



Islam:

Does belief in Akhirah help Muslims to lead a good life? (Part 1)

Topic Overview

- Muslims try to live 'good' lives - lives they believe will show love and respect to Allah, for example: by following the Five Pillars of Islam.
- Muslims believe that Allah will judge them when they die and weigh up the good things they have done against the not so good.
- They believe that their daily thoughts, words and actions will be used as evidence.
- This belief encourages Muslims to live in the 'right way' and try to do the right thing.
- Every Muslim will have a judgement day which will determine whether they go to heaven after they die.
- It may also determine which tier/part of Heaven they are allowed to go to.
- Muslims believe Allah will be fair and just: their after life will be what they deserve.
- The spiritual struggle or effort of every Muslim to follow the teachings of Allah in their own lives is called 'Greater Jihad.'
- Greater Jihad is an individual's personal struggle against evil. This evil might prevent you from doing the will of Allah. This is a daily feature in the life of a Muslim as they try to ensure that every aspect of their life is lived in line with Allah's will.

Links with other religions

- **Heaven** (Christianity). Christians believe those who believe in Christ and live good lives will be given eternal life in Heaven with God and Jesus.
- **Life after Death** (Judaism). While Jewish people believe there is a life after death, the details of this are unclear. Most Jews concentrate on living a good life today in the present, rather than what will happen when they die.
- **Samsara** (Sikhism). Many Sikhs believe that all beings have a soul (atma). The atma is a part of Waheguru within them. Through a series of reincarnations, Sikhs believe they will be purified and able to return to Waheguru.
- **Samsara** (Buddhism). The Buddha taught that humans are born an infinite number of times, unless they achieve Nirvana (enlightenment).
- **Samsara** (Hinduism). Most Hindus believe that humans are in a cycle of death and rebirth called samsara. When a person dies, their atman (soul) is reborn in a different body.
- **Karma** (Sikhism, Buddhism and Hinduism). Sikhs, Buddhists and Hindus believe that good actions will result in a better rebirth, while bad actions will have the opposite effect.
- **Yawm ad-Din** (Judaism). Jews believe the Day of Judgement will occur after the coming of the Messiah. They believe that God will judge how good or bad people have been in order to decide their destiny in the afterlife.
- **Judgement Day** (Christianity). Many Christians believe that after death God will judge them for the deeds they have done or failed to do during their lifetime. Some Christians believe that this judgement will happen when they die. Others believe that there will be a Day of Judgement at the end of time, when everybody will be judged at the same time.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Akhirah	Life after death.
Motivation	A reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way.
Judgement	To form an opinion about through careful weighing of evidence
Jihad	Struggle or effort.
Greater Jihad	Personal individual struggle against evil.
Righteous	Acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin.

