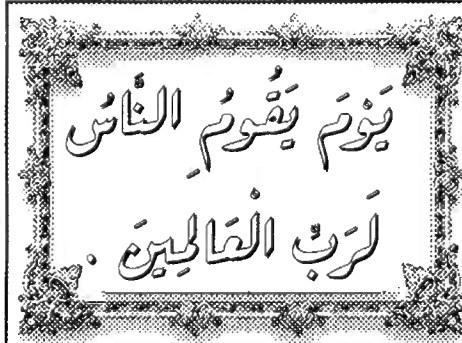
Some of the names and descriptions of the last day given in the Qur'an are listed on pages 5,6 and 7. The most frequently used name is *Yawm-ul-Qiyamah* (يوم القيامة) (the resurrection day, or the day of rising). This name appears 70 times in the Qur'an. The name refers to the standing of all humans before their Lord. The succeeding four most frequently used names are in order: *As Saa'ah* (الساعة) (the hour); *Al-Yawm-ul-Akher* (اليوم الآخر) (the last day); *Yawm-ul-Deen* (يوم الدين) (day of repayment) and *Yawm'on*

(the hour); *Al-Yawm-ul-Akher* (اليوم الآخر) (the last day); *Yawm-ul-Deen* (يوم الدين) (day of repayment) and *Yawm'on*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَأْيَهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ إِنَّ زَلْزَلَةَ السَّاعَةِ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ . يَوْمَ تَرُؤْنَهَا تَدْهَلُ كُلُّ مُرْضِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ وَتَضَعُ كُلُّ ذَاتِ حَمْلٍ حَمْلَهَا وَتَرَى النَّاسَ سُكَارَى وَمَا هُمْ بِسُكَارَى وَلَكِنَّ عَذَابَ اللَّهِ شَدِيدٌ .
(سورة الحج - آيات ١ و ٢)

O ye people! Be conscious of the presence of Allah! Verily, for the convulsion of the hour (of judgement) is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursing, and every pregnant female will drop her load (unformed), and you will see people as a drunken state, yet they are not drunk, but severe will be the torment of Allah. (Qur'an 22:1,2)

Azeem (يوم عظيم) (Mighty day). Other names were proposed by Muslim scholars, and are derived from the general wordings of the Qur'anic verses and authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH). These include *Yawm-ul-Jidaal* (يوم الجدل) (the day of pleading, derived from verse (16:111)); *Yawm-ul-Ba'tharah* (يوم البثرة) (day of pouring



"A day when (all) humans will stand before the Lord of the Worlds" (Qur'an 83:6)

forth the contents of the graves, (100:9); *Yawm-ul-Zalzalah* (يوم الزلزلة) (day of earthquake, (22:1)); *Yawm-un-Naqoor* (يوم الناقور) (day of sounding the trumpet, (74:8)); *Yawm-ul-Ardh* (يوم العرض) (day of display, (69:18)); and *Yawm-ul-Jazaa* (يوم الجزاء) (day of reward, (20:15), (40:17)).

Severity and greatness of the last day

The last day is the greatest event that humans are moving forward to, and will

experience, The intense horror and dismay humans will face and feel on that day will be utterly awful and severe. A brief summary of the severity of the last day is given on page 3. Some of the Qur'anic verses describing the last day are given subsequently.

The hour will come suddenly on Friday:

هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ .
(سورة الزخرف - آية ٦٦)

Do they only wait for the Hour - that it shall come upon them suddenly, while they perceive not? (Qur'an 43:66)

خير يوم طلعت عليه الشمس يوم الجمعة فيه خلق آدم وفيه أدخل الجنة وفيه أخرج منها ولا تقوم الساعة إلا في يوم الجمعة .

حديث شريف - صحيح مسلم

The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; on it Adam was created; on it he was made to enter Paradise; on it he was expelled from it; and the Hour will not happen except on a Friday.

(sahih Muslim)

Lengthy Duration of the day:

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ .
(سورة المعارج - آية ٤)

The angels and the spirit (Gabriel) ascend to Him in a day the measure

The Last Day **اليوم الآخر**

Names and some descriptions in the Qur'an

أسماءه وبعض صفاته التي ذكرت في القرآن

see pages 5,6 and 7

The blowing of the trumpet

النفخ في الصور

One blow - terrifying and stunning (death) blow. All who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth will be terrified, stunned and will fall down dead (except those whom Allah wills)

نفخة الفزع والصعق

Qur'an (27:87), (39:68)

Another blow - The resurrection, returning of all dead creatures to life, and gathering before Allah

نفخة القيام لرب العالمين

والجمع والبعث والنشور

Qur'an (18:99), (36:51), and (78:18)

Severity and greatness

أهواله وعظمته

- Qur'an describes it as being tremendous, terrible and awful.
- Will be so long to accommodate all the events, and to complete the judgement of all creations (its range is fifty thousand years -Qur'an 70:4).
- Life on earth will appear as if it was one hour.

Humans will come out of their graves in crowds like locusts scattered abroad. They will become just like insane and drunken ones.

Kinship bondage will be suspended. A nursing mother will forget her baby.

Disbelievers will be prepared to spend everything and do anything to save themselves from the punishment of that day.

Sun will be closer to the heads of humans.

The limbs of the wrong doers (hands, feet, tongues, and the skins of their bodies) will talk and testify against them as to what they used to do.

Major phenomena occurring during that day

أهم أحداثه

The fusing of the sun (losing its light), eclipsing of the moon, the falling and scattering of the stars.

- Dreadful shaking of the sky, its splitting and becoming as gates.
- The sky will be like molten copper

Clutching of the earth and rolling over of the skies (like the closing of a scroll).

- The earth is lifted up along with the mountains and they are both flattened by a single blow.
- The destruction of the earth, (its shaking with a final earthquake, its spreading out and, casting out all that was in it).
- The uprooting and dispersing of the mountains (becoming like flakes of wood and subsequently, as a mirage).
- Bursting forth of the oceans, their overflowing and being set ablaze.

whereof is fifty thousand years
(Qur'an 70:4)

Life on earth will be perceived to
have lasted only one hour:

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ كَأَن لَّمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا
سَاعَةً مِّنَ النَّهَارِ .
(سورة يونس - من آية ٤٥)

And on the Day when He shall gather
(resurrect) them together, (it will be) as
if they had not stayed (in the life of this
world) but an hour of a day.
(Qur'an 10:45)

Kinship bondage will be
suspended:

فَإِذَا نُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَلَا أَنسَابَ
بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَلَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ .
(سورة المؤمنون - آية ١٠١)

Then, when the trumpet is blown, there
will be no kinship among them that
day, nor will they ask of one another.
(Qur'an 23:101)

The disbelievers will be prepared
to spend everything to save
themselves from the punishment:

وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِكُلِّ نَفْسٍ ظَلَمَتْ مَا فِي
الْأَرْضِ لَافْتَدَتْ بِهِ .
(سورة يونس - من آية ٥٤)

And if every person who had wronged
(by disbelieving in Allah), possessed all
that is on earth, and sought to ransom
himself/herself therewith (it will not be
accepted).
(Qur'an 10:54)

Sun will come near the humans:

إن الشمس تدنو يوم القيامة حتى
يبلغ العرق نصف الأذن .
حديث شريف - صحيح البخارى

The sun will come near the people on
the resurrection day until perspiration

reaches half the ears.
(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Limbs of the wrong doers testifying
against them:

يَوْمَ تَشْهَدُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَلْسِنَتُهُمْ
وَأَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْْمَلُونَ
(سورة النور - من آية ٢٤)

On the day when their tongues, their
hands and their legs (or feet) will bear
witness against them as to what they
used to do.
(Qur'an 24:24)

حَتَّى إِذَا مَا جَاءَهَا شَهِدَ عَلَيْهِمْ
سَمْعُهُمْ وَأَنْصَارُهُمْ وَجُلُودُهُمْ بِمَا
كَانُوا يَعْْمَلُونَ .
(سورة فصلت - آية ٢٠)

Till, when they reach it (Hell fire),
their hearing (ears), their sight (eyes),
and their skins will testify against them
as to what they used to do.
(Qur'an 41:20)

Major phenomena occurring during the last day

The Qur'an paints a vivid and clear
picture of the tremendous devastation of
the universe (see the figure on page 3).
Some of the Qur'anic verses are given
subsequently.

The folding up of the sun, eclipsing
of the moon and falling of the star:

إِذَا الشَّمْسُ كُوِّرَتْ .
(سورة التكوير - آية ١)

When the sun is folded up (wound
round, lost its light and is overthrown).
(Qur'an 81:1)

وَخَسَفَ الْقَمَرُ .
(سورة القيامة - آية ٨)

And the moon will be eclipsed.
(Qur'an 75:8)

وَإِذَا الْكَوَاكِبُ انْتَفَرَتْ .
(سورة الانفطار - آية ٢)

And when the stars have fallen and
scattered.
(Qur'an 82:2)

Dreadful shaking of the sky and its
splitting:

يَوْمَ تَمُورُ السَّمَاءُ مَورًا .
(سورة الطور - آية ٩)

On the day when the sky will shake
with a dreadful shaking.
(Qur'an 52:9)

وَانشَقَّتِ السَّمَاءُ فَهِيَ يَوْمَئِذٍ
وَاهِيَةٌ .

(سورة الحاقة - آية ١٦)

And the sky will split asunder, for that
day, it will be flimsy (weak and torn
up).

(Qur'an 69:16)

Clutching of the earth and rolling
over of the skies:

وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ وَالْأَرْضُ
جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ
وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٍ بِيَمِينِهِ .
(سورة الزمر - من آية ٦٧)

They made not a just estimate of Allah
such as is due to Him. And on the day
of resurrection, the whole of the earth
will be grasped by His hand and the
skies will be rolled up in His right
hand.
(Qur'an 39:67)

يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجِلِّ
لِلْكِتَابِ كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعِيدُهُ
وَعَدْنَا عَلَيْنا إِنَّا كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ .
(سورة الأنبياء - آية ١٠٤)

And the day when We shall roll up the
skies like a scroll rolled up for books.
As We began the first creation, We
shall repeat it, (it is) a promise binding
on Us. Truly, We shall do it.

(Qur'an 21:104)

see The last Day / page 7

Names and some description of the Last Day in the Qur'an

أسماء وبعض صفات اليوم الآخر في القرآن

Transliteration	Translation	Some references in the Qur'an	Name in Arabic
<i>Yawm ul-Qiyamah</i>	Resurrection day, the day of rising	(2:85,113,174,212), (3:55,77,161,180,185,194), (4:87,109,141,159), (5:14,36,64), (6:12), (7:32,167,172), (10:60,93), (11:60,98,99), (16:25,27,92,124), (17:13,58,62,97), (18:105), (19:95), (20:100,101,124), (21:47), (22:9,17,69), (23:16), (25:69), (28:41,42,61,71,72), (29:13,25), (32:25), (35:14), (39:15,24,31,47,60,67), (41:40), (42:45), (45:17,26), (46:5), (58:7), (60:3), (68:39), (75:1,6)	يوم القيامة
<i>Assa'a</i>	The hour	(6:31,40), (7:187), (12:107), (15:85), (16:77), (18:21,36), (19:75), (20:15), (21:49), (22:1,7,55), (25:11), (30:12,14,55), (31:34), (33:63), (34:3), (40:46,59), (41:47,50), (42:17,18), (43:61,66,85), (45:27,32), (47:18), (54:1,46), (79:42)	الساعة
<i>Al-Yawm-ul-Akher</i>	The last day	(2:8,62,126,177,228,232,264), (3:114), (4:38,39,59,136,162), (5:69), (9:18,19,29,44,45,99), (24:2), (29:36), (33:21), (58:22), (60:6), (65:2)	اليوم الآخر
<i>Yawm-ul-Deen</i>	Day of repayment	(1:4), (15:35), (26:82), (37:20), (38:78), (51:12), (56:56), (70:26), (74:46), (82:15,17,18), (83:11)	يوم الدين
<i>Yawm'on Azeem</i>	Mighty (awful) day	(6:15), (7:59), (10:15), (19:37), (26:135,156,189), (39:13), (46:21), (83:5)	يوم عظيم
<i>Yawm-ul-Fasl</i>	Day of sorting (things) out	(37:21), (44:40), (77:13,14,38), (78:17)	يوم الفصل
<i>Yawm Al-Hisab</i>	Day of reckoning (account)	(38:16,26,53), (40:27)	يوم الحساب
<i>Al-Qari'a</i>	The stunning blow (calamity), the striking hour	(69:4), (101:1,2,3)	القارعة
<i>Yawma Yunfakho Fil-Soor</i>	The Day of sounding the trumpet	(6:73), (20:102), (27:87), (78:18)	يوم ينفخ في الصور
<i>Al-Haqq'ah</i>	The sure reality	(69:1,2,3)	الحاقة

Transliteration	Translation	Some references in the Qur'an	Name in Arabic
<i>Yawm-ul-Jam'h</i>	Day of Gathering (assembly)	(42:7), (64:9)	يوم الجمع
<i>Yawm-ul-Waqt Al-Ma'loom</i>	The Day of the time appointed	(15:38), (38:81)	يوم الوقت المعلوم
<i>Al-Waqi'a</i>	Event Inevitable	(56:1), (69:15)	الواقعة
<i>Yawm'on Aleem</i>	Painful Day	(11:26), (43:65)	يوم أليم
<i>Yawm'on Aqeem</i>	Desolate day (day of disaster)	(22:55)	يوم عقيم
<i>Yawm-ul-Hasrah</i>	Day of regret (distress)	(19:39)	يوم الحسرة
<i>Yawm-ul-Ba'ath</i>	Day of rebirth	(30:56)	يوم البعث
<i>Yawm-ul-Talak</i>	The day of mutual meeting	(40:15)	يوم التلاق
<i>Yawm-ul-Azifah</i>	The day of the approach (drawing near) of doom	(40:18)	يوم الألفة
<i>Yawm-ul-Tanad</i>	The day of summons (mutual calling and wailing)	(40:32)	يوم التناد
<i>Yawma Yaqumu Al-Ash'had</i>	The day when the witnesses will stand forth	(40:51)	يوم يقوم الأشهاد
<i>Yawm-ul-Wa'eed</i>	The day of the threat (day whereof warning had been given)	(50:20)	يوم الوعيد
<i>Al-Yawm-ul-Haqq</i>	The True Day	(78:39)	اليوم الحق
<i>Al-Yawm-ul-Maw'ood</i>	The promised day	(85:2)	اليوم الموعود
<i>Yawm'on Ma'loom</i>	Known Day	(56:50)	يوم معلوم
<i>Yawm-ul-Taghabon</i>	Day of haggling (mutual loss and gain)	(64:9)	يوم التغابن
<i>Al-Tammato Al-Kobra</i>	The greatest calamity (overwhelming event)	(79:34)	الطامة الكبرى
<i>Al-Ghashiya</i>	The Pall (overwhelming event)	(88:1)	الغاشية

Yawm'on Aser	Hard day	(54:8)	يوم عسر
Yawm'on Aseer	Harsh (and hard) day	(74:9)	يوم عسير
Yawm'on Majmo'on Lahu An'nas	The day for which the human beings will be gathered together	(11:103)	يوم مجموع له الناس
Yawm'on Mashhood	Witnessed day	(11:103)	يوم مشهود
Yawm'on Mu'heet	Encompassing Day	(11:84)	يوم محيط
Yawm'on Abous'on Qamtareer	Hard and stressful day	(76:10)	يوم عبوس قمطير

Continued from page 4

The last day

Destruction of earth and mountains, and bursting of the oceans:

وَحُمِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ فَدُكَّتَا دَكَّةً وَاحِدَةً .

(سورة الحاقة - آية ١٤)

And the earth and the mountains shall be removed from their places, and crushed with a single crushing.

(Qur'an 69:14)

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَكَانَتِ الْجِبَالُ كَثِيبًا مَّهِيلًا .

(سورة المزمل - آية ١٤)

On the day when the earth and mountains will be in a violent shake, and the mountains will be a heap of sand poured out and flowing down.

(Qur'an 73:14)

وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ .

(سورة الإنفطار - آية ٣)

And when the seas are burst forth (got dried up).

(Qur'an 82:3)

وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ سُجِّرَتْ .

(سورة التكوير - آية ٦)

And when the seas shall become as

blazing fire (or boil over with a swell).

(Qur'an 81:6)

will be standing looking on (waiting).

(Qur'an 39:68)

- Allah will recreate the creatures, but they will be different from their nature in this life. Specifically,
 - * They will be immortal

وَيَأْتِيهِ الْمَوْتُ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمَيِّتٍ .

(سورة إبراهيم - من آية ١٧)

Death will come to him/her from every side, yet he/she will not die.

(Qur'an 14:17)

- * They will have altered vision - they will be able to see things they could not see before (e.g., Jinn and angels)
- Everyone comes out from the grave and is brought to the Divine court with a driver (an angel appointed to guard him/her), and a witness (some Muslim scholars believe that the witness is an angel, others believe it to be the deeds of the person, which will testify for or against him/her).

وَجَاءَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَعَهَا سَائِقٌ وَشَهِيدٌ .

(سورة ق - آية ٢١)

And every person will come forth along with a driver and a witness.

(Qur'an 50:21)

I pray to Almighty Allah to protect us from the horrors of the last day.

Ameen ☐

The death of all living beings and their resurrection

- When the time of the final hour comes, Allah orders angel Israfeel, who is holding the trumpet (which will be in the shape of a horn) to blow in it . Everyone who hears the sound will be terrified, stunned and will die, except those whom Allah wills (see the figure on page 3).
- And when the time of resurrection comes, Allah commands Israfeel to blow in the trumpet again, and the spirits return to the bodies of every single being created since the beginning of creation. And all the living beings will be brought before Allah's Divine court for judgment.

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَى فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ .

(سورة الزمر - آية ٦٨)

And the trumpet will be blown, and all who are in the heavens and who are on the earth will be stunned except those whom Allah wills. Then it will be blown a second time and behold, they