**Assignment no 2**

**HUM110 Islamic Studies**

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**Assignment Statement:**

Explain the concept of Believe in Ghaib and how this concept is the bedrock of faithful acts in the perspective of Surah Al-Baqarah.

# **Believe in Ghaib:**

It refers to believing in the existence of the unseen, which includes everything that is beyond the perception of the human senses, such as the angels, the afterlife, and the divine decree. It is a fundamental concept in Islam, and it is mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah in the Quran, which is the second and longest chapter of the Quran.

In Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah (SWT) says,

**"This is the Book in which there is no doubt, a guidance for the righteous, who believe in the unseen." (2:2-3).**

## **Faith in Unseen(Al-Gahib):**

Islam places great importance on having faith. In order to become a Muslim, a person must testify**, “I bear witness that there is no God but the One God, and Muhammad is a Messenger of God.”** A Muslim must believe this without ever having seen God or Muhammad. Faith, then, is an essential character of a Muslim. In addition, Muslims also recognize all the prophets God has ever sent to guide humanity. These include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon them all. Muslims believe in the revealed books as well, such as the Torah, the Bible, and the Quran. The Quran, the holy book of Islam, is the last revelation of God and it has remained preserved in its exact and original form for more than 1,400 years.

Belive in God and an afterlife, on the other hand, give us hope, positive energy and direction. They also internalize a moral framework; the awareness that God is watching even when no one else is, and will hold us accountable for our deeds, enables one to maintain an ethical and righteous lifestyle despite all odds.

Prophet Muhammad once said,

**“Faith is to affirm your faith in God, His angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day, and to believe in the Divine Destiny whether it be good or bad.”**

## **Concept of the Unseen (Al-Ghaib):**

In Islamic context, Al-Ghaib is (the) unseen and unknown, in reference to God (allah) and the forces that shape the world. The Quran states that man (mankind) is unable to see God and his attributes. Belief in al-Ghaib is considered an important Muslim characteristic, as it allows for prayer and faith.

**He is Allah besides whom there is no god; the Knower of the unseen and the seen; He is the Beneficent, the Merciful (Q 59:22).**

## **Types of Al-Gahib:**

There are two types of Ghaib:

**1. Al-Ghaib al-Mutlaq :**

Absolute Ghaib refers to all knowledge that is unseen or concealed and is only known to Allah. As stated in the [Quran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran): "And with Him are the keys of the Ghayb (all that is hidden), none knows them but He…"

**2. Al-Ghaib al-Nisbi:**

Relative Ghaib is proportionate to an individual and their situation; hence it is apparent to some while hidden from others.

**"Indeed, those who believe in what has been revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain [in faith]. Those are upon [right] guidance from their Lord, and it is those who are the successful." (Quran 2:4-5)**

## **The Undoubted Faith with its types:**

The fifth important aspect mentioned in the of surah bakrah verses (ayaats) is the undoubted faith. There are three steps of, Ilm-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by knowledge of something), Ain-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by seeing something) and Haq-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by experience of something).

**1. Ilm-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by knowledge of something):**

At this degree the object of certainty is knowledge just as the aim of knowledge is certainty. Both together are in the soul uniquely, such that certainty is the first degree of spiritual life and the last of speculative experience.

**2. Ain-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by seeing something):**

It is often associated with the experience of "mystical vision" or "divine unveiling," where a person sees or experiences something that confirms their faith and strengthens their conviction in the existence and oneness of Allah. This experience can take different forms, such as a dream, a vision, or a spiritual encounter.

**3. Haq-Ul-yaqeen (Faith gained by experience of something):**

It is the highest level of faith that a person can attain in Islamic theology, and it is based on direct personal experience and observation. It is a level of faith that is beyond any doubt or uncertainty, and it is characterized by a deep and unwavering conviction in the existence and oneness of Allah.

## **Significance of Belief in Ghaib:**

Belief in Ghaib, or the belief in the unseen, is a crucial aspect of Islamic faith with several significant implications. Here are a few reasons why this concept is significant:

* **Belief in Ghaib is a test of faith:** Allah has created this world in a way that the unseen is hidden from us. The belief in Ghaib is, therefore, a test of faith as we are required to accept and believe in the existence of things that we cannot see, touch, or feel.
* **Belief in Ghaib leads to Taqwa:** The belief in Ghaib helps a person to develop Taqwa (God-consciousness), which is an essential component of the Islamic faith. When a person believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment, they are more likely to live a life of piety, fearing Allah and striving to do good deeds.
* **Belief in Ghaib strengthens faith:** The belief in Ghaib strengthens a Muslim's faith and trust in Allah. When a person believes in Allah's existence, they are more likely to put their trust in Him, seek His guidance, and turn to Him in times of need.
* **Belief in Ghaib shapes moral values:** The belief in Ghaib shapes a Muslim's moral values and ethics. Believing in Allah and the Day of Judgment instills in Muslims a sense of accountability and responsibility, encouraging them to act in accordance with the teachings of Islam and to strive to do good deeds.

Verse 3 of Surah Al-Baqarah states,

**"Those who believe in the unseen and establish prayer and spend out of what we have provided for them."**

This verse highlights the importance of belief in the unseen as a prerequisite for other important aspects of the Islamic faith, such as prayer and charity.

**Examples of Al-Gahib in the lives of our Prophets:**

* **Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham):** In Surah Al-Anbiya, Allah tells us that Prophet Ibrahim (AS) was thrown into a fire by his people, but he emerged from it unharmed by the permission of Allah. This was a miraculous event that demonstrated the existence of Al-Ghaib.

## **Prophet Yusuf (Joseph):** In Surah Yusuf, Allah reveals the story of Prophet Yusuf (AS), who had a dream that he would one day become a great ruler. This dream came true later in his life when he became the chief advisor to the king of Egypt.

## **Prophet Isa (Jesus):** In Surah Al-Ma'idah, Allah tells us that Prophet Isa (AS) was given the ability to perform miracles, such as healing the blind and the lepers and bringing the dead back to life. These miracles were evidence of the existence of Al-Ghaib.

In conclusion, Al-Ghaib, or the Unseen, is a central concept in Islamic theology that refers to things that are hidden or unknown to human perception. The belief in Al-Ghaib is a fundamental aspect of Islamic faith and a test of faith that requires Muslims to accept the existence of Allah, His angels, His revelations, and the Day of Judgment without physical proof. This belief helps Muslims to develop Taqwa, provides comfort and solace in difficult times, strengthens faith, and shapes moral values. Therefore, Al-Ghaib is an integral part of Islamic faith and a cornerstone of Muslim identity, guiding their beliefs, practices, and way of life.