



Purpose of Life

We have discussed that someone is the creator of this universe, the Quran is the holy manual to lead our lives. Messengers from God have been coming since the first day to guide mankind. We found in Quran, "For every nation we have sent the messenger, saying that, only worship one God and leave other false deities." Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and his message will remain till the day of judgement. As Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) raised his two fingers and said, "My coming and hour are like this. After me, there is no messenger, no book but only the day of judgement".

Now the question is Why have we been created? What's the purpose of our lives?

1. Tests of Life

In search of our purpose of life, what we find in the Quran is:

"(Allah) Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed."
[Al-Mulk 67:2]

Everything that we do is our test and we will be judged for our response to it. We have the freedom to choose our path but the consequence will depend on our actions. The test could be anything. Allah (SWT) can test us with good things and even with unpleasant things such as children, health, wealth or death of near one.

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) says, "How strange is the case of a believer that if good befalls him and he feels grateful to Allah then it is good for him if something bad happens for him and he does sabr (Patience) then even that is good for him." Because through sabr (Patience) Allah (SWT) can bestow him such ranks which he could never achieve otherwise. We just should choose the best option to succeed in those tests, as Allah (SWT) has bestowed us with the power of choosing the best option.

"We have certainly created man in the best of stature". (Surah At-Tin 95:4)

So, if we strive, we can raise our status higher than the angels and if we won't we can be worse than animals. Allah (SWT)'s judgement is fair to everyone. The punishment of our sins in this world may relieve some of our sins. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said that even if a thorn pricks you, some of your sins will be wiped off through that. Likewise, illness is a way of purification of sins. There are some sins for which we can be punished both in this world and the afterlife. Quran states the example of Pharaoh, we are making an example out of him and we will punish him in the mornings and afternoons (which means in his grave) and when the day of judgement will establish, his punishment will be doubled.

Leaving righteous offspring can be beneficial to raise our ranks in the afterlife. Besides, there are some deeds like Sadqa-e-Jaria whose rewards will be endlessly received to us even after our deaths. The deeds like planting a tree, beneficial knowledge that you may have passed to anyone, building a mosque, donating a wheelchair etc. We will be rewarded on such things.

Repentance is the key to free from the consequences of sins. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said, “remorse is repentance”.

As far as Haqooq-ul-Allah is concerned, Allah (SWT) forgives after true repentance. For Haqooq-ul -Aibaad, one must seek forgiveness from the person whom he hurt.

At the Day of Judgment, sinners will have to give up their good deeds. For example, If we have committed the sin of backbiting of someone then our good deeds will be added to his/her account of good deeds. Our punishments in this world can reduce the effect of a sin or some could be saved for the afterlife unless we repent. It is best to recite Astaghfaar (forgiveness) abundantly. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said that I make Astaghfaar 70 times in a day although he was not a sinner, as prophets of Allah (SWT) cannot sin.

Everyone will have to face tests of life according to his level. Allah (SWT) says,

“Allah does not charge a soul except (with that within) its capacity”. (Surah Al-Baqarah, 286)

Insane or mentally retarded people are not accountable for their sins as they do not have any control over themselves.

2. Worship of The One, Allah Almighty

Secondly, Allah (SWT) also said in the Quran:

“And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me”. (Surah Adh-Dhariyat, 56)

Worship doesn't only mean offering prayers or fasting. All of our actions can be the acts of worship if we intend to please Allah (SWT) and keep ourselves away from disobeying Him.

In the modern world, the word “slavery” is considered very disgraced. While in the perspective of worship and relation of a man and god, slavery refers to our obedience to our Master. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is the best of Mankind. He said, “No me as nothing more than Abduhu wa Rasuluho (No me means) slave and messenger”.

Allah (SWT) defines slaves as Ibaad-ur-Rehman.

“And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace.” (Surah Furqan, 63).

If we are successful in our materialistic ambitions but have not become the slave of Allah (SWT), then technically we have failed in our purpose of life.

Islam is the most practical religion. Quran has many miracles such as the laws stated by Allah (SWT) in Quran demonstrate the perfect distribution of rights for everyone. Or the punishments for certain sins have a certain sense. Like the punishment of cutting hands for theft demonstrate that no one should dare to commit such a crime in future. Similarly, the law of inheritance in Islam is flawless as women take the inheritance from their fathers, also what she receives from her husband belongs to her and she is not responsible for taking care of others. While the major part of inheritance goes to the man, who is responsible for taking care of his mother, sisters, daughters, sons, father and wife.

“O mankind! Fear your Lord the One Who created you from a soul single and created from it its mate and dispersed from both many men and women”. (Surah An-Nisa, 1)

Divine religions were all monotheistic, which afterwards were being changed by people. Allah (SWT) says in the Quran:

“Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.” (Surah Al-Imran,19)

Islam literally means two things: submission and peace. For us, it is important to live and die as a Muslim. Allah (SWT) says in the Quran:

O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him]. (Surah Al-Imran, 102)