

ḤADĪTH OF JIBRĪL: THE HOUR & ITS SIGNS

1.0 The Hour.

NOTES

1.1 Angel Jibrīl asked the Prophet ﷺ, *'inform me about the Hour.'*

1.2 The 'Hour' refers to an appointed time after which existence upon the earth will cease.

1.3 {Lost indeed are those who deny the meeting with their Lord until, when the Hour suddenly arrives...} [06:31]

1.4 In reality, there are two 'Hours':

1.4.1 The Minor Hour: This relates to death after which a person's personal existence ceases.

1.4.2 The Major Hour: The Day of Resurrection after which worldly existence will cease.

1.5 Both 'Hours' have been mentioned in a single Āyah: {Every soul will taste death. And you will only receive your full reward on the Day of Judgment} [03:185]

1.6 The minor Hour is the first step towards the Hereafter.

1.7 The Prophet ﷺ said, 'Verily, the grave is the first stage of the Hereafter. Whoever is saved from it, whatever comes after will be easier. If he is not saved from it, whatever comes after will be harder.' [at-Tirmidhi]

2.0 The correct belief regarding the Hour.

2.1 This is to have firm and resolute belief in the following five matters relating to the Hereafter:

2.1.1 First: Every soul shall taste death as per the decree of Allāh.

2.1.2 Second: People are questioned and rewarded or or punished in their graves; all this is real but in a different parallel called the Barzakh.

2.1.3 Third: The worldly life will come to an end with the blowing of the trumpet. First for those who remain to die and second for the resurrection.

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2.1.4 Fourth: After resurrection, people will be questioned and held accountable for their good actions and sins, as well as their goodness or oppression between each other.

2.1.5 Fifth: The people of Tawḥīd will enter Jannah (Paradise) and the people of Kufr will enter Jahannam (Hell). Those who sinned from the people of Tawḥīd may be punished before entering Jannah, or perhaps their sins will be forgiven by the grace of Allāh.

3.0 Nobody knows when the Hour will be.

3.1 Allah did not reveal to anybody the timing of the Hour. No angel nor prophet has knowledge regarding it.

3.2 The Prophet ﷺ replied, *'the one who has been questioned knows no more than the one asking the question.'*

3.3 {They ask you [Prophet] about the Hour, 'When will it happen?' Say, 'My Lord alone has knowledge of it: He alone will reveal when its time will come} [07:187]

3.4 But Allah has revealed to His Prophet ﷺ some of its signs so people can prepare for it. This is why angel Jibril replied, *'inform me about its signs.'*

4.0 Signs of the Hour.

4.1 The signs of the Hour refer to indicators that will occur before the Day of Resurrection, indicating it is approaching.

4.2 They serve as a reminder to people to prepare for its coming.

5.0 Slave-girl giving birth to her mistress.

5.1 The first sign the Prophet ﷺ mentioned is, *'the slave girl will give birth to her mistress.'*

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5.2 There are three possible explanations:

- 5.2.1 Disobedience to parents to the extent that parents seem to be subservient whereas children act like masters.
- 5.2.2 The emancipation of slaves.
- 5.2.3 The reversing of standards and natural orders.

6.0 Poor Bedouins competing in construction.

6.1 The second sign the Prophet ﷺ mentioned is, *'you will see the barefooted naked poor Bedouin shepherds competing with each other to build lofty buildings.'*

6.2 This is an indicator of great wealth in the Arabian Peninsula, such that people who were once poor and destitute compete against each other in construction.

6.3 This Hadith does not necessitate the prohibition of construction, it is merely a prophecy of what will occur. However, it should not entail oppression of others nor haughtiness. Hearts should be attached to the reward of the Hereafter, not the temporary enjoyment of the worldly life.

7.0 Other signs of the Hour.

7.1 There are two types of signs:

- 7.1.1 The Minor Signs: These are signs that will appear a long time before the Hour approaches.
- 7.1.2 Many of them indicate a general state of affairs as opposed to specific events.
- 7.1.3 Many of them have already occurred. They include:
 - 7.1.3.1 The emergence and death of the Prophet ﷺ.
 - 7.1.3.2 The decline of knowledge and prevalence of ignorance.
 - 7.1.3.3 The wide-consumption of alcohol and intoxicants.

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7.1.3.4 The decline in morality and spread of adultery.

7.1.3.5 Trustworthiness will be lost, i.e. authority is given to those who do not deserve it.

7.1.3.6 The increase in violence, wars and earthquakes.

7.1.3.7 The quick passage of time, and the market places becoming close.

7.1.3.8 The conquering of Jerusalem by the Muslims.

7.1.3.9 A great plague.

7.1.3.10 A great fire in Hijaz such that it can be seen in Busra (in Syria).

7.1.3.11 The Muslim conquest of Constantinople.

7.1.3.12 False claimants of Prophethood.

7.1.3.13 Women who are clothed yet naked.

7.1.4 The Major Signs: These are specific events which will occur much closer to the Day of Resurrection. They include:

7.1.4.1 The appearance of the Mahdi.

7.1.4.2 The sun will rise from the west.

7.1.4.3 Appearance of the false messiah - Dajjal.

7.1.4.4 The descent of Prophet 'Īsa.

7.1.4.5 The sun will rise from the west.

8.0 Preparing for the Hour.

8.1 The signs of the Hour and its knowledge was revealed to us in order for us to prepare for its coming.

8.2 We should always keep in focus the temporary nature of this world, and our real life is the Hereafter.

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- 8.3 We should invest some of our wealth, time, effort and energy in this life for the Hereafter.
- 8.4 We should increase in good deeds and repent from sins.
- 8.5 We should be mindful of every oppressing another person, knowing that in the Hereafter there will be accountability.
- 8.6 {Be mindful of the Day when you will all be returned to Allah, then every soul will be paid in full for what it has done, and none will be wronged.}
[02:281]
- 8.7 {So, whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it. And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it} [99:7-8]
- 8.8 Guard yourselves against the Day on which no soul will be of help to another. No intercession will be accepted, no ransom taken, and no help will be given. [02:48]