**How are ideas about life and death related to your culture?**

Ideas about life and death in Dagestani culture are deeply influenced by Islamic beliefs, as well as the region's unique customs, traditions, and historical experiences.

In line with Islamic teachings, life is viewed as a temporary test from Allah (dunya), where one’s actions determine their afterlife (akhirah). Values like honesty, humility, and generosity are emphasized as ways to live a meaningful life.

Life is also deeply connected to family, tribe, and community. A person’s worth is often measured by their contributions to their family and society. There’s a strong belief in collective well-being, where individual happiness is linked to the harmony and prosperity of the group.

Milestones like birth, marriage, and adulthood are celebrated with elaborate rituals, reflecting gratitude and hope for the future. Lezginka and other traditional dances sometimes embody the vibrancy of life and the resilience to overcome hardship.

Death is seen as a natural part of life and a transition to the eternal world, where one meets their Creator. This belief fosters an acceptance of death, tempered by a sense of accountability for one’s deeds.

Funerals follow Islamic customs, including washing and shrouding the body, collective prayers (janazah), and burial within 24 hours. Graves are simple, reflecting humility. Mourning is communal. Relatives and neighbors gather to support the bereaved family, and hospitality is extended to guests during the mourning period. It is customary to recite Quranic verses and offer prayers for the deceased, particularly on the 3rd, 7th, 40th, and annual anniversaries of their passing. If attending a funeral, dress modestly and follow Islamic norms. Be a supportive presence for the grieving family.

A person’s legacy is considered vital. After death, their honor is preserved through stories, memories, and their contributions to family and society.

Poetry, oral traditions, and songs often reflect themes of bravery, sacrifice, and the transient nature of life. The mountainous landscape of Dagestan plays a symbolic role in the cycle of life and death, representing both life’s challenges and its enduring beauty.

Understanding Islamic beliefs about the afterlife will provide insight into Dagestani perspectives on death. Recognize that life and death are viewed through the lens of collective responsibility and communal honor.