**Article of Faith (Continue.)**

**1. Belief in Life After Death**

* **Concept of Resurrection and Judgment**: The belief in life after death is the fifth article/point of Islamic faith and is essential to the Islamic worldview. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the necessity of believing in resurrection and the Day of Judgment, where all individuals will be resurrected and presented before God. This belief has several key elements:
  + ` **The Last Day (Qayamah)**: The belief in an "appointed day" when all life and existence as we know it will come to an end is fundamental in Islam. This day, known as the Last Day or Qayamah, marks the final chapter of the universe. According to Islamic teachings, every soul will experience death, followed by a phase of rest until the trumpet is blown, signaling the end of the world. This cataclysmic event will lead to the annihilation of all creation, setting the stage for a new existence where justice and accountability will be universal.
  + **Resurrection (Hashr)**: After the cessation of the universe, all beings will be resurrected. Resurrection (Hashr) is an unprecedented event, marking the reassembly of human bodies and souls, regardless of the passage of time or the decomposition of earthly forms. All who have ever lived will stand before God, ready for divine judgment. Islamic sources describe this moment as one of immense awe and gravity, where individuals will be acutely aware of their actions and eager to know their fate.
  + **Final Judgment**: In the divine courtroom, God, the ultimate judge, will review every individual’s actions, intentions, and thoughts. God’s judgment is described as absolutely fair and just, considering even the smallest of deeds and hidden intentions. Actions such as charity, kindness, and prayer will be weighed against acts of malice, oppression, and negligence. Importantly, this judgment is not based solely on quantity but on sincerity and moral intent.
  + **Reward and Punishment**: The Day of Judgment concludes with the assignment of eternal reward or punishment based on the moral balance of each individual’s deeds. The righteous will enter Paradise (Jannah), a realm of unparalleled peace, joy, and fulfillment. Paradise is depicted as a garden beneath which rivers flow, symbolizing a state of eternal satisfaction and divine reward. On the other hand, those whose evil deeds outweigh their good deeds will be condemned to Hell (Jahannam), a place of immense suffering and regret. Hell serves as a reminder of the consequences of a life spent in defiance of divine guidance, offering purification for the most grievous offenses before eventual redemption for some souls.
* **Purpose of Belief in Life After Death**: This belief is central to Islam because it gives meaning and direction to human life. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and previous prophets taught that denying life after death or doubting it weakens the foundation of one’s faith. Without belief in accountability, morality becomes subjective, and life's purpose becomes uncertain. Knowing that actions have eternal consequences encourages individuals to prioritize lasting virtues over temporary pleasures.

* **Rational Justifications for Life After Death**:

The document challenges those who deny the existence of an afterlife, presenting logical arguments for its plausibility:

* + - **Materialist View (Atheistic/Scientific)**: This view dismisses life after death as unscientific, arguing that it lacks observable proof. The document counters this by emphasizing that **lack of evidence is not equivalent to proof of absence**. For instance, phenomena like electricity or microorganisms were once unknown until they were scientifically observed. Similarly, just because life after death cannot be currently proven does not mean it doesn’t exist.
    - **Reincarnation (Eastern Religions)**: Some believe that individuals are reborn in different forms based on their deeds. The text critiques this belief as **lacking logical foundation**—if humans are reincarnated from animals, then what were the original forms of these beings?
    - **Day of Judgment (Prophetic Belief)**: Prophets taught that this world would eventually end, and a new, superior realm would emerge. This notion aligns with scientific ideas that predict the eventual collapse of stars and celestial bodies, implying the universe is finite. Thus, the belief in resurrection and a final judgment is presented as the most reasonable and justifiable.

**2. Belief in Al-Qada’ wa’l-Qadar (Divine Will and Predestination)**

* **Definition and Significance**: Belief in Qadar (Divine Will) is the sixth pillar of Islamic faith and signifies that everything, from events to individual lives, unfolds according to God’s eternal knowledge and decree. Faith in Qadar entails acknowledging that God is aware of every event and outcome, past, present, and future, which all occurs according to His will. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized that a person's faith is incomplete without accepting Qadar, both its favorable and adverse aspects.  
  ***"Verily, We have created all things with Qadar." (54:49)***
* **Four Pillars of Belief in Qadar**:
  + **God’s Infinite Knowledge (Al-'ilm)**: God’s knowledge encompasses all events and details, including human actions, intentions, and outcomes. This knowledge is eternal and complete.
  + **Pre-Determination (Kitab or Writing)**: God has recorded all occurrences in the “Preserved Tablet” (Al-Lawh-ul-Mahfoodh), a heavenly record that contains the destiny of everything until the Day of Judgment. According to a prophetic tradition, God commanded the Pen to record everything that would happen, signifying the comprehensiveness of divine knowledge.
  + **God’s Will (Mash'eeah)**: Nothing can occur without God’s will, and whatever He wills will take place. God’s will is absolute, governing all of creation’s affairs.
  + **Creation (Al-Khalq)**: God is the sole creator of all things. He created the universe and everything within it according to His design, and there is no other creator besides Him.
* **Merits of Belief in Qadar**:
  + **Strengthened Reliance on God**: Recognizing that outcomes are in God’s hands encourages believers to place their trust in Him while still actively pursuing goals.
  + **Contentment and Peace of Heart**: Knowing that events are part of God’s plan brings inner peace, allowing believers to accept circumstances with resilience. The Qur’an mentions that everything is predetermined to prevent excessive grief or pride.
  + **Easing Hardships**: This belief enables individuals to handle adversity more gracefully, understanding that hardships also serve a divine purpose.  
    ***“The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah (SWT) than a weak believer, and in each one there is good. Be keen to do what benefits you and seek Allah (SWT)'s help, and do not be neglectful in doing so.”***
  + **Increased Reward and Sin Expiation**: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated that believers who endure difficulties gain spiritual reward and forgiveness for their sins, even for minor inconveniences like being pricked by a thorn.
* **Free Will vs. Predestination**: The document addresses a common misconception that belief in Qadar negates free will. In Islam, humans have the freedom to choose their actions within the bounds of God’s will. While God knows every choice one will make, His foreknowledge does not compel or restrict a person’s choices. An analogy is given: if a teacher predicts a student’s failure based on performance, this knowledge does not cause the student to fail. Similarly, God’s knowledge of future events does not interfere with individual choices.