

BELIEF IN HELL

Allah has proclaimed:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِمْ نَارًا كُلَّمَا نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُمْ بَدَّلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا﴾ (النساء: ٥٦)

(Translation of meaning) [“Lo! Those who disbelieve Our revelations, We shall expose them to the Fire. As often as their skins are consumed We shall exchange them for fresh skins that they may taste the torment. Lo! Allah is ever Mighty, Wise” (An-Nisa: 56)].

Allah has declared further:

﴿إِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ نَارًا أَحَاطَ بِهِمْ سُرَادِقُهَا وَإِنْ يَسْتَغِيثُوا يُغَاثُوا بِمَاءٍ كَالْمُهْلِ يَشْوِي الْوُجُوهَ بِئْسَ الشَّرَابُ وَسَاءَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا﴾ (الكهف: ٢٩)

(Translation of meaning) [“Say [it is] Lo! We have prepared for disbelievers Fire. Its tent encloseth them. If they ask for showers, they will be showered with water like to molten lead which burneth the faces. Calamitous the drink and ill the resting place!” (Al-Al-Kahf: 29)].

Every Muslim believes in the truth of Hell. Allah has created it for those who deny His existence, disobey His commandments, falsify His messengers and lead a wayward life. This Hell will be a horrible place. Its flaming fire will be seventy times more than the fire of this material world in proportion and ferocity. The Messenger of Allah (sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said:

«نَارُكُمْ هَذِهِ الَّتِي يُوقِدُ ابْنُ آدَمَ جُزْءٌ مِنْ سَبْعِينَ جُزْءًا، مِنْ حَرِّ جَهَنَّمَ» قَالُوا: وَاللَّهِ إِنْ كَانَتْ لَكَافِيَةً، يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ: «فَإِنَّهَا فَضَّلْتُ عَلَيْهَا بِتِسْعَةٍ وَسِتِّينَ جُزْءًا، كُلُّهَا مِثْلُ حَرِّهَا» (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning): The fire of your material world is merely one seventieth of the Hell fire. People asked him (sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam): Is not the fire of this world enough for them? He (sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said yes. The fire of Hell is seventy but one times more than this worldly fire and each fraction of it is equal to the worldly fire (Al-Bukhari & Muslim). Just as Allah has made different classes of the Heaven similarly He has created different classes of Hell. One of them is named as “**Saqar**”. Allah declared:

﴿وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سَقَرٌ ﴿٢٧﴾ لَا بُقْيَ وَلَا نَذْرٌ ﴿٢٨﴾ لَوَاحِمَةٌ لِلْبَشَرِ ﴿٢٩﴾ عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ ﴿٣٠﴾﴾ (المدثر: ٢٧ - ٣٠)

[“Ah, what will convey unto thee what that burning is! It leaveth naught; it spareth naught. It shrivelleth the man. Above it are nineteen [wardens]” (Al-Muddaththir: 27-30)].

Another class of Hell is named **“Hutamah”**. Allah the Almighty says:

﴿وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطَمَةُ ﴿٥﴾ نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمَوْقَدَةُ ﴿٦﴾ الَّتِي تَطْلُعُ عَلَى الْأَفْعَدَةِ ﴿٧﴾ إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّوَصَّدَةٌ ﴿٨﴾ فِي عَمَدٍ مُمَدَّدَةٍ ﴿٩﴾﴾ **الهمزة: ٥ - ٩**

(Translation of meaning) [“Ah, what will convey unto thee what the Hutamah [Consuming One] is! [It is] the fire of Allah, kindled; which leapeth up over the hearts [of men]. Lo! It is closed in on them. In outstretched columns” (Al-Humazah: 5-9)].

Yet there is another class named **“Ladza”**. About it Allah said:

﴿كَلَّا إِنَّهَا لَأَطَىٰ ﴿١٥﴾ نَزَاعَةٌ لِّلشَّوَىٰ ﴿١٦﴾ تَدْعُوا مَنَ أَدْبَرَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ ﴿١٧﴾﴾ **المعارج: ١٥ - ١٧**

(Translation of meaning) [“But nay! For lo! It is the Fire of Hell; eager to roast; it calleth him who turned and fled [from truth]” (Al-Ma’arij: 5-7)].

Still another category is called **“Hawiah”**. Allah informed:

﴿وَأَمَّا مَن خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ ﴿٨﴾ فَأُمُّهُ هَاوِيَةٌ ﴿٩﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا هِيَ ﴿١٠﴾ نَارُ حَامِيَةٍ ﴿١١﴾﴾ **القارعة: ٨ - ١١**

(Translation of meaning) [“But for him whose scales are light, Hawiah [the Bereft and Hungry One] shall be his mother. Ah, what will convey unto thee what she is!—Raging fire” (Al-Qari’ah: 8-11)].

And one of them is named **“Jahannam”**. It is in the Quran:

﴿وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمَوْعِدُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٤٣﴾﴾ **الحجر: ٤٣**

(Translation of meaning) [“And verily, Jahannam [Raging Fire] is the destination of them all” (Al-Hijr: 43)].

The Hell shall also have seven gates of entry for the people of Hell in accordance with the proportion of their misdeeds. Allah declared:

﴿لَهَا سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابٍ لِّكُلِّ بَابٍ مِّنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَّقْسُومٌ ﴿٤٤﴾﴾ **الحجر: ٤٤**

(Translation of meaning) [*“It [the Hell] hath seven gates, and each gate hath an appointed portion” (Al-Hijr: 44)*].

The Hell will be a fathomless pit. Its fuel will be the men and stones. In the words of Quran:

﴿ فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴾ البقرة: ٢٤

(Translation of meaning) [*“The guard yourselves against the fire prepared for disbelievers, whose fuel is of men and stones” (Al-Baqarah: 24)*].

Allah says further:

﴿ يَوْمَ نَقُولُ لِجَهَنَّمَ هَلِ امْتَلَأَتْ وَنَقُولُ هَلْ مِنْ مَزِيدٍ ﴾ ق: ٣٠

(Translation of meaning) [*“On the day when We say unto Hell: Art thou filled? And it saith: Can there be more to come?” (Qaf: 30)*].

The Messenger of Allah (*sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said:

"لَا يَزَالُ يُلْقَى فِيهَا وَنَقُولُ: هَلْ مِنْ مَزِيدٍ، حَتَّى يَضَعَ فِيهَا رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ قَدَمَهُ، فَيَنْزَوِي بَعْضُهَا إِلَى بَعْضٍ، ثُمَّ نَقُولُ: قَدْ، قَدْ، بَعِزَّتْكَ وَكَرَمِكَ، وَلَا تَزَالُ الْجَنَّةُ تَفْضُلُ، حَتَّى يُنْشِئَ اللَّهُ لَهَا خَلْقًا، فَيُسْكِنُهُمْ فَضْلَ الْجَنَّةِ" (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning) *Jahannam* will be continuously filled but she will still say is there something more? Ultimately, Allah Almighty will put His leg into it and she will shrink crying out O my Creator! By Your glory and generosity I have been filled up. Likewise the Paradise will keep on expanding for ever until Allah Almighty will create a new species to fill the remaining space (Al-Bukhari & Muslim).

The Hell will be staffed with a number of angels appointed solely to punish and torture the inmates of Hell. They will be merciless and of gigantic size. They will have not least of lenience or mercy. With whips and hammers in their hands they will go on pounding the inmates of Hell. This condition has been mentioned in the Quran in these words:

﴿ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴾ التحريم: ٦

(Translation of meaning) [*“O ye who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a Fire whereof the fuel is men and stones, over which are set angels strong, severe, who resist not Allah in that which He commandeth them, but do that which they are commanded” (At-Tahrim: 6)*].

About the number of these guards it is revealed:

﴿عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ﴾ ^{٣٠} المذثر: ٣٠

(Translation of meaning) [“There are nineteen of them” (Al-Muddaththir: 30)].

Why so many have been appointed is best known to Allah Almighty but the Quran says:

﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَا عَدَّتْهُمْ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا﴾ ^{٣١} المذثر: ٣١

(Translation of meaning) [“And their number have We made to be a stumbling-block for those who disbelieve” (Al-Muddaththir: 31)].

The angel appointed to supervise the wardens of the Hell is named Malik. Allah Says:

﴿وَنَادُوا بِمَلِكٍ لِّيَقْضِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَعَيْنَا رَبُّكَ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ مَّنْكُوتٌ﴾ ^{٧٧} الزخرف: ٧٧

(Translation of meaning) [“And they cry O Malik [master]! Let thy Lord make an end of us. He saith: Lo! Here ye must remain” (Az-Zukhruf: 77)].

The Hell will be extremely hot and within its burning valleys and mountains the disbelievers will be subjected to eternal ordeal.

* * *