

## The questions the dead are to answer in the grave

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** What is the question asked to a dead person after being placed in the grave?

**Answer:** Hadeeths ranked as Saheeh (authentic) and Mutawatir (reported by a significant number of narrators throughout the chain of narration, whose agreement upon a lie is impossible) confirm that a dead person is questioned by two angels after burial about some of their beliefs. It is reported in the Saheeh Books of Al-Bukhaaree, Muslim and others, on the authority of Anas ibn Maalik (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **When a human is laid in the grave and their companions leave, while they can still hear their footsteps, two angels come to them, make them sit and ask them, 'What did you used to say about this man, Muhammad (peace be upon him)?' A Mu'min (believer) will say, 'I testify that he is the Servant of Allaah and His Messenger.' It will be said to them, 'Look at your place in Hellfire; Allaah has given you a place in Paradise instead.' The dead person will see both their places. Qatadah said: "It was mentioned to us that a Mu'min's grave is made spacious." He then continues the Hadeeth of Anas who said: Whereas a hypocrite or a Kaafir (disbeliever) will be asked, 'What did you used to say about this man?' They will reply, 'I do not know; I used to repeat what the people used to say.' It will be said to them, 'Neither did you know nor did you follow those who know.' They will be hit with iron hammers once; they will send such a cry that everything near them will hear it, except Jinn and mankind.**<sup>1</sup>

It is also reported in the two Saheeh books of Hadeeth (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim), on the authority of Al-Bara' ibn `Azib (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **A Muslim when questioned in the grave, testifies that there is no god but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. This is the Saying of Allaah: [Allaah will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allaah Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter.]**<sup>2, 3</sup>

It is also reported in the Saheeh Book of Muslim on the authority of Al-Bara' ibn `Azib that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "The Ayah (Qur'aanic verse): **[Allaah will keep firm**

<sup>1</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

<sup>2</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

<sup>3</sup> Soorah Ibraaheem [14:27]

## The questions the dead are to answer in the grave

those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allaah Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter, was revealed about the punishment in the grave. A person is asked, 'Who is your Lord?' They reply, 'My Lord is Allaah, and my Prophet is Muhammad (peace be upon him).' This is the Saying of Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He): [Allaah will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allaah Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter.]<sup>4</sup>

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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<sup>4</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim